Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy and safety of bilateral continuous theta burst stimulation (cTBS) for the treatment of chronic tinnitus: design of a three-armed randomized controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 23 June 2009

Reviewer: Gordon Murray

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have resolved the major weakness by dropping the plan to replace subjects who do not complete the study protocol.

However their response to the issue about using the Last Observation Carried Forward approach to handle missing data is not adequate. This LOCF approach is methodologically flawed and has been superceded by far more robust statistical approaches based either on mixed models repeated measures or multiple imputation. The authors should adopt one of these approaches.

In responding to comments from the other referee the authors have introduced a new problem. As this is a Phase II trial the primary analysis ought to be per-protocol. The ITT analysis should be reported as well but as a secondary analysis.

Regards,

Gordon.