

## REPLY:

**W**e greatly appreciate Dr Mascalchi's interest in our article "Inherited Cerebellar Ataxia in Childhood: A Pattern-Recognition Approach Using Brain MRI."<sup>1</sup> We agree that many cases of Friedreich ataxia (FRDA) have normal MR imaging findings at the time of diagnosis and that a visually normal cerebellum in a child with ataxia usually suggests FRDA. We also concur that volume loss and decreased fractional anisotropy by diffusion tensor imaging of the superior cerebellar peduncles and iron deposition on T2\* are potential biomarkers for this disease.<sup>2,3</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. Vedolin L, Gonzalez G, Souza CF, et al. **Inherited cerebellar ataxia in childhood: a pattern-recognition approach using brain MRI.** *AJNR Am J Neuroradiol* May 17 2012 [Epub ahead of print]
2. Della Nave R, Ginestroni A, Diciotti S, et al. **Axial diffusivity is increased in the degenerating superior cerebellar peduncles of Friedreich's ataxia.** *Neuroradiology* 2011;53:367–72
3. Koeppen AH, Michael SC, Knutson MD, et al. **The dentate nucleus in Friedreich's ataxia: the role of iron-responsive proteins.** *Acta Neuropathol* 2007;114:163–73

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