Trisomy 9 Mosaicism with Multiple Congenital Anomalies*

Summary. A nine-year-old male with developmental abnormalities was found to be mosaic for an extra No. 9 chromosome (46,XY/47,XY, + 9). The clinical findings included severe mental retardation, peculiar facies, short stature, hypotonia, dextroposition with a ventricular septal defect, and patent ductus arteriosus, as well as significant abnormalities of the brain.

As a result of the institution of new techniques for the identification of individual chromosomes, it is now possible to characterize certain gross chromosome abnormalities more precisely. This is particularly true for the C group where extra chromosomes have been observed, both with and without mosaicism, but have been difficult to categorize.

The patient described in this report was identified as a mosaic for trisomy 9 by the quinacrine mustard fluorescent banding technique, the major cell line being 46,XY and the minor line 47,XY, + 9.

Case Report

J.C. (JHH 109 67 40), a nine-year-old male, was the fourth child of a 32-year-old mother and 40-year-old father. The union was non-consanguineous. The sibs are normal. A paternal uncle was reported to be severely retarded.

The pregnancy was of 39 weeks' duration and was complicated by three days of profuse vaginal bleeding during the 14th week of gestation. The fetal movements were diminished throughout the final trimester. The birth weight was 2.7 kg and the length 48 cm. At the time of delivery, the infant had a weak cry and was lethargic and cyanotic.

The patient was noted to have many congenital anomalies (Table I). Hyperbilirubinaemia, secondary to AO incompatibility during the first day of life, necessitated a partial exchange transfusion. The peak serum bilirubin was 15 mg%.

Cardiac examination at one month of age revealed a grade II harsh ejection murmur both to the left and right of the sternum, a right ventricular lift, and a loud pulmonic closure sound. The electrocardiogram showed evidence of left ventricular prominence, and the chest radiograph demonstrated dextroposition.

Because of poor weight gain, frequent upper respiratory infections, intermittent cyanosis, and the abnormal cardiac findings, the child was admitted to the Johns Hopkins Hospital for investigation at five months of age. Cardiac catheterization demonstrated true dextroposition with a small bidirectional shunt at the ventricular level. The right ventricular pressure was at systemic levels. The pulmonary artery was not entered.

Cineangiography showed the right ventricle on the right, the left ventricle medially and to the left, and no evidence of pulmonic stenosis. The systemic arterial saturation was 85%. The patient had frequent episodes of high fever and vomiting. Examinations of cerebrospinal fluid and blood cultures were negative. A cause for the pyrexia was never established.

He was readmitted to the Johns Hopkins Hospital at the age of two years for investigation of hypotonia. Motor nerve conduction velocity, electromyography, electroencephalography, and a muscle biopsy were normal. A quantitation of the urine amino acids and several screening tests for a variety of abnormal urinary metabolites failed to demonstrate an inborn error of metabolism. A chromosome analysis carried out at another hospital showed an abnormal karyotype which was originally interpreted as XY/XXX/X mosaicism.

The developmental milestones were significantly retarded. He did not sit unsupported until two, stood at three, and began to walk at five years of age. The first word occurred at six years. At age eight, the patient communicated primarily by gesture and had a vocabulary of six words. Psychological examination placed his intelligence in the severely retarded range.

The patient's final hospital admission was necessary for treatment of intractable congestive failure (Fig. 1). The failure progressed in spite of vigorous medical management. He died at nine years of age.

Cytogenetic Investigation

Chromosome analyses on the patient and his parents were performed on leucocyte preparations using a modification of Moorhead's system (Moorhead et al, 1960). Additional studies on the
patient included examination of cultured skin fibroblast cells (Taylor et al, 1973). A modification of the method of Caspersson was utilized for the determination of the quinacrine mustard fluorescent patterns of the individual chromosomes (Caspersson et al, 1970; Moore, Heller, and Thomas, 1973).

Necropsy Examination

A partial necropsy included examination of the heart and brain. The heart was massively enlarged because of dilatation and hypertrophy of the ventricles. A small ductus arteriosus connected the proximal left pulmonary artery and the aorta distal to the origin of the left subclavian artery. There was a 1.0 cm defect in the muscular portion of the ventricular septum.

Gross examination of the brain showed several anomalies, the most striking of which included an enlarged cisterna magna, small temporal lobes with incomplete operculization, widening of the sylvian fissures, marked enlargement of the third and lateral ventricles with subependymal sclerosis, and minimal arachnoidal thickening, most prominent over the superior cerebellum and the parasagittal region of the hemispheres (Fig. 3). Microscopic examination failed to demonstrate significant abnormalities.

Discussion

Complete trisomy of any of the C-group autosomes appears to be a very infrequent occurrence, there being few reported cases at the present time (Jalbert et al, 1966; Juberg, Gilbert, and Salisbury, 1970; Caspersson et al, 1972). Cytogenetic
Fig. 2. Karyotype of the propositus demonstrating an extra No. 9 chromosome by the quinacrine fluorescent technique (arrows).

Fig. 3. A. Lateral surface of the left cerebral hemisphere and cerebellum. The brain is small, the frontal operculum is incomplete (white arrow), and the sylvian fissure has an abnormal vertical orientation (black arrow). B. Coronal section of the occipital lobe showing enlargement of the lateral ventricle.
investigation of spontaneous abortions suggests that this low incidence may be the result of increased fetal wastage generally associated with the trisomy of large autosomes (Kuliev, 1971).

However, there have been frequent reports of patients who were mosaic with both a normal cell line as well as a line trisomic for an extra chromosome in the C group. The clinical manifestations of these patients have been extremely varied.

In this group was a normal woman in whom two of three pregnancies resulted in severe congenital anomalies (Stolte, Evers, and Blankenborg, 1964), a patient with amenorrhoea (Jacobs et al, 1961), individuals with haematological disorders (de la Chapelle et al, 1970), and a larger number of patients with a series of developmental abnormalities. Included in this latter group are two children with mild retardation, short stature, and anomalies of the genitourinary tract and skeletal system (Riccardi, Atkins, and Holmes, 1970). More commonly, severe mental retardation, malformations of the central nervous system, genitourinary tract, and skeleton have been noted (El-Alfi, Powell, and Biese1e, 1963; Stalder, Bu1her, and Weber, 1963; Wolf and Reinwein, 1965; Bargman et al, 1967; Gustavson, Hagberg, and Santesson, 1967; Higurashi et al, 1969).

It has been suggested that this clinical divergence could be the result of several factors, including the involvement of different C-group chromosomes, diverse degrees of mosaicism, and differences in involved tissues (Gustavson et al, 1967; Caspersson et al, 1972). With the advent of new identification techniques (Caspersson et al, 1970), it is possible to eliminate one of these variables, namely, the identity of the extra chromosome.

With this advance, it is reasonable to anticipate that several new syndromes should emerge, each associated with the trisomic state of a particular C-group chromosome. Evidence that this will indeed be the case is suggested by the recent description of at least four (Caspersson et al, 1972) and perhaps five patients with trisomy 8 (de Grouchy, Turleau, and Leonard, 1971).

The patient described herein is believed to be mosaic for trisomy 9. The outstanding anomalies include severe mental retardation, peculiar facies, short stature, hypotonia, dextroposition of the heart with a ventricular septal defect and patent ductus arteriosus with evidence of bidirectional shunting, and increased pulmonary vascular resistance from an early age. The gross examination of the brain was striking. The hydrocephalus and abnormalities of the temporal lobes are consistent with a developmental anomaly rather than a postinfectious process.

We are unaware of any previous patients for which there exists direct evidence for the presence of a trisomic 9 cell line, complete or mosaic. We do feel, however, that additional patients will be described and that it may then be possible to determine if the trisomic state for this chromosome is characteristically associated with the clinical findings of the type found in this patient.

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A Case of Trisomy 9

Summary. The first patient with trisomy 9, an infant who survived 28 days, is reported. Clinical findings included microcephaly, low-set malformed ears, small palpebral fissures, enophthalmos, bulbous nose, micrognathia, low hairline, congenital heart disease, skeletal abnormalities, small penis, hypoplastic scrotum, and a Dandy–Walker like deformity of the fourth ventricle.

Although there are numerous reports of an extra chromosome in the C group, identification of the additional chromosome as a No. 9 has not been demonstrated. The purpose of this report is to document the first example of trisomy 9.

Case Report

A male infant was admitted to the Boston Floating Hospital for Infants and Children at the age of 2 days because of multiple congenital anomalies. He was the product of a 40-week gestation of a normal 24-year-old gravida 2, para 2, female and a 25-year-old male. Birth weight was 3218 g. During the first and second trimesters the mother had severe nausea with vomiting as well as vaginal spotting, bronchitis, and sinusitis. There was no known exposure to irradiation or infectious diseases. During the pregnancy the mother received the following medications: Erythromycin, Percogesic (phenyltoloxamine and acetaminophen), Compazine (prochlorperazine), Bendectine (dicyclomine hydrochloride, dexamylamine succinate, and pyridoxine hydro-