

Congenital hyperinsulinism and Poland syndrome in association with 10p13–14 duplication

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Summary

Poland syndrome (PS) is a rare congenital condition, affecting 1 in 30 000 live births worldwide, characterised by a unilateral absence of the sternal head of the pectoralis major and ipsilateral symbrachydactyly occasionally associated with abnormalities of musculoskeletal structures. A baby girl, born at 40 weeks' gestation with birth weight of 3.33 kg (−0.55 SDS) had typical phenotypical features of PS. She had recurrent hypoglycaemic episodes early in life requiring high concentration of glucose and glucagon infusion. The diagnosis of congenital hyperinsulinism (CHI) was biochemically confirmed by inappropriately high plasma concentrations of insulin and C-peptide and low plasma free fatty acids and β-hydroxyl butyrate concentrations during hypoglycaemia. Sequencing of *ABCC8*, *KCNJ11* and *HNF4A* did not show any pathogenic mutation. Microarray analysis revealed a novel duplication in the short arm of chromosome 10 at 10p13–14 region. This is the first reported case of CHI in association with PS and 10p duplication. We hypothesise that the *HK1* located on the chromosome 10 encoding hexokinase-1 is possibly linked to the pathophysiology of CHI.

Learning points:

- Congenital hyperinsulinism (CHI) is known to be associated with various syndromes.
- This is the first reported association of CHI and Poland syndrome (PS) with duplication in 10p13–14.
- A potential underlying genetic link between 10p13–14 duplication, PS and CHI is a possibility.

Background

Congenital hyperinsulinism (CHI) is a rare disorder of dysregulated insulin secretion from pancreatic β-cells with a reported incidence of 1 in 50 000 live births. CHI is the commonest cause of recurrent and persistent hypoglycaemia during infancy. Mutations in 11 different genes (*ABCC8*, *KCNJ11*, *GLUD1*, *GCK*, *HADH1*, *UCP2*, *MCT1*, *HNF4A*, *HNF1A*, *HK1*, *PGM1*) have been implicated in monogenic forms of CHI (1). Hyperinsulinism can also be associated with many overgrowth syndromes and secondary to conditions like birth asphyxia, intra-uterine

growth retardation, Rh isoimmunisation and maternal diabetes mellitus (2).

Poland syndrome (PS) was originally described in 1841 by Sir Alfred Poland (1822–1872), an anatomist at Guy's Hospital in London on a 27-year-old patient who had complete unilateral absence of the sternal head of pectoralis major muscle and ipsilateral symbrachydactyly (3). PS is three times more common in boys than girls, and affects the right side of the body twice as often as the left. The spectrum of thoracic defects varies from subtle

hypoplasia to aplasia of the breasts and ribs, chest wall depression, subcutaneous fat, partial agenesis of the ribs (usually II–IV or II–V) (4).

We report a rare association of CHI in PS with a novel 10p13–14 duplication that has not been previously reported in the literature.

Case presentation

A baby girl first by birth order was born to non-consanguineous parents of mixed ethnic origin (British mother and south Asian father). The antenatal period was uneventful. She was delivered at 40 weeks' gestation by normal vaginal delivery with a birth weight of 3.33 kg (−0.55 SDS). Baby was noted to have left-sided chest wall hypoplasia along with Sprengel anomaly of left scapula with restriction of movements on the left arm (Fig. 1). She was noted to have recurrent and persistent hypoglycaemia in the immediate newborn period.

Investigations

The plasma insulin concentration was inappropriately elevated at 12.8 µIU/L and C-peptide of 220 ng/mL during hypoglycaemia (blood glucose 1.0 mmol/L). The plasma free fatty acids (447 µmol/L) and 3-hydroxybutyrate (29 µmol/L) were inappropriately suppressed confirming a diagnosis of CHI. Chest X-ray showed the absence of upper four thoracic ribs (Fig. 2). MRI of spine was suggestive of complex multiple fusion abnormalities of spine and spina bifida occulta in upper thoracic region with cervical meningocele.

Microarray analysis of the genomic DNA using Bluegenome ISCA 60K Oligo Cytochip revealed



Figure 1
Sprengel's anomaly.

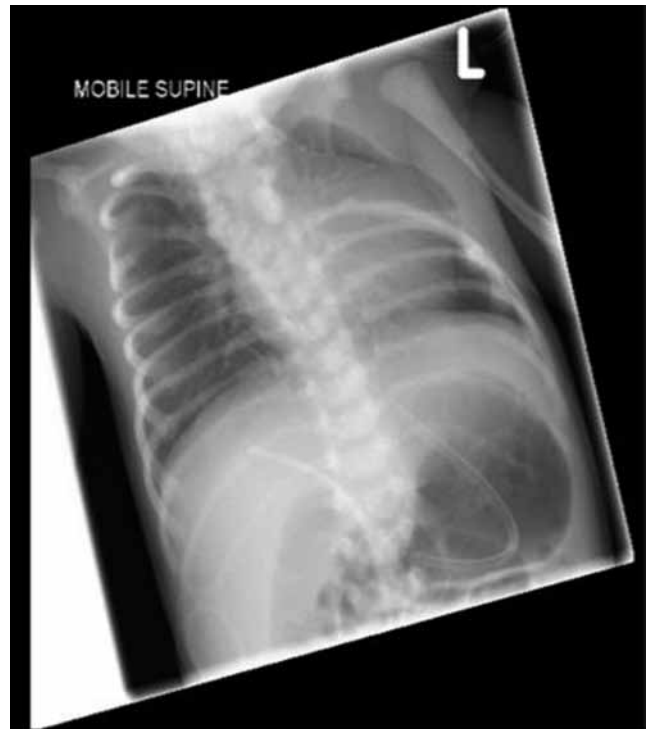


Figure 2
Chest X-ray showing the absence of upper left ribs.

1.29–1.41 Mb duplication of chromosome 10 between 10p13 and 10p14. Genetic testing for CHI did not identify mutation in *ABCC8*, *KCNJ11* and *HNF4A*.

Treatment

Normoglycaemia was achieved with total glucose requirement of 18 mg/kg/min and glucagon infusion at a dose of 10 µg/kg/day. Diazoxide was commenced at a dose of 5 mg/kg/day along with chlorothiazide of 7 mg/kg/day. The intravenous fluids and glucagon were gradually weaned and stopped as the baby responded well to diazoxide therapy. The baby's glucose requirement gradually reduced and normoglycaemia was maintained on enteral feeds and medications (diazoxide and chlorothiazide). Diazoxide was tolerated without any side effect. Based on the phenotypic features, a diagnosis of PS was considered. The fundi examination was normal, making Moebius syndrome, a common association with PS unlikely. A small atrial and ventricular septal defect with normal ventricular function was noted on cardiac echocardiography. There were no phenotypic features suggestive of Poland syndrome in either of the parents, however there was a strong family history of similar structural abnormalities in the mother's siblings who were estranged.

Table 1 Syndromes associated with CHI.

Beckwith–Wiedemann
Kabuki
Simpson–Golabi syndrome
Trisomy 13
Mosaic Turner
Perlman syndrome
Soto
Usher
Timothy
Costello
Central hypoventilation syndrome

Outcome and follow-up

Currently, the patient is 18 months old with normal blood glucose concentrations and continues to require diazoxide to maintain normoglycaemia. She is in spinal braces and her left-sided chest movements are improving with physiotherapy. She is being closely monitored by the neurosurgical team.

Discussion

PS is a rare developmental anomaly characterised by the absence of pectoral major muscle with chest wall hypoplasia and brachysyndactyly (short and/or fused). The spectrum of clinical features of PS can be extremely variable and can involve adjacent muscles like latissimus dorsi, serratus anterior, hypoplastic/absent nipples, rhizomelic micromelia and scapular vertebral segmentation anomalies.

CHI has been described in association with various syndromes like Beckwith–Wiedemann syndrome, Usher syndrome, Sotos syndrome and Costello syndrome (Table 1). However the association of CHI with PS has not been previously reported in the literature.

The exact pathogenesis of PS is unknown but many theories have been postulated. The most common mechanism cited is ‘Vascular Theory’ which proposes that a critical vascular event, which occurs during 6th week of intra-uterine life, also known as subclavian artery supply disruption sequence (SASDS), causes hypoplasia of the subclavian artery leading to musculoskeletal malformations. Development of subclavian vessels is interrupted due to the medial and forward growth of the ribs (5). Most cases of Poland syndrome are sporadic, and the underlying genetic aetiology of PS is not known. PS has been reported in association with *de novo* deletion of 11q12.3 in monozygotic twins (6).

Our index case had duplication in the region between 10p13 and 10p14 spanning 1.29–1.41 Mb involving 16 genes. The duplicated region involves *UCMA* (upper zone of growth plate and cartilage matrix associated). *UCMA* (HGNC:25205) encodes a chondrocyte-specific, highly charged protein that is abundantly expressed in the upper immature zone of foetal and juvenile epiphyseal cartilage (7). *UCMA* has also been thought to play an important role in control of osteogenic differentiation of osteochondrogenic precursor cells in peripheral zones of foetal cartilage and at the cartilage–bone interface (8). We hypothesise a potential involvement of this gene contributing to PS phenotype in our patient. It is possible that *UCMA* influences the musculoskeletal development during the critical stage of foetal development and duplication in the region interrupts its function.

Our index case also has persistent CHI. The patient did not have any other risk factors for neonatal hyperinsulinism like prematurity, intra-uterine growth retardation or maternal diabetes mellitus. This increases the possibility of a genetic link between the detected duplication and CHI. Dallapiccola *et al.* determined hexokinase activity in the red blood cells of 5 patients with various partial duplications of 10p and also demonstrated an increase in HK1 activity in patients with 10p duplications (9, 10). Although Daniele *et al.* mapped HK1 to 10q, the possibility of 2 or more HK loci on chromosome 10 was acknowledged (11). The presence of 10p13–14 duplication in our patient suggests the possibility of HK1 loci in the duplicated region that contributes to the pathogenesis of CHI in our patient. *HK1* encodes hexokinase-1, which catalyses the first step in glucose metabolism using ATP for the phosphorylation of glucose to glucose-6-phosphate. *HK1* has been recently included as one of the causative genes of CHI (12, 13). HK1 has high affinity for glucose and is normally not expressed in beta-cells, as the expression would allow the insulin release at very low levels of glucose resulting in hypoglycaemia (14). HK1 mutations have been described to be diazoxide sensitive. Thus the CHI in our patient could be due to the increased hexokinase activity, potentially due to the duplication resulting in the increased activity of this enzyme.

Conclusion

PS is a rare multisystem disorder reported in the literature. This is the first reported case of PS in association with CHI and a novel 10p duplication. We hypothesise the possible

role of *UCMA* contributing to the phenotype of PS and a potential role of *HK1* in the pathogenesis of CHI. Further genetic studies are needed to establish the link between 10p13 and 10p14 duplication, PS and CHI.

Declaration of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest that could be perceived as prejudicing the impartiality of the research reported.

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Patient consent

A written informed consent has been obtained from the patient's parent for publication of the submitted article and the accompanying images.

Author contribution statement

D Giri and P Patil wrote the manuscript draft. R Hart helped with the genetic analysis. M Didi helped with the revision of the manuscript. S Senniappan is the lead clinician for the patient and supervised the manuscript writing and helped with further revision. All authors read and approved the final draft of the manuscript.

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