

## Chromosome 11p15 Paternal Isodisomy in Focal Forms of Neonatal Hyperinsulinism

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**Context:** Focal forms of congenital hyperinsulinism are due to a constitutional heterozygous mutation of paternal origin in the *ABCC8* gene, more often than the *KCNJ11* gene, located in the 11p15.1 region. This mutation is associated with the loss of the maternally inherited 11p15.1 to 11p15.5 region in the lesion. We investigated the possible occurrence of a compensatory duplication of the paternal 11p15.1-11p15.5 region.

**Materials and Methods:** A combined immunohistochemistry and fluorescent *in situ* hybridization study on  $\beta$ -cell interphase nuclei with probes covering two genes located in this region (*ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes) was performed in four cases of focal forms of hyperinsulinism.

**Results:**  $\beta$ -Cells in the lesions of four cases of focal congenital hyperinsulinism were diploid for chromosomes 11 and 13. The 11p15.1 to 11p15.2 and 11p15.4 to 11p15.5 regions containing *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes, respectively, were present with two copies. Loss of the maternal allele was confirmed in these focal lesions with microsatellite markers flanking the *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes, whereas a heterozygous mutation in the *ABCC8* gene was inherited from the father.

**Conclusions:** There is a duplication of the paternal allele on chromosome 11 in the focal forms of hyperinsulinism lesion. The paternal isodisomy observed rendered the  $\beta$ -cells homozygous for *ABCC8* mutation and harbored a K-channel defect in the lesion similar to that observed in diffuse forms of congenital hyperinsulinism. (*J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 93: 4941–4947, 2008)

Congenital hyperinsulinism is a rare metabolic disease with an incidence estimated at 1:50,000 live births in the European population. It is characterized by inappropriate insulin secretion constituting one of the principal causes of hypoglycemia in young children, and causing severe brain damage. Insulin secretion in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells is controlled by an ATP-sensitive K<sup>+</sup> channel and through several enzyme pathways, which explains why congenital hyperinsulinism has numerous causes, ranging from enzymatic deficiency to potassium channel dysfunction. The  $\beta$ -cell ATP-sensitive K<sup>+</sup> channel is a hetero-octameric complex composed of two types of subunits: four inward-rectifying potassium channel pore-forming (Kir6.2) subunits; and four

high-affinity sulfonylurea receptor 1 (SUR1) subunits, belonging to the ABC transporter family. These K channels are mainly present in the granule membrane inside the cell, and are involved in granule docking and the insulin secretion mechanism. It is demonstrated that Kir6.2 and SUR1 subunits are present on the granule membrane for secretion and are recycled at the cell membrane level. The two subunits of the K<sup>+</sup><sub>ATP</sub> channel are encoded by the SUR gene (*SUR1* or *ABCC8*) and the inward-rectifying potassium channel gene (*Kir6.2* or *KCNJ11*), both located in the 11p15.1 region. *ABCC8* gene mutations are the cause of 50–60% of congenital hyperinsulinism cases, particularly in neonates. More than 100 distinct mutations, distributed throughout

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Abbreviations: AR, Allelic ratio; BAC, bacterial artificial chromosome; DiCHI, diffuse form of congenital hyperinsulinism; dUTP, deoxyuridine 5-triphosphate; FISH, fluorescent *in situ* hybridization; FITC, fluorescein isothiocyanate; FoCHI, focal form of congenital hyperinsulinism; SRS, Silver-Russell syndrome; SUR1, sulfonylurea receptor 1.

the *ABCC8* gene, have already been described. Mutations of the *Kir6.2* gene are less frequent and are responsible for 10–15% of congenital hyperinsulinism only. Most congenital hyperinsulinism forms linked to the potassium channel are resistant to diazoxide.

There are two main forms of congenital hyperinsulinism that are identical clinically but differ in histological and genetic terms: diffuse (DiCHI) and focal (FoCHI) (1). DiCHIs are characterized by  $\beta$ -cell hyperactivity throughout the pancreas. They are genetically heterogeneous but mainly due to recessive mutations in genes encoding potassium channel subunits (*ABCC8* or *KCNJ11* genes). By contrast, FoCHIs are characterized by the presence of numerous  $\beta$ -cells in a single area (focal hyperplasia) that can develop throughout the pancreas. Focal hyperplasia is composed of adjacent foci of centrolobular  $\beta$ -cell hyperplasia surrounded by a rim of exocrine acini. Two events, one inherited and the other acquired, explain the focal lesion. The first event is a constitutional heterozygous mutation of paternal origin in *ABCC8* more often than in *KCNJ11* (2), occurring in chromosome 11p15. The second event is somatic and involves the loss of the corresponding maternal segment in the 11p15 region, found in abnormal  $\beta$ -cells only, and extending from 11p15.1 to 11p15.5. This loss of heterozygosity is thought to reduce the  $\beta$ -cell to monosomy for the mutated *ABCC8* gene, altering the potassium channel function and resulting in increased insulin secretion (2). The lost 11p15 region contains several imprinted genes implicated in cell proliferation, such as *CDKN1C* in the 11p15.4 region, and *IGF-II* and *H19* (3) in the 11p15.5 region. *CDKN1C* (*p57KIP2*) encodes for the p57 protein, which is a member of the p21 cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor family that negatively regulates the cell cycle at the G1 checkpoint. This imprinted gene is normally expressed from the maternal allele. The p57 protein was absent in FoCHIs by immunohistochemistry (4). *H19* is also imprinted and only expressed from the maternal allele. It encodes a biologically active nontranslated mRNA that may act as a tumor suppressor gene and regulates *IGF-II*. By contrast, *IGF-II*, encoding for a growth factor, is paternally expressed. Thus, in FoCHI pathogenesis, it is considered that maternal allele loss results in a loss of *H19* and *CDKN1C* expression, which usually inhibits cell proliferation, whereas *IGF-II* promotes cell growth. This imbalance of several imprinted genes located in the 11p15 region could partly explain the  $\beta$ -cell hyperplasia in FoCHIs (5, 6).

However, in FoCHIs, it is unknown whether the loss of the maternally inherited 11p15 region is due to segmental deletion or whether there is a compensatory duplication of the paternal

11p15 region. Paternal isodisomy of the 11p15 region may modify the imprinted gene expression imbalance and cause the enhanced proliferative lesion, according to many other proliferative and/or tumoral diseases and syndromes resulting in uniparental isodisomy, such as Beckwith-Wiedemann or Silver-Russell syndrome (SRS).

In an attempt to answer the previous questions, chromosome 11 and 13 ploidy and 11p15.1 to 11p15.5 region status were investigated by fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) on  $\beta$ -cell interphase nuclei with probes covering *ABCC8* or *CDKN1C* loci. Findings were then correlated with PCR amplification of microsatellite markers located upstream, within, or downstream of *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* in the bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) probes, on DNA extracted from four FoCHI cases. These results were compared with those of two DiCHI cases used as controls.

## Materials and Methods

Four cases of human FoCHIs and two cases of human DiCHIs were derived from partial and subtotal pancreatectomies, respectively. The diagnostic criteria of hyperinsulinism in all cases were typical (7). One *ABCC8* mutation of paternal origin was identified for the four cases of FoCHIs. Only one of the DiCHI cases had a *ABCC8* mutation (Table 1).

Blood lymphocytes were collected from each child and from the parents of three cases of FoCHIs.

## FISH

The first step involved indirect immunohistochemistry. Imprints on glass slides were prepared from stored frozen specimens containing mainly  $\beta$ -cells, as a result of there being fewer other endocrine and exocrine cells. Among the pancreatic cells,  $\beta$ -cells were identified by indirect immunohistochemistry, with primary antibodies directed against insulin antigens, at 1:150 (Novocastra Laboratories Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, UK), followed by biotinylated secondary antibodies (Dako biotinylated link; DakoCytomation, Glostrup, Denmark). These secondary antibodies were revealed by a complex of avidin labeled with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC). On epifluorescence microscopy, the  $\beta$ -cells have a green cytoplasm around a preserved negative central nucleus.

Next, the imprint cytology slides were used for FISH. After the first step of indirect immunohistochemistry to enable  $\beta$ -cell identification, the focal forms and DiCHI slides were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 5 min and then washed in two PBS baths for 5 min each. Nuclear proteins were digested with proteinase K 8 ml at 10 mg/ml. The slides were then denatured in 72% formamid/2 saline sodium citrate (at 72 C for 30 sec), before being dehydrated in ethanol solutions with graded concentrations.

**TABLE 1.** Four focal and two diffuse forms of neonatal hyperinsulinism are studied

Case	CHI type	Gene	Location	Nucleotide change	Protein effect
1	FoCHI	<i>ABCC8</i>	Exon 33	c.4040_4045del	p.Ile1347_Gln1348del
2	FoCHI	<i>ABCC8</i>	Exon 8	c.1331A>G	p.Gln144Arg
3	FoCHI	<i>ABCC8</i>	Intron 32	c.3992-9G>A	p.?, aberrant splicing
4	FoCHI	<i>ABCC8</i>	Exon 4	c.536A>G	p.Tyr179Cys
5	DiCHI	<i>ABCC8</i>	Exons 12 and 20	[c.1792C>T]+[c.2425C>T]	[p.Arg598ter]+[p.Gln809X]
6	DiCHI	NA			

*ABCC8* mutation was proven for the four focal form cases and one of the diffuse form cases. All sequence information is based on GenBank reference sequence NM\_000352.2 incorporating the alternate exon 17 (GenBank L78208, L78224), which contains an additional amino acid. CHI, Congenital hyperinsulinism; NA, not available.

## FISH studies

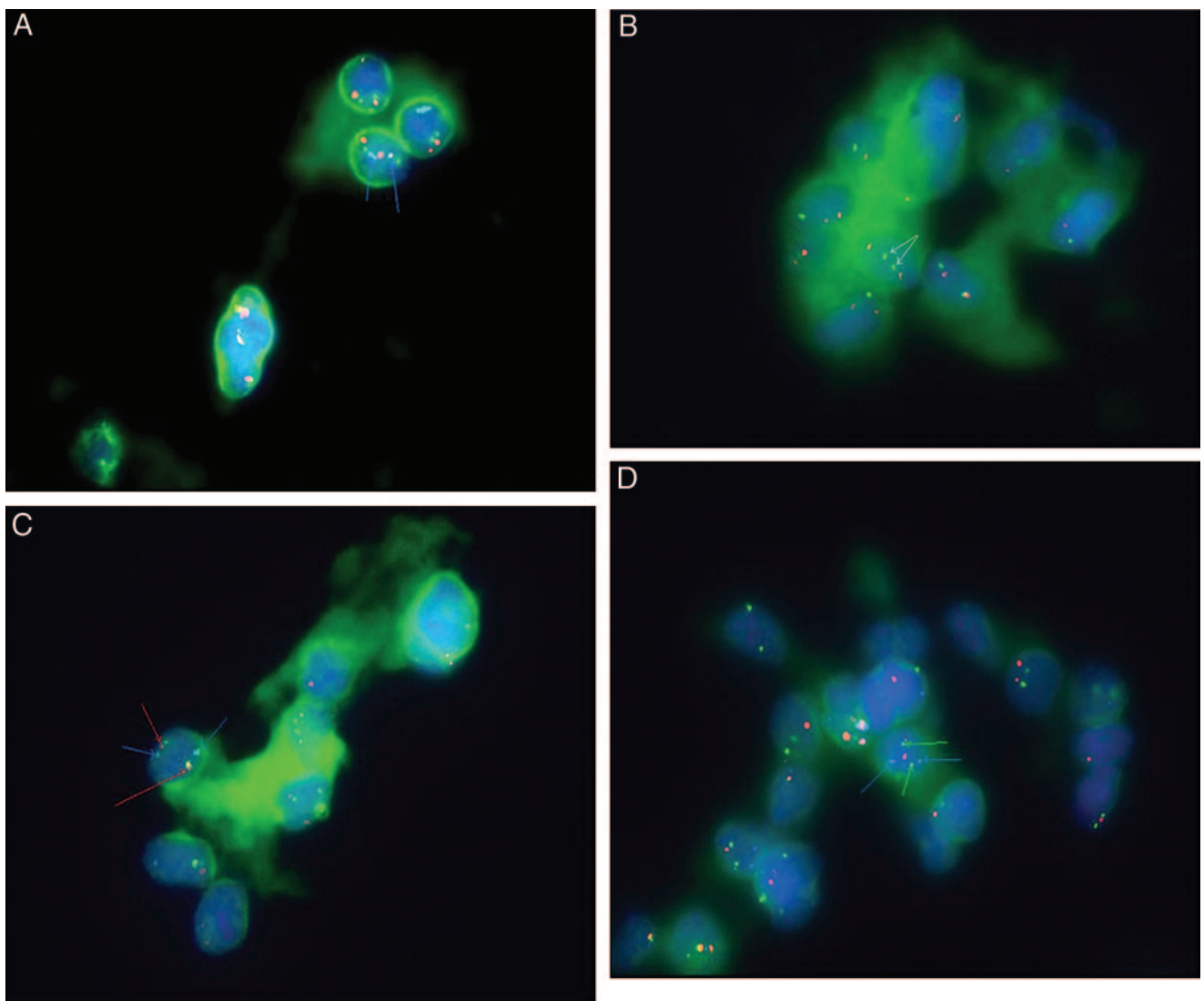
Dual-color FISH experiments were performed with probes prepared from BAC RP11-481E11 (spanning the *CDKN1C* locus) labeled with spectrum green-deoxyuridine 5-triphosphate (dUTP) and from BAC RP11-976K8 (spanning the *ABCC8* locus) labeled with spectrum orange-dUTP.

BAC RP11-410I24 (labeled with spectrum green-dUTP) located on 11qter and BAC RP11-569D9 (labeled with DEAC-dUTP) located on 13qter were concomitantly used to determine cell ploidy. BAC DNA was extracted with QIAfilter Plamid Maxi-Kit (QIAGEN, Inc., Valencia, CA) and labeled by nick translation (Vysis, Inc., Downers Grove, IL) following the manufacturer's instructions. Hybridization was performed using a Slide Booster (Advalytix; Olympus America Inc., Concord, MA) for 24 h at 37°C. After washing, the slides were counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole, and the images were captured with a Sensys camera (Photometrics, Ltd., Tucson, AZ) and processed with QFISH software (Leica Microsystems GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany).

## Loss of allele: PCR with microsatellite markers flanking *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C*

The microsatellite markers were D11S 921 (11p15.1) upstream and D11S 902 (11p15.2) within intron 3 of the *ABCC8* gene, and D11S 4146 (11p15.4) upstream and D11S 4088 (11p15.5) downstream of the *CDKN1C* gene. PCR assay, based on the fluorescent method, was performed on DNA extracted from circulating lymphocytes of children and parents when available, and on DNA extracted from frozen samples of the FoCHIs lesion containing mainly  $\beta$ -cells. Allele separation was achieved on an electropherogram and defined by the migration site expressed by a number. The two allele peaks obtained from tissue sections were compared using the allelic ratio (AR). The AR is calculated by  $AR = (\text{peak height 1})/(\text{peak height 2})$ , as described in the article by Murakami *et al.* (8).

In our study, peak height 1 was the height of the peak of the maternally inherited allele in the lesion, and peak height 2 was the height of the peak of the maternally inherited allele in the child's constitutional lymphocytes.



**FIG. 1.** FoCHI nuclei stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole:  $\beta$ -cell cytoplasm stained with FITC (green). A, FoCHI cell imprints. The combined identification of  $\beta$ -cells by insulin cytoplasmic immunofluorescence (green), and nuclear 11q probes by FISH, shows two green signals (green arrows) reflecting the presence of two chromosome 11s in each  $\beta$ -cell nucleus (diploidy) ( $\times 100$ ). B, FoCHI. 13q probes detected by FISH; the two blue signals (blue arrows) also show the presence of two chromosome 13s per  $\beta$ -cell nucleus (insulin: green cytoplasm) confirming their diploidy ( $\times 100$ ). C, FoCHI. FISH of  $\beta$ -cells (insulin: green cytoplasm). The diploid cells for 13q probes (blue arrows) also have two copies of the *ABCC8* gene (BAC RP 11 976K8) (red arrows) eliminating a chromosome 11 microdeletion ( $\times 100$ ). D, FoCHI. FISH of  $\beta$ -cells (insulin: green cytoplasm). The cells are diploid as shown by the two blue dots (blue arrows) for chromosome 13q probes and also two copies of the *CDKN1C* gene (BAC RP 11 481 E11) (green arrows) eliminating a chromosome 11 microdeletion ( $\times 100$ ).

A ratio of less than 0.30 was considered as significant of a loss of heterozygosity, given that there is always non-β-cell contamination of unknown quantity.

**Results**

**β-Cell indirect immunohistochemistry**

Indirect staining with the avidin-FITC complex was used to identify β-cells among the cells obtained by imprint cytology. In the four FoCHI cases, the majority of β-cells were organized into aggregates. They adhered to each other, and their cytoplasm limits were sometimes ill defined. There were also a few enlarged nuclei. There were 50 nuclei counted on each slide.

**β-Cell ploidy**

β-Cell ploidy was determined by FISH according to the number of copies of the telomeric 11q probe (green fluorescence) (Fig. 1A) and 13q probe (blue fluorescence) (Fig. 1B) observed

in each nucleus. For FoCHIs and DiCHIs, two green signals and two blue signals were observed per nucleus in 50 nuclei of each focal and diffuse forms sample. This indicated that the FoCHI and DiCHI cells were diploid for chromosomes 11 and 13.

**ABCC8 gene FISH detection (Fig. 1C)**

A probe spanning the *ABCC8* gene locus and labeled with spectrum orange-dUTP was hybridized on the β-cell interphase nuclei in the four focal forms and two DiCHI samples. It generated two red signals per nucleus in the 50 nuclei analyzed. We deduced that these cells had two copies of the *ABCC8* gene.

**CDKN1C (p57KIP2) gene FISH detection (Fig. 1D)**

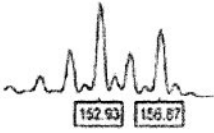
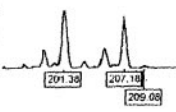
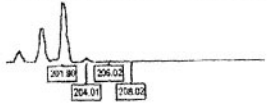
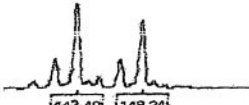
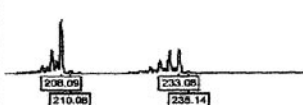
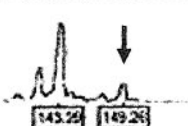
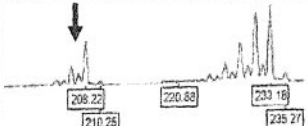

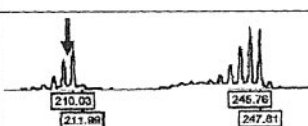
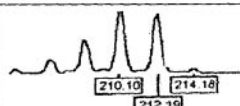
A specific probe spanning the *CDKN1C* gene locus and labeled with spectrum green-dUTP resulted in two signals in 50 nuclei in the four focal forms and two DiCHI samples. We deduced that the focal forms β-cells had two copies of the *CDKN1C* gene.

**TABLE 2.** PCR of *ABCC8* gene microsatellite markers

	D11S921 upstream 11p15.1	D11S902 within <i>ABCC8</i> 11p15.2	D11S4146 upstream 11p15.4	D11S4088 downstream 11p15.5
Case 1 (constitutional) lymphocytes	NI		NI	
Case 1 (pancreas) focal form ratio: 0.30	NI		NI	
Case 1 maternal lymphocytes	NI		NI	
Case 2 (constitutional) lymphocytes	NI			
Case 2 (pancreas) focal form ratio: 0.05	NI			
Case 2 paternal lymphocytes	NI			

(Continues)

TABLE 2. (Continued)

Case 2 maternal lymphocytes	NI			
Case 3 (constitutional) lymphocytes	NI		NI	
Case 3 (pancreas) focal form ratio: 0.2	NI		NI	
Case 4 (constitutional) lymphocytes		NI	NI	
Case 4 (pancreas) focal form ratio: 0.29		NI	NI	
Case 4 maternal lymphocytes		NI	NI	

*ABCC8* gene microsatellite marker electropherograms obtained by PCR for the four focal forms of neonatal hyperinsulinism: the two AR is given for the pancreatic sample that contains predominantly  $\beta$ -cells with some remaining normal cells due to contamination. Comparison of the allele peaks between blood lymphocytes and pancreatic foci is used to determine the reduced allele migration number. Comparison with blood lymphocytes from the parents determines maternal or paternal inheritance. Allele loss is observed for the four cases studied, but its maternal origin is proven for three cases only. *CDKN1C* gene microsatellite marker electropherograms obtained by PCR for the four focal forms of neonatal hyperinsulinism: the two AR is given for the pancreatic sample that contains predominantly  $\beta$ -cells with some remaining normal cells due to contamination. Comparison of the allele peaks between blood lymphocytes and pancreatic foci is used to determine the reduced allele migration number. Comparison with blood lymphocytes from the parents determines maternal or paternal inheritance. Allele loss is observed for the four cases studied, but its maternal origin is proven for three cases only. NI, Non informative.

**Microsatellites flanking *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes: PCR analysis results (Table 2)**

The study of the microsatellite markers flanking *ABCC8* (Table 2) showed that D11S 921 was uninformative in cases 1–3 but was lost in the pancreatic lesion in case 4 (ratio 0.29). The D11S 902 marker was lost in the pancreatic lesion in cases 1 (ratio 0.30), 2 (ratio 0.05), and 3 (ratio 0.20). Microsatellite marker D11S921 loss was of maternal origin in the pancreatic lesion in case 4, and this was also the case for the loss of the microsatellite marker D11S902 in cases 1 and 2. The origin of D11S902 marker loss in the lesion was indeterminate in case 3.

The study of *CDKN1C* flanking markers (Table 2) showed that D11S 4146 was informative only in case 2, with a loss of the maternal allele in the pancreatic lesion (ratio 0.10). By contrast,

D11S 4088 was informative in three cases (cases 1, 2, and 4), with a loss of the maternal allele in the lesions. The DNA of the parents of case 3 was not available, so the parental origin of the loss of heterozygosity observed could not be determined.

The ARs in the pancreas reflect the respective quantity of the normal and abnormal cells in the tissue sample.

**Discussion**

The combined use of insulin immunofluorescent detection with FISH on interphase nuclei is a new method of analyzing the  $\beta$ -cell genome *in situ* in congenital hyperinsulinism. It demonstrated that abnormal  $\beta$ -cells are diploid for chromosomes 11 and 13, and that

**TABLE 3.** Synthesis of results for the PCR and FISH studies of *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes

Chromosome 11	FISH	Microsatellite	FISH	Microsatellite
11p15.1, 11p15.5 $\beta$ -cell	<i>ABCC8</i> : (BAC RP11-976 K 8)	D11S 921 and D11S902 ( <i>ABCC8</i> gene)	<i>CDKN1C</i> : (BAC RP 11-481 E11)	D11S 4146 and D11S 4088 ( <i>CDKN1C</i> gene)
Case 1	Diploid	Maternal LOH	Diploid	Maternal LOH
Case 2	Diploid	Maternal LOH	Diploid	Maternal LOH
Case 3	Diploid	LOH	Diploid	LOH
Case 4	Diploid	Maternal LOH	Diploid	Maternal LOH

The four focal forms of neonatal hyperinsulinism have diploid  $\beta$ -cells and two copies of the *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes detected by FISH. By contrast, loss of heterozygosity (LOH) shows a loss of maternal material for three cases resulting in the conclusion that there is a duplication of paternal chromosome 11p15.1 to 11p15.5 (paternal disomy).

they have two copies of the *ABCC8* and *CDKN1C* genes. Our results and the previous results for loss of heterozygosity of chromosome 11 of the maternal allele open up the discussion on an underlying chromosome rearrangement, contrary to DiCHIs, which are the consequence of two inherited mutations.

The theory of a microscopical chromosome 11 deletion involving segments 11p15.1 to 11p15.5 of maternal origin in focal congenital hyperinsulinism, suggested by loss of heterozygosity results, was not confirmed. Two BAC probes from the Human Genome Project, including the regions 11p15.1 to 11p15.2 with the *ABCC8* gene and 11p15.4 to 11p15.5 with the *CDKN1C* gene, showed two dots in all  $\beta$ -cell interphase nuclei. Consequently, there was no focal deletion on chromosome 11, but duplication of the paternal 11p15.1 to 11p15.5 segment (Table 3). Indeed, a paternal chromosome 11 segmental duplication and crossover to the maternal one is the only explanation for the results obtained. The resulting paternal isodisomy renders the  $\beta$ -cell K-channel defect biallelic in the abnormal foci. By contrast, in DiCHIs containing diploid cells, both K-channel alleles are mutated with both paternal and maternal origins. Consequently, the mechanism of insulin secretion dysregulation is similar for both forms of the disease and is due to a biallelic K-channel mutation.

The link between paternal isodisomy of chromosome 11 and neonatal hyperinsulinism is already known in Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome (9–11), certain rare forms of hyperinsulinism (unclassified  $\beta$ -cell proliferation) (12), and recently atypical cases of hyperinsulinism due to *ABCC8* mutation (13). Diabetes is also related to *ABCC8* mutation associated with isodisomy (14). Segmental chromosome duplication and isodisomy can also be found in other diseases such as SRS because approximately 10% of SRS cases showed maternal uniparental isodisomy for chromosome 7. Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma complicating Costello syndrome (15) also contains uniparental isodisomy in chromosome 11p15.5 followed by *HRAS* mutations. Segmental isodisomy is also found in lymphoma (16). The mechanism of maternal allele loss remains unexplained, but microsatellite instability is a well-known predisposing factor in tumor genesis and facilitates duplications (17, 18).

The  $\beta$ -cell growth observed in FoCHIs can be explained by chromosome 11 disomy. Indeed, in one focal lesion *IGF-II* FISH detection showed two dots in interphase nuclei, probably of paternal origin according to the loss of the maternal allele (data not shown). This gene disomy counterbalances the loss of the maternal copy of the maternally expressed *H19* gene, which usually controls *IGF-II* activity. On the other hand, p57 loss reported in

focal forms may also contribute to  $\beta$ -cell accumulation through apoptosis reduction with a decrease in the cell death rate (4). By contrast, in malignant tumors, gene amplification such as N-Myc produces a higher number of copies that are routinely detected by specific FISH probes (double minute) resulting in multiple dots on FISH interphase nuclei (19) and HSR (when remaining inside the chromosome) in cell cultures or metaphases. Many studies concerning *IGF-II* have been published, with conflicting results in terms of the level of RNA synthesis and protein turnover (20). The underlying mechanism remains to be determined because crossover remains a physiological mechanism during meiosis (21–23) but has not been reported during mitosis. However, stem cells are akin to germ cells and share the same initial asymmetrical division. Consequently, they may have retained meiotic properties from their first division. FoCHIs could result from a focally acquired  $\beta$ -cell stem cell pathology (24).

In conclusion, we report on chromosome 11p15 isodisomy of paternal origin in FoCHIs, explaining the numerous  $\beta$ -cells in the lesion.

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