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Comment on the Paper by Grunert et al. Entitled 'Remarks upon the Term Stereotaxy: A Linguistic and Historical Note'

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The nicely written and beautifully illustrated article by Grunert et al. [1] about the term 'stereotaxy' unfortunately perpetuates the misconception that there is something etymologically wrong with the adjective 'stereotactic'.

All dictionaries of the Ancient Greek language report that the adjective corresponding to the noun 'taxis' is 'taktikos' (it is from this word that military 'tactics' are derived). Thus, the English

word 'stereotactic' corresponds in the ordinary Greek way to the noun 'stereotaxy'. There is nothing exceptional about the word at all; the '-tactic' ending is good Greek, not bad Latin (an assertion one hears all too often).

The variant 'stereotaxic', though not quite right in the Hellenic sense, is not exactly wrong either, as it reflects the term 'stéréotaxique' used by our French-speaking colleagues (the French language seems to have its own rules for these things). German, in the case of this particular term, goes with Greek and English: 'stereotaktisch'.

I am sure readers will be relieved to know that there is no need to change the name of this journal.

References

- 1 Grunert P Sr, Keiner D, Oertel J: Remarks upon the term stereotaxy: a linguistic and historical note. *Stereotact Funct Neurosurg* 2015;93:42–49.