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Opitz “C” Trigonocephaly-Like Syndrome in a Patient With Terminal Deletion of 2p and Partial Duplication of 17q

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A boy with trigonocephaly, cleft palate, multiple minor anomalies, flexion deformities of elbows, cryptorchidism, and severe muscular hypotonia had an unbalanced karyotype with duplication of the distal 17q and deletion of the tip of 2p. This was derived from a reciprocal translocation in the father, 46,XY,t(2;17)(p25;q24). The propositus had some findings observed in patients with distal dup(17q), while trigonocephaly not found in these patients may be associated with the terminal deletion of 2p including the locus of SOX11 gene. It is proposed that the major clinical findings of this patient are consistent with the phenotype characteristic of the Opitz “C” trigonocephaly syndrome. © 2004 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

KEY WORDS: Opitz syndrome; subtelomeric deletion of 2p; partial duplication of 17q; SOX11 gene locus

INTRODUCTION

Opitz “C” trigonocephaly is a rare syndrome with considerable clinical variability [Lalatta et al., 1990; Glickstein et al., 1995]. Characteristic craniofacial anomalies including a narrow forehead with prominent metopic suture, hypo- or hypertelorism, and cleft palate are associated with multiple organ anomalies, severe muscle hypotonia, and flexion deformities of upper limbs [Opitz et al., 1969]. The underlying defect of this syndrome is not known. Trigonocephaly, the most significant finding in Opitz “C” phenotype, has been observed in various chromosome aberrations [Sargent et al., 1985; Azimi et al., 2003], and genetic heterogeneity has been suggested in Opitz “C” as well. It was postulated that the disorder may represent a defect in the mineralocorticoid receptor, in Opitz “C” as well. It was postulated that the major clinical findings of this patient are consistent with the phenotype characteristic of the Opitz “C” trigonocephaly syndrome.

CYTOGENETIC FINDINGS

Metaphase chromosome preparations were obtained from PHA-stimulated lymphocyte cultures from the patient and both parents according to standard procedures. Conventional GTG-banding was performed at a 400–600 band level according to standard protocols, suggesting an alteration (not clearly identifiable, most probably a tiny deletion) of the short arm of 17q; SOX11 gene locus.
one chromosome 2 in the patient. Cytogenetic analyses in the parents showed normal karyotype in the mother, while the alteration detected in the patient was also found in the father. Fluorescence in situ hybridization studies were performed in the father using chromosome 2 library probe (Vysis®) according to the manufacturer’s instructions and showed that the terminal region of 2p was translocated to the terminal region of 17q (identified by the use of DAPI reverse banding [Riegel et al., 2001]). FISH with telomeric probes for chromosome 2 and 17 (Vysis®) confirmed a reciprocal translocation (Fig. 2a,b). Studies with these probes in the patient showed a deletion of the short arm of chromosome 2 with partial trisomy of the long arm of chromosome 17. According to these findings we defined the following karyotype: 46,XY,der(2)t(2;17)(p25;q24)pat.

**DISCUSSION**

Partial trisomy 17q has been observed in patients with psychomotor retardation, minor anomalies, skin and hair anomalies, cryptorchidism, deafness, and heart malformations [Caine et al., 1989; Butt et al., 1993]. Interstitial deletion of the short arm of chromosome 2 has been reported in mental retardation syndromes associated with holoprosencephaly [Münke et al., 1988], and with eye anomalies and Hirschsprung disease [Webb et al., 1988]. However, according to our knowledge, deletion of the terminal region of the short arm of chromosome 2 has not been described yet. Trigonocephaly, joint anomalies, profound muscular hypotonia, and genital anomalies in this patient, not observed previously in dup(17q)
patients, may be due to the terminal short arm deletion on chromosome 2. It is interesting to note that human SOX11 gene encoding a transcription factor, thought to play important role in the developing nervous system, was mapped to chromosome region 2p25.3 [Azuma et al., 1999]. The lack of hypercholesterolemia supports the cytogenetic finding of the breakpoint at 2p24.

We propose that the characteristic phenotype in this unbalanced chromosomal syndrome is compatible with Opitz "C" trigonocephaly syndrome. Syndromic trigonocephaly is causally heterogeneous. Cases were observed in association with various chromosomal anomalies including aneuploidy of segments at 3p, 3q, 11q, and 13q chromosome regions [Azimi et al., 2003]. According to our knowledge, no patients with syndromic trigonocephaly including Opitz "C" syndrome have been reported with rearrangements involving 2p or 17q.

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REFERENCES


