Reviewer's report

Title: Sporadic Fatal Insomnia in Texas: A pre-mortem diagnostic challenge: Case report

Version: 1 Date: 21 July 2011

Reviewer: Herbert Budka

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting, well-described and sufficiently documented detailed clinico-pathological report of a very young case of the so-called MM2-thalamic type of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), also termed sporadic fatal insomnia (sFI). The value of this submission is mainly educational, and it is absolutely correct to state “the rarity of the disease can make the diagnosis of sFI challenging.” On the other hand, there is little originality in this observation, and it is re-assuring to learn that CJD was suspected anyway, and CJD surveillance was duly involved.

As a minor issue (Discretionary Revision), there might be more discussion of the intensity of cortical involvement that has been variably described in sFI.

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.