

Congenital Infiltrating Lipomatosis of the Face with Ipsilateral Hemimegalencephaly, Band Heterotopia, and Hypertrophy of Brainstem and Cerebellum

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Key words

- congenital infiltrating lipomatosis of the face
- hemimegalencephaly
- band heterotopia
- epilepsy

Abstract



The simultaneous appearance of congenital infiltrating lipomatosis of the face that causes facial hemihypertrophy and ipsilateral hemimegalencephaly is extremely rare. We report a 4-year-old boy with congenital facial asymmetry and infantile-onset epilepsy. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) results led to the diagnosis of infiltrating lipomatosis of the face; the diagnosis was confirmed on the basis of the results of pathological

examinations. Additionally, brain MRI revealed ipsilateral hemimegalencephaly, associated with band heterotopia and the hemihypertrophy of the ipsilateral brainstem and cerebellum. He had no nevi or other skin abnormalities suggesting neurocutaneous syndrome. His seizures were so intractable that they necessitated functional hemispherectomy. The lipomatous lesion was successfully resected without relapse. Psychomotor delay and left hemiplegia were observed at the last follow-up.

Abbreviations



ACTH	adrenocorticotrophic hormone
CILF	congenital infiltrating lipomatosis of the face
CMV	cytomegalovirus
EEG	electroencephalogram
ENS	epidermal nevus syndrome
HM	hemimegalencephaly
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging

eral HM, band heterotopia, and hypertrophy of brainstem and cerebellum.

Case Report



The patient was a 4-year-old boy who was the third child of unrelated Japanese parents. Fetal ultrasonography revealed a porencephalic cyst in his right cerebral hemisphere. His birth weight was 2.73 kg; length, 50.8 cm; and occipitofrontal circumference, 31.5 cm. Facial asymmetry was noted at birth. Since 31 days of age, he had experienced repetitive episodes of hemiconvulsions on the left side. Subsequently, since 46 days of age, he exhibited clusters of spasms. His seizures could not be controlled by daily clobazam administration.

Physical examination at 2 months of age revealed a large, elastic subcutaneous mass in his right cheek. The color and texture of the overlying skin was normal. Hemihypertrophy on the right side of the tongue and another small subcutaneous mass on his right clavicle were noted. He had no other skin anomaly such as nevi or epidermal nevi. His occipitofrontal circumference was 41.3 cm (○ Fig. 1a). Social smile was observed, but his facial expressions were asymmetric. He had no difficulty in sucking and swallowing. His posture,

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Introduction



Congenital infiltrating lipomatosis of the face (CILF) is a rare disorder characterized by a congenital fatty mass located on one side of the cheek. This mass infiltrates the adjacent tissues, causing facial hemihypertrophy [8]. The simultaneous appearance of CILF and ipsilateral hemimegalencephaly (HM) is extremely rare; thus far, only 5 patients have been reported [1, 2, 4, 9]. The etiology, symptoms and outcomes in patients with these 2 abnormalities have not been completely elucidated. Here, we present the radiological, electrophysiological, and pathological findings in the case of a patient with CILF and the unique association of the brain lesions: ipsilat-

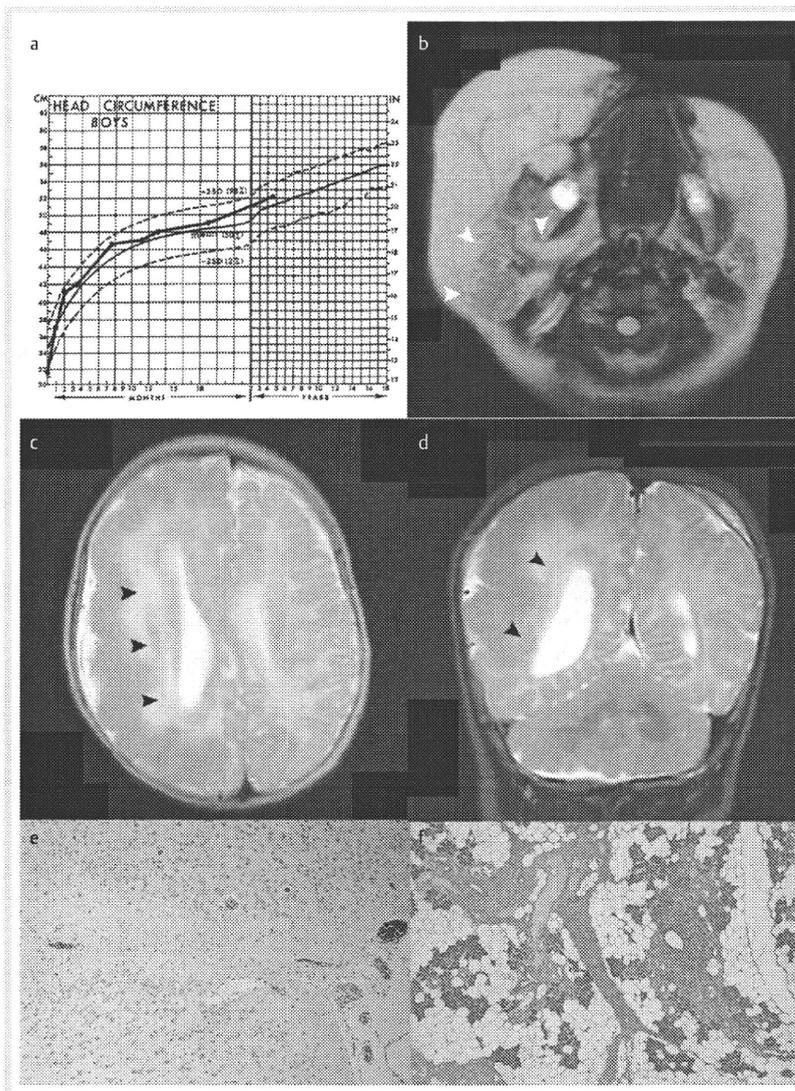


Fig. 1 **a** Head circumference chart of the patient. The occipitofrontal circumference was always within normal limits. **b** T₂-weighted magnetic resonance (MR) image of the face in the axial plane. An overgrowth of the subcutaneous fatty tissue infiltrated the right parotid gland, masseter muscle, and parapharyngeal spaces on the right side (white arrow head). **c, d** T₂-weighted MR images of the brain in the axial (**c**) and coronal (**d**) planes. The right cerebral hemisphere was enlarged. The cortices of the frontal, parietal, and occipital lobes were thick with broad gyri, shallow sulci, and poorly demarcated cortical-white matter junctions. Irregular subcortical band heterotopia was noted (black arrow heads). The lateral ventricle was dilated and surrounded by heterogeneous intensity in the periventricular white matter. Ipsilateral enlargement of the cerebellum and an abnormal architecture of the folia were noted. **e** Histological examination of the biopsy specimens of the right cerebral cortex (Klüver-Barrera stain; original magnification, $\times 114$). Disoriented, irregularly arranged, abnormal immature neurons of various sizes without distinct layering were observed. **f** Histological examination of the resected lipomatous lesions in his right cheek (hematoxylin-eosin stain; original magnification, $\times 40$). Hyperplastic mature adipose tissues infiltrating the salivary gland were noticed.

muscle tone, and spontaneous movements were normal for his age. An ophthalmological examination did not reveal any abnormalities. Anti-cytomegalovirus (CMV) IgM antibody and CMV DNA were not detected in his serum. Chromosome analysis revealed a normal male karyotype.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the face revealed a prominent overgrowth of the subcutaneous fatty tissues infiltrating the parotid gland, masseter muscle, and parapharyngeal spaces (◉ Fig. 1b). Brain MRI revealed enlargement of the right cerebral hemisphere (◉ Fig. 1c, d). The cortices had a thick and abnormal gyral pattern with shallow sulci and a poorly demarcated boundary with the subcortical white matter. In addition, the band of ectopic gray matter was arranged between the cerebral cortex and the lateral ventricle in the frontal, parietal, and occipital lobes. The lateral ventricle was mildly dilated and surrounded by heterogeneous intensity in the periventricular white matter. Moreover, ipsilateral enlargement of the brainstem and cerebellum and an abnormal architecture of the cerebellar folia were noted.

His seizures were complex and followed in a specific sequential pattern: generalized tonic posturing lasting for several seconds, partial seizures with clonic convulsions extending from left upper extremity, and clusters of spasms. Ictal electroencephalo-

gram (EEG) of each type of seizures showed brief slow wave bursts followed by diffuse attenuation; rhythmic spike-and-wave bursts dominant in the right frontal region; and repetitive, periodic high-voltage polyphasic sharp waves dominant in the right hemisphere, respectively. Interictal EEG showed episodic bursts of high-voltage irregular sharp or slow wave activities during wakefulness and sleep predominantly in the right hemisphere.

Although adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) therapy was partially effective, it was discontinued after 10 days because of rotavirus enterocolitis. In order to prevent progression to catastrophic epilepsy, a functional hemispherectomy was performed at 4 months of age. Microscopic examination of the specimen of the right cerebrum revealed disoriented, immature, irregularly arranged abnormal neurons without layering in the gray matter (◉ Fig. 1e), and nodular heterotopic neurons in the white matter. The infiltrating lipomatosis in his lip, hypoglossitis, and right cheek was excised at 3 years of age. Microscopic examination of the resected lesion revealed hyperplastic, mature adipose tissue infiltrating the adjacent tissues such as the parotid gland, lymphatic tissue, and masseter muscle (◉ Fig. 1f).

At 4 years of age, his psychomotor development was retarded. He understood some simple sentences but did not speak any

Table 1 Patients with congenital infiltrating lipomatosis of the face with hemimegalencephaly.

Case	Authors	Age	Sex	Subcutaneous mass	Brain malformation	Other findings	Developmental Delay	Convulsions/Seizures	Interictal EEG findings	Treatment of epilepsy	Outcome
1	Donati et al.	3 months	M	left cheek	left HM	hepatomegaly and jaundice, anti-CMV antibodies (+)	NA	convulsions	slow and wide-spread high voltage anomalies of the left side	AED	died at 20 months due to pulmonary infection
2	Unal et al. (case 1)	2 years	M	left cheek and scalp	left HM	pigmented navi in left cheek, neck and chest	-	-	NA	-	NA
3	Unal et al. (case 2)	3 months	M	left cheek	left HM, agenesis of corpus callosum	-	NA	intractable seizures	NA	NA	died at 7 months due to status epilepticus
4	Aydingoz et al.	3 months	M	left cheek and scalp	left HM	right esotropia	+	intractable seizures	diffuse high voltage irregular bursts and multifocal spikes	ACTH	seizure free
5	Alkan et al.	1.5 years	M	left cheek	left HM	-	-	-	normal	-	NA
6	our case	2 months	M	right cheek and supraclavicle region	right HM with ipsilateral band heterotopia and hemihypertrophy of brainstem and cerebellum	-	+	intractable seizures (PS + spasms)	right dominant episodic high voltage irregular sharp or slow bursts	ACTH, functional hemispherectomy	seizure free, left hemiplegia

ACTH: adrenocorticotropic hormone; AED: antiepileptic drug; CMV: cytomegalovirus; EEG: electroencephalogram; HM: hemimegalencephaly; NA: not available; PS: partial seizure

meaningful words. Left spastic hemiplegia became apparent. He could stand with support but could not walk. There was no obvious sign of ataxia or cranial nerve involvement. Although the EEG of the right hemisphere continued to show a suppression-burst pattern, his seizures disappeared after the operation. Relapse of the lipomatosis was not observed. The subcutaneous mass on his right clavicle did not enlarge. His occipitofrontal circumference was within the normal range (◉ Fig. 1a).

Discussion

In 1983, Slavin et al. reported that CILF is a rare but distinct clinical entity [8]. Pathologically, the lesions are non-capsulated congenital proliferation of mature adipose tissue with fibrous tissues, nerve bundles and vessels. They infiltrate adjacent muscles and soft tissues, although lipoblasts and signs of malignancy are absent. Subjacent bones are hypertrophic. Facial asymmetry is invariably noted at birth. Other findings on the affected side include early eruption of the teeth, macroglossia, mucosal neuroma, and capillary stain [5]. Skin lesions such as nevi or epidermal nevi are not observed. The etiology still remains unclear. Occasionally, the patients with CILF simultaneously have ipsilateral HM. ◉ Table 1 presents a summary of the reported patients with CILF and HM [1,2,4,9]. Our patient is the sixth one. All the patients were boys. 5 of the 6 patients exhibited hemihypertrophy on the left side of the face. 3 patients exhibited other ipsilateral subcutaneous masses. In 1 patient, nevi were observed in the skin overlying the lesion. In another patient, agenesis of the corpus callosum was observed.

Our patient had particular brain MRI findings. The white matter of the classic HM is usually enlarged and shows heterogeneous signal intensity representing heterotopia [3]. In our patient, however, an irregular band of ectopic gray matter was seen midway between the cerebral cortex and the lateral ventricle, appearing subcortical band heterotopia. Additionally, the concomitant hemihypertrophy of the brainstem and cerebellum ipsilateral to HM, known as "total hemimegalencephaly" [7], was detected. These findings were quite unique and might have an implication for the pathogenetic mechanism of HM associated with CILF.

Some neurocutaneous syndromes are associated with HM, such as epidermal nevus syndrome (ENS), Proteus syndrome, hypomelanosis of Ito, neurofibromatosis type 1, Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber syndrome, and tuberous sclerosis [3]. Especially, ENS is associated with facial hemihypertrophy and ipsilateral HM. According to Pavone et al., 17 of 63 patients (27%) with ENS exhibited HM, and 9 (14%) exhibited both HM and facial hypertrophy in the areas that were always ipsilateral to facial nevi [6]. They concluded that this association comprises a neurological variant of ENS. The patient with CILF and HM reported by Unal et al. (case 1) had pigmented nevi in his left cheek, neck and chest [9]. He could be considered as having the neurological variant of ENS. Most patients with CILF and HM, including our case, however, had no nevi or other skin abnormalities. Therefore it is reasonable to consider that CILF with HM is a distinct entity from ENS [1,2,4,7,9].

4 patients developed epilepsy with a variable prognosis. The age at onset was <3 months in all of them. In patient 1, seizures and

EEG abnormalities improved on antiepileptic treatment, but a pulmonary infection resulted in death at 20 months of age. Patient 3 died at 7 months of age because of status epilepticus. Although the seizures of patient 4 were controlled by ACTH, developmental delay was observed. Our patient (patient 6) required functional hemispherectomy for controlling the intractable seizures. Psychomotor delay and left hemiplegia were noted at the last follow-up. In contrast, developmental delay was not observed in the 2 patients without epilepsy.

Conclusion

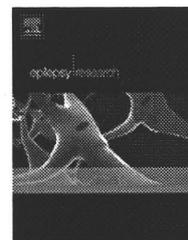
A patient with congenital facial asymmetry and infantile-onset epilepsy is reported. He was diagnosed as having CILF from MRI findings, and confirmed by the pathological examinations. Brain MRI revealed HM associated with band heterotopia and hemihypertrophy of the brainstem and cerebellum; all of those anomalies were ipsilateral to the lipomatosis. He had no nevi or other skin abnormalities suggesting a neurocutaneous syndrome. Functional hemispherectomy was necessitated to control the intractable seizures. Although he presented left hemiplegia and mental retardation, the lipomatosis had not relapsed and seizures were stopped at 4 years of age.

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Genetic seizure susceptibility underlying acute encephalopathies in childhood

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KEYWORDS

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Febrile seizure;
Genetics

Summary We herein investigated risk factors of pediatric acute encephalopathy (AE) regarding the hitherto uncharacterized genetic background of seizure susceptibility underlying the pathogenesis of AE. The study included 15 patients with a history of various types of AE in childhood. We undertook the mutational analysis of the neuronal sodium channel alpha 1 subunit (*SCN1A*) gene which is the most representative gene for hyperthermia-induced seizure susceptibility.

Six patients (40%) had a positive family history of seizures or AE, especially febrile seizures, in first- or second-degree relatives. The *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation was detected in a patient with a history of acute encephalitis with refractory, repetitive partial seizures (AERRPS) and also in the patient's apparently healthy father.

In the present study, dense familial seizure predisposition was present in the patients with AE. Although the presence of seizure susceptibility alone is insufficient to cause AE, it can exacerbate seizures and the subsequent development of inflammatory reactions in the brain when environmental factors are included. Genetic seizure susceptibility may contribute to some types of AE in childhood.

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Introduction

Some normally developing children unexpectedly experience a catastrophe of acute encephalopathy (AE) showing consciousness impairment, seizures, and other neurological symptoms. These neurological calamities are serious clinical problems in childhood. The pathophysiological mechanisms of acute encephalopathy (AE), however, are not yet thoroughly understood.

There are mounting reports of several types of AE in addition to the well-defined Reye syndrome, which is classically caused by metabolic dysregulation. The currently recognized AE types with characteristic clinical and neuroimaging findings include acute necrotizing encephalopathy of childhood (ANE) (Mizuguchi, 1997), which is associated with a cytokine storm; acute encephalopathy with febrile convulsive status epilepticus, or AEFCS (Mizuguchi et al., 2007) which is related to excitotoxicity; and clinically mild encephalitis/encephalopathy with a reversible splenic lesion (MERS) (Tada et al., 2004). AEFCS is a collective term and includes a spectrum of subtypes, such as acute infantile encephalopathy predominantly affecting the frontal lobes (AIEF) (Yamanouchi et al., 2006), acute encephalopathy with biphasic seizures and late reduced diffusion (AESD) (Takanashi et al., 2006; Takanashi, 2009; Okumura et al., 2009), and hemiconvulsion-hemiplegia syndrome.

Acute encephalitis with refractory and repetitive partial seizures (AERRPS) (Awaya and Fukuyama, 1986; Saito et al., 2007) is remarkable due to a unique combination of findings, including the acute onset of seizures and/or consciousness impairment in the absence of underlying neurological abnormalities, extraordinary frequent and refractory partial seizures, and a continuous switchover to refractory epilepsy without a latent period (Sakuma, 2009). There are reports of encephalopathies with somewhat similar clinical characteristics including devastating epileptic encephalopathy in school-aged children (DESC) (Mikaeloff et al., 2006), idiopathic catastrophic epileptic encephalopathy presenting with acute onset intractable status (Baxter et al., 2003), and cryptogenic new onset refractory status epilepticus (NORSE) (Wilder-Smith et al., 2005; Costello et al., 2009). These types of encephalitis or encephalopathies attract attention because of their close relationship with seizures or epilepsy.

Experimental studies in rodent models have also uncovered the close relationship between inflammatory reactions and seizures (Vezzani and Granata, 2005). For instance, inflammatory cytokines can directly induce seizures in young rodents, and an increased blood brain barrier (BBB) permeability may occur after seizures and inflammation. We speculate that intrinsic seizure susceptibility may contribute to the occurrence of AE. Therefore, we herein investigated the family history of convulsive disorders in patients with AE. We have particular interest in febrile seizures because they are often provoked during the clinical course of AE patients. Therefore we undertook a mutational analysis of the *SCN1A* gene, which is the most representative gene for hyperthermia-induced seizure susceptibility and febrile seizure-related epileptic syndromes such as generalized epilepsy with febrile seizure plus (GEFS+).

Subjects and methods

Patients

Between July of 2007 and October of 2009, all patients, who had a history of AE of obscure origin in childhood, and who visited either Okayama University Hospital, Juntendo University Hospital, or Tottori University Hospital, were eligible for this study. We selected 15 patients (eight male and seven female subjects) who met the following criteria. The inclusion criteria in the study included a normal development before the onset of AE, an age of AE onset 10 years of age or younger, an acute onset and rapid progression of consciousness impairment with or without seizures, and the association of these symptoms with fever or a preceding infectious disease. The exclusion criteria included meningitis, toxic encephalopathy, possible metabolic errors, and encephalitis caused by a direct infection of the brain, or by a well-defined secondary immunological reaction to infectious disease.

The ages at the onset of AE ranged from 10 months to 9 years of age (mean age 5 years), and the ages at the time of follow-up ranged from 3 years to 27 years of age (mean age 12 years). The clinical diagnoses regarding the types of AE were as follows: AERRPS in seven patients, influenza encephalopathy with otherwise no specific findings in five subjects, and AESD in three subjects. The clinical findings at the acute phase of these patients are summarized in Table 1.

The study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Written informed consent was obtained from the parents.

Genetic analysis

The family history of each patient with respect to neurological disorders, especially seizure disorders and encephalopathy, was investigated by interviews and the examination of medical records. *SCN1A* mutations were analyzed by the previously reported methods (Ohmori et al., 2002). In brief, genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral blood cells. Twenty-six exons of the *SCN1A* gene were amplified with intronic primers. All PCR products were purified with a PCR product presequencing kit (Amersham Biosciences, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom), reacted with the Big Dye Terminator FS ready-reaction kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, U.S.A.), and analyzed on an ABI PRISM3100 sequencer (Applied Biosystems).

Results

Six of the 15 patients (40%) had a family history of seizure disorders and/or AE in first- or second-degree relatives (Table 2). Of these, five patients had a family history of febrile seizures (FS), and two had a family history of epilepsy or seizures with or without FS (Fig. 1B–D). The remaining patient #8 with influenza encephalopathy had a sister with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM); both of these siblings exhibited hypopituitarism after the AE episodes, and may harbor unknown genetic abnormalities other than seizure susceptibility. The proportion of patients with a positive family history, excluding this sibling patient, was high (5/14, 35.7%, regarding the positive family history including both first- and second-degree relatives; 4/14, 28.5%, regarding the positive family history including only the first-degree relatives).

Table 1 Characteristics of acute encephalopathy.

Patient no.		Acute encephalopathy			Acute EEG findings	
Age	Gender	Type	Infection or etiology	Acute seizure	Acute neuroimaging	Acute EEG findings
1	6 years 5 months	M	AERRPS	Preceding fever of unknown etiology	Generalized convulsive seizures and hemiseizures involving either side	Diffuse HVS
2	6 years 1 month	M	AERRPS	Preceding fever of unknown etiology	Clustering CPS with multifocal origins and evolution to SE	Diffuse HVS
3	5 years 7 months	M	AERRPS	Acute enterocolitis of unknown etiology	Focal seizures evolving to SE	Diffuse HVS and spike-waves
4	8 years 1 month	F	AERRPS	Common cold	Frequent CPS	Mild slow wave dysrhythmia, widespread spiky theta
5	8 years	M	AERRPS	Common cold	Repeated generalized convulsions	Diffuse low voltage slow
6	7 years	F	AERRPS	Common cold	Initial frequent generalized tonic convulsions and subsequent repetitive partial seizure	Periodic pattern
7	5 years	M	AERRPS	Common cold	Frequent generalized tonic convulsions	HVS (days 2 and 3), periodoc pattern (day 8)

Table 1 (Continued)

Patient no.	Acute encephalopathy	Age	Gender	Type	Infection or etiology	Acute seizure	Acute neuroimaging	Acute EEG findings
8		2 years 4 months	M	IE	Influenza	None	Brain edema in CT	Information not available
9		2 years 3 months	M	IE	Influenza A	Clustering focal seizures	MRI: unremarkable	Diffuse HVS and PLEDs
10		5 years 9 months	F	IE	Influenza A	Generalized convulsive SE with left side dominance	Mild brain edema in CT	Right hemisphere dominant HVS
11		9 years 7 months	F	IE	Influenza	Generalized convulsion (day 1)	Brain edema in CT (day 2)	Flat (day 2)
12		5 years 8 months	F	Probable IE	Probable influenza	Right hemiconvulsive SE	CT: unremarkable	HVS
13		10 months	F	AESD	HHV-6	Generalized convulsion (day 1), CPS cluster (day 5)	MRI: unremarkable (day 3), bright tree appearance in DWI (day 5)	Mild generalized slowing
14		1 year 5 months	M	AESD	Common cold	Generalized convulsion (day 1), CPS cluster (day 5)	MRI: unremarkable (day 3), bright tree appearance in DWI (day 5)	Diffuse HVS (day 5)
15		1 year 1 month	F	AESD	Influenza A	Generalized convulsions (days 1 and 6)	MRI: bright tree appearance in DWI (day 7)	Frontal dominant mild slowing (day 6)

SE, status epilepticus; IE, influenza encephalopathy; AERRPS, acute encephalitis with refractory, repetitive partial seizures; AESD, acute encephalopathy with biphasic seizures and late reduced diffusion; HVS, high-voltage slow waves; PLEDs, periodic lateralized epileptiform discharges; SW, spike-and-wave complex; ND, not detected; DWI, diffusion-weighted image; HHV-6, human herpes virus 6; MR, mental retardation.

Table 2 Genetic and neurological findings.

Patient no.	Age at genetic analysis	Family history	SCN1A mutation	Sequel	Mental and neurological state (neuroimaging)	Seizure or epilepsy (EEG findings)
1	25 years	Negative	None	Severe mental deficit, no neurological abnormalities (brain atrophy in MRI)	Intractable seizure persisting from the acute phase of encephalopathy with no interval (multifocal SW)	Intractable seizure persisting from the acute phase with no interval (multifocal spikes, disappearing from 15 years 11 months)
2	21 years	Seizures in a grandfather and FS in a niece	R1575C	Mild mental deficit (MRI unremarkable)	Mild mental deficit (MRI unremarkable)	Intractable CPS persisting from the acute phase with no interval (multifocal spikes, disappearing from 15 years 11 months)
3	6 years	Negative	None	Mild mental deficit with hyperkinetic behaviors (IQ 69), no neurological abnormalities (diffuse brain atrophy in MRI)	Normal development (left temporal gliotic changes in MRI)	Intractable CPS (multifocal spike-waves)
4	9 years	FS in the mother brothers and an aunt, epilepsy in an uncle	None	Normal development (left temporal gliotic changes in MRI)		Intractable focal seizures with short interval from acute phase
5	24 years	Negative	None	Mild MR (mild diffuse brain atrophy in MRI)		Intractable seizure persisting from the acute phase
6	15 years	Negative	None	Severe MR (moderate diffuse brain atrophy in MRI)		Intractable seizure persisting from the acute phase
7	0 year	Negative	None	Mild MR (mild diffuse brain atrophy in MRI)		Intractable frequent seizures (frontal and temporal spikes)
8	7 years	ADEM in a sister	None	Hypopituitarism, no mental or neurological abnormalities (MRI)		No seizures (mild dysrhythmia of background with no spikes)
9	18 years	FS in a sister	None	Severe mental deficit (brain atrophy in MRI)		Intractable CPS and periodic spasms from 2 years 5 months of age (multifocal SW)
10	7 years	An episode of LOC in a maternal uncle (not counted as a seizure)	None	Borderline intelligence (IQ 75), no neurological abnormalities (MRI unremarkable)		Intractable focal seizures (multifocal spikes)
11	15 years	Negative	None	Clinical brain death (not available)		No seizure (flat EEG)
12	15 years	Negative	None	Severe mental deficit with behavior disorders, no neurological abnormalities (MRI unremarkable at 8 years of age)		Intractable CPS of left frontal origin with occasional generalization from 6 years 6 months of age (slow alpha rhythm with rare multifocal)
13	3 years	FS in the mother, an aunt and a cousin	None	Moderate MR, no motor impairment (mild atrophic change in MRI)		No seizure (EEG unremarkable)
14	3 years	FS in the father and an aunt	None	Moderate MR, no motor impairment (mild atrophic change in MRI)		No seizure (EEG unremarkable)
15	3 years	Negative	None	Normal development (MRI unremarkable)		No seizure (EEG unremarkable)

CPS, complex partial seizure(s); LOC, loss of consciousness; SW, spike-and-wave complex; MR, mental retardation; FS, febrile seizure(s); ADEM, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis.

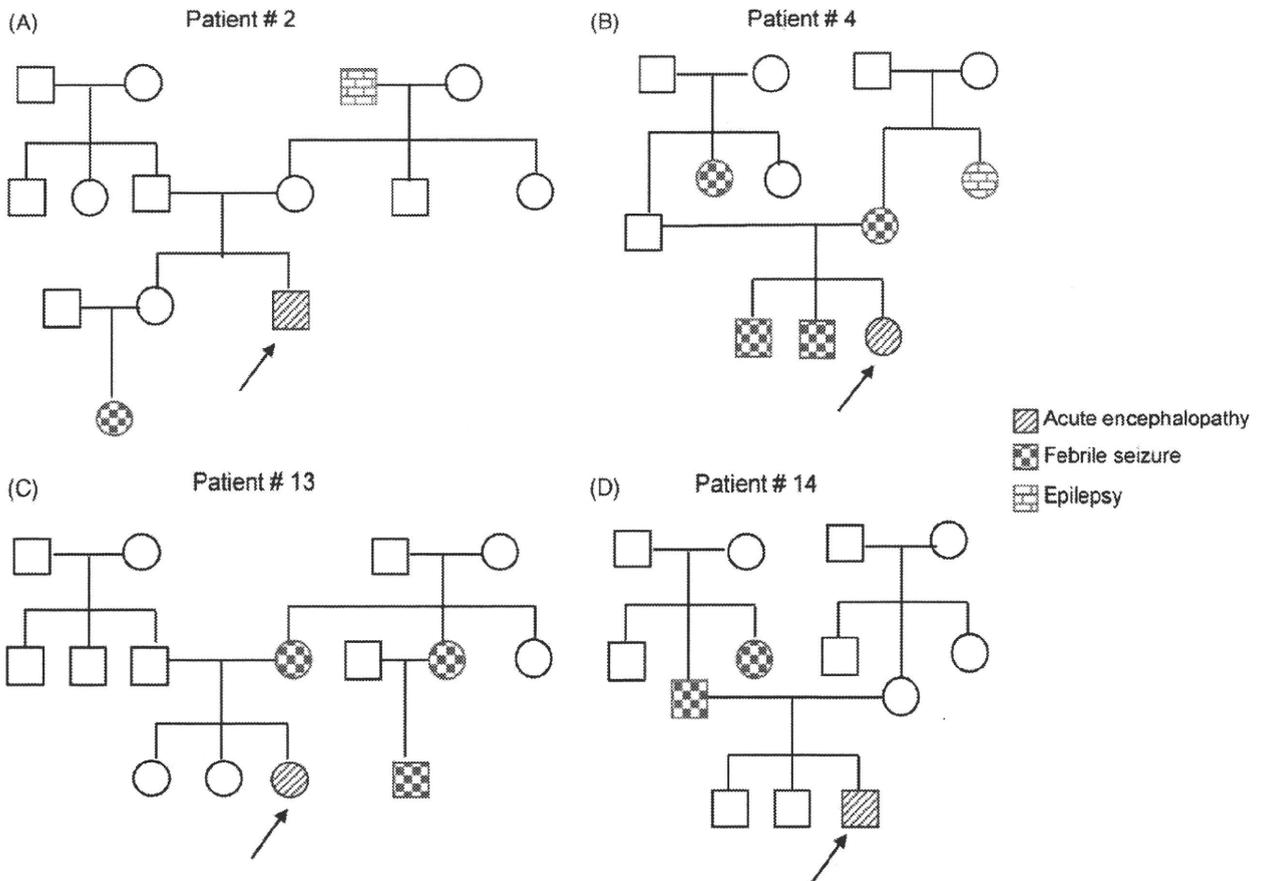


Figure 1 Pedigrees of representative families with convulsive disorders and a family with the *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation.

The DNA analysis revealed that the *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation was present in patient #2 clinically diagnosed with AERRPS. This mutation was twice confirmed by independent PCR amplification and sequencing with forward and reverse primers. *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation was found in this patient's healthy father, but not in his mother; this case is reported in detail as following (Figs. 1A and 2). This mutation was not detected in the 96 healthy individuals. The remaining 14 patients had no mutations in the *SCN1A* gene.

Case report of patient #2

The participant with the *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation is a male subject, and has a maternal grandfather who had seizures starting in old age and a niece who experienced a febrile seizure at 1 year of age. The patient was born after an uneventful 40-week gestation with a birth weight of 3460g. He developed normally with no seizures during infancy or young childhood.

At 6 years and 1 month of age, the patient had a fever for 3 days, and after an uneventful 1-day interval he experienced the first complex partial seizure (CPS), which lasted for several minutes. On the same day following a temporary recovery, the patient had another seizure that evolved to secondary generalization, and he was then admitted to a local hospital. At the time of admission, the patient exhibited fever again, became irritable with impaired consciousness, and walked unsteadily.

On the second day of admission, the patient suffered from very frequent CPSs that often led to generalization, and his seizures culminated into status epilepticus, which caused a sustained loss of consciousness between apparent seizures; during this status epilepticus, the patient had a respiratory insufficiency that necessitated artificial ventilation for 3 days. After being weaned from the artificial ventilation, the patient continued to suffer from almost daily seizures. The patient could talk, but was forgetful and had slow responses and visual hallucinations.

The examination of blood cell counts, liver function, ammonia, glucose, and electrolyte levels in the acute phase were all unremarkable. The CSF cell count was 6 per mm^3 and was hence slightly higher than the normal limit of 5 per mm^3 (Maegaki et al., 2006); the CSF was otherwise unremarkable with a protein level of 21 mg/dl, glucose levels of 79 mg/dl, and negative results for myelin basic protein, an oligoclonal IgG band, and viral titers for Japanese encephalitis, measles, and herpes simplex virus. The CT and MRI scans revealed no brain pathology. The EEG analysis showed a marked increase of irregular 1.5–3 Hz slow waves in the background with no spikes (Fig. 3).

The patient continued to have almost daily CPS with a duration of under 1 min, exhibiting eye-deviations to either side, hypersalivation, oral automatisms, and occasional generalization with no seizure-free intervals after the acute phase. The patient was moved to the Okayama University Hospital on the 50th day of encephalopathy.

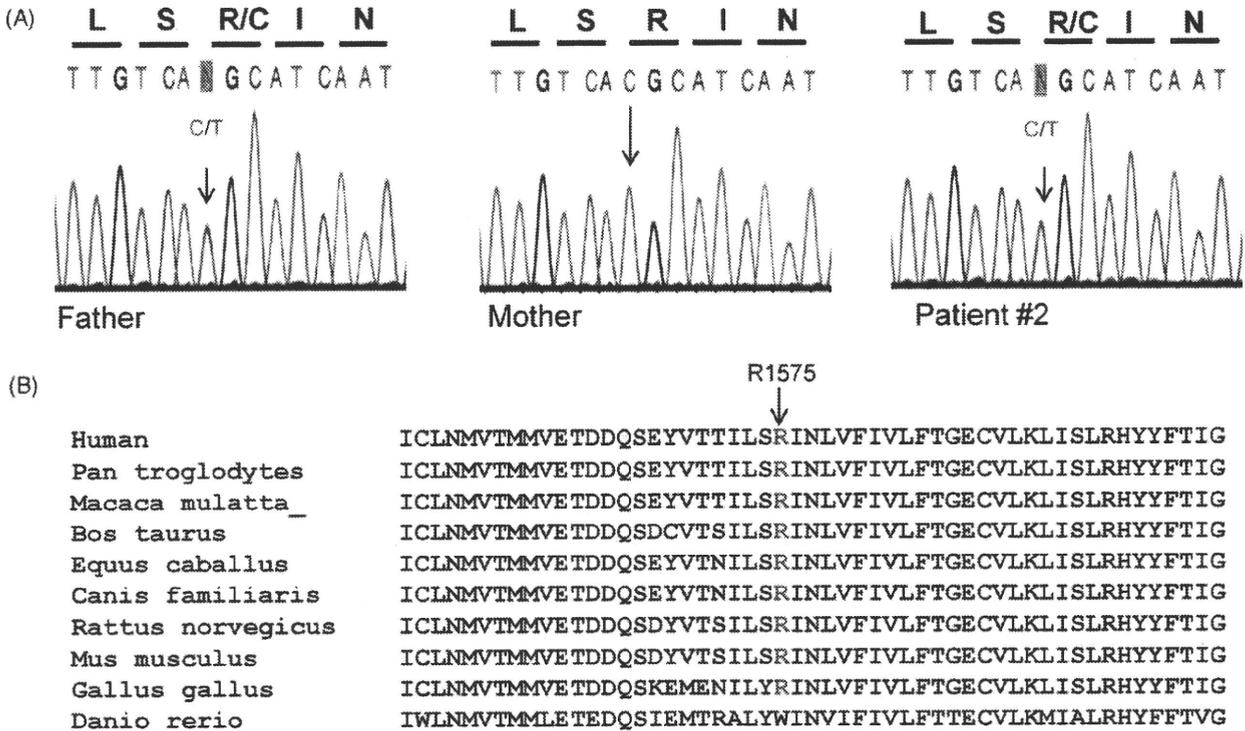


Figure 2 A mutational analysis of the *SCN1A* gene. Patient #2 and his father both exhibited the R1575C mutation. The numbering of amino acids is described in the GenBank accession number AB093548 (A). The amino acid sequence alignment of the region near R1575 in the sodium channel α -subunit genes (B). R1575 is highly conserved throughout various animal species. GenBank accession numbers, from top to bottom, are AB093548, XP_515872, XP_001101023, XP_001252668, XP_001916728, XP_858797, NP_110502, NP_061203, XP_001233839, and NP_956426.

At this time, the EEG analysis still showed diffuse high-amplitude irregular slow waves with no alpha rhythms in the background, and multifocal spikes emerged involving the bilateral frontal, centrottemporal, and parietooccipital regions. The EEG recording captured one of the patient's CPS with eye-deviations to the left and a duration of 30s, and showed rhythmic multiple spike-wave activity originating from the right parietooccipital region. There were 10 episodes of subclinical ictal EEG patterns with multiple different origins involving either hemisphere (Fig. 4).

The frequency of seizures gradually decreased and the spikes on the EEG analysis also gradually diminished upon treatment. The follow-up MRI analysis, undergone when the patient was 17 years and 11 months of age, disclosed no brain pathology. At 22 years 7 months of age, the patient had a rare brief CPS that was precipitated by a fever, while on a combination therapy of phenytoin, sodium valproate, clonazepam, and lamotrigine.

Discussion

AE includes a variety of pathological processes with more or less inflammatory reactions in the CNS. The relationship between seizures and inflammatory reactions has received increasing attention in recent years. A seizure induced by chemicals or hyperthermia increases the levels of cytokines such as interleukin (IL)-1 beta, IL-6, and tumor necrosis factor (TNF) alpha in the rodent brain (Vezzani and

Granata, 2005). In humans, prolonged seizures or a single seizure is sufficient to cause activation of a cytokine cascade and the associated inflammatory signals (Lehtimäki et al., 2007). Conversely, the intracerebral application of IL-1 beta reduces the seizure threshold in an experimental mouse model (Dubé et al., 2005). In addition, under conditions of hyperexcitability, circulating leukocytes extravasate through the BBB, where they produce local inflammation. This event induces leakage of the BBB, spilling plasma constituents such as proteins and excess potassium into the neuronal environment, which leads to status epilepticus and the subsequent development of recurrent seizures (Fabene et al., 2008). Considering the findings of these experimental and clinical studies, seizures and inflammatory reactions seem to be mutually interacting responses.

Many studies have been performed regarding inflammatory processes involved in the pathophysiological mechanisms of AE, especially acute encephalitis (Mizuguchi et al., 2007). The role of seizure susceptibility in AE, however, has been so far scarcely investigated. Considering the above-mentioned close link between seizures and inflammatory reactions, we speculate that intrinsic seizure susceptibility may have detrimental effects in the process of AE. Given this speculation, familial seizure predispositions might be greater in patients with AE. Of the 15 patients with various types of AE, a high proportion had a family history of seizures or AE, especially FS (five patients, 33.3%). In the 14 selected patients, excluding the sibling case, the proportion of patients with a family history of seizures in the

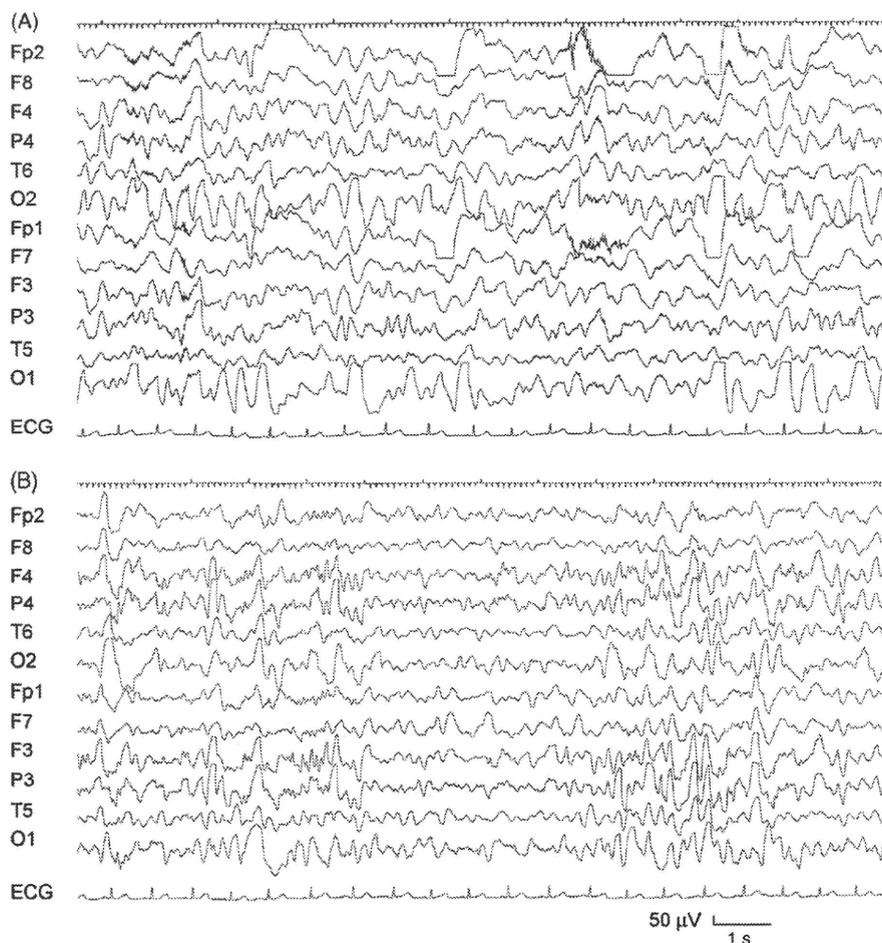


Figure 3 The interictal EEGs recorded during the subacute phase of disease in patient #2 with AERRPS and the *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation. The EEG that was recorded on the 23rd day of disease showed diffuse high-amplitude slow waves with no alpha rhythms during the waking state (A), and revealed no epileptic discharges in either the waking (A) or sleep state (B). These EEG traces were recorded at the Kurashiki Central Hospital.

first-degree relatives was 28.6% (4/14), as mentioned above, and this rate was much higher than in healthy children (9.3%, or 98/1057) according to a study on EEG abnormalities in healthy Japanese children. In this normative study, a family history of seizures in the first-degree relatives was noted in seven children with EEG abnormalities and in 91 children without EEG abnormalities (Okubo et al., 1994). This difference in the family history of seizure disorders was statistically significant ($p=0.037$) according to Fisher's exact test. Therefore, some, if not all, patients with AE have a genetic susceptibility to seizure. The seizures were intrinsically involved in the pathogenesis of AE in most patients. Previous reports on individual types of AE thus far have not examined the relationship between AE and seizure susceptibility (Mizuguchi, 1997; Yamanouchi et al., 2006; Mikaeloff et al., 2006; Sakuma, 2009).

The *SCN1A* mutations are linked to febrile seizure-related epileptic syndromes such as GEFS+ and severe myoclonic epilepsy in infancy. Febrile seizures were the most frequently observed in family histories in this study and as we anticipated this finding, we planned to screen the *SCN1A* mutation in patients with AE. As a result, the heterozygous R1575C mutation was identified in a patient with AERRPS.

AERRPS is thought to have an inflammatory basis because of the clinical findings of an acute fever and the common observation of CSF pleocytosis. There is a report of the detection of an autoantibody against the glutamate receptor GluR2 in serum and/or CSF (Ito et al., 2005), therefore, autoimmune mechanisms appear to underlie the pathogenesis of AERRPS (Sakuma, 2009). The patient harboring the R1575C mutation experienced a relatively mild form of AERRPS with no destructive brain lesions. AERRPS is characterized by the persistence of devastating seizures from the acute phase through the chronic phase with no latent interval, and this unique phenomenon suggests a close relationship between the pathophysiological mechanisms of encephalopathy and seizure generation. An identical *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation was also detected in a patient with Rasmussen encephalitis together with an autoantibody against glutamate receptor GluR3 (Ohmori et al., 2008). The electrophysiological properties of *SCN1A*-R1575C have exhibited greater persistent sodium currents as compared to wild-type (Ohmori et al., 2008). This may contribute to exacerbated epileptic seizures and the consequent development of inflammatory reactions in the brain. The *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation was not detected in 96 healthy individuals and it was highly

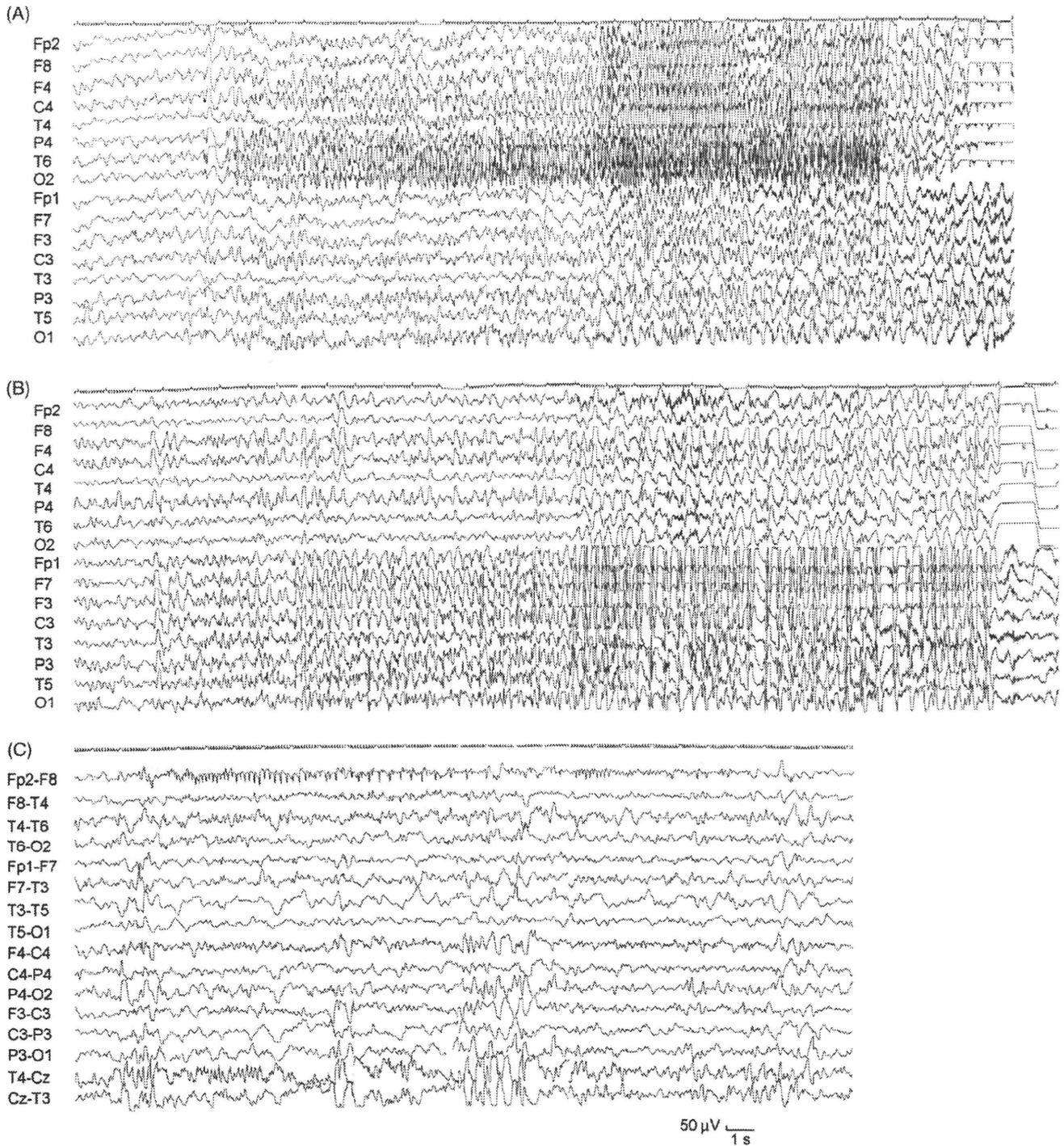


Figure 4 The ictal and subclinical ictal EEGs recorded during the chronic phase of disease in patient #2 with AERRPS and with the *SCN1A*-R1575C mutation. The ictal EEG of a complex partial seizure with eye-deviations to the left and an origin from the right parietooccipital region was recorded at 3 months after disease onset (A). The subclinical ictal EEG patterns with different origins were also recorded (B, origin in the left hemisphere; C, origin at the right anterior temporal region). EEGs (A and B) were recorded taking reference to the bilateral earlobes.

conserved throughout various animal species, although the possibility of coincidental association of the occurrence of AERRPS and *SCN1A* mutation cannot be excluded.

The infection of pathogenic viruses including influenza, human herpes virus (HHV)-6, rotavirus, and the varicella-zoster virus preceded the onset of AE in some patients.

Aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and theophylline have been shown to be risk factors (Mizuguchi et al., 2007). Most of the previous clinical studies have been clarified the extrinsic factors. A high family incidence of convulsive disorders in this study has indicated that the intrinsic susceptibility to AE should be investigated. Some subtypes

of AE, such as AERRPS, influenza encephalopathy, HHV-6 encephalopathy, and ANE have been reported by Japanese researchers. Several epidemiological studies revealed that the prevalence of FS is approximately 2–5% in North America and Europe and 7–14% in Japan (Baulac et al., 2004). A differential genetic susceptibility to fever in Japan might contribute to the different clinical subtypes and etiology of AE. We have, however, not yet excluded the possibility of environmentally-based susceptibility to AE.

The present results were obtained with a limited number of subjects. We investigated each patient who visited one of our institutions during the study period and met the criteria, but the sample size was ultimately small with a potential bias. We do not yet have enough information to fully elucidate the relationship between the types of AE and the types of mutations or other genetic abnormalities. In the future we require more extensive familial studies regarding each specific type of AE, especially on the role of febrile seizure susceptibility and other genetic risk factors. These studies will facilitate the overall understanding of AE pathogenesis and will therefore lead to the development of rational prevention treatments for AE in childhood. We hope that the present study will encourage a comprehensive analysis in this direction.

Acknowledgements

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平成 22 年度班会議プログラム

厚生労働科学研究費補助金

難治性疾患克服研究事業

「先天性筋無力症候群の診断・病態・治療法開発研究」

平成 22 年度 班会議

プログラム

研究代表者 大野 欽司（名古屋大学）

日時：平成 23 年 1 月 8 日（土）11：00～14：30

場所：名古屋大学医学部(鶴舞キャンパス) 鶴友会館 2 階
名古屋市昭和区鶴舞町 65

厚生労働科学研究費補助金
難治性疾患克服研究事業研究事業
「先天性筋無力症候群の診断・病態・治療法開発研究」
平成 22 年度 班会議
平成 23 年 1 月 8 日

11:00～11:05 開会あいさつ 研究代表者 大野 欽司

午前部 11:00～12:25

I. 先天性筋無力症候群の臨床・病態・制御 座長 福留 隆泰

11:05～11:15 Collagen Q 欠損症自験例の臨床的検討

おくむら あきひさ
奥村 彰久

10 分

順天堂大学医学部小児科 小児神経学

11:15～11:45 先天性筋無力症候群の臨床的特徴

いらはら かおり
苛原 香

30 分

国立精神・神経医療研究センター 小児神経学

11:45～11:55 本邦における先天性筋無力症候群の遺伝子変異解析

あずま よしてる
東 慶輝

10 分

名古屋大学 神経遺伝情報学・小児科学

午後の部 13:30～14:30

II. 神経筋接合部欠損病態の研究

座長 大野欽司

13:30～14:00 神経筋接合部分子欠損モデル動物の電気生理学的研究

ふくどめ たかやす
福留 隆泰

30分

長崎川棚医療センター 神経内科

14:00～14:30 次世代シーケンサーによる exome capture resequencing 解析

おおのきんじ
大野欽司

30分

名古屋大学 神経遺伝情報学

14:30 閉会

会場案内

鶴友会館 名古屋大学医学部（病院）内 2階 大会議室
名古屋大学 鶴舞キャンパス

JR 中央本線・鶴舞駅「名大病院口」すぐ

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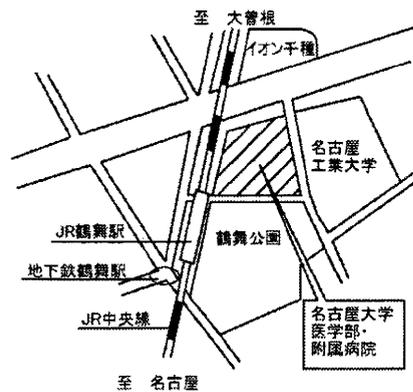
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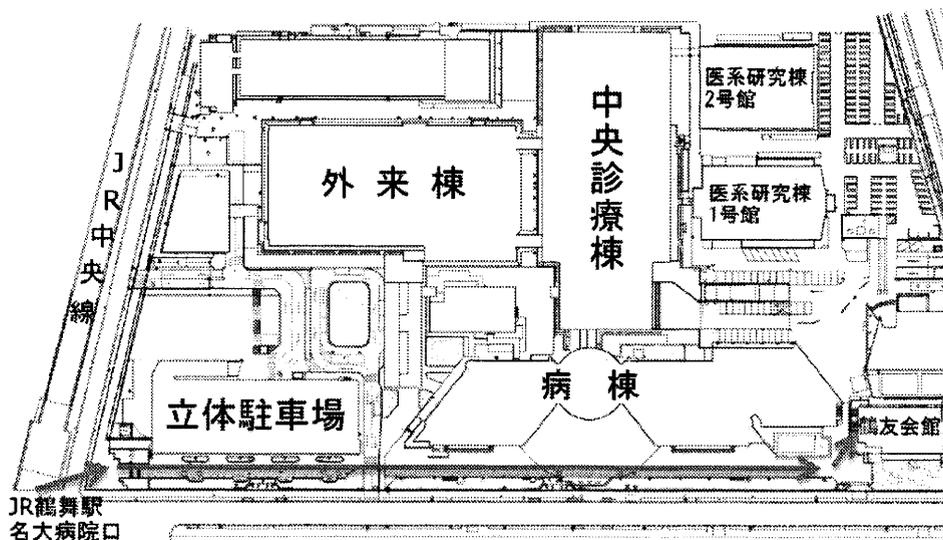
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