Author’s response to reviews

Title: The Protective Effect of Persistent Trigeminal Artery in Patients with Ischemic Stroke

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviewers

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the comments from the editors and two reviewers of our work (NURL-D-18-00503). According to the comments and requests, we have made extensive improvement on our original manuscript, especially according to the requirement of "Case Report". All corrections and supplementary materials are labeled in yellow in our revised version of manuscript. Our detailed point-by-point responses to the concerns are as follows.

We have revised the manuscript in line with all the reviewers’ comments and we hope that the new manuscript can be acceptable for publication at BMC Neurology. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Many thanks for your processing on our work.

Best regards,

Peifu Wang
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Bita Abbasi (Reviewer 2)
This case report, reports an uncommon neurovascular variant that has been suggested to be a risk factor for cerebral stroke. In this manuscript, the author suggest a rather protective role for this variant. As this is a case report with low-level of evidence, I recommend not using strong words like "prove" as in this phrase "this was the first case in a real patient that proved the...".
[Reply] Many thanks for this positive comments. We have used “demonstrated” instead of “prove” in that phrase as follows(Page 4, Line 54).
this was the first case in a real patient that demonstrated the protective role of PTA…

Auwal Abdullahi (Reviewer 3)

Abstract
Page 2
Case presentation
Line 14: ‘Patient with’ not ‘patient of’
[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Conclusion
Line 35: Ischaemic not ischaemia
[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Lines 37 to 39: Please use MesH terms for your key words. For example, I think the word ‘anastomosis’ can be a good candidate

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required as follows(Page 2, Line 38-39).
Keywords: persistent trigeminal artery(PTA) , cerebrovascular disorders, stroke , anastomosis, risk

Page 3
Line: It should be ‘there have been some case reports on its association’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.
Line 11: It should be ‘similarly, there are also some reports on the associations…….
Merge the second paragraph with the first.

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 20: It should be ‘However, its protective effect in the setting of ischemic stroke was rarely reported.

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 22: it should be ‘we’ not ‘We’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 26: It should be ‘its role in cerebrovascular disease has also been discussed’
Case Presentation
Merge the second with the first paragraph

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 45: It should be ‘Additionally, bilateral Babinski’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 47: It should be ‘However, Romberg sign’…..

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 38-49: It should be ‘On admission, his blood pressure was 135/85 mmHg and heart rate was 66 beats/min; and neurological examination revealed nystagmus on horizontal gaze. His pupillary reflexes and extraocular movements were intact, no limb weakness and sensory deficits were found; and bilateral finger-to-nose and heel-to-shin tests were normal. Additionally, bilateral Babinski signs were negative. However, Romberg sign was impossible to evaluate as the patient could not be able to cooperate with further examination.

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 51: It should be ‘Similarly, laboratory tests were’……

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 55: It should be ‘However, no acute.’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Page 4
Line 1: it should be ‘was done which revealed that ‘

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 9: It should be ‘which caused the patient to have acute.’ …

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 11: It should be ‘onset of’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 13: It should be ‘protective role in preventing the patient from having severe anterior circulation ischemic stroke.’
[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 15: It should ‘Furthermore, CT perfusion…’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 17: It should ‘Therefore, the patient was given 100 mg aspirin and 20 mg atorvastatin daily and discharged one week later’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Page 5
Discussion
Line 27: It should be ‘case reports on the role of PTA’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Lines 31-42: It should be ‘This mechanism has been well explained by the hypothesis that PTA may play a role as an embolic pathway to the posterior circulation from the ICA (write a citation here). Some other rare instances had also been reported such as PTA thrombosis resulted from the extensive thrombosis in the occlusive carotid dissection attributed to brainstem infarction [7]. Similarly, the compression of pons from the PTA also could cause transient brainstem ischemic stroke [8]. These two aforementioned cases are also in line with the above viewpoint that, existence of PTA may increase the risk of ischemic Stroke.’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Line 44: It should be ‘This case report has some strength.’ Firstly,

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

Page 6
Line 5: It should ‘with the case of Lochner and colleagues’

[Reply] Many thanks for this suggestion. We have done as required.

General comment
This is a good study that will help us further understand the mechanism of ischaemic stroke. However, use of English needs to be further strengthened in the manuscripts. Additionally, I have seen your study timeline- this is a requirement according to the CARE guideline.

[Reply] Many thanks for this positive comments. We highly appreciated the careful and professional review of our manuscript. We have made improvement as required.