Author’s response to reviews

Title: Event-related potentials elicited by the Deutsch "high-low" word illusion in the patients with first-episode schizophrenia with auditory hallucinations

Authors:
You Xu (slowly316@163.com)
Hao Chai (chahao2009@aliyun.com)
Bingren Zhang (352720260@qq.com)
Qianqian Gao (gqqjzz@163.com)
Hongying Fan (503014467@qq.com)
Leilei Zheng (saly_ht@126.com)
Hongjing Mao (maohj1108@163.com)
Yonghua Zhang (zjh6916@aliyun.com)
Wei Wang (drwangwei@zju.edu.cn;wangmufan@msn.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr. Anna Clark
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Title: Event-related potentials elicited by the Deutsch “high-low” word illusion in the patients with first-episode paranoid schizophrenia with auditory hallucinations

By Xu Y et al.
Dear Anna:

Thank you very much for your great help, and your email feedback about our paper submitted to your BMC Psychiatry, for the third time. We are very grateful to your comments to the paper. We have revised our manuscript according to these comments. Below we outline in detail about the changes we have made. In text however, these changes are not colored or tracked anymore, they are just in normal black color. Our answers are in these big brackets ‘{ }’.

R1. Consent

We would appreciate if you could provide more details regarding the measures taken and evaluations performed in order to judge that the patients with paranoid schizophrenia were able to fully comprehend your enrollment request, and provide informed consent to participate in your study.

Answer: {Thank you very much for reminding us at this point, which is also very helpful when we prepare our future manuscripts. Following your comment, we have made some amendments in the current draft. All paranoid schizophrenia patients were clinically evaluated by our two senior psychiatrists (ZL and WW), and evaluated further using the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS). From the PANSS outcome, the patients were in moderate to low levels of psychopathology (please see page 7, para 4, lines 5-8). We also have added that the first two co-authors of this study (YX and HC) had played the role to explain, aid, and manage the problems encountered in understanding, filling and cooperating the study procedure (including the ethics and test itself), please see page 8, para 1, lines 2-5. In addition, we have added one sentence regarding patients under 18 years old, please see page 8, para 1, lines 8-10.}

R2. Reporting guidelines

In accordance with BioMed Central editorial policies (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#standards+of+reporting), could you please ensure your manuscript adheres to STROBE guidelines (http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/strobe/) for reporting observational studies. This is so your methodology can be fully evaluated and utilised. Can you please include a completed STROBE checklist as an additional file when submitting your revised manuscript.

Answer: {This advice is extremely good, not only for us, but for every authors of a scientific paper. I am happy to see that BMC has included this procedure. Following your notice,
we have prepared the STROBE checklist regarding our manuscript (our answers – checks are in RED), and uploaded it as an additional file.}

R3. Figures

Please remove the figures from the manuscript text document, and instead upload each of them separately as Figure items. Please do not include the figure labels in the figure files - these should be collected at the end of the main manuscript text document.

Answer: {OK, we have now isolated our figures from their legends, and uploaded the figures separately during this submission process.}

R4. Supplementary table

We would appreciate if you rename the supplementary table, to for example "Supplementary table 1" instead of "Table 3", in order to distinguish it from the tables published as part of the main text.

Answer: {We are sorry for this confusion. In the current submission, we have renamed the old “Table 3” as “Supplementary table 1”, and again put it in supplementary materials.}

R5. Manuscript documents

At this stage, we would appreciate if the manuscript text document and any related files that you submit do not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights or text in different colours.

Answer: {Yes, in the current draft, all the changes we have made are in same color, same layout, as the remaining parts.}

Dear Dr. Clark, we hope our changes this time would satisfy you. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact me.
Yours,

Wei WANG

Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry/ School of Public Health
Zhejiang University College of Medicine
Yuhangtang Road 866
Hangzhou 310058, China
Tel: +86-571-88208188
wangmufan@msn.com, drwangwei@zju.edu.cn
http://mypage.zju.edu.cn/en/wangwei