Reviewer’s report

Title: Retinal nerve fibre layer loss in hereditary spastic paraplegias is restricted to complex phenotypes

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2012

Reviewer: Panitha Jindahra

Reviewer’s report:

Dear editors,

Thank you for the invitation to review an article below:

Retinal nerve fibre layer loss in hereditary spastic paraplegias is restricted to complex phenotypes. Sarah Wiethoff, Ahmad Zhour, Ludger Schöls, and M. Dominik Fischer

The study is interesting, new, and well written. Please find my comments as follows:

1 Signal strength has been known to affect RNFL thickness measurement by using Stratus OCT. Could the authors comment on how they determined the scan quality in the study.

2 LogMAR visual acuity was <0.3 in the inclusion criteria. Could the authors give further details about the visual acuity (or other visual assessments) in the complex and pure HSP? Is there a correlation between the visual function and RNFL thickness?

Yours sincerely,

Panitha Jindahra

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.