Author's response to reviews

Title: Red Ear Syndrome Precipitated By A Dietary Trigger: A Case Report

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Author’s response to reviews - 11 August 2014

Title: Red Ear Syndrome Precipitated By A Dietary Trigger: A Case Report

Authors  Chung Chi Chan
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Version 1 May 2014

Editor comments:
- Which orange juice has been used?

The non-concentrate orange juice used by the patient was Tropicana, a well known brand in the UK.

- What were the ingredients of that juice (dyes, acidics, etc.) which could represent the underlying CULPRIT and NOT the orange juice itself?

There are no dyes in this juice made from pure orange juice by Tropicana. The editor is right, conceivably there is a small chance that the only added ingredient could be the culprit, ie ethyl butyrate, also known as butanoic acid ethyl ester or butyric acid ethyl ester. Ethyl butyrate is the colourless non-toxic chemical with a fruity odour that is used in flavouring extracts, sprays and perfumes and often added to orange juice.

I am aware it is added to the US Tropicana brand as US customers prefer a certain taste. I suspect but do not have proof ethyl butyrate has been added to juice in the UK market

Therefore the additional sentences have been added to the text on page 9: Lines 13-16

The non-concentrate orange juice used by the patient was a well known brand in the UK. There is a possibility that ethyl butyrate (also known as butyric acid ethyl ester), often used in flavouring extracts, could be the culprit rather than the orange juice itself.

Reviewers
Referee 1  Jagdeep Thakur
No changes requested

Referee 2  Raj Nandi
No changes requested
Referee 3  Elwina Timehin
Discretionary revisions: The manuscript needs some discretionary revisions as some parts of the report were repetitive. Some minor editing is required to rectify this.

An attempt has been made to try to reduce repetitive nature of some sentences, but it is difficult without making radical changes. We would be happy to accept suggestions from your team regarding further changes.

Page 9  Line 12
“Such” has been inserted instead of “dietary”

The presence of a dietary trigger causing neurological symptoms suggests a migrainous aetiology, as dietary such triggers in migraine are well-known and avoidance is a therapeutic mainstay.

Page 10  line 13
Removed “(orange juice and stress)” from the last sentence of the article.

“Successful management, using lifestyle modifications and avoidance of migraine triggers (orange juice and stress), gives insight into the pathogenesis of primary migraine-associated RES”.