

研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

書籍

著者氏名	論文タイトル名	書籍全体の編集者名	書籍名	出版社名	出版地	出版年	ページ
富田博秋.	遺伝子発現解析研究の実際～ブレインバンク運営に求められている品質管理とは	加藤忠史	脳バンク 精神疾患の謎を解くために	光文社	東京	2011	167-176
富田博秋.	求められるブレインバンクの姿 ～ブレインバンクは実際に何をやるのか～	加藤忠史	脳バンク 精神疾患の謎を解くために	光文社	東京	2011	237-245
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古谷憲孝、黒澤健司	口唇口蓋裂の遺伝	小林眞司	胎児診断から始まる口唇口蓋裂—集学的治療のアプローチ—	メディカルビュー社	東京	2010	32-38

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## IV. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Missense mutations in the DNA-binding/dimerization domain of *NFIX* cause Sotos-like features

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Sotos syndrome is characterized by prenatal and postnatal overgrowth, characteristic craniofacial features and mental retardation. Haploinsufficiency of *NSD1* causes Sotos syndrome. Recently, two microdeletions encompassing *Nuclear Factor I-X (NFIX)* and a nonsense mutation in *NFIX* have been found in three individuals with Sotos-like overgrowth features, suggesting possible involvements of *NFIX* abnormalities in Sotos-like features. Interestingly, seven frameshift and two splice site mutations in *NFIX* have also been found in nine individuals with Marshall–Smith syndrome. In this study, 48 individuals who were suspected as Sotos syndrome but showing no *NSD1* abnormalities were examined for *NFIX* mutations by high-resolution melt analysis. We identified two heterozygous missense mutations in the DNA-binding/dimerization domain of the *NFIX* protein. Both mutations occurred at evolutionally conserved amino acids. The c.179T>C (p.Leu60Pro) mutation occurred *de novo* and the c.362G>C (p.Arg121Pro) mutation was inherited from possibly affected mother. Both mutations were absent in 250 healthy Japanese controls. Our study revealed that missense mutations in *NFIX* were able to cause Sotos-like features. Mutations in DNA-binding/dimerization domain of *NFIX* protein also suggest that the transcriptional regulation is abnormally fluctuated because of *NFIX* abnormalities. In individuals with Sotos-like features unrelated to *NSD1* changes, genetic testing of *NFIX* should be considered.

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**Keywords:** DNA-binding/dimerization domain; missense mutation; *NFIX*; Sotos syndrome

## INTRODUCTION

Sotos syndrome (MIM #117550) is an overgrowth syndrome characterized by tall stature and/or macrocephaly, distinctive facial appearance and mental retardation.<sup>1</sup> A *de novo* t(5;8)(q35;q24.1) translocation in a patient with Sotos syndrome revealed disruption of *NSD1* at 5q35. Subsequent identification of nonsense, frameshift and submicroscopic deletion mutations of *NSD1* in patients with Sotos syndrome clearly showed that haploinsufficiency of *NSD1* causes Sotos syndrome.<sup>2</sup> *NSD1* encodes nuclear receptor-binding SET domain protein 1, which functions as a histone methyltransferase that activates and represses transcription through chromatin modification.<sup>3</sup> The diagnosis of Sotos syndrome is established by confirming *NSD1* abnormalities,<sup>4</sup> and abnormalities of *NSD1* causes up to 90% of Sotos syndrome cases. However, a part of patients with suspected Sotos syndrome are known to show no abnormalities in *NSD1*,<sup>5</sup> suggesting involvement of another gene.

Recently it was reported that two patients with Sotos-like overgrowth features possessed microdeletions encompassing *Nuclear Factor I-X (NFIX)* at 19p13.2. In addition, a nonsense mutation in *NFIX* was identified in one patient with Sotos-like features.<sup>6</sup> Interestingly, frameshift and donor-splice site mutations were also identified in Marshall–Smith syndrome (MIM 602535) that is osteochondroplasia syndrome characterized by accelerated skeletal maturation, relative failure to thrive, respiratory difficulties, mental retardation and unusual facial features.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, *NFIX* mutations could cause either Sotos-like features or Marshall–Smith syndrome. Whereas the transcripts possessing the nonsense mutation in a patient with Sotos-like features suffered from the nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, transcripts of mutated alleles (by a donor-splice site and two frameshift mutations) in patients with Marshall–Smith syndrome escaped from the nonsense-mediated mRNA decay surveillance and could be translated, suggesting that haploinsufficiency of *NFIX* leads to

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Sotos-like features and dominant-negative effects of the truncated NFIX proteins cause Marshall–Smith syndrome.<sup>6</sup>

In this study, we screened for NFIX mutations in 48 Japanese patients who were suspected as Sotos syndrome, but showed neither deletions nor mutations in NSD1. Detailed genetic and clinical data are presented.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Subjects

A total of 48 patients suspected as Sotos syndrome were analyzed for NFIX mutations. NSD1 investigation by sequencing and fluorescent *in situ* hybridization analysis was negative in these patients. In this study, the patients presenting with cardinal features of Sotos syndrome (specific craniofacial features, intellectual disability and overgrowth to some extent) but showing no NSD1 abnormalities are referred as those with ‘Sotos-like features’. Experimental protocols were approved by the Committee for Ethical issues at Yokohama City University School of Medicine. All individuals were investigated in agreement with the requirements of Japanese regulations.

### Mutation analysis

Genomic DNA was isolated from peripheral blood leukocytes according to standard methods. DNA for mutation screening was amplified by illustra GenomiPhi V2 DNA Amplification Kit (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK). Sequencing of exon 1 and high-resolution melting curve (HRM) analysis of exon 2–9 covering the NFIX coding region (GenBank accession number NM\_002501.2) were performed. For exon 1, the 12 µl PCR mixture contained 30 ng DNA, 0.3 µM each primer, 0.4 mM each dNTP, 1× PCR buffer for KOD FX and 0.3 U KOD FX polymerase (Toyobo, Osaka, Japan). For exons 2–9, real-time PCR and HRM analysis were serially performed in 12 µl mixture on Rotor-Gene Q (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). For exon 7, the PCR mixture contained 30 ng DNA, 0.3 µM each primer, 0.4 mM each dNTP, 0.36 µl SYTO9 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), 0.4 mM each dNTP, 1× PCR buffer for KOD FX and 0.3 U KOD FX polymerase (Toyobo). For the remaining exons, the PCR mixture contained 30 ng DNA, 0.25 µM each primer, 0.36 µl SYTO9 (Invitrogen), 0.2 mM each dNTP, 1× ExTaq buffer and 0.375 U ExTaq HS (Takara, Otsu, Japan). Primers and conditions of PCR are shown in Supplementary Table 1. The PCR products showing an aberrant melting curve were sequenced. All the novel mutations in DNA amplified by GenomiPhi were verified by sequencing of PCR products using genomic DNA as a template. Mutations were checked in 250 Japanese normal controls (500 alleles) by HRM analysis.

### Parentage testing

For the family showing *de novo* mutations, parentage was confirmed by microsatellite analysis as previously described.<sup>8</sup> Biological parentage was judged if more than four informative markers were compatible and other uninformative markers showed no discrepancies.

### Prediction of functional effect

The effect of the mutations for protein features was predicted by following web-based prediction tools: SIFT (<http://sift.jcvi.org/>), PolyPhen (<http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph/>), PolyPhen-2 (<http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph2/>), Mutation Taster (<http://www.mutationtaster.org/>) and Align GVGD ([http://agvgd.iarc.fr/agvgd\\_input.php](http://agvgd.iarc.fr/agvgd_input.php)).

## RESULTS

### NFIX mutations

Two heterozygous missense mutations were identified. The c.179T>C (p.Leu60Pro) mutation in patient 1 were not found in her parents, indicating that the mutation occurred *de novo* (Figure 1a). Biological parentage was confirmed by several microsatellite markers (data not shown). The c.362G>C (p.Arg121Pro) mutation in patient 2 was found in his mother (Figure 1a). These two mutations occurred at evolutionary conserved amino acids (Figure 1b) and were absent in 250 Japanese normal controls. Interestingly, the missense changes were

located in DNA-binding/dimerization domain of the NFIX protein (Figure 1c). Evaluation with web-based prediction tools strongly suggested that these substitutions are pathogenic (Supplementary Table 2).

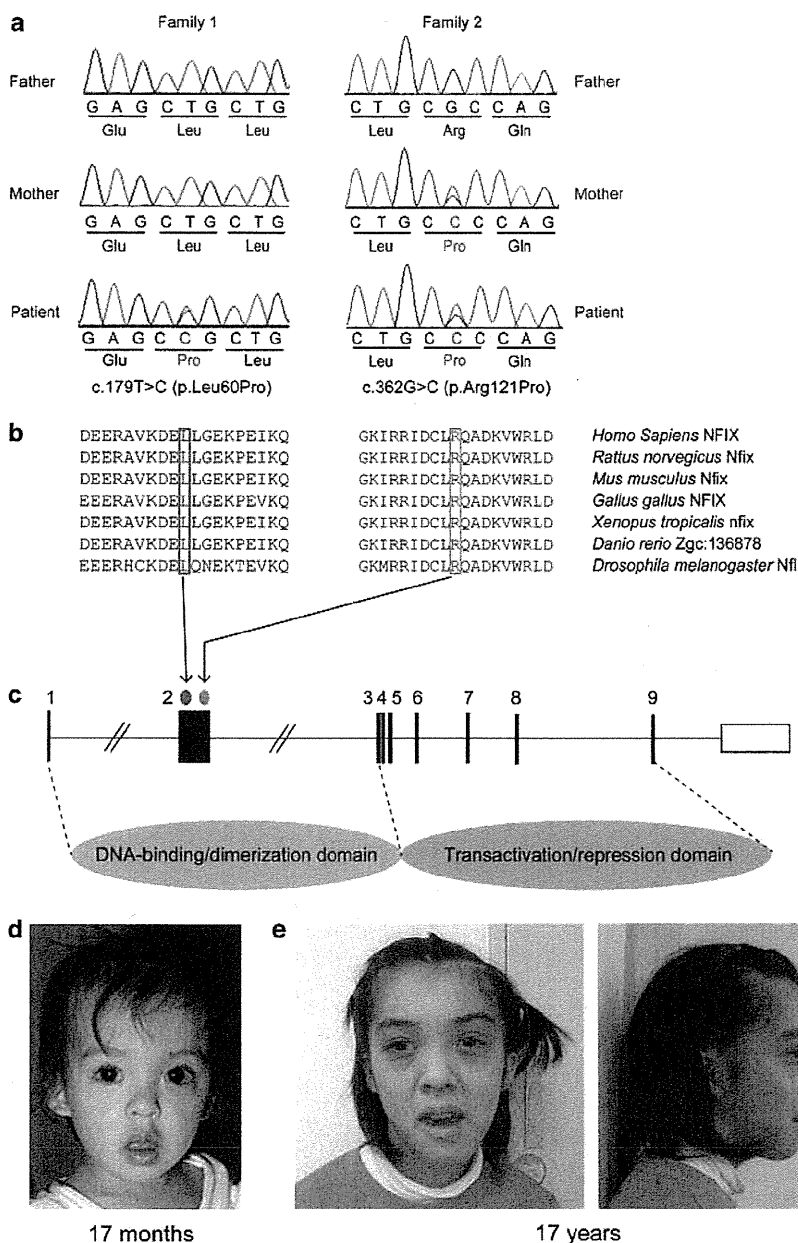
### Clinical information of the patients

Patient 1 is a product of unrelated healthy parents. The body weight at birth was 2816 g (−0.6 s.d.), height 48.8 cm (0 s.d.) and OFC 33.5 cm (+0.3 s.d.). Neonatal hypotonia was recognized. At 17 months of age, her weight was 9.24 kg (−0.5 s.d.), height 84.9 cm (+2 s.d.) and OFC 48 cm (+1.2 s.d.). The facial appearance showed long/narrow and triangular face, high forehead, midface hypoplasia, prominent ears, epicanthal folds, strabismus, down-slanting palpebral fissures, short nose with anteverted nares, prominent long philtrum, everted lower lip and narrow palate (Figure 1d). Large hands/feet, prominent fingertips, pectus excavatum were also noted. Her primary dentition started at 7 months of age and was completed by 17 months of age. Bone age was estimated as 3 years at 17 months of age and as 5 years at 3 years of age. Bullet-shaped phalanges, which are typical features of Marshall–Smith syndrome, were not observed. She was initially diagnosed as Sotos syndrome. She showed mental retardation and severe developmental delay with developmental quotients of 19. Scoliosis was noted at 18 months of age and surgically treated for several times. Complex partial seizures were noted at 4 years of age and were controlled with phenytoin and zonisamide. At present (17 years of age), prognathia was observed (Figure 1e). Her weight was 40 kg (−2 s.d.) and height 156.5 cm (−0.2 s.d.).

Patient 2 is a male at age of 20 years. The birth weight was 2938 g (−0.4 s.d.), height 51 cm (+0.8 s.d.) and OFC 35.5 cm (+1.4 s.d.). Respiratory insufficiency was noted, but no visceral malformations were pointed out. Bilateral tubing therapy was performed for recurrent bilateral exudative otitis media at 4 years of age. At 14 years of age, his weight was 58.1 kg (+0.6 s.d.) and height 185.7 cm (+3.5 s.d.). Mental retardation was evident as the IQ score (Tanaka–Binet intelligence test) was 59. Craniofacial features included high forehead, down-slanting palpebral fissures and prognathia. He was suspected as Sotos syndrome. His mother showed tall stature, suggesting that c.362G>C led to overgrowth in the mother. Unfortunately, further details of clinical features in the mother are unavailable. Clinical information of two patients is summarized in Table 1.

## DISCUSSION

NFIX is a member of the nuclear factor I (NFI) family proteins, which are implicated as site-specific DNA-binding proteins known to function in viral DNA replication and gene expression regulation.<sup>9</sup> NFI proteins form homo- or heterodimers and bind to the palindromic DNA consensus sequence through its N-terminal DNA-binding/dimerization domain.<sup>10</sup> Point mutations in DNA-binding/dimerization domain of NFI protein have been shown to cause loss of dimerization, DNA-binding and replication activities,<sup>11</sup> highlighting the importance of structural integrity of DNA-binding/dimerization domain. It has been reported that the DNA binding domain of SMADs and NFI transcription factors shared considerable structural similarity, and the secondary structure of the DNA-binding domain of NFI was estimated based on that of SMADs.<sup>12</sup> In this study, we identified two heterozygous missense mutations, the c.179T>C (p.Leu60Pro) and the c.362G>C (p.Arg121Pro), in the DNA-binding/dimerization domain. Of note, two mutations are estimated to be localized within  $\alpha$ -helical region of DNA-binding domain and at evolutionally conserved amino acids between SMADs and NFI.<sup>12</sup> In addition, two mutations cause substitutions to a proline residue,



**Figure 1** Missense mutations in *NFIX* in individuals with Sotos-like features. (a) Electropherogram of family 1 (left) and family 2 (right). The c.179T>C (p.Leu60Pro) mutation occurred *de novo*. The c.362G>C (p.Arg121Pro) mutation was inherited from his mother. (b) An amino-acid sequence alignments of *NFIX* protein including amino-acid positions 60 and 121. Protein sequences were obtained through the NCBI protein database and multiple sequence alignment was performed by CLUSTALW web site (<http://clustalw.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>). (c) Schematic representation of *NFIX* consisting of nine exons. UTR and coding exons are indicated by open and filled rectangles, respectively. The location of mutations is indicated by red (c.179T>C) and blue (c.362G>C) dots. At the bottom, C-terminal DNA-binding/dimerization domain and N-terminal transactivation/repression domain are depicted. Both the c.179T>C and c.362G>C mutations are located in exon 2 encoding a part of DNA-binding/dimerization domain. (d) Facial appearance of patient 1 at 17 months of age, showing long/narrow and triangular face, down slanting, short nose with anteverted nares and everted lower lip. (e) At 17 years of age, prognathia was noted in patient 1.

which is a unique amino acid characterized by imino radical. Proline has a pyrrolidine ring that restricts the available conformational space; therefore, it has effects on chain conformation and the process of protein folding.<sup>13</sup> Thus, it is very likely that two mutations could affect DNA-binding activity of *NFIX* protein through conformational changes of the DNA-binding domain.

Because *NFIX* mutations could cause both Marshall–Smith syndrome and Sotos-like features,<sup>6</sup> it is great concern to which of them two patients with missense mutations could be classified. Main clinical features of Sotos syndrome are childhood overgrowth including tall stature and/or macrocephaly, characteristic face and mental retardation. Other minor features are scoliosis, hypotonia in infancy, seizures,

**Table 1 Clinical features of two patients with missense mutations in *NFIX***

		<i>Reported by Malan et al.<sup>6</sup></i>				
<i>Genetics</i>	<i>NFIX deletion/mutation</i>	<i>Patient 1</i> <i>c.179T&gt;C</i>	<i>Patient 2</i> <i>c.362G&gt;C</i>	<i>Patient A</i> <i>del 19p13.3</i>	<i>Patient B</i> <i>del 19p13.3</i>	<i>Patient C</i> <i>c.568C&gt;T</i>
Epidemiology	Age at last evaluation (years)	17	14	14	10	27
	Sex	F	M	M	M	F
	Mat/pat age	48/52	??	31/33	25/30	31/31
Prenatal growth	Birth weight (g)	2816 (−0.6 s.d.)	2938 (−0.4 s.d.)	4500 (>95)	3110 (10–50)	3600 (50–90)
	Birth height (cm)	48.8 (0 s.d.)	51 (+0.8 s.d.)	53 (95)	49 (50)	52 (95)
	OFC (cm)	33.5 (+0.3 s.d.)	35.5 (+1.4 s.d.)	38 (>95)	33.5 (10)	37.5 (>95)
Postnatal growth	Weight (kg)	9.24 (−0.5 s.d.) <sup>a</sup>	58.1 (+0.6 s.d.) <sup>b</sup>	>P98	>P98	>P98
	Height (cm)	84.9 (+2 s.d.) <sup>a</sup>	185.7 (+3.5 s.d.) <sup>b</sup>	>P98	>P98	>P98
<i>Development</i>						
SS	Autistic traits	−	−	+	+	+
	Behavioral anomalies	NA	−	+	+	+
	Motor retardation	+	+	+	−	−
	Hypotonia	+	+	+	+	−
Overlapped	Mental retardation	+	+	+	+	+
	Degree of delay	DQ19	IQ42	NA	NA	NA
	Speech delay	+	+	+	+	+
	First words (months)	24	18	NA	NA	NA
<i>Craniofacial features</i>						
SS	Long/narrow face	+	−	+	+	+
	Down-slanting palpebral fissures	+	+	+	−	+
	Small mouth	NA	−	+	−	+
	Prognathia	+	+	+	−	−
Overlapped	High forehead	+	+	+	+	+
MSS	Everted lower lip	+	−	+	−	+
	Underdeveloped midface	+	−	NA	NA	NA
	Proptosis	NA	−	NA	NA	NA
	Short nose	+	−	NA	NA	NA
	Prominent premaxilla	NA	−	NA	NA	NA
	Gum hypertrophy	+ <sup>c</sup>	−	NA	NA	NA
	Retrognathia	−	−	NA	NA	NA
<i>Eyes</i>						
SS	Hypermetropia	−	−	+	+	−
	Strabismus	+	−	+	−	+
	Nystagmus	−	−	−	−	+
	Astigmatism	NA	NA	−	+	−
MSS	Myopia	NA	−	NA	NA	NA
	Blue sclerae	NA	−	NA	NA	NA
<i>Musculo-skeletal abnormalities</i>						
SS	Abdominal wall hypotonia	−	−	+	−	+
	Pectus excavatum	+	−	+	+	−
	Coxa valga	−	−	+	+	−
Overlapped	Scoliosis	+	−	+	−	+
	Advanced bone age	+	NA	+	+	+
MSS	Abnormal bone maturation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Bone fractures	−	−	NA	NA	NA
	Kyphosis	−	−	NA	NA	NA
	Umbilical hernia	−	−	NA	NA	NA

Abbreviations: F, female; M, male; Mat/pat, maternal/paternal; MSS, Marshall–Smith syndrome; NA, not ascertained; OFC, Occipitofrontal circumference; SS, Soto's syndrome. Growth of patients 1 and 2 is indicated with s.d. and that of patients in the report of Malan *et al.*<sup>6</sup> is indicated with percentile.

<sup>a</sup>At 17 months.

<sup>b</sup>At 14 years.

<sup>c</sup>Suggested the possibility of the adverse drug reaction.



cardiac defect and genitourinary anomalies.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand, main clinical features of Marshall–Smith syndrome are moderate to severe developmental delay with absent or limited speech, unusual behavior, disharmonic bone maturation, respiratory compromise secondary to upper airway obstruction, short stature and kyphoscoliosis.<sup>14</sup> One of remarkable differences between Sotos syndrome and Marshall–Smith syndrome is facial appearances. Although both syndromes has high forehead, Sotos syndrome has a long/narrow face, triangular shaped face with a prominent chin, down-slanting of the palpebral fissures,<sup>1,4–5</sup> whereas Marshall–Smith syndrome has proptosis, underdeveloped midface and prominent premaxilla.<sup>7,14</sup> In patient 1, although some characteristic features of Marshall–Smith syndrome such as everted lower lip, short nose and midface hypoplasia were observed, overall facial appearance, overgrowth features at 17 month of age, scoliosis, hypotonia and seizures were consistent with Sotos syndrome. Similarly, in patient 2, the facial appearance, tall stature and macrocephaly were consistent with Sotos syndrome. In both patients, their body weights were relatively low in comparison with their heights. This is consistent with the fact that, throughout childhood and early adolescence, the height was usually more significantly increased than weight in Sotos patients.<sup>15</sup> In addition, our patients did not show respiratory difficulties, one of specific features in Marshall–Smith syndrome, which cause early death in the neonatal period or early infancy.<sup>7</sup> Thus missense mutations in the DNA-binding/dimerization domain, which may lead to loss of transcriptional regulation by NFIX protein, could cause Sotos-like syndrome in two patients.

Many clinical features including tall stature, mental retardation, speech delay and high forehead are shared between our patients and three patients reported by Malan *et al.*<sup>6</sup> with *NFIX* abnormalities. The recognizable difference is autistic traits. Autistic traits are not observed in our patients but all of Malan *et al.*'s<sup>6</sup> patients. Thus there is a possibility that autistic traits are caused by haploinsufficiency of *NFIX* in Malan *et al.*'s<sup>6</sup> patients, but not by missense mutations in the DNA-binding/dimerization domain. However, identification of a greater number of cases with *NFIX* mutations is required to confirm this hypothesis.

In conclusion, our report provides further evidences that *NFIX* is a causative gene for Sotos-like features. Abnormalities of *NSD1* are found in majority of Sotos syndrome cases and aberration of other genes including *NFIX* may be found in the minority of Sotos syndrome/Sotos-like features. Genetic testing of *NFIX* should be considered in such patients if no *NSD1* abnormalities were identified.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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## Co-Occurrence of Prader–Willi and Sotos Syndromes

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A patient with atypical phenotypes of Prader–Willi syndrome (PWS) was subjected to investigate genomic copy numbers by microarray-based comparative genomic hybridization analysis. Severe developmental delay, relative macrocephaly, protruding forehead, cardiac anomalies, and hydronephrosis were atypical for PWS. Concurrent deletions of 15q11–13 and 5q35 regions were revealed and identified as paternally derived. The sizes and locations of the two deletions were typical for both deletions. Although each deletion independently contributed to the clinical features, developmental disturbance was very severe, suggesting combined effects. This is the first report of co-occurrence of PWS and STS. The co-occurrence of two syndromes is likely incidental. © 2010 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

**Key words:** Prader–Willi syndrome; Sotos syndrome; aCGH

### INTRODUCTION

Prader–Willi syndrome (PWS; OMIM #176270) is caused by deficiency of paternally expressed imprinted transcripts within chromosome 15q11–q13 [Ledbetter et al., 1981]. It is characterized by obesity, hypotonia, hypogonadism, and behavioral abnormalities [Holm et al., 1993]. Most paternal PWS deletions are bracketed by recurrent breakpoints (BP)1 or BP2 and BP3. Perturbed expression of genes including *SNURF–SNRPN* and multiple small nucleolar RNAs (*snoRNAs*) are associated with the clinical manifestations of PWS, but the specific contributions of individual genes are under investigation. Recent analysis revealed that deficiency of HBII-85 *snoRNAs* causes the key characteristics of the PWS phenotype, although some atypical features suggest that other genes in the region may make more subtle phenotypic contributions [Sahoo et al., 2008].

Sotos syndrome (STS; OMIM#117550) is an overgrowth syndrome characterized by pre- and postnatal overgrowth, macrocephaly, developmental delay, advanced bone age, and a distinctive face including frontal bossing, frontal sparseness of hair, hypertelorism, downslanting palpebral fissures, and pointed chin. Haploinsufficiency of the *NSD1* gene due to 5q35 microdeletions or intragenic mutations causes STS [Kurotaki et al., 2002]. Miyake et al. [2003] observed that microdeletions in STS are mostly of paternal origin. Common deletion breakpoints were located at two

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flanking low copy repeats (LCR), implying that non-allelic homologous recombination (NAHR) between LCRs is the major mechanism for the common deletion in STS [Kurotaki et al., 2005; Visser et al., 2005]. Central nervous system anomalies, cardiovascular and urogenital symptoms are more frequent in the microdeletion group [Nagai et al., 2003].

In this study, a patient with atypical phenotypes of PWS was subjected to investigate genomic copy numbers by microarray-based comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) analysis. Concurrent deletions of 15q11–13 and 5q35 regions were detected and identified as paternally derived. Although each deletion independently contributed to the clinical features, growth and developmental disturbance were very severe, suggesting combined effects. This is the first report of co-occurrence of PWS and STS.

### CLINICAL REPORT

A 14-year-old male propositus is the first-born child of healthy and non-consanguineous parents. After uncomplicated pregnancy, he was born at 39 weeks of gestation by induced delivery with overgrowth of length with 53 cm (90th centile).

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His birth weight was within a normal limit as 3,010 g (25th centile). He was the first child of a 26-year-old mother and a 30-year-old father. Since cardiac murmur was found at birth, he was transferred to the neonatal intensive care unit and ventricular septal defect (VSD), atrial septal defect (ASD), and patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) were revealed by echocardiography. Micropenis and bilateral cryptorchidism were noticed. He had severe hypotonia and feeding difficulties in the early infantile period. Until his sucking improved at 6 months old, nasal tube feeding was required. Ultrasonography revealed bilateral vesicoureteral reflux and hydro-nephrosis. He showed a severe developmental delay with head control at 1 year of age and sitting alone at 6 years of age. He had generalized seizures at age 6 years. Electroencephalography revealed sporadic spikes at that time. Brain MRI showed no significant findings. He developed progressive obesity, as his weight was 10.0 kg (75th centile) at 9 months old of age and 12.4 kg (95th centile) at 1 year old of age. Conventional G-band chromosome analysis showed a normal male karyotype, and subsequent conventional FISH analysis for *SNRPN* revealed a deletion, indicating a diagnosis of PWS. In spite of that, relative macrocephaly, protruding forehead, frontal baldness, and mild overgrowth were atypical for phenotypic features of PWS (Fig. 1A). Although he was interested in food, hyperphagia was not prominent because of his restricted locomotive abilities. Gradually, his height SD scores decreased (Fig. 2). Partial growth hormone deficiency was found by endocrinological studies. When he was 14 years of age his bone age was measured at the 11-year-old level. His parents did not choose GH replacement therapy.

When we examined the patient at the age of 14 years, he showed severe mental retardation without vocalized words, muscular hypotonia, hypopigmentation, scoliosis, and distinctive facial features including protruding forehead; strabismus; hypertelorism; down-slanting palpebral fissures; epicanthal folds; full cheeks; microstomia with downturned corners of the mouth; small hands with tapering fingers; and small feet (Fig. 1B). A wheel chair was required for him because his hip joint was unstable and he could not stand alone. His intelligent quotient (IQ) was measured by Kyoto Scale of Psychological Development as below 10. He was a calm and friendly boy. His interest in food became obvious, but self-injurious behaviors such as skin picking were not observed. Behavioral problems associated with STS including autistic spectrum disorder, hyperactivity, and aggression were not present. His weight was 29 kg (<3rd centile), and his length was 132 cm (<3rd centile) (Fig. 2). His head circumference was mean for his age. A comparison of typical features of PWS and STS and their clinical presentation in the patient are shown (Table I).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

After obtaining informed consents based on a permission approved by the institution's ethical committee, peripheral blood samples were obtained from the patient and his parents. Genomic DNAs were extracted using the QIAquick DNA extraction kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA).

Based on the hypothesis that the patient might have an atypically larger deletion of chromosome 15 or have additional chromosomal aberrations, aCGH analysis was performed

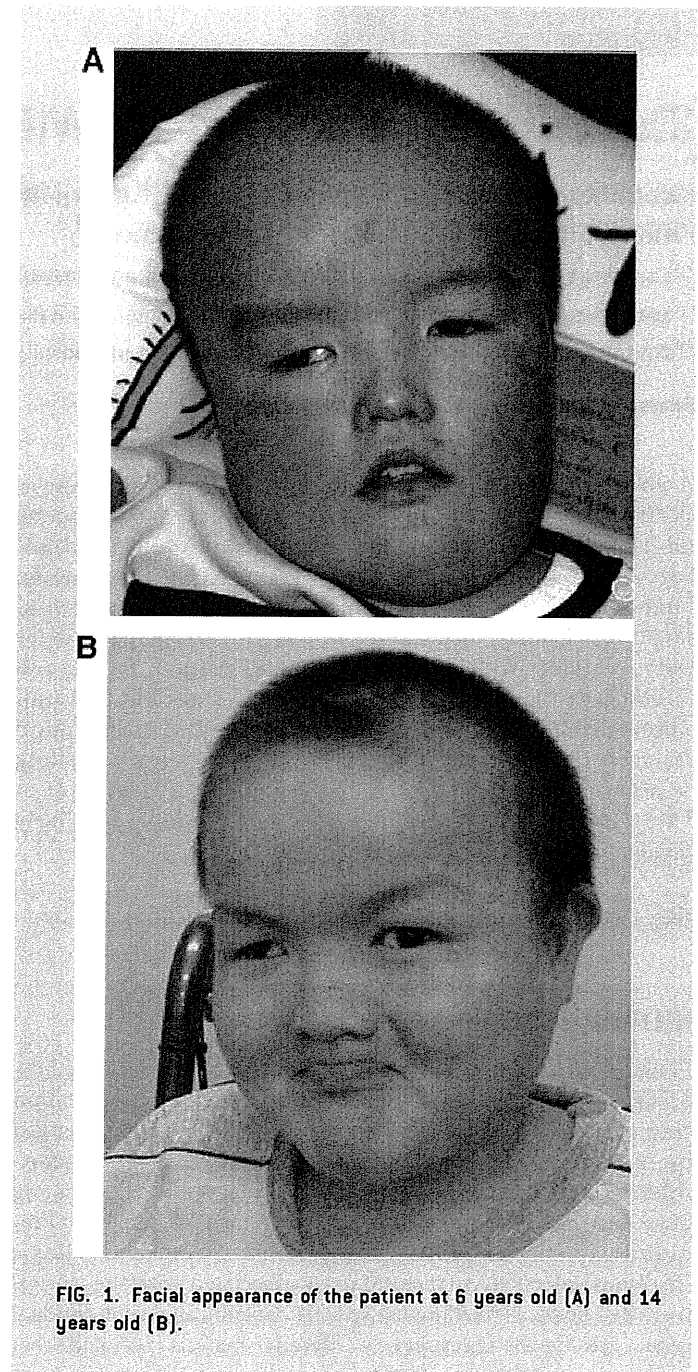


FIG. 1. Facial appearance of the patient at 6 years old (A) and 14 years old (B).

using the Human Genome CGH Microarray 60K (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) as described previously [Shimajima et al., 2009].

Metaphase nuclei were prepared from peripheral blood lymphocytes by mean of standard methods and used for FISH analysis with human BAC clones selected from the UCSC genome browser (<http://www.genome.ucsc.edu>) as described elsewhere [Shimajima et al., 2009]. Physical positions refer to the March 2006 human reference sequence (NCBI Build 36.1).

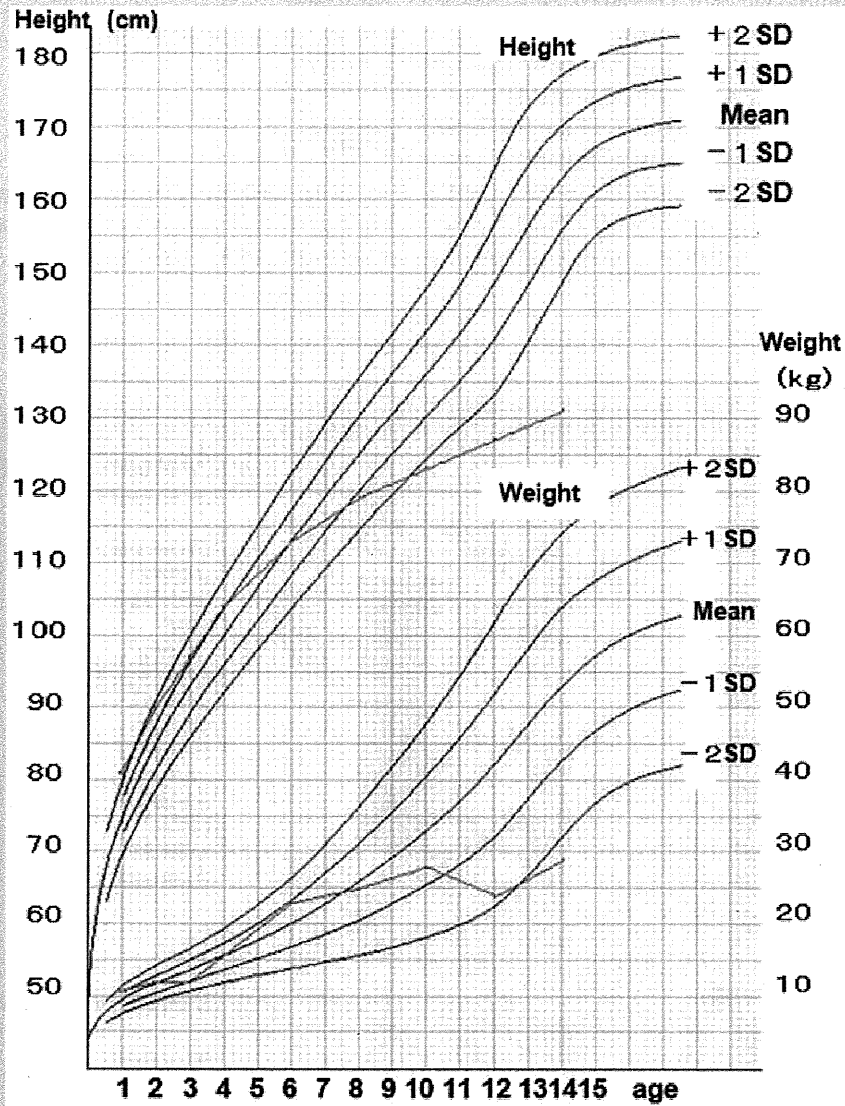


FIG. 2. Growth curve of the patient. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at [www.interscience.wiley.com](http://www.interscience.wiley.com).]

TABLE I. A Comparison of Typical Features of PWS and STS and Their Clinical Presentation in the Current Patient

	Prader-Willi	Sotos	Current patient
Hypotonia	+	+	++
Mental delay	+	+	++
Hypopigmentation	+	-	+
Prominent forehead	-	+	+
Strabismus	+	+	++
Over growth	-	+	-
Growth delay	+	-	++
Obesity	+	-	+
Epilepsy	-	+	+
Congenital heart disease	-	+	+
Scoliosis	+	+	++
Hydronephrosis	-	+	+
Hypogonadism	+	-	+

+, common features; ++, prominent manifestations.