

The effect of acute pain on executive function

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1st editorial decision

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The Effect of Acute Pain on Executive Function
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear authors,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point which is being raised when you resubmit your work.

Your revision is due by Jul 19, 2018.

To submit a revision, go to <https://jctres.editorialmanager.com/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item called Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Editor:

Dear authors, the editorial board asks you to carefully consider the comments below. Some serious concerns were raised regarding your study setup, and these will need to be alleviated before we can further process your manuscript. Specifically:

1. The study does not meet basic standards of experimental design. No matched control group. Please make sure that a matched control group is added to the study. A matched control group could be collected in a relatively short period of time.
2. The study does not provide any reliability measures of the clinical observations. Please implement reliability metrics and validate the assessments.

Thank you for implementing these changes. Please know that these stipulations are non-negotiable and cannot be rebutted inasmuch as these constitute essential elements in proper clinical trial conduction. Resubmitting your manuscript with the requested changes implemented also does not guarantee the acceptance of the paper for publication, as the paper will be re-reviewed.

Reviewer #1: Thank you for your interesting descriptive information. Please consider the following;

1. You have not provided reliability measures of your assessment data. In the future you might consider video recording your testing and then do inter and intra-examiner reliability assessments.
 2. Your lack of a matched control group of active individuals tested over two sessions does not permit you to make any cause and effect statements and more importantly you neglected to mention the lack of a control group as a limitation of your study.
 3. Suggest you reach out to a colleague with background in clinical research.
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Authors' rebuttal

Response to Reviewers

[Thank you for your time and efforts reviewing this article. The authors greatly appreciate your time and effort into our manuscript. Each comment is addressed below:](#)

1. The study does not meet basic standards of experimental design. No matched control group. Please make sure that a matched control group is added to the study. A matched control group could be collected in a relatively short period of time.

Thank you for this comment. The control group was substituted with comparison to normative data for each subtest of the neuropsychological battery instead. Please see Table 4.

2. The study does not provide any reliability measures of the clinical observations. Please implement reliability metrics and validate the assessments.

Thank you for this comment. The authors have now provided intra-class correlation coefficients (95% CI) between the pain state (T1) and non-pain state (T2). Please see Table 5.

Reviewer #1: Thank you for your interesting descriptive information. Please consider the following;

1. You have not provided reliability measures of your assessment data. In the future you might consider video recording your testing and then do inter and intra-examiner reliability assessments.

Thank you for this comment. The authors have added intra-class correlation coefficients to address the lack of reliability. Please see Table 5.

2. Your lack of a matched control group of active individuals tested over two sessions does not permit you to make any cause and effect statements and more importantly you neglected to mention the lack of a control group as a limitation of your study.

Thank you for this comment. The authors compared to normative data in place of a matched control group (see Table 4). The lack of a control group is certainly a limitation of this study and is now stated in the discussion. This has been amended in the text and now reads “The lack of a matched control group was a limitation of the study, but was mitigated by comparing to standardized normative data”. Please see Page 14, Lines 468-469.

3. Suggest you reach out to a colleague with background in clinical research.

Thank you for this suggestion. The author’s have reached out to those with a background in clinical research and have integrated their feedback into the manuscript.

The authors thank the reviewer for the thoughtful and helpful review. In accordance with the above mentioned recommendations, the authors have amended the text to include the following:

1. The addition of comparing the non-pain state to normative data using one sample *t*-tests which can be found in Table 4.
 2. The addition of ICCs to validate each subtest of the neuropsychological battery which can be found in Table 5.
 3. Clarifications on the limitations of the study.
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2nd editorial decision

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Dear authors,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Research.

You will receive the proofs of your article shortly, which we kindly ask you to thoroughly review for any errors.

Thank you for submitting your work to JCTR.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Comments from the editors and reviewers: