Commentary

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EST00444 (D13S308E) maps to 13q12.1

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Hawthorn and Cowell (1996) excluded the mapping of EST00444 from chromosome 13 and assigned it provisionally to chromosome 8 through the amplification of a panel described by Kelsell et al. (1995). We believe that their conclusions are mistaken.

We first mapped EST00444 (D13S308E) to human chromosome 13 by PCR amplification of DNA from the NIGMS human-rodent somatic cell panel 2 (Haddad and Pena, 1993). The genetic mapping was independently made by Yandava et al. (1994) who redundantly called the locus D13S635E. Both D13S308E and D13S635E refer to the same sequence (Gen-bank accession number M78296). Later, Washington et al.

(1995) mapped D13S308E to 13pter→q12.1.

In view of the claims of Hawthorn and Cowell (1996) we used the same PCR conditions described before (Haddad and Pena, 1993) to amplify DNA from the Stanford G3 radiation hybrid cell panel (Research Genetics, Huntsville, USA). We found linkage of EST00444 to the marker DBS1224 with a LOD score of 8.94 at an estimated distance of 22.83 centi-rays (cR). D13S1224 was known to be linked to marker G17777, which is contained in bin number 3 of the Stanford G3 radiation hybrid map, thus being positioned in 13q12.1.

We do not know the reason why Hawthorn and Cowell (1996) could not amplify EST00444 in 13 hybrid cell lines supposed to contain part of chromosome 13. However, it should be noticed that they used different primers and different PCR conditions from those recommended by us (Haddad and Pena, 1993). Anyway, our results here reported once more confirm the mapping of EST00444 (D13S308E) in chromosome 13, more specifically in 13q12.1, in full agreement with the results of Washington et al. (1995).

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