X linked Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMTX1): a study of 15 families with 12 highly informative polymorphisms

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Abstract

X linked dominant Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMTX1) has previously been localized to Xq13-21. Fifteen families were studied using 12 highly informative polymorphisms in the pericentric region of the X chromosome. Phase known recombinations in these families localize the X linked dominant CMT gene to the region distal to DXS106 (Xq11.2-12) and proximal to DXS559 (Xq13.1). These markers flank approximately 2 to 3 Mb of DNA to which GJB1 and CCG1 have already been mapped. A recent report of mutations in the GJB1 gene in subjects with CMTX1 makes this a strong candidate gene.

Results and discussion

All the families show a pattern of inheritance consistent with an X linked disease (that is, no male to male transmission). DNA analysis of affected members showed no indication of the duplication at 17p11.2-12, increasing the likelihood of X linked inheritance.

All the polymorphic markers studied were informative in every family. As expected, there were fewer recombinants detected in the smaller pedigrees. Clinically normal females who were not obligate carriers were excluded from the analysis. The individual recombination events which did occur in specific families are shown in fig 4. These recombinants localise the X linked CMT gene to the region distal to DXS106 (Xq11.2-12) and proximal to DXS559 (Xq13.1). These markers flank approximately 2 to 3 Mb of DNA (A P Monaco, personal communication, 1993).

For diagnostic purposes, the locus DXS453 would therefore appear to be a useful marker for the disease, with no recombinations at this site having yet been detected.

Two genes have already been mapped to the region Xq13.1, GJB12 and CCG1. The CCG1 (cell cycle G1 phase defect) gene com-
Figure 1 (A) Pedigree of Scottish family 8206. (B) Pedigrees of eight British and one Italian families.
Figure 2  Pedigrees of five American families.

Figure 3  Schematic map of the X chromosomal region Xp21.1-Xq21.3, showing loci segregated into 15 different intervals,\(^6\) with relevant marker positions.

Figure 4  Recombination analysis using variable number simple sequence repeats (VSSR) and restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLP). The markers used are listed in chromosomal order\(^6\) on the left. Across the top, the numbers represent carrier females with informative meioses. The vertical lines represent X chromosomes that have undergone phase known recombination during meiosis. Open circles represent non-recombinant loci, and closed circles represent recombinations that have occurred.\(^9\) A horizontal bar denotes an uninformative result. The arrows point in the direction in which the X linked HMSN gene must therefore lie.
plements a hamster cell cycle mutation and is therefore required in normal cell growth and division. Its functional presence allows cells to pass out of the G1 phase of cell cycle events, which in turn commits them to completing the S, G2, and M phases. GJB1 (gap junction protein β1), otherwise known as Connexin32 (Cx32), is, as its name suggests, a gap junction protein of molecular weight 32 kDa. Cx32 is widely expressed in human tissues and mutations within this gene have been found in subjects with CMTX1 making this a strong candidate gene for this disease.

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