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Dr. Elisa Brietzke

Editor,

Revista Brasileira de Psiquiatria

elisabrietzke@hotmail.com

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your letter and evaluation of our manuscript with the title of "Hippocampus and amygdalar volumes in patients with vaginismus". We would like to thank your kind co-operation and helps. The lines indicated was mentioned according to the marked copy of our revised manuscript (matmaca.PNI.VAGINISMUS.HIPPOCAMPUS.WJP.rev.marked).

We are sending a covering letter giving our responses to the reviewers on an item-by item basis and indicating the spesific changes that have been made in the revised version (matmaca.PNI.VAGINISMUS.HIPPOCAMPUS.WJP.rev.letter) of our manuscript.

We hope the revisions would be satisfactory, if more information is needed we would be happy to deal with.

Sincerely yours

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The revisions are as follows:

Reply to Reviewer I's remarks;

First we would like to thank very much for the reviewer's supportive approach despite criticizes.

- The sentence was changed to "we compared hippocampus and amygdala volumes of the patients with those of healthy control subjects" (at lines ... on page ...)
- The implication was changed to "As mentioned in our unpublished study" (at line ...on page ...).
- The sentence was corrected as "To do manual tracing for anatomical regions, anatomic atlases were used ^[13-15]" (at line ... on page).
- The sentence was changed to "matched for age and gender" at line ... on page ...

- The sentence was changed to “This our previous ECG study provides another support for the association between anxiety, autonomous system dysfunction and vaginismus” at lines ... on page ...
- The implication was changed to “were those of another our unpublished study” at line ... on page ...
- The implication was changed to “In regard to comorbidity” at line ... on page ...
- The sentence was changed to “To do manual tracing for anatomical regions, anatomic atlases were used [13-15].” at lines ... on page ...
- The implication was changed to “with refractory OCD” at line ... on page ...
- The implication was changed to “hippocampus but” at line ... on page ...
- The implication was changed to “However, these our findings” at line ... on page ...
- The sentence was changed to “For the analyses of total blood count, blood samples had been taken from the left forearm vein between eight to ten hours overnight fasting” (at lines 4-6 on page 6).
- Data has normal distribution. This was given at lines 11-12 on page 6.
- The implication “correlation analysis” was removed from the Statistical Analysis section.
- Erythrocyte value was corrected at line 24 on page 7.
- The counts of blood elements were corrected in text and Table 1.
- The implication “mm³” for hematocrit and hemoglobine was removed.

- Knowledge about ethnicity and medication was given in Table 1. In addition, Table was divided in to two sections, demographic and clinical parameters and blood elements.
- In Table 1, the number “25” was mistakenly written. This was corrected.
- In Table 1, all blood elements were given.
- Abbreviations were given under the Table 1.
- The sentence was changed to “However, in our cases, as much self mutilation was not properly evaluated, no obvious excoriations leading to bloodletting were not identified, other behaviours of self mutilation might have affected red blood count, hematocrit and hemoglobine levels” at line 25 on page 9, and lines 1-3 on page 10. In addition, it was given as a limitation at lines 4-5 on page 12.
- The implication “healthy comparisons” was changed to “healthy controls” throughout the paper.
- Term “none” was changed to “any” at line 6 on page 7.
- Term “hemoglobine” was changed to “hemoglobin” throughout the paper.

Reply to Reviewer II's remarks;

First we would like to thank very much for the reviewer's supportive approach despite criticizes.

- First praragraph of the Introduction section was shortened. Some redundant sections were removed.
- The aim section was totally revised at lines 10-15 on page 4.
- Our study inclusion criteria was considerably strict. All patients with borderline personality disorder who met study criteria had been planned. Consequently, twenty patients were taken. A sentence "All patients who had applied to our in-patient or out-patient clinics for one year and met

inclusion criteria were included into study" was added to the lines 6-8 on page 5.

- A sentence "Healthy controls were selected among hospital staff's charts who were free of any medical and psychiatric disorders" was added to the lines 20-21 on page 5.
- Substance use was just questioned by verbally. Urine levels were not detected.
- We used parametric tests, since distribution was homogen. This was supported by using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. This was given at lines 11-12 on page 6.
- Unintentional error on $4501 \pm 0.41 / \text{mm}^3$ vs. $4.74 \pm 0.34 / \text{mm}^3$, $t=2.59$; $P=0.011$ was corrected at line 24 on page 7. All manuscript was revised carefully for errors like this.
- The paper was revised by a native speaker.
- In the first paragraph of the Discussion, some redundant sections including Fan et al.' Study were removed.

Again many thanks for the valuable comments of the reviewers.