

Vascular Depression for Radiology: A Review of the Construct, Methodology, and Diagnosis

Responses to Peer Reviewer

1. **“it summarized the leading VD experts (Alexopoulos, Krishnan) in the field for the time of the starting point of the VD hypothesis, but much more could be made out of the further and more current research prospect that have been carried out meanwhile.”**

More recent research articles have been interwoven into the manuscript and we added a section titled “Additional clinical and physiological characteristics of VD,” which also addresses more recent research in the VD field. This information was kept brief so as to provide a helpful, but manageable, update for radiologists.

2. **“Please include more clinical (anamnestic) data into the case vignettes, it is not only neuropsychology that informs us about VD, but also clinical (mental) state examination, general disease status, bloodchemistry or inflammatory parameter (IL). see e.g. Turk, B. R., Gschwandtner, M. E., Mauerhofer, M., Löffler-Stastka, H. (2015). Can we clinically recognize a vascular depression? : The role of personality in an expanded threshold model. *Medicine* 05/2015; 94(18), e743. DOI:10.1097/MD.0000000000000743 <http://journals.lww.com/md-journal/toc/2015/05020>”**

Additional clinical information was added to the case reports (mental status through MMSE and general disease status through CIRS-G), however, we were unable to add information such as blood chemistry and inflammatory parameters as that data was not available to us. These case reports are participants from a prior study our lab was involved in, and we did not measure such biological data during that study. In order

to still address this concern, we included such information about personality and biological/physiological characteristics into the new section “Additional clinical and physiological characteristics of VD.”

3. **“please give an outlook for research in what systematic way radiologists should gather single cases to build up case series or a data base necessary e.g. for reference or diagnostic comparison, etc.”**

We added a new table (which we described after the case reports) in order to summarize the information provided in the manuscript in a way that can be more easily used by radiologists to identify potential VD cases for a database. We also added a paragraph at the beginning of the “Methodology of WMH assessment” section to address this concern.