Phenotype-karyotype correlation in patients trisomic for various segments of chromosome 13

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SUMMARY Analysis of clinical and cytogenetic findings taken from 62 published cases of partial trisomies of chromosome 13 showed that 15 had partial trisomy for the proximal long arm and 47 had trisomy for the distal long arm. Persistence of fetal haemoglobin (Hb F), increased projections of polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMN), depressed nasal bridge, cleft lip/palate, and clinodactyly were more frequent in patients with proximal trisomy 13. In the distal trisomy group, the common features included haemangioma, bushy eyebrows, long curled eyelashes, prominent nasal bridge, long philtrum, thin upper lip, highly arched palate, and hexadactyly. In addition, several other features were common to both the groups, often showing inconsistency even when the same segment was in trisomy. The influence of the second aneusomy as the most likely cause for such inconsistent and overlapping phenotypes is discussed in view of the fact that 42 of 62 cases were derived from a balanced translocation carrier parent.

During the past few years, our knowledge regarding malformation syndromes resulting from partial duplications and deletions of chromosomes has increased considerably. Advancement in laboratory methods during this period also provided the ability to recognise smaller chromosome regions and bands. This has aided in correlating specific clinical characteristics with specific regions of chromosomes, leading to the delineation of new chromosome syndromes.^{1,2} The success and accuracy of such phenotype-karyotype correlation studies will undoubtedly depend upon the analysis of clinically recognisable phenotypic malformations from a sufficiently large number of patients with identical chromosome aberrations.

Chromosome 13 represents a unique situation, in which trisomy for the entire chromosome and partial trisomies involving various segments are all compatible with livebirth. Therefore, it is not surprising that chromosome 13 has been the focus of phenotype-karyotype correlations for some time. As early as 1966, Yunis and Hook³ and Bloom and Gerald⁴ attempted phenotypic mapping of chromosome 13. This led to the mapping of two clinical

parameters of complete trisomy 13 syndrome, namely increased nuclear projections of polymorphonuclear leucocytes (PMN) to the 13q12 region and persistence of fetal haemoglobin (Hb F) to the 13q14 region.⁵ More recently, based upon collective data from independent case reports and family studies, another clinical manifestation of trisomy 13, namely polydactyly, has been mapped to the most distal region (13q31→qter) of chromosome 13.⁶⁻²³ In addition, these studies have arbitrarily grouped the partial trisomies of chromosome 13 into proximal and distal. Certain clinical features were more frequently seen when the proximal long arm was in trisomy and certain others when the distal long arm was in trisomy. However, there still remain major questions with regard to the inconsistent and overlapping phenotypes often seen in these patients even when the same region is in trisomy.

The purpose of this article is twofold. (1) To examine critically the clinical and cytogenetic data from all available cases of partial trisomy 13, studied with banding techniques, in order to correlate specific phenotypes with specific regions of the chromosome. (2) To identify the possible influence of the second aneusomy on the phenotype, since the majority of partial trisomy 13 patients have inherited the abnormal chromosome from a balanced translocation carrier parent.

Methods

Published case reports were selected for this review based on the following: (1) cytogenetic study was performed using one of the banding techniques, and (2) satisfactory clinical information was recorded for each patient. The second criterion was difficult to meet in all cases, but attempts were made to obtain additional information by corresponding with the respective authors. Fifteen cases of proximal trisomy (13pter→q12, 13, 14, 21, or 22) and 47 cases of distal trisomy (13qter→q32, 22, 21, 14, 13, or 12) were available for the study. The origin of these 62 partial trisomies and the specific segments involved in the trisomy are shown in table 1.

A list of clinical features reported in various partial trisomy 13 patients was prepared. Presence or absence of these features was scored for each patient by preparing a tabulated column with clinical features on one axis and the trisomy segment on the other. Patients within each group (proximal or distal) were placed in the order of increasing length of the trisomy segment to enable a better correlation of phenotype and the length of trisomic segment.

Results and discussion

The major clinical features seen in 62 patients with partial trisomy for various segments of chromosome 13 appear in table 2. If one looks at the 'pure' proximal and distal trisomies (with no apparent overlapping chromosome segments between them) some distinctive and distinguishing features can be determined. We compared 12 patients with trisomies for 13pter→q12, 13, and 14 with 27 patients

with trisomy for 13qter→q32, 22, and 21. The most common distinguishing clinical features seen in this selected category of proximal trisomy included persistence of Hb F, increased projections of PMNs, depressed nasal bridge, cleft lip/palate, and clinodactyly. The distal trisomies showed haemangioma, bushy eyebrows, long curled eyelashes, prominent nasal bridge, long philtrum, thin upper lip, highly arched palate, and hexadactyly.

In the remaining patients, there is an overlap of some chromosome region or bands between those classified as proximal or distal. For example, a patient with trisomy pter→q21 may be actually trisomic for either pter→q14 or pter→q22, since these are adjacent bands to q21. In addition, a patient with proximal trisomy pter→q21 and a patient with distal trisomy q14→qter share the q21 band in common. In spite of this overlap, even in this group there are clinical features more frequently seen in one group than the other. The most discriminating features for the proximal and distal trisomies appear in tables 3 and 4. Table 5 shows some of the more common clinical characteristics seen in both groups of patients and may be partially attributable to the obvious overlapping of the chromosome segment between them.

From this analysis, it is apparent that even when the patients appear to have duplications of the same segment of chromosome 13, they often show considerable phenotypic inconsistencies. A number of arguments have been advanced to explain this. They include concepts such as the involvement of more than one regulatory mechanism in the overall production of the phenotype, the probable influence of regulatory and structural genes on other chromosomes, position effect resulting from the altered location of the chromosome segments, apparent inconsistency in reporting the karyotype and phenotype, variability in the length of the trisomic segment at the submicroscopic level, as well as the possible influence of the second aneusomy in cases of inherited partial trisomies.^{5 21-23} All of these are theoretically convincing and may well be operating simultaneously.

The influence of the second aneusomy on the phenotype in cases with inherited partial trisomies is becoming increasingly apparent owing to our ability to identify duplications and deletions involving small chromosome segments. The majority of partial trisomies of chromosome 13 are inherited (table 1) and, therefore, these patients have also inherited an associated trisomy or monosomy (duplication-deletion) for a segment of a second chromosome. Thus, the influence of the second chromosome defect on the overall phenotype is inevitable and deserves closer examination. It is indeed difficult to

TABLE 1 Origin of various partial trisomy 13.

Trisomic segment*	No of cases	De novo	Inherited			
			Translocation		Inversion	
			mat	pat	mat	pat
13pter→q12	4	0	4	0	0	0
13pter→q13	1	0	1	0	0	0
13pter→q14	7	1	5	1	0	0
13pter→q21	1	0	1	0	0	0
13pter→q22	2	0	2	0	0	0
13qter→q32	2	0	2	0	0	0
13qter→q22	13	0	4	4	5	0
13qter→q21	12	3	3	1	3	2
13qter→q14	11	2	7	2	0	0
13qter→q13	5	1	2	1	1	0
13qter→q12	4	2	2	0	0	0
Total	62	9	33	9	9	2

*References 6, 12, 24 cases 1 and 2 (13pter→q12); 25 (13pter→q13); 7, 9, 10, 19, 26-29 (13pter→q14); 30 (13pter→q21); 22, 31 (13pter→q22); 32 cases 1 and 2 (13qter→q32); 8, 15, 17, 21, 23, 24, 31, 33-37 (13qter→q22); 11, 18, 20, 30, 38-45 (13qter→q21); 7-10, 12, 16, 42, 46-49 (13qter→q14); 14, 50-53 (13qter→q13); 12, 54-56 (13qter→q12).

TABLE 2 Comparison of major clinical features in partial trisomies for different segments of chromosome 13.

Features scored	Proximal					Distal					
	pter→q12 (4)	pter→q13 (1)	pter→q14 (7)	pter→q21 (1)	pter→q22 (2)	pter→q32 (2)	qter→q22 (13)	qter→q21 (12)	qter→q14 (11)	qter→q13 (5)	qter→q12 (4)
Increased PMN projections	1/1	1/1	4/6	1/1	1/2	0/2	0/13	1/12	0/11	0/5	1/4
Persistence of Hb F	0/1	0/1	4/5	1/1	2/2	0/2	0/13	3/12	1/11	0/5	2/4
Haemangioma	1/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	8/13	8/12	4/11	2/5	3/4
Growth retardation	1/4	1/1	5/7	1/1	2/2	1/2	7/13	7/12	7/11	4/5	2/4
Psychomotor retardation	4/4	1/1	7/7	1/1	1/2	2/2	13/13	12/12	11/11	5/5	4/4
Convulsions	1/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	7/13	4/12	5/11	0/5	1/4
Hypotonia	0/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	5/13	5/12	3/11	1/5	1/4
Microcephaly	2/4	1/1	2/7	1/1	2/2	0/2	5/13	3/12	3/11	5/5	3/4
Bossing of forehead	1/4	0/1	3/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	5/13	5/12	4/11	1/5	3/4
Other cranial abnormalities	2/4	0/1	4/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	5/13	8/12	5/11	2/5	3/4
Bushy eyebrows	0/4	0/1	0/7	0/1	0/2	0/2	4/13	3/12	5/11	1/5	0/4
Low set/malformed ears	1/4	0/1	7/7	1/1	2/2	2/2	12/13	6/12	9/11	4/5	3/4
Strabismus	2/4	1/1	2/7	1/1	0/2	1/2	3/13	3/12	3/11	1/5	0/4
Epicanthic folds	1/4	1/1	2/7	1/1	0/2	0/2	5/13	5/12	3/11	5/5	1/4
Long curled eyelashes	0/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	0/2	6/13	5/12	7/11	0/5	1/4
Stubby nose	1/4	0/1	5/7	0/1	1/2	0/2	3/13	1/12	5/11	0/5	2/4
Depressed nasal bridge	1/4	0/1	0/7	0/1	2/2	0/2	2/13	0/12	1/11	0/5	0/4
Prominent nasal bridge	0/4	0/1	5/7	0/1	0/2	1/2	5/13	3/12	2/11	1/5	0/4
Long philtrum	0/4	0/1	2/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	8/13	3/12	7/11	0/5	1/4
Thin upper lip	0/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	0/2	4/13	4/12	4/11	0/5	0/4
Cleft lip/palate	3/4	0/1	2/7	0/1	0/2	0/2	1/13	4/12	1/11	3/5	1/4
Highly arched palate	0/4	1/1	1/7	0/1	1/2	2/2	10/13	5/12	8/11	2/5	1/4
Micrognathia	2/4	1/1	3/7	1/1	1/2	2/2	4/13	3/12	4/11	3/5	1/4
Short/thick neck	1/4	1/1	3/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	4/13	3/12	2/11	2/5	1/4
Umbilical/inguinal hernia	0/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	1/2	1/2	3/13	6/12	5/11	1/5	0/4
Urinary tract/kidney anomaly	0/4	0/1	0/7	0/1	1/2	0/2	4/13	1/12	1/11	3/5	3/4
Undescended testes	1/1	1/1	2/4	1/1	1/1	1/1	5/8	1/6	3/6	2/2	2/3
Clinodactyly	2/4	0/1	3/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	2/13	7/12	1/11	1/5	1/4
Hexadactyly	0/4	0/1	0/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	7/13	7/12	6/11	3/5	2/4
Single palmar crease	1/4	0/1	1/7	0/1	0/2	2/2	5/13	8/10	1/11	2/5	3/4

isolate specific clinical characteristics associated with a concomitant second aneuploidy unless the two chromosome defects have sufficient distinguishing features to establish the diagnosis of a 'double syndrome'. Nevertheless, examples of cases with duplication-deficiency associated with clinically recognisable double syndromes are available.^{57 58}

We therefore examined the karyotypes of 42 cases of partial trisomy 13 that arose through a translocation in a parent in order to identify cases that might present a second chromosome defect which is associated with a well delineated syndrome. We

identified four instances of 5p deletion, four instances of 9p deletion, and two instances of trisomy 22q.

PARTIAL TRISOMY 13 AND 5p DELETION

It is well established that even a small deletion of the short arm of chromosome 5 (p14, p15) is sufficient to create the characteristic physical abnormalities of the 5p- syndrome. The four cases in our review reported by Noel *et al* (case 2a),¹² Yanagisawa *et al*,¹⁵ Schutten *et al*,⁴⁶ and Coco and del Rey⁵¹ showed deletion of 5pter→p13, 14, or 15 in addition to partial trisomy 13. Analyses of the clinical features revealed that two patients had a typical cat cry in infancy.^{12 15} In both instances, the authors stated that the patients had features of both partial trisomy 13 and 5p deletion. Of the remaining two patients, one had a high pitched cry and the other a hoarse cry. It is quite conceivable that these two patients also had, in fact, features of 5p deletion. A classical example of the effects of two chromosome abnormalities in the same patient has been reported by Leisti *et al*.⁵⁷ The patient had complete trisomy 13 and 5p deletion and the characteristic features of both trisomy 13 and cri-du-chat syndrome.

PARTIAL TRISOMY 13 AND 9p DELETION

The 9p deletion syndrome is characterised by craniostenosis and trigonocephaly with narrow temples and high forehead.⁵⁹ Occasionally, a trigonocephalic skull has been reported in partial trisomy 13. Jotterand and Juillard¹¹ suggested that these two features may distinguish distal trisomy 13 from complete trisomy 13. In our review, among the four cases that had 9p deletion, two cases were described as having a trigonocephalic skull, while two others were described as having a prominent forehead or large anterior fontanelle.^{8 11 24 30} Cytogenetically, all four cases had deletion of 9p (9p24, 9p23, 9p23, 9p21→pter). The trigonocephalic skull or unusual skull shape seen in these patients may be a non-specific finding, but is seemingly related to the deletion of 9p rather than the partial trisomy of 13.

PARTIAL TRISOMY 13 AND 22q DUPLICATION
Hsu and Hirschhorn⁵⁸ described the association of cat eye syndrome with trisomy of the 22q11 region. The patient had double trisomy involving 13q22→qter and 22pter→q12 and was reported to have major features of both syndromes. It is interesting that although the trisomy 22 was small, it was sufficient to express features of cat eye syndrome in spite of the trisomy of 13q22→qter. Another example of trisomy 22q11 was noted in the case reported by Mutchinick *et al*.¹⁷ The patient had

TABLE 3 Distinguishing characteristics of proximal trisomy 13 (13pter→q12, 13, 14, 21, and 22) (15 cases).

	No	%
Strabismus	6/15	40
Depressed nasal bridge	8/15	53
Stubby nose	7/15	47
Cleft lip/palate	5/15	33
Clinodactyly	5/15	33
Increased PMN projections	8/10	80
Persistence of Hb F	7/10	70

TABLE 4 Distinguishing characteristics of distal trisomy 13 (13qter→q32, 22, 21, 14, 13, and 12) (47 cases).

	No	%
Convulsions	19/47	40
Hypotonia	17/47	36
Bushy eyebrows	13/47	27
Long curled eyelashes	19/47	40
Prominent nasal bridge	12/47	25
Long philtrum	21/47	45
Thin upper lip	12/47	25
Highly arched palate	28/47	60
Umbilical/inguinal hernia	16/47	34
Urinary tract/kidney anomalies	12/47	25
Haemangioma	27/47	57
Hexadactyly	27/47	57
Single palmar crease	21/47	45

TABLE 5 Features common to both proximal and distal trisomy 13 (62 cases).

	Proximal		Distal	
	No	%	No	%
Growth retardation	10/15	66	28/47	60
Psychomotor retardation	15/15	100	47/47	100
Microcephaly	8/15	53	19/47	40
Bossing of forehead	6/15	40	18/47	38
Other cranial abnormalities	6/15	40	25/47	53
Epicanthic folds	5/15	33	12/47	26
Low set/malformed ears	10/15	66	36/47	76
Micrognathia	7/15	47	17/47	36
Short/thick neck	5/15	33	14/47	28
Undescended testes in males	5/8	62	14/26	54

double trisomy of 13q22→qter and 22pter→q11. Phenotypic analysis, however, according to Mutchinick *et al*, did not show the typical features of cat eye syndrome. He suggested that the discrepancy was perhaps attributable to trisomy of a smaller region of chromosome 22.

These examples present a very compelling argument that double aneuploidy syndromes, in fact, do present distinctly different features associated with each of the abnormalities, however minute they may be. It is important to recognise the duplication-deficiency conditions in inherited cases and to identify the clinical features associated with both the abnormalities whenever possible. The major setback in establishing a karyotype-phenotype correlation in partial trisomy 13 is due to the heterogeneous double syndrome nature of these abnormalities in the majority of the cases. Indeed, as more cases are accumulated with simple deletions and duplications, a more precise clinical correlation can be made with a particular chromosome segment.

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