Review Report Form 1

Open Review

(x) I would not like to sign my review report

( ) I would like to sign my review report

English language and style

( ) Extensive editing of English language and style required

( ) Moderate English changes required

(x) English language and style are fine/minor spell check required

( ) I don't feel qualified to judge about the English language and style

	Yes	Can be improved	Must be improved	Not applicable
Does the introduction provide sufficient background and include all relevant references?	( )	( )	(x)	( )
Is the research design appropriate?	( )	(x)	( )	( )
Are the methods adequately described?	( )	(x)	( )	( )
Are the results clearly presented?	( )	(x)	( )	( )
Are the conclusions supported by the results?	( )	(x)	( )	( )

Comments and Suggestions for Authors

The Acoustic Voice Quality Index (AVQI) is a multiparametric tool consisting of a weighted combination of six acoustic measurements to quantify overall voice quality in an objective manner, with Cepstral Peak Prominence (CPPS) as its main contributor. This manuscript reports some results on the AVQI's and CPPS's performance in normophonic non-treatment-seeking subjects.

This paper has many positive aspects. However, the abstract should conform to the template provided in the Applied Sciences journal site. Also presentation of the paper needs improvements. More details are given below.

Authors

The template of the Applied Sciences journal suggests that e-mail addresses from all the authors should be provided. **- Adjusted.**

Abstract

In the template it is written 'A single paragraph of about 200 words maximum.' It is very alarming that the abstract is almost 400 words. **- Adjusted to 249 words. If necessary further reduction can be done.**

Lines 19, 27, 38, 43. The template is specific, that no headings should be included in the abstract. **- Adjusted.**

In line 19, 'acoustic Voice Quality Index' should be 'Acoustic Voice Quality Index'. **- Adjusted.**

In line 20, the full name for the abbreviation CPPS should be provided. **- Adjusted.**

Authors need to change the abstract according to the template. **- Adjusted.**

Introduction

In line 54 reference numbers in brackets (and for every reference). Again, in the template it is written 'References should be numbered in order of appearance and indicated by a numeral or numerals in square brackets'. **- Adjusted.**

In lines 54 and 55, the full name of the abbreviations should be provided. **- Adjusted.**

Provide a reference for line 61 (subject of many studies…). **- This seems unnecessary, because further on in my introduction, I specify which studies investigated which aspects of AVQI. Furthermore, I would like to refer to Table 1.**

In line 64, 'et al' should be 'et al.' Same throughout the manuscript. **Adjusted.**

In line 66 the reference should be beside the name of the authors (Maryn et al. (5)) **Adjusted.**

In line 65, (based on six acoustic measurements..) The six measurements should be mentioned (or it should be mentioned that a detailed description is provided in materials and methods). **Adjusted.**

In line 70, 'program Praat' should be 'software Praat'. **Adjusted.**

A very large table (table 1) with many references is included in the introduction with no discussion by the authors. A discussion about the table and its relevance should be included. **This seems unnecessary, because this table clearly gives an overview of the conducted studies about AVQI as referred to in the introduction. The table subscript together with the introduction, should be sufficient.**

Materials and Methods

In line 116, 'a resolution of 6 bits using…'. Do you mean 16 bits? Can you please elaborate? **- Correct, adjusted.**

In line 178, details for SPSS software should be provided. **- Adjusted.**

In gender effects (lines 198-201) significant differences were found for genders concerning CPPS. The authors needs to explain this point. **- Adjusted, this is now provided in the discussion.**

Results

Tables 2 and 3 should be included in a separate page in landscape mode. - **Table 2 and 3 are merged into one table, but since its size fits well within the text, the position is maintained.**

Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 should be in vector format. **- Box-plots are maintained, but all figures are merged into one well-ordered figure.**

In figure 3, the numbers (inside the figure) are of different size and fonts. It should be corrected. **- Adjusted.**

I suggest that the font in the figures should be the same as in the manuscript (Palatino Linotype) **- Numbers inside the figures are adjusted. Text in the figures is maintained, since we don't have the right software to adjust this in a short period of time.**

Page 7 seems somewhat disorganized to me. I suggest that you move all the tables of page 7 (tables 4, 5, 6, 7) in a separate page (without text). **- Tables 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 6 and 7, 8 and 9 are merged into four tables.**

Discussion

In line 257, a reference is required. **- Adjusted.**

In line 242, ‘needs be interpreted’ should be ‘needs to be interpreted’. **- Adjusted.**

In line 259, 260 the references should be written after the name of the authors (same throughout the manuscript). **- Adjusted.**

Sentence in lines 260-264 needs to be rewritten. **- Not clear. Willing to adjust if there are specific directions.**

In line 280, ‘slight‘ should be ‘slight’. **- Adjusted.**

References 37, 38 do not match the names of the authors. Authors should check the references throughout the manuscript. **- Adjusted.**

Abbreviations

A list of abbreviations should be provided in the end. **- Added.**

Author contributions and funding sections should also be included as presented in the template. **- Adjusted.**

Submission Date
06 May 2019

Date of this review
29 May 2019 00:32:46