

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Rheumatology*

Manuscript NO: 77344

Title: Transcranial direct current electrical stimulation in combination with aerobic exercise: a pilot study in post-COVID-19 systemic autoimmune rheumatic patients

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05229914

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Chairman, Chief Doctor, Director

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: Brazil

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-05 08:16

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-05 15:47

Review time: 7 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1. Line 86. "Two experienced rheumatologists and a rheumatology physician with extensive experience with patients 86 with COVID-19 performed the patient eligibility procedure." What is the difference between experienced rheumatologists and a rheumatology physician? 2. Lines 201-202-203: UNCLEAR. "Priming effects are the result of increased functional connectivity due to neurotransmitter release, which cases increased cortical excitability in the primary cortex and influences pain processing (43-45)." I am not sure I understand "which cases..." 3. Line 209. The present study's limitations include its limited sample size and lack of a control group.: Indeed, these are two major issues. Sample size and control group. Difficult to draw conclusions on 8 patients (one could not be finalized due to isolation). One could have used a non-COVID infected SARD group as a control group and even made it to a double-blind study where the reviewers would not know who was COVID-infected and who wasn't. Moreover, with such a large patient base as you mention in your manuscript, it should be feasible to select a matched control group of vaccinated non-COVID-infected SARD and maybe another vaccinated COVID-infected SARD group and see their results on a similar Design. 4. I would suggest changing the title to: "Transcranial direct current electrical stimulation in combination with aerobic exercise: a pilot study in post-COVID-19 systemic autoimmune rheumatic patients". The tile should reflect the pilot nature of the work and should not make a statement on such a small cohort without a control group.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05753119

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: Brazil

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-04

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-05-11 03:15

Reviewer performed review: 2022-05-15 21:36

Review time: 4 Days and 18 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear authors; Your manuscript has published before in another journal or similar to another publication. (The similarity rate is 84%) Link
"https://assets.researchsquare.com/files/rs-1008362/v1_covered.pdf?c=1635195996"

Best regards;

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05753119

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Turkey

Author's Country/Territory: Brazil

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-04

Reviewer chosen by: Ji-Hong Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-07-26 06:26

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-26 07:22

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear authors; Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit a revised draft of the manuscript "Transcranial direct current electrical stimulation in combination with aerobic exercise: a pilot study in post-COVID-19 systemic autoimmune rheumatic patients" for publication in the Journal of Rheumatology. - Similarity rate is % 87 and it is exactly same with Transcranial direct current electrical stimulation in combination with aerobic exercise is effective in reducing fatigue and pain in post-COVID-19 systemic autoimmune rheumatic patients. -Your manuscript has published before in another journal or similar to another publication. Best regards;