Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in addition to tinnitus Retraining Therapy for treatment of chronic tinnitus patients

Version: 1 Date: 12 May 2015

Reviewer: Tobias Kleinjung

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting study protocol describing the combination of Tinnitus Retraining Therapy and tDCS for the first time. The study design should be suitable to test the research question adequately.

I don not have any issue for a major compulsory revision.

However, some minor essential revisions should be made before the article can be published.

Abstract: In the methods section I would recommend to change the formulation "Evaluations took place" to "Evaluations will take place". This is a study protocol and I assume that most of inclusions did not take place yet.

Methods: The authors should comment on the exclusion criterias. Please clarify how psychiatric disorders and acoustic neuroma will be evaluated. I am also missing a statement of hearing ability of the patients. A study on tinnitus should specify in which way the hearing ability is measured.

The time posit of the tDCS application ahould be describes in more detail. On the fifth page of the manuscript the authors mention that this intervention will take place within the counselling session. As far as I understand the intention of tDCS in this context correctly it should be applied in the beginning of the counselling as it leads to better cognitive skills.

Statistical Methods: I was wondering about the rather small sample size calculation (n=24). Is the sample size considered for one group (placebo or active) or for the whole group. In most tinnitus studies the effect sizes in terms of changes of questionnaire scores, etc. are rather small. Usually a higher amount of subjects would be expected to observe significant changes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.