Reviewer’s report

Title: Abnormal resting-state functional connectivity of hippocampal subfields in patients with major depressive disorder

Version: 0 Date: 16 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Samuel Sathyanesan

Reviewer's report:

This is an important and timely study focusing on rsFC of hippocampal subfields in MDD. The authors employ a seed-based approach rather than ICA. Overall, the study is well designed and executed. Although the data are somewhat limited due to the resolution of the 3T scanner, the findings are indeed interesting. The negative and positive connectivity of the subfields with different cortical regions are results that can be tested in future studies in other MDD population groups.

Given recent findings demonstrating volumetric changes in specific subfields of the left hippocampus (see Roddy et al, Biological Psychiatry, March 2019), it will be useful for the authors to discuss the implications in light of their findings. It will be important to know whether rsFC is differentially affected in MDD by the left or right hippocampus.

The study included both males and females, but surprisingly no discussion of any gender differences. It is important that the authors address this.

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

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I am able to assess the statistics

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