Author’s response to reviews

Title: First case report of Cohen Syndrome in the Tunisian population caused by VPS13B mutations

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First case report of Cohen Syndrome in the Tunisian population caused by VPS13B mutations

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BMC Medical Genetics

Dear Editor

Thank you very much for considering our manuscript and for the constructive comments. Please find enclosed:

- The revised manuscript (no: MGTC-D-17-00077) in which we addressed all comments of the editor.

- The responses to the editor’s comments.
We hope that this revised version meets the Editorial Board standards and is now suitable for publication in the BMC Medical Genetics journal.

Best regards.

Imen REJEB

1. It has come to our attention that throughout the manuscript there is significant text overlap with other publications. While we understand that you may wish to express some of the same ideas contained in these publications, please be aware that we cannot condone the use of text from previously published work. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide a justification for the overlap in text between your manuscript and other sources. Please be informed that we cannot proceed with handling your manuscript before this issue is resolved, and the sections of text in question have been reformulated. The report has been attached to further help your revisions.

Please note that the software used to detect overlaps is imperfect and highlights two or more consecutive matching words, therefore, please just focus on those whole sentences/paragraphs highlighted.

Many thanks for pointing out that. Yes we wished to express the same ideas contained in these publications. We apologize for that overlapping text but some scientific terms have no synonyms and we are compelled to use the same words. However, as suggested by the referee all the sections of text in question have been reformulated in the revised version.

If this study uses methodology from a previously published work, please provide a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper.

Yes this study uses methodology from a previously published work. Many thanks for pointing out that. As suggested a summarizing statement in the methodology together with a citation to the original paper have been added in the revised version.

2. In the Consent for publication section, please clearly state what the patients' parents consented to being published, e.g. medical data, images, etc.

Consent for publication of respective case presentations was obtained from patients’ parents. They give their consent for the publication of the medical data and photos of their son and daughter. As suggested it was clarified in the Consent for publication section.

3. We would also like to ask for you to provide more justification for the contributions of JLZ, as currently they do not automatically qualify for authorship. Contribution to data, alone, does not usually justify authorship.
JLZ also contributed in revising the paper. We apologize for this omission. It was changed in the Authors ‘contribution section.

4. Thank you for including the CARE checklist, as it is no longer needed please remove it as a supplementary file and include a statement in the Case presentation section stating that the CARE guidelines were followed.

As suggested the CARE checklist was removed and a statement stating that the CARE guidelines were followed was included in the Case presentation section.

5. Please remove the figure legends from the figure files; the figure legends should only be included in the Figure Legends section under the References.

Many thanks for pointing out that, the figure legends from the figure files were removed as suggested.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

A single, final, clean version was uploaded as suggested by the editor.