Author's response to reviews

Title: Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders without and with autoimmune diseases

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Response

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Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders without and with autoimmune diseases
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Dear Dr. Handel and Santos,

Thank you very much for your letter and advice. We have revised the manuscript, and would like to re-submit it for your consideration. Point by point responses to your comments are listed below this letter.

We hope that the revised version of the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in your journal.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

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1. Please could you clarify in the article precisely what the power calculations mean (i.e. are these based on 80% power to detect particular magnitude differences?). It would be more useful to restrict your power calculation to any overall comparisons you make rather than every test (i.e. MRI differences between cohorts). Please make it clear precisely what the assumptions of your power calculations are.

   Answer: Thanks for your nice suggestion. The powers of assumptions we focused on have been added in the Tables of the revised version.

2. If the statistical methods you are using are as you describe these are testing multiple hypotheses and so you should correct for this (and report any comparisons that stand up to multiple hypothesis testing correction). If you are performing regression analysis this is different but the methods state that you are using individual chi-squared and t-tests for each factor independently.

   Answer: Thanks for this precious advice. As you mentioned and shown in the Methods section, we used individual chi-squared and t-tests for each factor independently. Data were analyzed by two steps, though they were included in the same table.

   Firstly, we investigated and compared the features between NMOSD without \( n=115 \) and with autoimmune diseases \( n = 40 \).

   Secondly, the characteristics of NMOSD with non-organ-specific \( n=22 \) and organ-specific autoimmune diseases \( n=18 \) were investigated.