

The sNFL levels are correlated with age in some patient cohorts, but not in others. sNFL levels as a function of age in A) the DM I patient cohort; B) the DM2/PROMM patient group; C) the FSHD group; D) the mitochondrial disease group and E) the muscle disease control group.

F) sNFL levels according to repeat length in DM2/PROMM patients, and G) sNFL levels according to repeat length in DM I patients.

A linear regression line was fitted to the data using GraphPad Prism 5, and the r^2 value is shown on each graph.

The Pearson correlation co-efficient was calculated for each data set. There was a significant correlation between age and sNFL levels in the DM I patients (r = 0.69, p = 0.04) and the DM2/PROMM patients (r = 0.82, p < 0.0001). No significant correlation was found between age and sNFL levels in the FSHD group (r = 0.53; p = 0.17), the mitochondrial group (r = 0.0009; p = 0.997), or the disease control group (r = 0.5; p = 0.08).

No significant correlation was found between sNFL levels and repeat length in the DM2/PROMM patients (r = 0.5; p = 0.07), but a significant correlation was found between repeat length and sNFL levels in the DM I group of patients (r = 0.86; p = 0.014*). If P7 (outlier value, see text) is included, the correlation is lost because of the extent of the deflection and the low number patients (r = 0.29; p = 0.53).