Author’s response to reviews

Title: Outcome prediction in disorders of consciousness: the role of coma recovery scale revised

Authors:
Lucia Lucca (l.lucca@istitutosantanna.it)
Danilo Lofaro (daniolo.lofaro@unical.it)
Loris Pignolo (l.pignolo@isakr.it)
Elio Leto (e.leto@istitutosantanna.it)
Maria Ursino (m.ursino@istitutosantanna.it)
Maria Daniela Cortese (d.cortese@istitutosantanna.it)
Domenico Conforti (domenico.conforti@unical.it)
Paolo Tonin (patonin18@gmail.com)
antonio cerasa (a.cerasa@unicz.it)

Version: 4 Date: 14 Mar 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor

In the attached reply to the reviewer, we outlined our responses to your comments. We look forward to a final positive response.

Yours sincerely,

Lucia Lucca, MD
S. Anna Institute, Crotone, Italy

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Editor Comments:

Include a study flow diagram
Reply: Done see FIGURE 1

This appears to be a retrospective study: this is appropriately acknowledged in the feedback letter. However, the abstract and the methods description still describe a prospective study. Please clarify the design of the study and provide correct description of the design and the processes in the methods’ section of the abstract and the main paper. The verb tenses should reflect the same.
Reply: As suggested by this editor we completely re-formulated our study design description. See pag. 1 and 4

The statement below in the first paragraph of page 5 is misplaced – bits of it should be placed in the “results” section and the associated discussion should be in the “discussion” section.
“Overall, our main interest concerns basic care and secondary medical conditions that can emerge during neurorehabilitation period [17]. For instance, dysautonomia crises are common and can be difficult to treat, thus requiring multimodal interventions. 14% of DoC patients showed paroxysmal sympathetic hyperactivity signs, which were treated with beta-blockers, baclofen, clonidine, gabapentin which, however, did not affect the responsiveness of patients. Other neurological complications (eg, hydrocephalus, infections, epileptic attacks) can be detected and were immediately treated appropriately to reduce the risk of further disability.”
Reply: Done. See pag. See pag. 6 and 7

Review the grammar to help with the clarity of the manuscript.
Reply: A complete review throughout the manuscript has been performed.