**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Increasing Bladder Capacity by Foot Stimulation in Rats with Spinal Cord Injuries

**Version: 0 Date:** 13 Jul 2017

**Reviewer:** Daniele Bianchi

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BURO D 17 00183
The Authors present a paper about suppression of bladder overactivity by foot stimulation in rats.

The topic is of interest, although the study presents with a major bias due to the repeated urodynamic tests. It has been proven in human that DO tends to decrease over following tests (Jeon HJ et al, 2017; Yildiz et al, 2015; Ockrim J et al, 2005; other papers on BOO in males), thus we cannot assume that it keeps stable in rats.

Nevertheless, the small sample size presented by the Authors looks fine for the study but not for such a strong ascertain about detrusor stability during repeated urodynamic tests. Not only, provided it could be enough, it needs to be demonstrated "outside" the study and not in the same study, as it represents a cornerstone prior to the study.

Some more critical points affect the study:

- Background, line 3: supraspinal cord injury? Or maybe the Authors meant supra-sacral cord injury? Please also distinguish between supra-pontine VS. subpontine in the following lines.
- Background, lines 51-2: "we explored the possibility that electrical stimulation through surface electrodes on the hind foot suppresses neurogenic bladder overactivity in rats with T10 spinal cord injuries (SCIs)". The primary end-point does not look clear enough: is it about "capacity" or "overactivity"?
- Terminology should be more accurate, according to ICS (Abrams 2002):
  - "bladder capacity"->"cystometric capacity"
  - "neurogenic bladder overactivity"->"neurogenic detrusor overactivity"
  - "Reflex voiding": maybe "reflex detrusor contraction"?
  - "Atonic" should be avoided (Abrams, 2002): detrusor areflexia instead of atonic and areflexic
- Language does not look suitable for publication I declare I have no competing interests.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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