When reporting a homoallelic result, particularly in infantile/juvenile cases, a clear mention should be made of the possibility of having missed a large expansion, if complementary methods have not been used or have been uninformative; a request for additional familial samples may also be appropriate; this is particularly important for SCA2 and SCA7.

The report of a homoallelic result should also reflect the population frequency of that allele and that particular genotype, wherever this information is available.

A comment on mitotic instability of expanded and intermediate alleles is appropriate for those alleles at loci known to undergo further large expansion on occasion (as is the case of SCA7); it is also appropriate to mention the increased risk relating to the gender of the transmitting parent.

There must be a recommendation of a referral for genetic counselling in the case of a confirmation of a diagnosis, or in cases in which no mutation is detected in a patient with symptoms and a family history of the disease.

The implications of the confirmation of a diagnosis for relatives of the proband and the availability of testing of other family members and PND should be clearly stated.

If a SCA8 expansion is detected, the report needs to discuss the uncertainty of its significance and the possibility that other mutations may be segregating in the family; a referral for genetic counselling must also be recommended.

In cases in which no mutation is detected in a patient with symptoms, the report should recommend a re-evaluation of the clinical diagnosis and further testing (eg, other SCAs, recessive ataxias, FXTAS, HD), where appropriate.

The report of a 'non-carrier' result in PST should reflect the degree of certainty of the genetic diagnosis in the family; if the correct diagnosis in a proband could not be confirmed or is uncertain, this must be clearly stated in the report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Corrigendum to: EMQN Best Practice Guidelines for molecular genetic testing of SCAs

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Since the publication of the above paper the authors realized that the other co-authors who took part to the EMQN Best Practice Meeting and electronic discussion were not indexed as such. Their name and affiliations are listed below.

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