Author’s response to reviews

Title: Frequency of SCA8, SCA10, SCA12, SCA36, FXTAS and C9orf72 repeat expansions in SCA patients negative for the most common SCA subtypes

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor

Many thanks for your response to our re-submission, we considered all change requests. Please find a point-by-point response below.

We hope that you will now find it suitable for publication

Yours sincerely

Larissa Arning (on behalf of the authors)
Editor Comments:

1. Participant anonymity:

We note that Tables 1 and 2 contain potentially identifiable information. Currently, the age and gender information, in combination with other identifiers, may compromise patient/participant anonymity. It is BMC policy to not publish more than 2 indirect identifiers without explicit consent for publication from the participants, as per this paper (http://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1745-6215-11-9).

Please remove the sex information (column 3), and use range for age instead of the exact age (e.g., use 41-50 instead of 45) in column 4. In addition, please read the above paper carefully and make sure the data in the table will not compromise patients' anonymity.

Response: We removed the sex information and now use a range for age at onset instead of the exact age.

2. Acknowledgements:

Please move any funding information from the Acknowledgements to Funding. If you have no further acknowledgements, please write ‘Not applicable’.

Response: We moved the funding information and wrote ‘Not applicable’ into the Acknowledgements.

3. Availability of Data and Materials:

Thank you for providing an Availability of data and materials subheading in your Declarations section. Please describe where the raw data generated/analysed during your study can be found, if any is unaccounted for. If you wish to share the data through correspondence then please include the statement “The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.” If you do not wish to share your data, please state this along with the reason.

Response: We included the statement “The datasets used and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.”
4. Authors’ Contributions:

Please ensure that the Authors’ Contributions section is separate to the ADM section.

Response: We have corrected this.

5. Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate:

   a. Please include the full name of the ethics committee (and the institute to which it belongs to) that approved the study and the committee’s reference number if appropriate.

   b. Please include a statement on whether written informed consent to participate was obtained from the participants.

Response: We included a statement on whether written informed consent to participate was obtained from the participants and the full name of the ethics committee.

6. Title page:

Please include the email addresses for all authors on the title page. The corresponding author should still be indicated.

Response: We included email addresses for all authors on the title page.

7. Headings:

In line with our submission guidelines, please change the ‘Introduction’ heading to ‘Background’.

Response: We changed the heading.
8. Clean Manuscript:

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.

Response: We cleaned the manuscript.

Please also correct the sentence according to reviewer's suggestion.

Reviewer reports:

Hsiu-Chuan Wu, MD, PhD (Reviewer 3): The authors are advised to correct this minor editing error before the article can be accepted:

Line 286: 'therefore patient data are partially incomplete like e.g. history of...' Like = e.g. Please choose an appropriate one between them.

Response: We deleted e.g.