Reviewer's report

Title: Rapid diagnosis of spinal muscular atrophy using High-Resolution Melting Analysis

Version: 2 Date: 24 March 2009

Reviewer: christina brahe

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has been improved. I have only minor comments.

1) Abstract: in the conclusions “good method” should be changed in appears to be a suitable, alternative method.

2) Background: the last part of the second sentence “which can be used to diagnose SMA patients (1-3)” should be deleted since it is repeated below.

3) Results: the term heterozygous is not exact and cannot be used in this context. Therefore the sentence should be changed in Melting curves of the control samples with SMN1 and SMN2 genes showed ....

4) Results: same as above, heterozygous should be changed in controls with SMN1 and SMN2 genes.

5) Discussion: there were 2 nucleotide differences between SMN1 and SMN2 with ...should be changed in: there are 2 nucleotide differences between SMN1 and SMN2 in ....

6) Discussion, last paragraph, HRMA is more sensitive: “more” should be deleted since the method is not more sensitive and accurate compared to all other methods.

7) Conclusion, first sentence: “is a good alternate” should be changed in: seems to be a useful alternative ......

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.