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OPEN PEER REVIEW

A Cross-Sectional Study to Evaluate Diffusion Tensor Imaging Findings of the Brain in End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Patients Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis Using Volume of Interest Method

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

1 comment · 2 Jan 2024

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 2 Jan 2024

Minor Revision

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reply to Reviewers' Comments:

1- **Although you mentioned that you have followed the STROBE guidelines to design the study, a research checklist according to your study type should be provided.**

We added the research checklist as a table.

2- **A flowchart would increase the understanding of the study design.**

We added the flowchart of study design as a figure.

3- **Multiple grammatical mistakes in the text should be corrected.**

We edited and tried our best to remove grammatical mistakes.

4- **the discussion section and interpretation of your result can be improved.**

We rephrased the the discussion section and interpretation of the results to improve them.

2 Revision 1

1 comment · 14 Feb 2024

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 14 Feb 2024

Minor Revision

3

Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reply to Reviewers' Comments:

Thank you for the comments to improve the manuscript.

1- **the Strobe checklist shouldn't be provided in the main text (or as table) of your manuscript, it is just necessary for the reviewing process. consider remove it from the manuscript.**

We removed the Strobe checklist (Table 1) from the manuscript. Subsequently we adjusted the table numbers.

2- **the flowchart you have prepared needs some corrections, you should add number of patients in each stage of the study, please modify it based on standard published one**

The flowchart of study design has been modified to add number of patients. Our study is a crossectional study with 100 human subjects - 75 cases and 25 controls. Subsequently data collection and statistical analysis were done on all 100 subjects.

3- **Multiple figure 3 and 4's captions are not self explanatory. consider describe their findings in an standard manner**

We edited and tried our best to improve the captions,

4- **some of the references belong to a decade ago, please replace them with more updated ones (<3 years)**

We replaced all old references with new ones. 19 out of 20 references belong to 2021 or are newer. We retained only 1 old reference paper Chou et al (2013) because it has been a important paper in this field.

5- **please mention your ethical code in corresponding part of methods section.**

We added the ethical code in methods section.

3 Revision 2

1 comment · 16 Mar 2024

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 16 Mar 2024

Accept