Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic Heterogeneity of Ellis-van Creveld in the United Arab Emirates

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2009

Reviewer: Genevieve Baujat

Reviewer's report:

minor essential revisions.

The authors report here a series of 6 children from 4 families with EvC syndrome. They describe the patients phenotypes and the results of the genotype analysis.

- The title is restrictive to the genetic aspect and should be extend to the global clinical and genetical description. In the abstract, the aim of the paper seems to describe both aspects

- abstract: isn't it difficult to conclude "indicate genetic heterogeneity" with only 4 cases, fact already suggested ? may is it better to speak about the "illustration of the genetic heterogeneity in EvC in UAE"...or "follow the hypothesis of genetic heterogeneity already suggested"....in the last sentence of the abstract

- discussion: to add more discussion on the clinical features ? which variability ?

- more pictures and xrays of the patients are needed; also a table with the clinical features

- for the family 4, without EvC mutation, could it be possible to discuss the classical differential diagnosis = Jeune syndrome...

- writing

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.