Author's response to reviews

Title: High frequency of Machado-Joseph disease identified in Southeastern Chinese kindreds with spinocerebellar ataxia

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Author's response to reviews: see over
A point-by-point response to the concerns

In response to the reviewer Conceição Bettencourt:

1. There are very long sentences that need to be restructured in order to be understandable. One example of this is the only sentence for the Methods in the Abstract section:

Thank you for your concern. We have restructured some long sentences according to your advice.

2. In the Abstract, where the authors wrote “… to compare react efficiency”, shouldn’t it be “… to compare reaction efficiency”?

Thanks for your concern. We have corrected it.

3. In the Molecular analysis item of Methods, where it is written “The DL2000… was used as DNA size ‘markers’” it should be “The DL2000… was used as DNA size ‘marker’”.

Thanks for your concern. We have corrected it.

4. In the “Analysis of CAG repeats in normal individuals” section of Results, where it is written “The difference in the frequency… and other studies involving ‘in’ Japanese…”, it should be “The difference in the frequency… and other studies involving Japanese…”.

Thanks for your concern. We have corrected it.

5. The last sentence of the Results “All normal alleles… with Taq polymerase (fig. 5A)” should be restructured

Thanks for your concern. We have restructured the sentence to three sentences of “All normal alleles were able to be amplified in PCR with La Taq or Taq polymerase. However, reaction efficiency was different for expanded alleles. All 12 and only 2 expanded alleles were able to be amplified in PCR with La Taq polymerase (fig. 5B) and Taq polymerase (fig. 5A), respectively, for the same 12 MJD patients.”

6. In the Discussion section (page 8), the sentence “For the all normal alleles were amplified in PCR…” should also be restructured in order to be understandable.

Thanks for your concern. We have restructured it to “For all the normal alleles that were amplified in PCR with Taq polymerase, it was possible that there were false negative results in molecular testing of MJD” just based on the associate editor’s correction.

7. In the Figure 1 legend, where it is written “Distributions of the SCA families in present study. The numbers in parentheses indicates…”, it should be “‘Distribution’ of the SCA families in ‘the’ present study. The numbers in parentheses ‘indicate’…”.

Thanks for your concern. We have corrected them.

8. In the Figure 2 legend, where it is written “Distributions of the CAG repeats…”, it should be “‘Distribution’ of the CAG repeats…”.

Thanks for your concern. We have corrected it.