Two Cases of Syndromic Neutropenia with a Report of Novel Mutation in G6PC3

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ABSTRACT

Severe congenital neutropenia (SCN) is a rare primary immunodeficiency. Different genes are found to be associated with SCN, including ELA2, HAX1, WAS, GFI1, G-CSFR. Also, recently G6PC3 was shown as a rare gene involved in SCN.

Patients with G6PC3 often have cardiac and/or urogenital malformations. Two patients with persistent severe neutropenia, recurrent infections and maturation arrest at promyelocyte-myelocyte stage in their bone marrow were assessed in this study.

Both patients showed structural heart disease and one of them also showed urogenital anomaly. Sequence analyses of G6PC3 in 2 patients revealed two different homozygous mutations, one in exon 6 (Asn 313 fs), and the other in exon 3 (Ser 139 Met), the latter is a new mutation which has not been reported in previous studies.

It can be concluded that G6PC3 is one of the responsible gene for SCN in Iranian patients. Based on the results, a new mutation in G6PC3 observed in one patient.

Key words: Cardiorvascular & urogenital malformations; G6PC3; Severe Congenital Neutropenia

INTRODUCTION

Severe congenital neutropenia (SCN) includes heterogeneous disorders characterized by severe neutropenia from early infancy with low absolute neutrophil counts (mostly less than 500/µl), increased life threatening infections, and maturation arrest at bone marrow in promyelocyte/myelocyte stage.¹ Different genes including ELA2, HAX1, WAS, GFI1, are found to be associated with SCN,²,³ and recently G6PC3 (catalytic subunit 3 of glucose-6-phosphate) was shown as a rare gene involved in SCN.⁴,⁵ Patients with G6PC3 gene homozygous mutation often have cardiovascular abnormalities and or/urogenital malformations.⁴

CASE REPORT

Here we report two Iranian patients who referred to Immunology, Asthma and Allergy Research Institute, with a syndromic form of SCN, resembling to patients described by Boztug et al.⁴
Table 1. Clinical and molecular findings in two SCN patients with G6PC3 deficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Patient 1</th>
<th>Patient 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent consanguinity</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at symptom onset</td>
<td>1 mth</td>
<td>4 mths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at study time</td>
<td>48 mths</td>
<td>Dead at 9 mths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection history</td>
<td>Pneumonia, Neonatal sepsis</td>
<td>Pneumonia, sepsis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC*</td>
<td>28-450</td>
<td>40-170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone marrow aspiration</td>
<td>Maturation arrest in myelocyte</td>
<td>Maturation arrest in myelocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average G-CSF dose</td>
<td>3-5 µg/kg (2 times per week)</td>
<td>7 µg/kg/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response to G-CSF</td>
<td>Excellent Arterial septal defect</td>
<td>good Arterial septal defect (type 2), failure to thrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other findings</td>
<td>(type 2), unilateral hydronephrosis, prominent superficial venous pattern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA2</td>
<td>No mutation</td>
<td>No mutation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAS</td>
<td>Not determined</td>
<td>No mutation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAX1</td>
<td>Not determined</td>
<td>No mutation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G6PC3</td>
<td>Asn313fs</td>
<td>S139M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates absolute neutrophil counts before G-CSF treatment
**Granulocyte colony stimulating factor

These cases were registered in Iranian Primary Immunodeficiency Registry (IPIDR). Genomic DNA of the patients were extracted from whole blood of the patients and 6 exons of G6PC3 gene were amplified using primers as described before by PCR and sequenced.

The first patient was a four-year-old boy of consanguineous parents, diagnosed at early infancy with low neutrophil count, lung infection and fever and also maturation arrest at myelocyte stage. His physical examination showed heart and urogenital abnormalities. He has referred to our center for G-CSF treatment and has been followed for 3 years monthly. His infections well controlled during these years and he was in a good condition (Table 1). Sequence analyses of G6PC3 gene revealed a known mutation in the exon 6 (Asn 313 fs). It should be noted that we got the same result for this patient which have been previously reported.

The second patient was a nine-month-old boy of consanguineous parents with heart abnormalities and severe recurrent infections and fever. His severe neutropenia was diagnosed at 4 months of age and he referred to our center at 7 months of age for more evaluation and making decision about SCT (stem cell transplantation). Finally, he died at 9 months because of serious lung infection (Table 1). DNA sequencing of his G6PC3 gene revealed a novel homozygous mutation in the exon 3 (Ser 139 Met), (Figure 1). Also, sequence analyses of ELA2, HAX1 and WAS were performed and no mutations identified in these associated SCN genes.

In order to determine that this G6PC3 variant is a novel mutation which caused neutropenia in the patient and it was not a polymorphism, 100 healthy controls were entered in the study. The exclusion of polymorphism at codon 139 was confirmed among the healthy population in this study. Both parents and two aunts (sisters of his mother) of the patient found to be carriers of the G>T without noticeable clinical phenotype (Figure 1). Also, the CVS examination of the current pregnancy of the mother indicates the fetus does not harbor the respective mutation. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report of the amino acid substitution mutation in exon 3. This Novel mutation in G6PC3 can be added to 10 mutations reported previously.
Two Cases of Syndromic Neutropenia Including a Novel Mutation in G6PC3

DISCUSSION

In this paper we report two patients with G6pc3 deficiency, a syndromic form of SCN described by Boztug et al. One of our patient showed a known homozygote mutation (Asn 313 fs) in exon 6 but we found a new homozygote mutation (Ser 139 Met) in exon 3 of G6PC3 gene, we confirmed that this novel mutation does not cause SCN in heterozygous carriers as patients’ parents and two of his aunts do not have any features of syndromic SCN. Bioinformatics analysis revealed that Ser 139 is a conserved residue in G6PC3 gene in different species (Figure 2). It is evident that G6PC3 is involved in GSK-3β pathway, an enzyme that regulates cellular differentiation and apoptosis. Patients with G6PC3 deficiency have premature apoptosis of neutrophils and this is the phenotypic feature of congenital neutropenia. The range of developmental abnormalities in these patients may relate to the factors other than mutant G6PC3, but increased susceptibility to apoptosis in G6PC3 mutant patients may also contribute to their abnormal cardiac and urogenital development.
CONCLUSION

Finding further mutations in G6PC3 will assist to define the molecular and clinical aspects of this disease.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None of the authors have any potential conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES