Author's response to reviews


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Author's response to reviews: see over

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Comments:

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Geneva, 10th August 2006

Re: submission of manuscript entitled: "Intensive short-term reading training using scanning laser ophthalmoscopy in subjects with central scotomas: immediate functional benefits and gain retention."

Dear Madame, Dear Sir

Please find enclosed our new manuscript entitled "Intensive short-term reading training using scanning laser ophthalmoscopy in subjects with central scotomas: immediate functional benefits and gain retention" that we would like to be considered as an "research article" for publication in BMC ophthalmology.

This manuscripts reports findings from a study in which we examined the feasibility of training eye movements using scanning laser ophthalmoscope, in people with a central scotoma and major reading difficulties.

The original findings reported in this manuscript are that:

(1) SLO training allowed impaired subjects to improve their reading ability.

(2) An intensive training procedure conducted over a short period of time can produce functional benefits that can be retained

(3) Following SLO training, subjects adapted their oculomotor behaviour and used, additionally to the examiner's selected TRL, other newly self-selected PRLs

(4) Three months following the completion of SLO training, gains persisted on some tasks while they were partially lost on others

We believe these findings are significant, not only in providing new data about visual rehabilitation of people
with central scotomas, but also in linking rehabilitation of macular disorders with rehabilitation of deficits of
cortical origins. This work provides a basis for the future orientation of reading rehabilitation procedures in
low vision patients.

As suggested we listed four possible reviewers below:

Professor Donald C Fletcher
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Professeur Jose Sahel
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Because of possible conflicts of interest, we would very much appreciate if you could not send our paper for
review to Ronald Schuchard, to Gary Rubin (or anyone in the low vision on group at the Moorfield eye
hospital) and to Sven Nilsson.

All the authors mentioned have substantially contributed to the study design, data analysis or revising the
manuscript. AD and MG conceived and conducted the study and wrote the paper. ARW participated to the
study design and revised the manuscript. CM wrote the computer softwares necessary to all analyses. ENL
performed the statistical analysis and revised the manuscript. AS participated in the study design and
revised the manuscript. ABS supervised the whole study and revised the manuscript. All authors read and
approved the final manuscript.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anouk Deruaz, PhD