Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictors of early-onset post-ischemic stroke depression: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 30 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Kushak Suchdev

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study by Ma et al highlighting a critical aspect of stroke recovery. I have a couple concerns/ suggestions

1) The authors conclude that the neurotransmitter levels are decreased after acute ischemic stroke. In the methods- the neurotransmitter levels were checked once (the day after admission).

I wonder if the reported levels were a response to acute brain injury rather than a true reflection of decreased levels. If the authors have a follow-up level/ levels which show persistent decrease, then I can agree with the authors conclusion.

2) Can the authors conclude as to when is the ideal time for testing neurotransmitter levels in patients with acute stroke?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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