Reviewer's report

Title: Parkinsonian Phenotype in Machado-Joseph Disease (MJD/SCA3): a Two-Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2011

Reviewer: José Berciano

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe two SCA3/MJD patients who developed typical parkinsonian features. Both patients showed an expanded ATXN3 allele with 72 CAG repeats. Extensive molecular analysis of gene mutations associated with familial Parkinson disease was negative, though allelic variants associated with PD were observed in DJ-1 and APOE genes. This reviewer entirely agrees with the authors that the present observations add information on this rare SCA3/MJD phenotype, supporting the notion that the referred allelic variants may increase the risk of parkinsonism in SCA3/MJD.

The paper is well written and illustrated.

José Berciano
Santander (Spain), May 31, 2011

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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