Reviewer’s report

Title: The role of noninvasive and invasive diagnostic imaging techniques for detection of extra-cranial venous system anomalies and developmental variants

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Reviewer: Friedemann Paul

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

The approach of the article is laudable. The paper seems methodologically sound in that it summarizes the current state of the art with respect to the various imaging techniques applied to investigate the extracranial venous system.

I have one major point of criticism that I would like the authors to consider in a revised version. The paper as it currently reads suggests that CCSVI is a true clinical entity (be it specific for MS or not). However, there is considerable criticism as to whether the CCSVI criteria proposed by Zamboni and colleagues are methodologically sound, please see a recent review on that topic (Valueza et al. JCBFM 2013).

The question is, do the authors believe the pathophysiological plausibility of the concept, in particular in light of the initially proposed 100% sensitivity and 100 % specificity?

The authors should at least also mention the increasing number of adverse events reported after angioplastic procedures for CCSVI and the recent reports on the lack of efficacy, see for example the recent data from Italy. Do the authors believe that further studies are ethical?

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests