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European Journal of Medical Genetics
Volume 56, Issue 3, March 2013, Pages 163-170

Chromosomal imbalance report

A novel microdeletion syndrome at 9q21.13 characterised by mental retardation, speech delay, epilepsy and characteristic facial features

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Abstract

The increased use of array-CGH and SNP-arrays for genetic diagnosis has led to the identification of new microdeletion/microduplication syndromes and enabled genotype-phenotype correlations to be made. In this study, nine patients with 9q21 deletions were investigated and compared with four previously Decipher reported patients.

Genotype-phenotype comparisons of 13 patients revealed several common major characteristics including significant developmental delay, epilepsy, neuro-behavioural...
characteristics including significant developmental delay, epilepsy, neuro-behavioural disorders and recognizable facial features including hypertelorism, feature-less philtrum, and a thin upper lip. The molecular investigation identified deletions with different breakpoints and of variable lengths, but the 750Â kb smallest overlapping deleted region includes four genes. Among these genes, \textit{RORB} is a strong candidate for a neurological phenotype.

To our knowledge, this is the first published report of 9q21 microdeletions and our observations strongly suggest that these deletions are responsible for a new genetic syndrome characterised by mental retardation with speech delay, epilepsy, autistic behaviour and moderate facial dysmophy.

**Highlights**

- First published report of a novel microdeletion syndrome at 9q21.
- Syndrome characterized by developmental delay, epilepsy and mild facial dysmophy.
- The 750Â kb smallest overlapping region includes 4 genes: \textit{RORB}, \textit{TRPM6}, \textit{NMRK1}, \textit{OSTF1}.
- \textit{RORB} is a strong candidate for neurological phenotype, notably mental retardation.

**Keywords**

9q21.13; Interstitial deletion; Mental retardation; Epilepsy; \textit{RORB}; Array-CGH
A novel microdeletion syndrome at 9q21.13 characterised by mental retardation, speech delay, epilepsy and characteristic facial features, the price strategy does not depend on the speed of rotation of the inner ring suspension that does not seem strange if we remember that we have not excluded from consideration of the initiated element of the political process.

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