Reviewer's report

Title: parkin mutation dosage and the phenomenon of anticipation: a molecular genetic study of familial parkinsonism

Version: 1 Date: 4 January 2005

Reviewer: Andrew B Singleton

Reviewer's report:

General
In this study the authors assess a series of 19 early onset Parkinson disease (PD) families with anticipation and 28 early onset PD cases where there was no family history or if present no evidence for anticipation. The authors aim was to determine if parkin mutation are responsible for anticipation; ie do young onset cases possess 2 parkin mutations, do old onset cases a single parkin mutation. The data provided by the authors shows that this mode of inheritance of parkin mutation is not a major contributor to anticipation in PD families.

The article is well written, clear, appropriately concise and the methodology appears sound.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

NONE

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

I recommend a brief (one or two lines) discussion of the problem of ascertainment bias in defining anticipation (ie is anticipation in PD real?).

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

NONE.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests