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: 18 May 2015

Reviewer: Jay Piccirillo

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The study design is appropriate to answer the hypothesis. However, in the Abstract and Discussion, the authors state the object is to see if tDCS can provide “…a faster and/or more relief in annoyance…”. The planned data collection and analysis do not capture time to event and so I do not think the authors will be able to claim faster relief.

2. Planned statistical analysis lacks sufficient detail to ensure adequate approach. The authors state “… repeated measures will be computed if the data is normally distributed.” If not, the data will be “…transformed first”. The authors need to describe in more detail the planned analyses and how they will incorporate the various measures they will be capturing. In the Sample Size section, the authors fail to describe how big of a difference in TFI between the two intervention groups they hope to detect. Is this difference clinically significant? Is the sample size of 24 for each intervention group or for the total sample size? The authors should consider describing, as the primary effect, the percent of subjects in each intervention who achieve a clinically significant difference in TFI between T0 and T2. The authors need to include confidence intervals around the observed difference.

3. The writing is not acceptable. The authors should seek consultation with a native English speaker as many sentences include odd syntax, improper tense, and unclear meaning.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.