Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of preoperative language mapping by repetitive navigated transcranial magnetic stimulation on the clinical course of brain tumor patients

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Reviewer: Sabareesh Natarajan

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Sollmann et al. present results after 50 patients who underwent resection of tumors in language eloquent areas of the brain using rTMS. They divide the patients into two comparable cohorts one where the results of the rTMS were available to the surgeons and the first were they were not. The size of the craniotomy was smaller and the immediate postoperative language deficits were lesser if the rTMS results were known to the surgeon. They showed a trend to a better outcome in multiple other variables although they were not statistically significant.

The manuscript is well written, referenced and discussed. The title can be changed to narrow down on their actual results. They acknowledge their limitations well. This is the first report of rTMS and its potential clinical benefit in language eloquent tumors. Large well deigned RCTs will be needed to confirm these findings but this is definitely the first step toward that.

As has been previously reported rTMS is not very good in delineating posterior language areas and their studies confirm the same. It would be interesting for the readers to have an idea of the cortical location of these tumors and their relation to the anterior vs posterior language areas.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests