LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Still no evidence for heterogeneity in Best's vitelliform macular dystrophy

In the November 1995 issue of the Journal, Mansergh et al suggest that there is genetic heterogeneity in the autosomal dominant eye disorder Best's vitelliform macular dystrophy (BMD) previously mapped to 11q13 (MIM 153700).

In addition to the findings reported by Graff et al.,

and Wadellius. We would like to highlight that the region of linkage to the BMD gene excluded in our study was based on the map generated by Weber et al.

In addition, we used markers from the Genethon map which mapped to the same region of chromosome 11 in BMD. We note that the map used in the study of Graff et al. is significantly different from that of Weber et al. and used a number of markers which have not been placed on the Genethon map.

It seems that genetic distances estimated between markers in this region of chromosome 11 may be greater in the study by Graff et al. than that estimated from previous studies. For this reason we are currently analysing additional markers from the new Genethon map and also flanking markers in the region of linkage according to the mapping data of Graff et al.

If there is genetic evidence for heterogeneity in the macular dystrophy that we are looking forward to seeing if the German Fam E shows linkage to the BMD region when more closely flanked markers are analysed.

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