Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and Correlates of Apathy in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1

Version: 2 Date: 2 February 2015

Reviewer: Tim Friede

Reviewer’s report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. Some important details on the design and statistical methods are missing. How were missing values dealt with? How were the controls matched? Please provide these details, in particular the matching algorithm. Please explain how the 20 controls were matched to 38 DM1 cases.

2. The FSHD patients are on average 10 years older than the DM1 patients. Given that age dependencies cannot be excluded (see Table 3) analyses would need to be adjusted for age.

3. When reporting the prevalences of apathy in the DM1 and FSHD populations, please provide confidence intervals. Also provide a confidence interval and p-value for the difference in prevalences of the two populations.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

4. Spearman’s correlation coefficient is not appropriate to assess linear relationships as stated in the methods sections of abstract and main text. It assesses monotone, but not necessarily linear relationships.

5. This cohort is from a national reference centre. Please comment on the possibility of selection with your centre being a centre of national excellence. Is it not unlikely to only particular type of cases have been referred to your centre?

6. Page 7, line 154: What is meant by T-Scores?

7. When reporting p-values please give a sufficient number of digits.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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