REPLY TO A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: "Unilateral Ptosis and Homolateral Hemifacial Weakness in Chronic Progressive External Ophthalmoplegia"

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We appreciate the comments of Drs. Finsterer and Zarrouk-Mahjoub regarding our report of a unique patient with chronic progressive external ophthalmoplegia (CPEO).¹ As a point of clarification, this patient did not initially present with eyelid ptosis but rather subsequently developed eyelid ptosis 25 years later. The original publication of this patient in 1985 represents a rare case in the English medical literature of CPEO without ptosis.² The message of our report was to emphasise that although eyelid ptosis is the most common presenting finding in CPEO, some patients may have delayed manifestation of this feature decades later.

We certainly agree that genetic testing would be interesting and may be beneficial to determine if the severity of the clinical course of CPEO can be correlated to the genotype. However, given the long-standing nature of this patient's signs and symptoms, and the fact that he had extensive evaluation and close follow-up over the past three decades, it was not felt that genetic testing at this present time would provide any clinical advantage for the patient. Many of the questions that Drs. Finsterer and Zarrouk-Mahjoub ask regarding this patient's history, clinical presentation, and diagnostic evaluation are presented in the initial

report.² The mitochondrial abnormalities seen on histologic and electron microscopic examination are firmly consistent with the diagnosis of CPEO.

We greatly appreciate the interest and attention that Drs. Finsterer and Zarrouk-Mahjoub have brought to our case. We wish to emphasise that practitioners should consider CPEO when progressive symptoms of facial palsy, eyelid ptosis, and ophthalmoplegia occur, whether alone or in combination. All patients should be closely followed for delayed manifestations of the condition, which may not present for decades.

Declaration of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the article.

References

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