Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of the efficacy of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in the treatment of cognitive symptomatology in the early stages of psychosis: study protocol of a double-blind randomized controlled trial

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Annie LeBlanc, PhD
Trials

Dear Dr. Annie LeBlanc:

Thank you for reviewing the original study protocol entitled “Evaluation of the efficacy of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in the treatment of cognitive symptomatology in the early stages of psychosis: study protocol of a double-blind randomized controlled trial” which was submitted to Trials. We appreciated the comments, which significantly improved the article. The revisions appear marked in italics in the manuscript.
1. Inclusion criteria

Authors do not mention treatment such as benzodiazepines, that can impact the effect of neuromodulation techniques (…)

⇒ In fact, use of drugs that may affect cognitive functioning such as benzodiazepines and anticholinergic agents are exclusion criteria. This information was added in protocol.

2. (...) What type of tDCS device will be used to deliver the treatment? How will the electrodes be applied (saline solution? gel?)

⇒ As suggested by reviewer, we have added information detailing tDCS device, electrodes placement and solution applied.

3. Outcomes do not include social cognition and functioning measurements (…)

⇒ As suggested by reviewer, we have included the Personal and Social Performance Scale (PSP) as a functioning measurement. In addition, social cognition measurement is provided by Mayer-Salovey-Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCEIT) from MCCB.

4. Analysis

-How drop outs will be managed (…) The analysis section may be clearer (…)

⇒ As suggested by reviewer, we have described in a more detailed way both management of dropouts and analyses involving primary and secondary outcomes.

5. Which method was used for the calculation of the sample size?

⇒ As suggested by reviewer, we have detailed the description of sample size calculation.

Minor remark: there is a problem in a reference: Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) (PAN et al. 1986). Authors should correct it.

⇒ We have corrected reference.
Thanks again for revising this manuscript. Look forward to receiving your comments for this revised version of paper.

Sincerely,

Thaís Rabanea-Souza and Colleagues

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