A New Case of the Rare 10q22.3q23.2 Microdeletion Flanked by Low-Copy Repeats 3/4

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Established Facts

- Reported 10q22.3q23.2 microdeletions are associated with the recently described and rare 10q22q23 deletion syndrome with an uncharacteristic phenotype.
- To date, 14 microdeletions at 10q22.3q23.2 flanking low-copy repeats 3/4 have been reported in the literature.

Novel Insights

- We report on a new case of a boy presenting with a 7.8-Mb microdeletion at 10q22.3q23.2 and compare his clinical signs with similar cases reported in the literature.
- In addition, our patient has a microdeletion at 16q12.1 of 189 kb that could be related to the phenotype.

Key Words

Deletion syndrome 10q22q23 · Genotype-phenotype correlation · Molecular cytogenetics

Abstract

Deletions in the 10q22.3q23.2 region are rare and mediated by 2 low-copy repeats (LCRs 3 and 4). These deletions have already been recognized as the 10q22q23 deletion syndrome. The phenotype associated with this condition is rather uncharacteristic, and most common features are craniofacial dysmorphisms and developmental delay. We describe a boy with craniofacial dysmorphic features, developmental delay, tetralogy of Fallot, hand/foot abnormalities,

and recurrent respiratory tract infections. Chromosomal microarray analysis disclosed a 7.8-Mb microdeletion at 10q22.3q23.2, flanked by LCRs 3/4, and an additional 16q12.1 microdeletion of 189 kb. This article reviews the clinical signs of reported cases with similar deletions and compares them with our patient, contributing to a better understanding of genotype-phenotype correlation.

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The improvement of molecular cytogenetic analyses, including the use of MLPA and chromosomal microarray techniques, has shown that the list of microdeletion/microduplication syndromes is constantly increasing

Fig. 1. Array results of the affected individual. **A** Chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) hybridization profile of chromosome 10 using the CytoScan HD chip indicating a 7.8-Mb microdeletion at q22.3q23.2 (81,446,577–89,253,430; hg 19). **B** CMA hybridization profile of chromosome 10 using Agilent Human Genome G3 SurePrint 8 × 60 K microarray confirming the q22.3q23.2 microdeletion.

[Slavotinek, 2008; Nevado et al., 2014]. Some of these have a recognizable phenotype; others have less consistent phenotypes and are associated with an increased risk of neuropsychiatric disorders [Koolen et al., 2008; van Bon et al., 2011].

Deletions of 10q22.3q23.2 have been characterized as a rare new syndrome associated with cognitive impairment and behavioral abnormalities [Balciuniene et al., 2007]. This region is flanked by a complex set of low-copy repeats (LCRs), designed LCR3 and LCR4, which can give rise to various genomic changes mediated by nonallelic homologous recombination (NAHR) [Lupski and Stankiewicz, 2005].

The presence of LCRs in this region suggests that this locus has an increased susceptibility to chromosomal rearrangements [Alliman et al., 2010]. Nevertheless, only 14 novel deletions and 7 duplications with breakpoints within LCRs 3/4 have been described [Goss et al., 1998; Han et al., 2004; Dufke et al., 2006; Balciuniene et al., 2007; Erdogan et al., 2008; Alliman et al., 2010; Reddy et al., 2011; Singh et al., 2011; van Bon et al., 2011; Petrova et al., 2014].

In this study, we report on a patient carrying a microdeletion of 7.8 Mb at 10q22.3q23.2, flanked by LCRs 3/4, and in addition, a 189-kb microdeletion at 16q12.1.

Patient and Method

Case Report

A 3-year-old boy was referred for medical genetics consultation at the Genetic Service of FCM-UNICAMP because of multiple anomalies. He was evaluated by experienced clinical geneticists with a specific checklist comprising clinical and family history information and dysmorphic features.

The proband is the second child born to nonconsanguineous parents with a previous spontaneous abortion and an older healthy child. His family history was unremarkable. At birth, he was noted to have bilateral clubfeet. During the neonatal period, tetralogy of Fallot was diagnosed, and at 9 months of age, corrective cardiac surgery was performed. His subsequent development was globally delayed, and a single febrile convulsion was reported during childhood. Also, he was noted to have recurrent upper airway infections.

Dysmorphology examination at the age of 3 years revealed: frontal bossing, low-set and slightly anteverted ears with bilateral overfolded helix and prominent right antihelix, right preauricular pit, mildly sparse eyebrows, downslanting palpebral fissures, shallow orbits, bulbous tip of the nose, high-arched palate, bilateral clubfeet, and bilateral incomplete palmar creases.

Fig. 2. Array results of affected individual. **A** Chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) hybridization profile of chromosome 16 using CytoScan HD chip indicating a 189-kb microdeletion at q12.1 (47,127,281–47,316,339; hg 19). **B** CMA hybridization profile of chromosome 16 using Agilent Human Genome G3 SurePrint 8 × 60 K microarray confirming the q12.1 microdeletion.

Molecular Cytogenetic Analysis

Chromosomal microarray analysis was performed using the CytoScan HD chip (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA), following the manufacturer's instructions, and analyzed with the Chromosome Analysis Suite (ChAS) Software (Affymetrix). Confirmation of pathogenic CNVs was performed with the Agilent Human Genome G3 SurePrint 8 × 60 K Microarray (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and analyzed with the Agilent CytoGenomics software (Agilent Technologies).

Chromosomal microarray analysis of the patient revealed a microdeletion of 7.8 Mb at 10q22.3q23.2 (Fig. 1A, B). Additionally, our patient had a 189-kb microdeletion at 16q12.1 (Fig. 2A, B): arr[GRCh37] 10q22.3q23.2(81446577_89253430)×1,16q12.1(47127281_47316339)×1. An investigation of the parental origin of these deletions was not possible because samples were not available. The patient lost follow-up and the karyotype could not be performed to exclude structural changes.

Discussion

We report on the case of a boy with developmental delay, congenital heart disease (CHD), craniofacial dysmorphic features, hand/foot abnormalities, and recurrent infections. Indeed, the patient presents with a 7.8-Mb 10q22.3q23.2 interstitial microdeletion overlapping the region of the rare 10q22q23 deletion syndrome (DS).

The common clinical features of the reported patients and our proband with LCRs 3/4 10q22.3q23.2 deletion included: craniofacial dysmorphic features, present in all 15 patients, developmental delay (13/15, 87%), palate alterations (6/15, 40%), CHD (6/15, 40%), and hand/foot abnormalities (10/15, 67%). Other less common clinical features of the 10q22q23 DS not present in our patient are: hypotonia (3/15, 20%), autism (2/15, 13%) and joint hyperextensibility (2/15, 13%) (Table 1).

The craniofacial dysmorphisms do not result in a recognizable facial phenotype and included most commonly hypo- or hypertelorism (9/15, 60%), low-set and small ears (6/15, 40%), up- or downslanting palpebral fissures (6/15, 40%), epicanthic folds (4/15, 27%), and a flat nasal bridge (3/15, 20%). Our patient presented with low-set ears and downslanting palpebral fissures.

The most common palate alteration is a high-arched palate present in 5 of 15 patients (33%), including the one reported here. The most frequently observed CHD are ventricular septal defects identified in 3 of 15 patients (20%), but not found in our patient in whom tetralogy of Fallot was detected. Hand/foot abnormalities commonly included club feet (4/15, 27%), also present in our patient, and arachnodactyly (2/15, 13%). Another clinical feature

Table 1. Clinical features of patients with 10q22.3q23.3 deletion flanking LCRs 3/4

References, cases	Deletion size	Inheritance	Gender	Age at evaluation	DD	CHD	Palate alterations	Craniofacial dysmorphic features	Hand/foot alterations	Other clinical features	Additional aberrations
Balciuniene et al. [2007]											
UM10qDel-01	7.5 Mb	maternal	male	3 ys, 6 m	+	–	–	mild features	–	autism	–
JHU10qDel-01	7.5 Mb	de novo	male	1 y, 6 m	+	–	–	white forelock	–	retrocerebellar cyst, small cerebellum	–
Alliman et al. [2010]											
Case 1	7.25 Mb	de novo	male	2 ys, 7 m	+	PDA	high-arched palate	mild hypertelorism, upslanting palpebral fissures, overfolding of lateral pinna, earlobe creases, thin upper lip, micrognathia	arachnodactyly	autism, joint hyperextensibility	–
Case 2	7.25 Mb	de novo	female	17 ys, 1 m	+	–	high-arched palate	mild facial asymmetry, downslanting palpebral fissures, borderline set ears, malar flattening, prognathism	mild arachnodactyly	mild hypotonia, joint hyperextensibility, history of myopia, ADHD	–
Case 3	7.25 Mb	de novo	male	8 days	NA	–	–	normocephalic with mild plagiocephaly, hypertelorism, mild epicanthic folds, low-set, posteriorly rotated ears, narrow ear canals	bilateral clubfeet	mild hypotonia, bilateral hearing loss	–
Case 4	7.25 Mb	de novo	male	1 y, 8 m	+	–	high-arched palate	macrocephaly, frontal bossing, narrow philtrum, retrognathia, small mouth, downslanting palpebral fissures, hypertelorism, small swept-back ears, bilateral notch mid helix	–	mild hypotonia, failure to thrive	–
van Bon et al. [2011]											
Patient 1	7.2 Mb	de novo	female	22 ys	+	–	–	hypotelorism, upslanting palpebral fissures, ptosis, low-set small ears	broad thumbs and halluxes	breast aplasia	–
Patient 2	7.2 Mb	unknown	female	2 ys, 6 m	+	AVSD	–	hypertelorism, anteverted nares, flat nasal bridge, large mouth, telecanthus, low-set ears	–	–	–
Patient 3	7.7 Mb	de novo	male	3 ys, 7 m	+	–	high-arched palate	dolichocephaly, hypertelorism, epicanthal folds, flat nasal bridge, midface retraction, low-set prominent ears	retroplaced thumbs	maligned teeth, Chiari I malformation, epilepsy	de novo 2q36.3 duplication (722 kb)
Patient 4	7.7 Mb	de novo	male	12 ys	+	TR, PR	–	long face, hypertelorism, almond-shaped eyes	radioulnar synostosis, scoliosis, kyphosis, pectus excavatum	café-au-lait spots	47,XXX
Patient 5	7.5 Mb	maternal	male	5 ys	+	–	–	hypertelorism, broad base of nose, flat nasal bridge, low-set ears	bilateral clubfeet	shawl scrotum	–
Reddy et al. [2011]											
Case 2	7.7 Mb	de novo	female	4 ys	+	–	–	broad nose, everted lower lip vermillion border	–	–	–
Singh et al. [2011]											
Case report	7.46 Mb	de novo	female	5 ys, 6 m	+	VSD	–	mild epicanthic folds, right-sided exotropia	hyperkeratosis of the fifth toenail	persistent tachypnea, recurrent middle ear infections	–
Petrova et al. [2014]											
Clinical report	7.3 Mb	de novo	male	2 ys	–	VSD, PFO	median cleft palate	hypertelorism, high forehead, broad nasal bridge, upslanting palpebral fissures, epicanthic folds, retrognathia, glossoptosis	right-sided clubfoot	–	–
Current case	7.8 Mb	unknown	male	3 ys	+	TOF	high-arched palate	frontal bossing, low-set and slightly anteverted ears with bilateral overfolded helix and prominent right antihelix, right preauricular pit, mildly sparse eyebrows, downslanting palpebral fissures, shallow orbits, bulbous tip of the nose	bilateral clubfeet, bilateral incomplete palmar creases	recurrent upper respiratory tract infections	16q12.1 deletion (189 kb)

ADHD, attention deficit/hyperactive disorder; AVSD, atrial ventricular septal defect; CHD, congenital heart disease; DD, developmental delay; m, months; NA, not available; PDA, patent ductus arteriosus; PFO, persistent foramen ovale; PR, pulmonic regurgitation; TOF, tetralogy of Fallot; TR, tricuspid regurgitation; VSD, ventricular septal defect; ys, years; +, present; –, absent.

observed in our patient was recurrent upper respiratory tract infections, not reported in other 10q22q23 DS cases.

There are 16 OMIM genes within the 7.8-Mb-deleted region at 10q22.3q23.2 detected in our patient. Some of these genes, e.g., *BMPR1A* (601299), *LDB3* (605906), *GRID1* (610659), and *NRG3* (605533), have been hypothesized as putative candidate genes associated with the phenotype, especially regarding the neuropsychological development and cardiac defects [Balciuniene et al., 2007; van Bon et al., 2011; Breckpot et al., 2012].

Saito et al. [2012] evaluated heart morphology of the mutant mouse knockout *BMPR1A* protein in neural-crest-derived cells and showed that some of them exhibited facial fusion defects such as a cleft face and cleft palate, or facial dysmorphic features besides heart defects. Thus, the craniofacial dysmorphisms and CHD observed in our patient may be partly caused by the deletion in the *BMPR1A* gene.

Heterozygous point mutations or partial deletions of the *BMPR1A* gene are also associated with the juvenile polyposis syndrome (OMIM 174900), characterized by developing hamartomatous polyps in the gastrointestinal tract [Larsen and Howe, 2017]. Among patients with 10q22.3q23.2 deletions, one subtype of the juvenile polyposis syndrome, called juvenile polyposis of infancy, has been observed only in those having both *BMPR1A* and *PTEN* genes deleted [Menko et al., 2008]. *PTEN* has a recognized tumor suppressor role [Li et al., 1997] and is associated with Cowden syndrome and Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome, suggesting that contiguous deletion of both *BMPR1A* and *PTEN* is required for polyposis development [Zhou et al., 2003; Dahdaleh et al., 2012]. *PTEN* is not present in LCR 3/4-flanked 10q22.3q23.2 deletion and none of the patients with similar deletions were reported to have juvenile polyposis of infancy or to have developed the polyposis phenotype [Petrova et al., 2014].

LDB3 encodes a LIM-binding domain 3 protein which is involved in cytoskeletal assembly, and mutations in this gene have been associated with dilated cardiomyopathy in humans [Vatta et al., 2002; Hershberger et al., 2008]. The impact of this protein in the function or structure of the heart is under investigation [Alliman et al., 2010].

The *GRID1* gene encodes a subunit of glutamate receptor channels, which have a role in mediating excitatory synaptic transmission in the central nervous system [Yamazaki et al., 1992]. Vasan et al. [2009] proposed *GRID1* as a candidate gene for left ventricle wall thickness through a genome-wide association meta-analysis of common genetic variants associated with cardiac structure and function. In addition, this gene has also been as-

sociated with schizophrenia in several studies [Fallin et al., 2005; Coyle, 2006; van Bon et al., 2011]. Another gene located proximal of *GRID1* and reportedly associated with schizophrenia risk and presentation is *NRG3* [Chen et al., 2009], which has a role in signaling proteins that mediate cell-cell interactions in the nervous system, heart, breast, and other organ systems [Falls, 2003].

In addition, our patient has a microdeletion in 16q12.1 (189 kb). This region includes 2 OMIM genes: *NETO2* (607974) and *ITFG1* (611803). *NETO2* is a kainate receptor subunit proposed to have significant effects on glutamate signaling mechanisms in the brain [Zhang et al., 2009]. *ITFG1* is a transmembrane protein with proposed cellular adhesion function [Kato et al., 2014]. This deletion was not detected among individuals in the DGV database (<http://projects.tcag.ca/variation>). In the DECIPHER database (<https://decipher.sanger.ac.uk/>), much larger deletions encompassing the one found in our patient have been described as a sole finding in 2 individuals (2856 and 289229) presenting with developmental delay in common with our patient. Also, the case 289229 from DECIPHER presented with CHD, an atrial septal defect. To determine the significance of this deletion on the phenotype, more information about other individuals carrying similar deletions and especially more information about the specific functions of these genes are needed.

Additional chromosome abnormalities were observed in 3 of 15 patients with 10q22q23 DS (Table 1) and may have influenced the phenotype. Recently, it has been suggested that large genomic-scale structural variants, i.e., alterations involving megabases of DNA, can be associated with additional complexities, such as other structural variants that are generated in a one-off event (chromoanasythesis- and chromothripsis-like events) or a complex genomic rearrangement accompanied by absence of heterozygosity [Carvalo and Lupski, 2016]. Distinct disease phenotypes affect different organ systems, whereas overlapping disease phenotypes are more likely to be caused by 2 genes encoding proteins that interact within the same pathway. This interplay between pathogenic variants in multiple genes results in the complex spectrum observed on phenotypes within one patient and contributes to the variability of the associated genomic disorder [Posey et al., 2017].

Most of the clinical signs present in our patient are reported in the rare 10q22q23 DS. However, the findings in our patient and in others carrying this deletion do not allow the characterization of a core phenotype. In addition, we cannot exclude the influence of the 16q12.1 deletion on the phenotype.

The identification of rare and new genomic imbalances in young patients can change clinical management by allowing early intervention for behavioral abnormalities and developmental delay also ensuring a specific follow-up. Additional cases would improve the genotype-phenotype correlation and the effect of multiple rare variants on the etiology of this disorder.

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge the patient and his family for their cooperation and the Laboratory of Multiuser Equipment in the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Campinas, located in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil for their support with the use of equipment, GeneChip Fluidics Station, and GeneChip Scanner.

This study was supported by FAPESP – Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (2008/10596-0, 2009/08756-1,

and 2011/23794-7, 2012/51799-6) and CNPq – Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (149600/2010-0 and 471422/2011-8). V.L.G.-d.-S.-L. is supported by CNPq (304455/2012-1).

Statement of Ethics

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee Board of the University of Campinas (Nos. 487/2009 and 433/2010). Written informed consent was obtained from the patient's parents.

Disclosure Statement

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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