Author’s response to reviews

Title: Genomic analysis of a spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) discordant family identifies a novel mutation in TLL2, an activator of growth differentiation factor 8 (myostatin): a case report

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Lu,

Your manuscript "Genomic analysis of a spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) discordant family identifies a novel mutation in TLL2, an activator of growth differentiation factor 8 (myostatin)" (MGTC-D-19-00496R2) has been assessed. Based on my assessment as Assistant Editor, I am pleased to inform you that it is potentially acceptable for publication in BMC Medical Genetics, once you have carried out some essential revisions.

The comments are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at https://www.editorialmanager.com/mgtc/ for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Medical Genetics has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit a revised manuscript online at:

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We request that a point-by-point response letter accompanies your revised manuscript. This letter must provide a detailed response to each reviewer/editorial point raised, describing what amendments have been made to the manuscript text and where these can be found (e.g. Methods section, line 12, page 5). If you disagree with any comments raised, please provide a detailed rebuttal to help explain and justify your decision.

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the
Submission Guidelines on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 29 Nov 2019.

Please note that you will not be able to add, remove, or change the order of authors once the editor has accepted your manuscript for publication. Any proposed changes to the authorship must be requested during peer-review, and adhere to our criteria for authorship as outlined in BioMed Central's policies. To request a change in authorship, please download the 'Request for change in authorship form' which can be found here - http://www.biomedcentral.com/about/editorialpolicies#authorship. Please note that incomplete forms will be rejected. Your request will be taken into consideration by the editor, and you will be advised whether any changes will be permitted. Please be aware that we may investigate, or ask your institute to investigate, any unauthorized attempts to change authorship or discrepancies in authorship between the submitted and revised versions of your manuscript.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Arwa Tawfiq
BMC Medical Genetics
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Assistant Editor Comments:

1. Title of manuscript

Seeing as your study is a case report, we require that, as per our submission guidelines, that you include the words “case report” in the title of your manuscript. Please amend your title as appropriate.

Response:
Revised.

2. Manuscript format

Please reformat your manuscript according to the sections:
• Background - the Background section should explain the background to the case report or study, its aims, a summary of the existing literature.
• Case presentation - this section should include a description of the patient’s relevant demographic details, medical history, symptoms and signs, treatment or intervention, outcomes and any other significant details.
• Discussion and Conclusions - this should discuss the relevant existing literature and should state clearly the main conclusions, including an explanation of their relevance or importance to the field.

Response:
Reformatted.
3. Form of consent to participate

a) While you have stated that “Informed consent was given to participate in this study” this is insufficient. In the section 'Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate', please state whether the informed consent obtained was written or verbal. If consent was verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

b) Please note that in the case of minors, which refers to individuals younger than the age of 16, consent to participate must be obtained from their parents or legal guardians. As such, we ask that in your “Ethics approval and consent to participate” section, to clarify whether informed consent to participate, written or verbal, was obtained from the parents of the female patient and clearly state this in your manuscript. If consent was verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.

Response:
The sections of Ethics approval and consent to participate and Consent for publication have been revised according to the requirement.

4. Role of funding bodies

Please provide more details regarding the specific role of each of the funding bodies in your study. If the funding bodies only provided the financial means to allow the authors to carry out the study, please state “The funding bodies played no role in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript” and include this statement in the Funding section of your manuscript. However, if each of the funding bodies took part in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, and the writing of the manuscript, this must be stated in the Competing Interests section of your manuscript.

Response:
The role of funding bodies was clarified in the section of Funding.

5. Authors’ contributions

Please consider the list of authors as it currently stands with reference to our guidelines regarding qualification for authorship (http://www.biomedcentral.com/submissions/editorial-policies#authorship). Currently, the contributions of author Jinwei Huang (JH) does not automatically qualify them for authorship. In the section “Authors’ contributions”, please provide further clarifications on their contributions, and see our guidelines for authorship below. An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. Authors are expected to fulfil the criteria below (adapted from McNutt et al.,
Each author is expected to have made substantial contributions to the conception OR design of the work; OR the acquisition, analysis, OR interpretation of data; OR the creation of new software used in the work; OR have drafted the work or substantively revised it
AND to have approved the submitted version (and any substantially modified version that involves the author's contribution to the study);
AND to have agreed both to be personally accountable for the author's own contributions and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work, even ones in which the author was not personally involved, are appropriately investigated, resolved, and the resolution documented in the literature.
Please note that acquisition of funding, collection of data or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship. You may acknowledge individuals who assist in the acquisition of funding or of data or supervise the research group in the Acknowledgments section of your manuscript.
If you wish to amend the list of authors, please use the standardised form which you and your co-authors must complete. The authorship change form can be found at the following link: https://resource-cms.springernature.com/springer-cms/rest/v1/content/7454878/data/v5
All instructions can be found on the form, please treat the ‘current authorship’ section as the original authorship. Please return the form within 14 days by e-mail to the Editorial Office with all author signatures (including those newly added/removed).

Response:
Actually, Jinwei Huang (JH) analyzed the patients’ medical information data, collected the blood specimens and interpreted the data in this study. So, we think he could be the author in the manuscript. The contributions of JH were clarified in the section of Authors' contributions.

6. Availability of data and materials

Please note that BMC mandates data deposition for the following:
• Protein sequences
• DNA and RNA sequences
• DNA and RNA sequencing data
• Genetic polymorphisms
• Linked genotype and phenotype data
• Macromolecular structure
• Microarray data (must be MIAME compliant)
• Crystallographic data for small molecules

As such, we ask that you please provide the relevant accession numbers if the data has been deposited into a data bank or the appropriate web links if the data has been uploaded into a repository. If the data has not yet been deposited, please do so and provide the relevant information needed to access it in the ‘Availability of data and materials’ section in your manuscript. Please ensure all data is already released and that any accession numbers/web links are in the ‘Availability of Data and Materials’ in their final form, and that all links and accessions allow access to public data.
Your data availability statement can take the following form: “The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK OR ACCESSION NUMBER TO DATASETS]”.
Response:
Because the WES data contain patients’ genetic information. Therefore, the datasets used in this study are available from the corresponding author upon a reasonable request.

7. Abbreviations

Please ensure that all abbreviations have been included in the ‘Abbreviations’ section.

Response:
Included.

8. Remove attachments

Please remove the following additional files from your manuscript and from the file inventory as they are no longer needed at this stage:
- CARE-checklist-English-2013 (Current version).pdf
- SMA Cover Letter.docx
- Response to Reviewers.docx
- Ethical approval.pdf

Response:
Removed.

9. Table S2 and Table S3

As per our submission guidelines, we require that all figures, tables and additional files be cited in the text in sequence in a manuscript. Table S2 and Table S3 are currently not cited in your manuscript. Please ensure that they are appropriately cited within the main body of text in your manuscript.

Response:
Tables S2 was cited in the supplementary method. The citation of Table S3 was added in line 193.

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