

Spinocerebellar ataxia type 17: SCA 17 research summary



Spinocerebellar ataxia type 17 is a relatively newly discovered dominantly inherited cerebellar ataxia. The gene causing SCA17 was identified in 2001. For more information on inheritance see Ataxia UK's leaflet 'Information on cerebellar ataxia'. A recent paper that describes some of the features of the condition and its prevalence is summarised below.

Summary of recent research paper

Craig *et al.* *J Neurol Sci.* 2005 Dec 15;239(1):105-9 – A copy of paper is available from Ataxia UK office. The main author of this paper, Professor Patrick Chinnery is a neurologist with expertise in ataxia based in Newcastle.

SCA17 is an uncommon disorder with a prevalence of 0.16 per 100,000 in the population looked at in a study in the North East of England.

Clinical features of SCA17:

Mean age of onset – 31 years of age

Symptom	Percentage people experiencing the symptom
Ataxia	94%
Dementia	76%
Psychosis	27%
Dystonia	35%
Chorea	20%
Parkinsonism	14%
Pyramidal signs	37%
Seizures	22%
Myoclonus	4%

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