

POSTER PRESENTATION

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ACVR1 mutation and Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva in Chinese children

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From 18th Pediatric Rheumatology European Society (PReS) Congress Bruges, Belgium. 14-18 September 2011

Introduction

Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP) is a rare autosomal dominant connective tissue disorder characterized by congenital great toes malformation and progressive heterotopic osteogenesis leading to progressive debilitating ankylosis of the body. A recurrent missense mutation in the activin receptor 1A/activin-like kinase 2 (ACVR1/ALK2), a bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) receptor, was identified in almost all FOP patients¹. Here we report two unrelated Chinese FOP adolescents harbouring this mutation. Both were referred to the rheumatological service with joint stiffness and abnormal calcification on imaging.

Case 1

CSNM developed progressive jaw ankylosis since twelve years of age. She started to have recurrent soft tissue swellings involving neck, shoulders and back at sixteen. At that time she was suffering from pulmonary tubercu-

losis. The swellings subsided spontaneously, leaving bony hard masses.

Case 2

WCY was born with multiple congenital abnormalities including hypospadias, atrial septal defect (ASD) and multiple exostoses. Starting from twelve year of age, he developed ankylosis of the left temporomandibular joint. The first FOP flare started with a painful swelling over his back and neck. This was followed by stiffening of the muscles.



Fig 1 CT images of case 1- extraosseous ossification



Fig 2 great toe abnormality of case 2

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Both patients had a heterozygous c.617G >A mutation detected in the exon 7 of the ACVR1 gene, resulting in an Arg206His substitution.

Conclusion

Confirmation of the diagnosis of FOP is relatively more straightforward now with the availability of molecular genetic testing. A high index of suspicion is the key to diagnose these patients early with unexplained recurrent ossified swellings and congenital feet abnormalities. Unnecessary and often harmful biopsy procedures could be avoided during the diagnostic workup of these patients.

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Published: 14 September 2011

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doi:10.1186/1546-0096-9-S1-P30

Cite this article as: Ho et al: ACVR1 mutation and Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva in Chinese children. *Pediatric Rheumatology* 2011 **9** (Suppl 1):P30.

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