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2. 実用新案登録
該当無し

H. 知的所有権の取得状況

1. 特許取得

II. 研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

III. 研究成果の刊行物

研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

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Mutational analyses of the *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes in patients with primary distal renal tubular acidosis

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ABSTRACT

Background. Mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* and the *ATP6V0A4* genes cause primary autosomal-recessive distal renal tubular acidosis (dRTA). Large deletions of either gene in patients with dRTA have not been described.

Methods. The *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes were directly sequenced in 11 Japanese patients with primary dRTA from nine unrelated kindreds. Large heterozygous deletions were analyzed by quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The clinical features of the 11 patients were also investigated.

Results. Novel mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene were identified in two kindreds, including frameshift, in-frame insertion and nonsense mutations. Large deletions in the *ATP6V0A4* gene were identified in two kindreds. Exon 15 of *ATP6V0A4* was not amplified in one patient, with a long PCR confirming compound heterozygous deletions of 3.7- and 6.9-kb nucleotides, including all of exon 15. Direct DNA sequencing revealed a heterozygous frameshift mutation in

ATP6V0A4 in another patient, with quantitative real-time PCR indicating that all exons up to exon 8 were deleted in one allele. Clinical investigation showed that four of the six patients with available clinical data presented with hyperammonemia at onset.

Conclusions. To our knowledge, these dRTA patients are the first to show large deletions involving one or more entire exons of the *ATP6V0A4* gene. Quantitative PCR amplification may be useful in detecting heterozygous large deletions. These results expand the spectrum of mutations in the *ATP6V0A4* and *ATP6V1B1* genes associated with primary dRTA and provide insight into possible structure–function relationships.

INTRODUCTION

Primary distal renal tubular acidosis (dRTA) is a rare genetic disease caused by impaired excretion of hydrogen ions (H⁺) by intercalated cells in the collecting ducts [1, 2]. Its clinical

features include hyperchloremic acidosis with inappropriately alkaline urine, hypokalemia, hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis and nephrolithiasis. Affected infants present with polyuria, dehydration and failure to thrive [3]. Both autosomal-dominant and autosomal-recessive forms of dRTA have been described. Mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene, which encodes the B1 subunit of the H⁺-ATPase, have been associated with autosomal-recessive dRTA accompanied by severe sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL), whereas mutations in the *ATP6V0A4* gene, which encodes the $\alpha 4$ subunit of the H⁺-ATPase, have been associated with autosomal-recessive dRTA without SNHL [1, 4, 5]. Recent genetic analyses, however, have revealed that some individuals with mutations in the *ATP6V0A4* gene also have early-onset severe SNHL [6, 7]. To expand knowledge of mutations in patients with dRTA, we analyzed the *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes in 11 Japanese patients from nine unrelated kindreds with dRTA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients

We analyzed 11 Japanese patients with dRTA belonging to nine unrelated kindreds; their clinical features and representative biochemical data are shown in Table 1. The diagnosis of dRTA was based on metabolic acidosis with a normal anion gap and overly high urinary pH, with or without nephrocalcinosis and SNHL. The parents of the patients in families 1 and 5 were consanguineous. Patients 1-1 and 1-2, and patients 7-1 and 7-2 were siblings. Detailed clinical data were not available for patient 5-1 at initial presentation, but she presented with full-blown symptoms of dRTA, including nephrocalcinosis and SNHL.

The study protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of The University of Tokyo (Approval No. 2204). Informed consent was obtained from each patient and his or her parents.

Mutation analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted from the peripheral blood of the patients and their family members using QuickGene DNA whole-blood S kits (Fujifilm). Thirteen and 20 pairs of oligonucleotide primers were generated to amplify all exons of the *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes, respectively (Supplemental Tables 1 and 2). Polymerase chain reactions (PCRs) were performed in 20 μ L of solution containing AmpliTaq Gold 360 Master Mix (Applied Biosystems), ~30-ng genomic DNA and 10 pmol of each primer. The amplification protocol consisted of an initial denaturation step at 95°C for 10 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, annealing at the temperatures shown in Supplemental Tables 1 and 2 for 30 s and elongation at 72°C for 30 s. PCR samples were subjected to bidirectional sequencing on an ABI 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems).

Quantitative real-time PCR amplification

The heterozygous large deletion in the *ATP6V0A4* gene of patient 4-1 was analyzed by quantitative genomic real-time PCR using SYBR Green (Bio-Rad Laboratories,

Hercules, CA) and the primer sequences shown in Supplemental Table 2. The standard curve method was used to calculate the target genome numbers in patient 4-1, with the target copy number normalized to normal human genomic DNA. Statistical significance was assessed using Student's *t*-tests.

RESULTS

Clinical findings

A total of 11 patients from nine unrelated kindreds were enrolled in this study (Table 1). Consanguinity was noted in two families. Among the 10 patients with available data at onset, all but 1 (patient 2-1) presented with metabolic acidosis with a normal anion gap and abnormally high urinary pH. Although patient 2-1 had a near normal serum bicarbonate concentration, she presented with hypokalemia, hypercalciuria, growth retardation and bilateral SNHL. Supplementation with bicarbonate improved her growth. Urine anion gap was positive or near-zero in all patients with available data, which is consistent with reduced NH₄⁺ excretion as seen in dRTA [8].

Serum creatinine concentrations in all patients were within normal range throughout the follow-up period. Growth retardation in infancy occurred in 9 of the 11 patients, with alkali therapy improving their growth to almost normal range. Of the two patients without growth retardation at onset, one (patient 7-2) was diagnosed with dRTA by screening tests before presenting with any symptoms because her older sister had been diagnosed with dRTA. The other patient with normal growth during infancy (patient 9-1) presented with severe weight loss, metabolic acidosis, abnormally high urinary pH and hypercalciuria at age 7 years.

Abdominal ultrasonography showed nephrocalcinosis in nine patients. Unilateral or bilateral SNHL, as determined by audiograms, were observed in four patients. Hypokalemia was observed in six of the nine patients with available data and hypercalciuria in seven of nine. The chart of an additional patient (patient 3-1) mentioned hypercalciuria, although precise data were not available.

Hyperammonemia was observed in four of the six patients with available data, improving in all four after correction of metabolic acidosis. Of the two patients without hyperammonemia, one (patient 4-1) had high-normal (60 μ g/dL) serum ammonia concentration, whereas the other (patient 2-1) had normal serum ammonia, a finding probably associated with the absence in this patient of profound metabolic acidosis at onset.

Patient 7-2, a younger sister of patient 7-1, was diagnosed with dRTA 10 days after birth by screening blood and urine tests. Since then, she has been treated with citrate and her growth is normal. At age 8 months, she presented with transient metabolic acidosis resulting from insufficient supplementation with citrate. A higher dosage of citrate improved her symptoms. Of note, she is free from nephrocalcinosis at age 2 years. In contrast, her older sister, patient 7-1, presented with prominent nephrocalcinosis at age 1 month.

Table 1. Clinical features of the patients

	Consanguinity	Age/sex	Age at onset	FTT	NC	SNHL	pH	HCO ₃ ⁻ (19–23) mmol/L	Potassium (3.5–6.0) mEq/L	Serum ammonia (12–66) µg/dL	Urine pH	Urine anion gap, mEq/L	Urine calcium excretion (<4 mg/kg/day, Ca/Cr <0.21)
Patients with mutations in the <i>ATP6V1B1</i> gene													
1-1	+	46 years/M	Infancy	+	+	+rt	7.230	11.8	3.4	NA	7.0	4	7.2 mg/kg/day
1-2	+	38 years/F	Infancy	+	+	–	7.215	12.4	1.8	NA	7.0	2	6.5 mg/kg/day
2-1	–	1 year/F	9 months	+	+	+bil	7.325	19.6	1.8	27	8.0	NA	Ca/Cr 0.42
Patients with mutations in the <i>ATP6V0A4</i> gene													
3-1	–	12 years/M	2 months	+	+	–	7.293	14.1	NA	NA	8.0	NA	(high) ^a
4-1	–	1 month/M	1 month	+	+	+rt	7.167	12.3	3.3	60	7.5	17	Ca/Cr 0.77
Patients with no mutations													
5-1	+	35 years/F	1 month	+	+	+bil	NA ^b	NA ^b	NA ^b	NA ^b	NA ^b	NA ^b	NA ^b
6-1	–	15 years/M	1 month	+	+	–	7.322	14.1	4.1	94	7.3	NA	Ca/Cr 0.19
7-1	–	6 years/F	1 month	+	+	–	7.220	11.2	4.1	97	7.0	NA	Ca/Cr 1.42

Continued

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Large deletions in *ATP6V0A4*

Table 1. Continued

	Consanguinity	Age/sex	Age at onset	FTT	NC	SNHL	pH	HCO ₃ ⁻ (19–23) mmol/L	Potassium (3.5–6.0) mEq/L	Serum ammonia (12–66) μg/dL	Urine pH	Urine anion gap, mEq/L	Urine calcium excretion (<4 mg/kg/day, Ca/Cr <0.21)
7-2	–	3 years/F	10 days	– ^c	–	–	7.354	14.1	3.8	144	8.0	28	Ca/Cr 0.27
8-1	–	3 years/F	1 year 0 month	+	+	–	6.999	9.2	2.2	NA	7.5	–2	Ca/Cr 0.06
9-1	–	7 years/F	7 years	– ^d	–	–	7.120	9.0	2.2	78	7.5	15	Ca/Cr 0.59

Normal values for infants are shown in parentheses.
 FTT, failure to thrive; NC, nephrocalcinosis; SNHL, sensorineural hearing loss; rt, right; NA, not available; bil, bilateral; Ca/Cr, urine calcium to creatinine ratio (mg/mgCr).
^aAlthough specific data were not available, hypercalciuria was noted in the chart.
^bDetailed clinical data at initial presentation were not available in patient 5-1, but she presented with full-blown symptoms of dRTA, including nephrocalcinosis and SNHL.
^cPatient 7-2 was diagnosed by screening tests when she had no symptoms.
^dAlthough no growth retardation was noted in patient 9-1 in infancy, she presented with weight loss at the age of 7.

Genetic analysis

Three novel mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene were identified in two of the nine kindreds (Figure 1). Patients 1-1 and 1-2 (family 1) presented with novel homozygous single nucleotide deletions (c.33delG) in exon 1, causing a frameshift that resulted in the premature termination of the protein at codon 19 (L19X) (Figure 1A). In addition, patient 2-1 presented with novel compound heterozygous mutations, consisting of an in-frame insertion (c.978_979insGCC or p.A326insA) and a nonsense mutation (c.1251C>G or p.Y417X). Genotyping of family members of patient 2-1 revealed that this patient had inherited the p.Y417X mutated allele from her mother (Figure 1B).

We observed novel aberrations of the *ATP6V0A4* gene in two of the nine kindreds. In patient 3-1, the genomic PCR product of exon 15 was not amplified (Figure 2A), suggesting homozygous deletions that included exon 15. To confirm this finding, we performed long genomic PCR using primers for exons 14 (forward) and 16 (reverse), which amplified a 7.9-kb product derived from wild-type *ATP6V0A4* allele in the healthy control (Figure 2B). In patient 3-1, however, these primers amplified two PCR products, of 4.2 and 1.0 kb, suggesting that deletions involving exon 15 were responsible for the aberrant *ATP6V0A4* transcripts. Subsequent sequencing disclosed the presence of 3.7- and 6.9-kb deletions within introns 14 and 15, respectively, in each allele. These deletions

caused a frameshift that resulted in premature termination of the protein at codon 536 (L536X) in exon 16 (Figure 2C).

We also observed a novel heterozygous large deletion of the *ATP6V0A4* gene in patient 4-1. This was accompanied by a novel heterozygous single nucleotide insertion (c.1185insC) causing a frameshift that resulted in premature termination of the protein at codon 429 (p.E429X) in exon 13, as shown by direct DNA sequencing (Figure 3A). The quantities of the PCR products up to exon 8 seemed to be reduced (data not shown), suggesting the presence of an interstitial heterozygous deletion of an *ATP6V0A4* allele in patient 4-1. To determine the *ATP6V0A4* gene copy numbers in this patient, we performed quantitative genomic PCR of exons 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 18 using the same amounts of genomic DNA (1 µg/tube) from the patient and a healthy control. We found that the signal intensities of exons 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were significantly reduced compared with those of exons 9, 10 and 18 ($P < 0.05$), indicating that the N-terminal region up to exon 8 was deleted in one of the *ATP6V0A4* alleles of patient 4-1 (Figure 3B).

Given that large deletions including one or more entire exons were frequently identified, multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification analyses for both the *ATP6V0A4* and *ATP6V1B1* genes were performed in the five patients without any alterations of these two genes. No abnormalities in relative copy numbers were detected in these patients, suggesting that

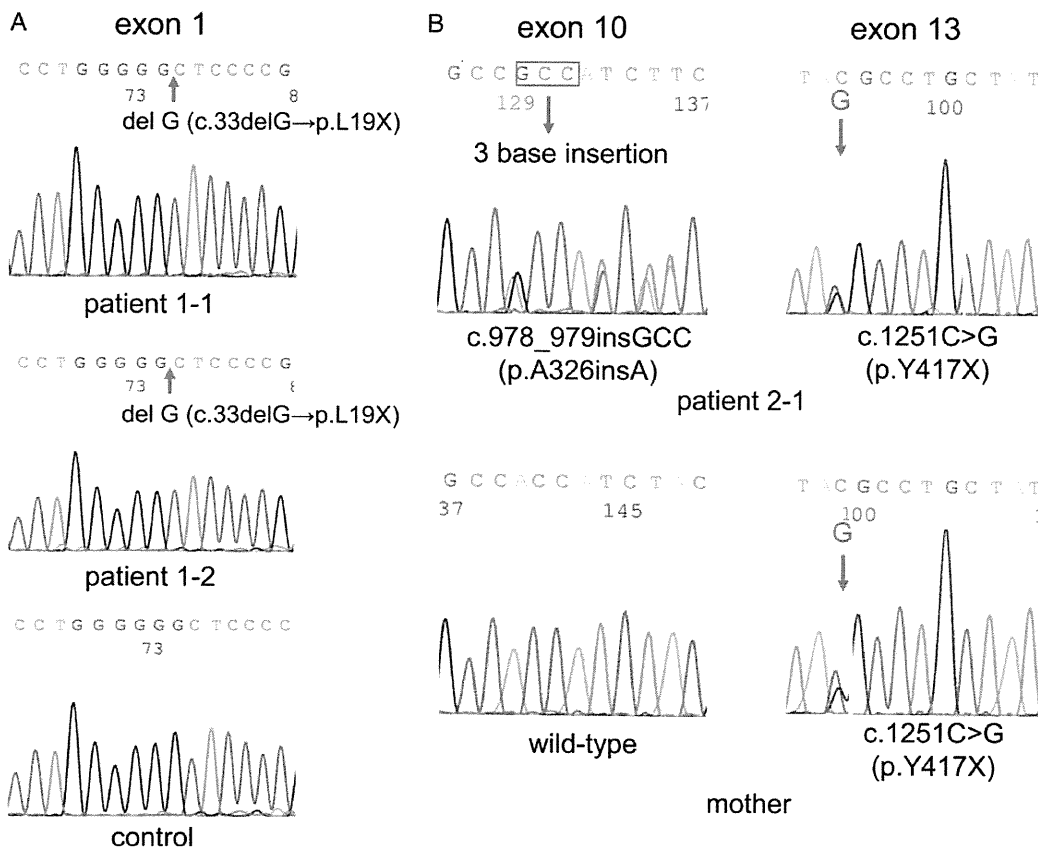


FIGURE 1: Novel mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene. (A) Genomic sequences of novel homozygous mutations in patients 1-1 and 1-2 (upper panels), as well as normal DNA from a healthy control (lower panel). (B) Novel compound heterozygous mutations in patient 2-1 (upper panels). Mother also carries a heterozygous mutation p.Y417X (lower panels). Mutated nucleotides are indicated by arrows.

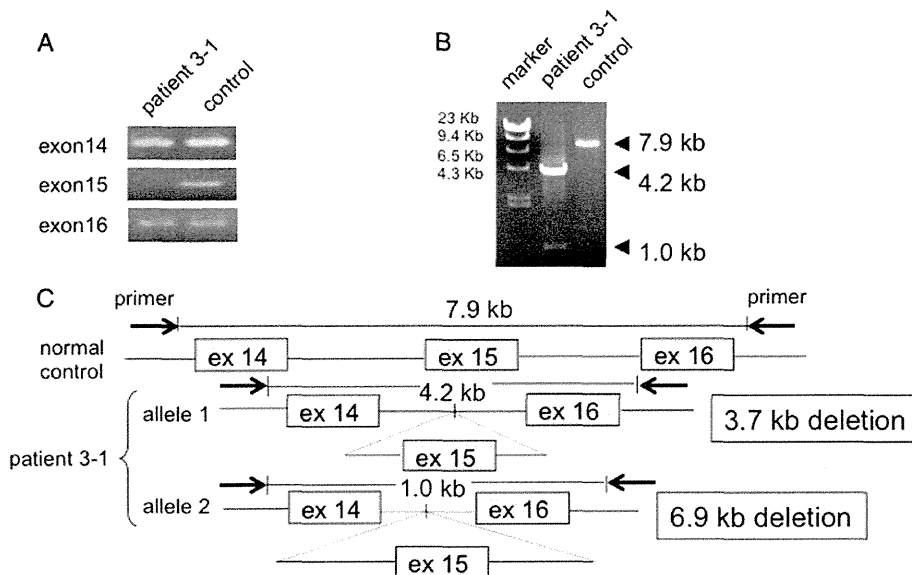


FIGURE 2: Novel large interstitial deletions in the *ATP6V0A4* gene in patient 3-1. (A) Genomic PCR product of exon 15 was absent, whereas DNA fragments of exons 14 and 16 were amplified in patient 3-1. (B) Long genomic PCR using primers for exon 14 (forward) and exon 16 (reverse) in patient 3-1. Two aberrant sizes of the PCR products, 4.2 and 1.0 kb, were observed in patient 3-1, while a 7.9-kb product was detected in the healthy control. (C) Schematic presentation of large deletions in the *ATP6V0A4* gene in patient 3-1. Deletions of 3.7- and 6.9-kb nucleotides including whole exon 15 were confirmed by subsequent sequencing analysis.

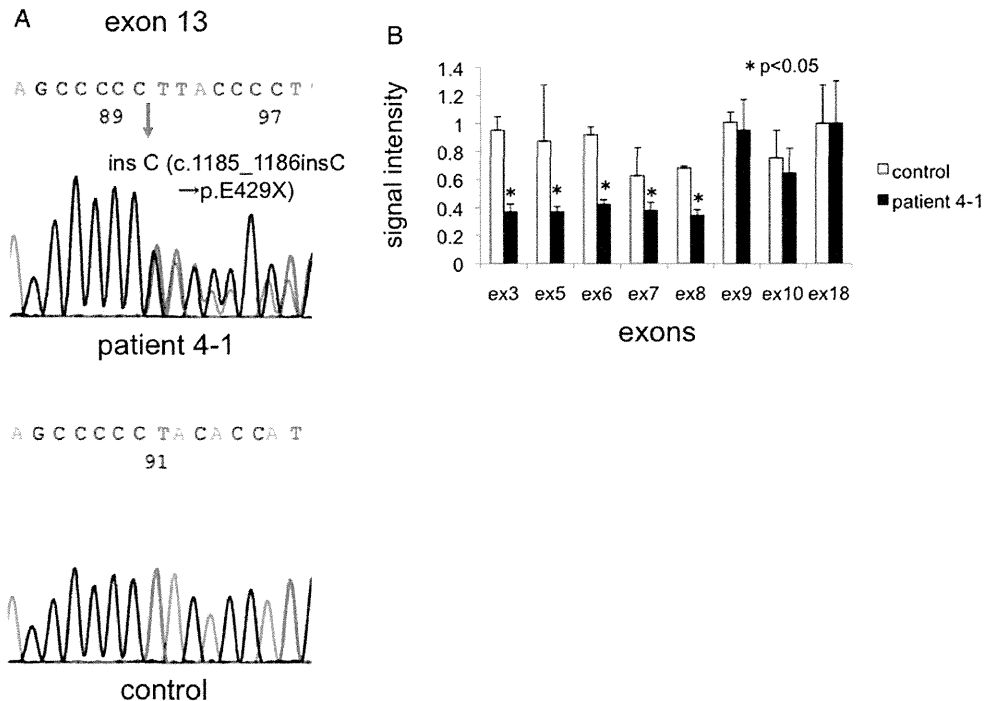


FIGURE 3: Novel compound heterozygous mutations comprising an insertion and a large deletion in the *ATP6V0A4* gene in patient 4-1. (A) Genomic sequences of a novel heterozygous mutation in patient 4-1 (upper panel) as well as normal DNA from a healthy control (lower panel) are shown. (B) Quantitative genomic PCR of the *ATP6V0A4* gene in patient 4-1. The signal intensity of exons 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 was significantly reduced as compared with exons 9, 10 and 18 in patient 4-1, while the signal intensity was not significantly reduced in any exons in healthy control. The signal intensity of each exon was adjusted so that the intensity score was 1 in exon 18. * $P < 0.05$. P-value was assessed by Student's *t*-test. ex: exon.

they carry no homozygous or heterozygous large deletions of these two genes (data not shown).

Clinical features of the patients with mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes

All the patients with mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* or *ATP6V0A4* gene presented with growth retardation in infancy and nephrocalcinosis accompanied by hypercalciuria. Three patients from three unrelated families presented with early-onset SNHL. Of these, two had mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene (patients 1-1 and 2-1), and the third had a truncating mutation in one allele of the *ATP6V0A4* gene and a large deletion that included several exons in the other allele (patient 4-1). Patients 1-1 and 1-2 are siblings and possess the same mutation in the *ATP6V1B1* gene. However, only the brother (patient 1-1) presented with early-onset unilateral SNHL, which was confirmed by audiogram at age 9 years, while his 38-year-old sister (patient 1-2) has had no audiographic evidence of SNHL to date.

DISCUSSION

We have identified three *ATP6V1B1* mutations (one deletion, one insertion and one nonsense mutation) and four *ATP6V0A4* mutations (one insertion and three large deletions involving one or more exons) in patients with primary dRTA. These findings expand the spectrum of mutations in the *ATP6V0A4* and *ATP6V1B1* genes associated with primary dRTA, and provide insight into possible structure–function relationships.

To date, about 30 mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* gene and about 40 in the *ATP6V0A4* gene have been identified, including missense, nonsense, frameshift and splicing site mutations [1, 3, 6, 7, 9–12]. Prior to this study, however, large interstitial deletions involving one or more exons in either gene had not been reported. Thus, to our knowledge, this is the first report of patients with large deletions in one or both alleles of the *ATP6V0A4* gene. Homozygous large interstitial deletions can be revealed by the absence of PCR products of particular exons. Although heterozygous large deletions are much harder to detect, quantitative real-time genomic PCR can be useful when PCR products of particular exons show relatively weak bands.

One of the compound heterozygous mutations in patient 2-1 was an in-frame insertion mutation (c.978_979insGCC/p.A326insA), the functional consequence of which should be addressed. A326 and T327 are highly conserved among species. Three-dimensional structural analysis shows that these amino acids are located near the hydrophobic residues at the interface between subunits A and B, which is critical for the catalytic activity [13].

In five of the nine kindreds, we observed no mutations in the *ATP6V1B1* and *ATP6V0A4* genes. In contrast, 80% of patients with dRTA were found to have a mutation in either gene [5, 14]. The low mutation frequency of these genes in our patients may be due to our small sample size and/or to differences in ethnicity, suggesting that dRTA is genetically heterogeneous.

The clinical diagnosis seemed accurate in all of our patients, as all had metabolic acidosis with a normal anion gap and abnormally high urinary pH, accompanied by either nephrocalcinosis or hypercalciuria. Although hypokalemia was not noted at onset in three patients, it developed later in their clinical courses. H⁺-ATPase is composed of at least 13 different subunits, including the B1 and a4 subunits. The expression of the isoforms C2, G3 and d2, which are encoded by the *ATP6VIC2*, *ATP6VIG3* and *ATP6VOD2* genes, respectively, is restricted to the kidneys and a few other tissues [2,15]. Although these genes were assessed as candidate causative genes in patients with recessive dRTA, no mutations were identified [15].

Our findings have important clinical implications. Administration of citrate salts is recommended for the prevention of nephrocalcinosis in dRTA, because they correct hypercalciuria and hypocitraturia [16]. Patient 7-2 was diagnosed with dRTA at age 10 days by screening blood samples, because her older sister, patient 7-1, had previously been diagnosed with dRTA. Alkali therapy was instituted immediately after diagnosis in patient 7-2, and this patient has shown no evidence of nephrocalcinosis at age 2 years. In contrast, her older sister, patient 7-1, presented with marked nephrocalcinosis at age 1 month. This difference in clinical manifestation between these two sisters, who are theorized to carry the same genetic abnormalities, suggests that nephrocalcinosis may be prevented by alkali therapy. As for early-onset SNHL, it was present in four patients, two with mutations in *ATP6V1B1*, one with a mutation in *ATP6V0A4*, and one without any mutations in either gene. This finding and the fact that only the brother (patient 1-1) in kindred one presented with unilateral SNHL confirm that intrafamilial variations in clinical manifestations can occur and that some individuals with mutations in the *ATP6V0A4* gene also have early-onset SNHL [6, 7]. The mechanism of intrafamilial variations in hearing disabilities remains unclear. Although the younger sister (patient 1-2) was diagnosed with dRTA earlier than her older brother (patient 1-1), earlier initiation of alkali therapy is reported to have no effect on hearing loss [17]. In regard to laterality in SNHL (patient 1-1), asymmetrical progression of hearing disabilities has been previously described, the mechanism of which is also unknown [18]. We found that four of six patients with available data presented with hyperammonemia. To our knowledge, a high frequency of hyperammonemia in patients with dRTA has not been previously described, although a few patients were found to have hyperammonemia secondary to dRTA [19–21]. Hyperammonemia may result from an imbalance between increased synthesis and reduced excretion of ammonia. Chronic metabolic acidosis and hypokalemia can increase renal ammoniogenesis. However, in our cases, hypokalemia was noted in only one of four patients presenting with hyperammonemia. The precise mechanism by which hyperammonemia develops in dRTA remains to be determined.

In conclusion, we have described patients with dRTA and large interstitial deletions involving one or more exons in the *ATP6V0A4* gene. Long genomic PCR as well as quantitative genomic PCR analyses can be useful in detecting large homozygous or heterozygous deletions. Clinically, nephrocalcinosis may be prevented by early and adequate alkali therapy.

Hyperammonemia is a frequent finding at onset in dRTA, suggesting that the latter condition be included as a miscellaneous cause of hyperammonemia.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available online at <http://ndt.oxfordjournals.org>.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None declared.

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Milder clinical aspects of X-linked Alport syndrome in men positive for the collagen IV $\alpha 5$ chain

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X-linked Alport syndrome is caused by mutations in the *COL4A5* gene encoding the type IV collagen $\alpha 5$ chain ($\alpha 5$ (IV)). Complete absence of $\alpha 5$ (IV) in the renal basal membrane is considered a pathological characteristic in male patients; however, positive $\alpha 5$ (IV) staining has been found in over 20% of patients. We retrospectively studied 52 genetically diagnosed male X-linked Alport syndrome patients to evaluate differences in clinical characteristics and renal outcomes between 15 $\alpha 5$ (IV)-positive and 37 $\alpha 5$ (IV)-negative patients. Thirteen patients in the $\alpha 5$ (IV)-positive group had non-truncating mutations consisting of nine missense mutations, three in-frame deletions, and one splice-site mutation resulting in small in-frame deletions of transcripts. The remaining two showed somatic mutations with mosaicism. Missense mutations in the $\alpha 5$ (IV)-positive group were more likely to be located before exon 25 compared with missense mutations in the $\alpha 5$ (IV)-negative group. Furthermore, urinary protein levels were significantly lower and the age at onset of end-stage renal disease was significantly higher in the positive group than in the negative group. These results help to clarify the milder clinical manifestations and molecular characteristics of male X-linked Alport syndrome patients expressing the $\alpha 5$ (IV) chain.

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KEYWORDS: Alport syndrome; *COL4A5*; genetic renal disease; somatic mosaic mutation

Alport syndrome (AS) is a hereditary disorder of type IV collagen, characterized by chronic kidney disease progressing to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), sensorineural hearing loss, and ocular abnormalities.¹ Approximately 85% of AS patients show X-linked inheritance (XLAS), and mutations in the *COL4A5* gene, which encodes the type IV collagen $\alpha 5$ ($\alpha 5$ (IV)) chain, can be detected.¹ Disease-causing mutations in *COL4A5* result in abnormal $\alpha 5$ (IV) expression and typically in complete absence of $\alpha 5$ (IV) in the glomerular basement membrane (GBM) and Bowman's capsule (BC). However, a previous review suggested that 20% of male XLAS sufferers showed complete or partial staining for this collagen chain,² although the genetic and clinical backgrounds of male XLAS patients presenting with such atypical immunohistological findings have not yet been elucidated. The aim of this study was to clarify the genetic and clinical backgrounds of XLAS patients with positive expression of $\alpha 5$ (IV), and to determine if expression of this chain correlated with renal phenotype in men with XLAS.

RESULTS

Patient clinical features and pathological findings

A total of 139 patients were referred to our hospital for mutational analysis between January 2006 and January 2011. Among these, 63 female patients were excluded from this study. Of the remaining 76 male patients, 62 were genetically defined as male XLAS sufferers. $\alpha 5$ (IV) Staining was not carried out in 10 patients, and 52 men with $\alpha 5$ (IV) expression data were therefore included in this study (Figure 1). Thirty-seven (71%) patients showed no $\alpha 5$ (IV) staining in kidney tissue (negative group), whereas the remaining 15 (29%) showed positive staining for $\alpha 5$ (IV) (positive group). Thirteen patients in the positive group showed normal $\alpha 5$ (IV) distribution, although some showed reduced expression levels, and two showed a mosaic expression pattern (Supplementary Table 2 online). The characteristics of the two groups are summarized in Table 1. Although the ages at kidney biopsy and mutational analysis were similar in both groups, the time between age at biopsy and age at mutational analysis was significantly shorter in the positive group. This

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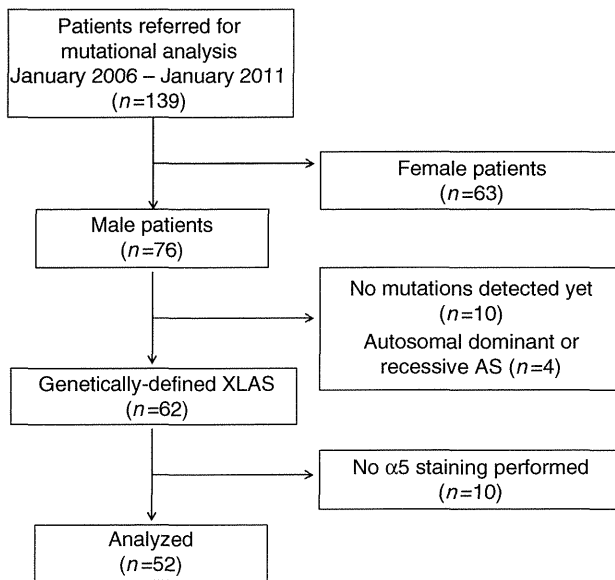


Figure 1 | Flow diagram showing patient recruitment and analysis. Fifty-two proven XLAS males were finally enrolled in this study. AS, Alport syndrome; XLAS, AS patients showing X-linked inheritance.

Table 1 | Clinical and laboratory data and treatments in $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -negative and $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -positive patients

	$\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -Negative group (n = 37)	$\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -Positive group (n = 15)	P-value
Age at analysis (years)	14.0 ± 9.2	12.8 ± 7.0	0.88
Age at kidney biopsy (years)	8.0 ± 6.2	10.5 ± 6.6	0.13
Time between kidney biopsy and mutational analysis (years)	5.8 ± 7.5	2.3 ± 3.0	0.041
Age at the detection of urinary protein (years)	4.0 ± 3.2	6.3 ± 4.8	0.036
Urinary protein/creatinine ratio (g/g Cr) ^a	1.7 ± 2.4	0.78 ± 1.0	0.027
Estimated GFR (ml/min per 1.73m ²)	111.2 ± 31.6	122.9 ± 20.6	0.43
Number of patients developing ESRD	5	1	0.66
Hearing loss (%) ^b	54.3	0	0.0002
Ocular abnormality (%) ^c	15.6	6.7	0.65
No medication	3	4	
ACEI/ARB only	29	11	
CyA only	0	0	
ACEI/ARB + CyA	5	0	

Abbreviations: ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; CyA, cyclosporine A; ESRD, end-stage renal disease; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$, type IV collagen $\alpha 5$.

^aValues for patients with ESRD were excluded from this analysis.

^bHearing test was not conducted in one patient in the positive group.

^cOphthalmologic exams were not conducted in five patients in the positive group.

could be because atypical cases require genetic diagnosis, and doctors may tend to request mutational analysis sooner in these patients than in typical cases. The shorter duration of follow-up in positive patients could help to explain the smaller number of patients developing ESRD.

Table 2 | Mutation types in $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -negative and $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -positive patients

Genotype	$\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -Negative group (n = 37)	$\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ -Positive group (n = 15)	Total
Missense	11	9	20
Nonsense	5	0	5
Insertion	7 (0)	0 (0)	7
Deletion	6 (0)	3 (3)	9
Splice site	8 (3)	1 (1)	9
Somatic mosaicism	0	2 ^a	2
Total	37	15	52
Truncating mutation	23	0	
	62%	0%	

Abbreviation: $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$, type IV collagen $\alpha 5$.

Number of patients with in-frame mutation are shown in parenthesis.

^aBoth patients showed $\alpha 5(\text{IV})$ expression with mosaic pattern.

Five (13.5%) patients developed ESRD in the negative group, compared with one (6.7%) in the positive group. Three patients in the negative group and four in the positive group received no medications. Twenty-nine in the negative group and 11 in the positive group received angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and/or angiotensin receptor blockers, whereas five in the negative group received angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor/angiotensin receptor blocker and cyclosporin treatment. There were no significant differences in medications between the two groups ($P = 0.091$).

Genotypes

All mutations detected in the positive and negative groups are shown in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2 online, respectively. Regarding *COL4A5* genotype, 23 (62%) of the 37 patients in the negative group had truncating mutations, including nonsense ($n = 5$), insertion ($n = 7$), deletion ($n = 6$), and splice-site mutations ($n = 5$). All these insertion, deletion, and splice-site mutations led to out-of-frame mutations. In contrast, no patients in the positive group had truncating mutations. Mutations in the positive group included missense ($n = 9$), large in-frame deletion ($n = 1$, exons 2–8, 384-bp deletion), small in-frame deletions ($n = 2$, 9-bp and 36-bp deletions), splice-site mutation ($n = 1$, leading to exon 9, 81-bp skipping), and somatic mosaic mutations ($n = 2$; Table 2). Twenty (38%) patients in this study had missense mutations in *COL4A5*; 11 in the negative and 9 in the positive groups. All the missense mutations in this study resulted in glycine substitutions. The positions of the missense mutations are shown in Figure 2. Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis of patients with missense mutations showed a cutoff value at exon 25 in both groups (sensitivity 0.778, specificity 0.8, Figure 2). Seven patients in the positive group and two in the negative group had missense mutations in the exons between 1 and 25, whereas two and nine patients, respectively, had mutations between exons 26 and 51 ($P = 0.02$). Missense mutations in the