Author's response to reviews

Title: Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders without and with autoimmune diseases

Authors:

Bingjun Zhang (zhangbj@outlook.com)
Yi Zhong (6372636@qq.com)
Yanqiang Wang (124723169@qq.com)
Yongqiang Dai (178Yongqiang@qq.com)
Wei Qiu (guwei1789@qq.com)
Lei Zhang (zhangsogood@163.com)
Haiyan Li (13760690685@163.com)
Zhengqi Lu (lzqzssy@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response

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Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders without and with autoimmune diseases
Bingjun Zhang, Yi Zhong, Yanqiang Wang, Yongqiang Dai, Wei Qiu, Lei Zhang, Haiyan Li and Zhengqi Lu

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,

Zhengqi Lu
Department of Neurology
The Third Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University,
600 Tianhe Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510630
China.
Tel/Fax: +86-20-8751-6822
Email: lzqzssy@gmail.com
We would like to express our sincere thanks to the editors and reviewers for the constructive and positive comments.

1) Power calculations require certain underlying assumptions which must be detailed in the methods section (i.e. are these 80% power to detect a nominally significant difference values or similar?). The power calculations should not be restricted only to the significant values as it is important for readers to know the power of your study to exclude the null hypothesis appropriately where you did not find a significant difference. Please remedy this.

Answer: Thanks for your nice suggestion. The sentence “Power calculations indicated these were 80% power to detect 9.7% (n = 155) and 27.6% (n = 40) differences in the percentage of features, with alpha set at 0.05.” has been added in the Methods section (page 5, paragraph 2, line 72-74) of the revised version to address this issue.

2) As you mention in your comments, each test was conducted independently and so you should therefore correct for multiple hypothesis testing. This appears not to have yet been done. Please also address this.

Answer: Thanks for this precious advice. The comments relating to the p-values have been added in the Discussion section (page 10, paragraph 2, line 219-224) of the revised version to address this issue.

“The p-values we reported were not corrected for multiple hypothesis testing. After post hoc analyses with Benjamini-Hochberg method, there were no statistical differences in CSF protein and glucose, AnuA and Sm seropositivity between NMOSD without and with autoimmune diseases. No difference was found in motor deficit and TPO between NMOSD with non-organ-specific and organ-specific autoimmune diseases.”