identity of all markers if the child is a chimera and not a mosaic.

**Early Embryology and Mosaicism**

Before drawing a final conclusion we examined the plausibility of a mosaic origin in the early embryo. The two most economical hypotheses are shown in the figure.

An XXY zygote is postulated. Clearly, both XX and XY cell lines could not originate before the second cleavage division. Other hypotheses involving lagging or non-disjunction or both at later divisions of the embryo are also possible, but none would yield a cell population in which more than 50% of the cells were of the two types, XX and XY, unless, of course, differential proliferation of cells with different karyotypes occurred. We prefer to avoid such an assumption although it would favour our case.

Current views on the early embryology of both mouse and man are that only three or four cells in a mammalian blastocyst are selected as progenitors of the embryo proper. Thus it seems likely that precocious non-disjunctional events could produce karyotypically distinct lines present in the placenta or in the fetus but not necessarily in both. Demonstration of this can be seen in the papers of Kalousek and Dill, and Simoni et al., who found examples in man of chromosomal abnormalities confined to extraembryonic tissues. On the basis of the analyses of chromosomal polymorphisms and genetic markers, we therefore conclude that our XX/XY case is a mosaic rather than a chimera.

During the preparation of this paper C E Ford was visiting Professor at the University of Pavia. The authors are grateful to Dr Patricia Tippett for determining the blood groups and to Professor M Fracarro for stimulating discussion.

**References**


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Case reports

FIG 1 (a) Lateral view of the face showing well formed, low set ears, small receding chin, and low posterior hair line with short neck. (b) Front view of the face. Dysmorphic features to note are prominent and wide nasal bridge, small palpebral fissures with downward slant, small nose with wide nasal alae, long philtrum, thin upper lip, carp mouth, microstomia, and small chin.

mother and male sib each carried an inv(5) (p15.3q35) but were phenotypically normal. The possible clinical manifestations of partial duplication of the long arm of chromosome 5 are discussed with a review of previous published reports.

The phenotypic similarities in patients with apparently identical structural anomalies are important in establishing karyotype-phenotype correlations for particular trisomies and monosomies. The clinical manifestations of partial 5q duplication have been reported involving different chromosomal segments. Three specific subgroups are provisionally recognised. In the present report we describe the clinical features of a case with a duplication of the negative band 5q35–qter and compare it with previously reported cases with similar and different duplicated segments of the long arm of chromosome 5.

Case report

Our patient was born on 30.5.82 to unrelated Caucasian parents. It was the second pregnancy of a 25 year old mother who had no significant medical history. The pregnancy was uneventful and the delivery was normal, vertex, and at term. Birth weight was below the 3rd centile (2268 g) and Apgar score was 10 at one minute. She was noticed to have a small head (circumference 29.7 cm, below the 3rd centile). The crown to heel length was 39.5 cm (below the 3rd centile). The anterior fontanelle was noted to be very small, possibly due to cranial synostosis. The
ears were low set and the upper half of the face was poorly developed, but the palate was intact. Cardiac auscultation at four weeks of age revealed an ejection systolic murmur which was thought to be due to a ventricular septal defect. There were significant feeding problems and she was followed up for failure to thrive and developmental delay. Subsequent progress was complicated by afebrile seizures which were controlled by sodium valproate (Epilim). There was no family history of mental retardation or birth defect. Her four year old brother is phenotypically normal.

Physical examination at the age of 14 months revealed an active healthy girl with dysmorphic features. The crown to heel length was 62.5 cm (below the 3rd centile) and the head circumference was 39 cm (below the 3rd centile). The shape of the head was brachycephalic and the metopic suture was prominent. All the sutures were fused and no fontanelle was palpable. The posterior hair line was low with a short neck. The eyes were prominent with small oblique palpebral fissures with a downward and outward slant. The outer canthal distance was 6 cm (25th centile). Inner canthal distance (2 cm) and interpupillary distance (4 cm) were both around the 50th centile. The nose was small with wide nasal alae and a prominent bridge. The ears were well formed but low set (fig 1a). The mouth was small with thin lips and a small reeding chin (fig 1b). The palate was high arched but intact. The alveolar margins were normal with only two lower incisors erupted. Hands and feet were small but normal. The spine was normal apart from mild scoliosis. The external genitalia were normal female. Cardiovascular examination revealed a 2/6 ejection systolic murmur at the
apex, audible along the left sternal edge. Examination of the central nervous system was normal, except for a mild degree of muscular hypotonia. Developmentally, she was functioning at around 10 months of age. Vision and hearing were both normal. Speech was limited to monosyllables (ma, pa). Socially, she showed interest in strangers and made attempts to respond to commands.

Dermatoglyphic examination revealed normal axial triradii and complex palmar creases. There were three whorls, three arches, and one radial and two ulnar loops on the fingertips and the ad angle approximated 45°. X ray of the skull was normal and CT scan did not show any intracranial malformation. X ray of the chest indicated left ventricular hypertrophy and increased pulmonary vasculature. An echocardiogram showed an atrial septal defect of second order. There was no evidence of a ventricular septal defect. ECG showed ectopic beats, probably of ventricular or junctional origin. The nature of the underlying cardiac lesion was thought to be cardiomyopathy. The patient has been reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

**Cyto genetic Findings**

The patient was referred for cytogenetic evaluation at 14 months owing to a general failure to thrive. Lymphocyte preparations were made according to the routine methotrexate method used in this laboratory. 2 Chromosome 5 showed a small additional negative staining fraction of material at the end of the short arm (fig 2). In order to discover the origins of this material, the parents, maternal grandparents, and an elder sibling were also referred for cytogenetic analysis. Thus it was found that both the mother and father carried an inverted chromosome 5 (p15-3q35) with the terminal negative band of the long arm being relocated at the end of the short arm (fig 2). It can, therefore, be assumed that the abnormal chromosome in the proband arose as a result of meiotic recombination, giving a product which carries the terminal negative band of the chromosome 5 long arm at both ends of the chromosome, and is missing a small piece of the chromosome 5 short arm. This product is described as rec(5),dup q,inv(5)(p15-3q35)mat. The case represents a manifestation of a small chromosomal rearrangement detected by the methotrexate banding technique.

**Discussion**

Curry et al 3 described four patients from the same family with an identical chromosome abnormality (duplication and deletion), involving partial trisomy of chromosome 5 (dup(5)(q34-pter)). They attributed the clinical features noted to the duplication present
and provisionally identified a distinctive clinical syndrome. This interpretation was accepted by Rodewald et al who further suggested that three clinically distinguishable phenotypes could be identified according to the particular region of the long arm of chromosome 5 duplicated. The first syndrome, corresponding to the proximal duplication 5q11→q22, and then described in only a single case, was not supported by the report of Gilgenkrantz et al. The other syndromes correspond to duplications of 5q31 or 5q33→qter and that of 5q34→qter. These latter syndromes shared most clinical features which were considered to be less severe in those patients with the smaller duplications.

Passarge et al described three cases with duplication/deficiency and identified a distinct phenotype. They expressed the opinion that this phenotype was the result of duplication 5q33→qter rather than the chromosomal deficiency (8q23→qter) also present. These authors drew attention to the similar phenotype observed in two previous patients with duplication of 5q31→qter. Martin et al described a patient with pure duplication of 5q22→q33 and noted the similarity of phenotypic findings to previously described patients with partial trisomy for the long arm of chromosome 5.

The most common features of the reported patients (table 4) with partial trisomy 5q, almost all involving at least q35→qter, are growth and mental retardation, microcephaly, craniofacial dysmorphism including antimongoloid slant, strabismus, prominent nasal bridge, and low set dysplastic ears, brachydactyly or clinodactyly or both, and heart defect. Our case (dup 5q35→qter) has all these apart from strabismus. It is not possible to state that the dysmorphism in our patient is less severe than in the patients with larger duplications of chromosome 5.

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References

Case reports

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