Clinicopathological findings of Pediatric NTRK fusion mesenchymal tumors

Jeongwan Kang
Seoul National University Hospital

Jin Woo Park
Seoul National University Hospital

Jae-Kyung Won
Seoul National University Hospital

Jeong Mo Bae
Seoul National University Hospital

Jaemoon Koh
Seoul National University Hospital

Jeemin Yim
Seoul Nation University Hospital

Hongseok Yun
Seoul National University Hospital

Seung-Ki Kim
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Jung Yoon Choi
Seoul National University Hospital

Hyoun Jung Kang
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Woo Sun Kim
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Joo Heon Shin
Lieber Institute for Brain Development

Sung-Hye Park (shparknp@gmail.com)
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Research

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Abstract

Background: While ETV6-NTRK3 fusion is common in infantile fibrosarcoma, NTRK1/3 fusion in pediatric tumors is scarce and, consequently, not well known. Herein, we evaluated NTRK1/3 fusion pediatric mesenchymal tumors clinicopathologically and immunophenotypically.

Methods: We reviewed nine NTRK fusion pediatric sarcomas confirmed by fluorescence in situ hybridization and/or next-generation sequencing from Seoul National University Hospital between 2002 and 2020.

Results: One case of TPR-NTRK1 fusion-positive intracranial extra-axial high-grade undifferentiated sarcoma (12-year-old boy), one case of LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive low-grade infantile fibrosarcoma of the forehead (3-year-old boy), one case of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor (IMT) (3-months-old girl), and six cases of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive infantile fibrosarcoma (median age: 2.6 months, range: 1.6–5.6 months, M: F = 5:1) were reviewed. The Trk immunonegative pattern was distinctive according to the fusion genes. We notified nuclear positivity in TPR-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma, nuclear membrane positivity in LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma, and both cytoplasmic and nuclear positivity in ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMT and infantile fibrosarcomas. Also, the TPR-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma showed robust positivity for CD34/nestin and high mitoses. The LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma revealed CD34/S100 protein/nestin/CD10 coexpression, and a low mitotic rate. The IMT with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion expressed SMA. Six infantile fibrosarcomas with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion showed variable coexpression of nestin (6/6)/CD10 (4/5)/ S100 protein (3/6).

Conclusions: All cases of NTRK1 and NTRK3 fusion-positive pediatric tumors robustly expressed the Trk protein. A Trk immunonegative pattern and CD34/S100/nestin/CD10/SMA immunohistochemical phenotype may suggest NTRK fusion partner genes and diagnoses. LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma might be a low-grade subtype of infantile fibrosarcoma. Interestingly, more than half of the infantile fibrosarcoma cases were positive for S100 protein and CD10. The follow-up period of TPR-NTRK1 and LMNA-NTRK1 fusion tumors are not enough to predict prognosis. However, ETV6-NTRK3 fusion infantile fibrosarcomas showed an excellent prognosis with no evidence of disease for an average of 11.7 years after gross total resection of the tumor.

Background

Next-generation sequencing (NGS) studies have recently revealed an increasing number of fusion genes in soft tissue sarcomas; these genes have been identified as oncogenic drivers and diagnostic markers of a wide range of adult and pediatric cancers [1]. However, until now, the clinicopathological characteristics of all these gene fusion tumors have not been clarified.

Among these recent discoveries are neurotrophic receptor kinase (NTRK) gene fusions. NTRK1, NTRK2, and NTRK3 encode the neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor family TrkA, TrkB, and TrkC transmembrane proteins [2]. These genes play an essential role in nervous system development and function through activation by neurotrophins [3]. However, NTRK gene fusions transcribe to chimeric Trk proteins either by constitutive activation or overexpression of kinase-confering oncogenic proteins [2]. The erythroblast transformation-specific (ETS) variant 6 (ETV6)-neurotrophic receptor kinase (NTRK3) fusion has been identified in glioblastoma, mammary secretory carcinoma, salivary gland mammary carcinoma, adult lung cancer, papillary thyroid cancer, and mesenchymal tumors including infantile fibrosarcoma, mesoblastic nephroma, IMT, and gastrointestinal stromal tumors [1, 2, 4-8]. Echinoderm Microtubule Associated Protein like-4 (EML4)-NTRK3 fusion has also been identified in infantile fibrosarcomas and congenital mesoblastic nephroma, in addition to ETV6-NTRK3 fusion [9]. The common fusion partners of NTRK1, located on 1q25, are the S exons of various thyroid-expressed genes (tropomyosin 3 [TPM3], translocated promoter region, nuclear basket protein [TPR], and TRK fused gene [TFG]) in the frame on 1q21-23 because NTRK1 is located close to its gene partners [10]. Additional fusion partners of NTRK1 include RAB GTGase activating protein 1-like (RABGAP1L), chromatin target of Protein Arginine Methyltransferase 1 (PRMT1) (CHTOD), Rho-Rac guanine nucleotide exchange factor 2 (ARHGEF2), neurofascin (NFASC), and brevican (BCAN) [11].

TPR-NTRK1 fusion has been identified in infantile fibrosarcoma [8], pediatric papillary thyroid carcinomas [12], lipofibromatosis [13, 14], interdigitating dendritic cell sarcoma [5], fibrosarcoma-like uterine undifferentiated sarcomas [1], and colorectal adenocarcinomas (Supplementary file: table 2) [15]. However, it has never been reported in primary intracranial tumors [5]. Additionally, lamin A/C (LMNA)-NTRK3 fusion has been infrequently reported in congenital infantile fibrosarcoma[4, 16-18], cellular mesoblastic nephroma [19], and lipofibromatosis-like neural tumors [14].

We have recently encountered pediatric cases of intracranial and forehead sarcomas. Pathologically, they did not fit into any known category of sarcomas or benign mesenchymal tumors. However, RNA sequencing by NGS of our cases revealed the presence of TPR-NTRK1, LMNA-NTRK1, and ETV6-NTRK3 fusions. Herein, we report these notable cases in detail so that their clinicopathological characteristics can be defined.

Materials And Methods

Patients

Nine pediatric NTRK fusion-positive sarcomas were retrieved from the archives of the Department of Pathology, Seoul National University Children's Hospital from 2002 to 2019. The fusion genes were detected by either fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) or NGS, such as RNA sequencing or customized gene panel study. One case of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMT, one case of TPR-NTRK1 fusion-, one case of LMNA-NTRK1 fusion- and six cases of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive sarcomas were reviewed.

Pathology, immunohistochemistry (IHC), and FISH
All tumors were reviewed by two pathologists (JWK and SHP). IHC stains were performed on an immunostaining system (BenchMark ULTRA system, Ventana-Roche, Mannheim, Germany) using primary antibodies including Trk (1: 50, Cell signaling, Boston, USA), nestin (1: 200, Millipore, Temecula, USA), vimentin (1: 500, DAKO, Glostrup, Denmark), S100 protein (1: 3000, DAKO), CD34 (1: 200, DAKO), CD10 (RTU, Novocasta, Newcastle, UK), Ki67 (1: 100, Mab MIB-1, DAKO), phosphohistone-H3 (pHH3, 1: 5000, Cell Marque, Rocklin, USA), Transducin-like enhancer of split 1 (TLE1, 1: 20, Cell Marque, Rocklin, US), Fil1 (1: 300, Becton and Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, US), p53 (1: 100, DAKO), ERG (rtu, Ventana, Export, US), CD99 (1: 200, Novocasta (Leica), Munchen, Germany), smooth muscle actin (SMA, 1: 500, DAKO), desmin (1:200, DAKO), myogenin (1: 500, DAKO), cytokeratin (CK, 1: 300, DAKO), epithelial membrane antigen (EMA, 1: 300, DAKO), integrase interactor 1 (INI-1, 1: 100, Cell signaling), and Signal transducer and activator of transcription 6 (STAT6, 1: 100, ABCAM, Cambridge, UK) (Supplementary table 1). Appropriate positive controls were included, and for the negative control, primary antibodies were omitted. Mitotic activity was assessed with pHH3 immunostain on 4μm thick formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) slides by counting mitotic figures in 10 high power fields (HPF; area, 2.38 mm²).

For ETV6 break-apart FISH study, locus-specific identifier (LSI) Vysis ETV6 fluorescence dual-color break apart DNA probes, ETV6 [Centromeric (CEN)] SpectrumGreen and Vysis LSI ETV6 [Telomeric (TEL)] SpectrumOrange (Abbott Molecular, Abbott Park, US) were used.

DNA extraction and customized brain tumor gene panel study

On hematoxylin and eosin-stained FFPE sections, representative areas of tumors with at least 90% tumor cell purity were outlined for microdissection. DNA-extraction from the serial sections of the microdissected tumor tissue using the Maxwell® RSC DNA FFPE Kit (Promega, USA) was carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions.

The customized targeted gene panel (FIRST brain tumor panel and FIRST pan-cancer panel), which was customized and verified by the Department of Pathology of Seoul National University Hospital (SNUH) was used, containing 172 genes and ten fusion genes, and with a 1.7 Mb/run by NextSeq550Dx in HiOutput. The produced sequencing data was analyzed using the pipeline of SNUH First Brain Tumor Panel Analysis. First, we performed the quality control of the Fastq file and analyzed only the data that passed the criteria. Paired-end alignment to the HG19 reference genome was performed using BWA-men and the GATK Best Practice [20]. After finishing the alignment step, an “analysis-ready BAM” was produced, and second quality control was performed to determine if further variant calling is appropriate. In the pipeline, single nucleotide variation (SNV), insertion and deletion (InDel), copy number variation (CNV), and translocation, were analyzed using at least more than two analysis tools, including in-house and open-source software. The open-source tools used were GATK UnifiedGenotyper, SNVed and LoFreq for SNV/Indel detection [21], Delly and Manta for Translocation discovery [22], THetA2 for purity estimation, and CNVKit for CNV calling [23], respectively. SnpEff was used to annotate the variants detected from various databases such as RefSeq, COSMIC, dbSNP, ClinVar, and gnomAD. The germline variant was then filtered using the population frequency of these databases (> 1% population frequency). Finally, the variants were confirmed through a comprehensive review of a multidisciplinary molecular tumor board.

RNA extraction, RNA sequencing, and fusion analysis

For RNA sequencing, the tumor RNA was extracted from the paraffin block (tumor fraction: >90%) with Maxwell® RSC RNA FFPE Kit (Promega, USA). The library was generated with SureSelectXT RNA Direct Kit (Agilent, Santa Clara, USA), and sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 at Macrogen (Seoul, Republic of Korea). Raw sequencing reads were analyzed with three kinds of algorithms, namely: DIFFUSE, Fusion catcher, and Arriba (https://github.com/suhrig/arriba/), to detect gene fusions. The results were then compared.

Fastq files were briefly aligned by the STAR aligner on the hg19 reference genome for Arriba analysis. The chimeric alignments file and the read-through alignments file were produced, and fusion candidates were generated with a set of filters that detect artifacts based on various characteristic features.

Results

Clinicopathological findings and follow-up data of the patients

The patient with TPR-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma was a 12-year-old boy who presented with headache and diplopia for three months, and did not have any perinatal health problems. A 7.4-cm contrast-enhancing mass was detected in the right temporal lobe on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (Fig. 1). Craniotomy revealed a hypervascular, extra-axial tumor with superficial brain invasion. Complete resection of the tumor with adjuvant chemotherapy with Ifosfamide, Carboplatin, and Etoposide (ICE) and radiation therapy (54+7.2 Gy) were administered because the pathology was high-grade undifferentiated sarcoma.

The patient with LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma was a 3-year-old boy who presented with a growing mass on his left forehead, which had been present since he was a neonate as a pea-sized mass, and it has recently grown rapidly to 4.0x3.5x3.0 cm. It protruded from the forehead and was covered with eroded skin. The patient underwent complete surgical excision, and the cut surface of the tumor exhibited a homogenous tan-colored solid appearance (Fig. 1).

The patient with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMT was a 3-month-old girl who presented with sudden onset dyspnea and systemic cyanosis. Chest computerized tomography (CT) showed a mass on the left lower thorax, that looked like a mass of the lower lobe of the left lung (Fig. 2). The mass was embolized under the impression of arteriovenous malformation at the local hospital. However, the symptoms and signs were not relieved, and the mass had grown continuously to 5.6x5.2x3.3cm. Lobectomy of the left lower lobe was then conducted to remove the tumor. Grossly, the mass was well-encapsulated
and well-separated from the left lower lobe of the lung (Fig. 2). The tumor arose from an extrapulmonary sequestration, and was diagnosed as IMT by full pathological examination and NGS (using the customized First pan-cancer gene panel).

The median age of the six ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive infantile fibrosarcoma patients were 2.6 months (range: 1.6-5.6 months of age) at the time of surgery. The male to female ratio was 5: 1. The patients had presented with a mass on the tongue, buttock, right shoulder, left foot, right abdominal cavity, and sacrococcygeal area, respectively. Five tumors were completely resected, and adjuvant chemotherapies were given, as summarized in Table 1. The remaining massive sacrococcygeal tumor, involving the spinal cord, was initially subtotally resected and underwent three operations with one cycle of chemotherapy, but the patient was lost to follow-up.

The follow-up data are summarized in Table 1. The patients with TPR-NTRK1 and LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcomas fared relatively well, with no tumor recurrence or neurological defects, during the 18 months and 11.6 months follow-up period, respectively. Five patients with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive infantile sarcomas are all alive without disease for an average of 11.7 years (range: 6.0-17.4 years), but one case who had a huge sacrococcygeal mass was lost to follow-up.

**Result of pathology, IHC, and FISH**

Histopathology of the TPR-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma showed a sheet of small oval-to-spindle cells with dilated blood vessels. Scanning power microscopy revealed a tiger-stripe pattern due to vague layers of cellular and less-cellular areas with keloid type collagen deposits (Fig 3). The tumor cells exhibited relatively uniform oval nuclei with fine chromatin and clear-to-eosinophilic cytoplasm. A high mitotic rate (25/10 per high-power fields) and a high Ki-67 labeling index (36.0%) were present; however, necrosis was not observed. The tumor cells were also robustly positive for Trk (1: 50, Cell Signaling, Boston, US), CD34, nestin, p53, and vimentin (Fig. 4). The robust nuclear positivity of Trk was remarkable (Fig. 5). However, the tumor cells were negative for S-100 protein, SMA, desmin, myogenin, CD99, Fli-1, CD56, STAT6, CK and EMA. TLE1 was weakly positive for the tumor cell nuclei and INI1 was retained.

The LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor was composed of vaguely fascicular spindle cells with bland-looking elongated nuclei and inconspicuous nucleoli (Fig. 3). There was collagen laid down between the tumor cells. Intermixed inflammatory cell infiltration was remarkable, which was pronounced on CD3 IHC (Fig. 4). The Ki-67 index was moderately high (18.2%), but many of them might be infiltrating inflammatory cells. Mitosis was absent on pH3 IHC. There was neither necrosis nor hemorrhage. Therefore, this tumor was much less cellular and much more bland-looking than TPR-NTRK1 or ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive sarcoma. The tumor cells were robustly and diffusely positive for Trk, S100-protein, CD34, and nestin (Fig. 4 and 5), but negative for CD56, SMA, desmin, myogenin, CD99, CD56, STAT6, CK, EMA, and STAT6. There was no necrosis. Mitosis was very low (1/10HPF), but the Ki-67 index was 36%, possibly due to the presence of inflammatory cells. ETV6 break FISH was positive and pan-cancer panel resulted in ETV6-NTRK3 fusion (split read: 339, spanning read: 40).

The histopathology of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive sarcomas showed highly cellular and relatively uniform small spindle cells with a high mitotic rate (10-40/10 HPFs). There was neither necrosis nor prominent inflammatory cell infiltration in all cases. These infantile fibrosarcomas were diffusely and robustly positive for Trk (100%), S100 protein (50%, 3/6 cases), nestin, CD10 (80%, 4/5 cases), and vimentin (100%), but negative for CD34, SMA, desmin, myogenin, and CD56. The Trk IHC showed a diffuse cytoplasmic stain with some nuclear staining (Fig. 5). Ki-67 labeling indices were 15-60%. ETV6-NTRK3 fusion was verified by FISH in all six cases (Fig. 5) and crosschecked by RNA sequencing in two cases.

The targeted gene panel revealed a TPR-NTRK1 fusion of TPR on chromosome 1q25 (position 186337018) and NTRK1 on chromosome 1q21-q22 (position 156844363) with amplification of NTRK1 and H3F3A on chromosome 1 in case 1 (Fig. 6).

RNA sequencing of an intracranial sarcoma (12-year-old boy) confirmed the presence of TPR-NTRK1 fusion (Breakpoint: 1: 186337018, 1: 156844363). RNA sequencing of a forehead tumor (3-year-old boy) confirmed the presence of LMNA-NTRK1 fusion (Breakpoint: 1: 156104766, 1: 156844698). The number of split reads in TPR and NTRK1 was 35 and 31, respectively, with two discordant mates, and 37 split reads in LMNA and 53 in NTRK1, with seven discordant mates. RNA sequencing performed in two cases of infantile fibrosarcoma showed ETV6-NTRK3 fusion (Case 4). The breakpoints and split reads of ETV6 and NTRK3 (Breakpoints: 12: 12022903: 15: 88483984, 12: 12022903, 15: 88524591) were 11 and 16, and 25 and 8, respectively (Supplementary Fig. 1-4). Split reads are the read fragments of the unmatched paired-end alignments. A discordant alignment happens when both mates align uniquely, but does not satisfy the paired-end constraints.

**Discussion**

Primitive small round cell sarcomas and infantile fibrosarcomas are rare childhood sarcomas that pose diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Recently, confirmative diagnosis of neoplasms has been made possible at the genomic level by identification of driver mutation or marker gene alterations [24]. Recent reports have described emerging pediatric fusion-positive sarcomas, including NTRK [5, 8, 25, 26]. Our NTRK fusion-positive pediatric sarcomas have distinct immunohistochemical profiles. The TPR-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor was a CD34-positive, dural-based, high-grade undifferentiated sarcoma with features that did not fit the classifications of existing types of sarcoma. In contrast, our LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor was a low-grade spindle cell mesenchymal tumor of the forehead that was first noticed early in the neonatal period. The LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor was difficult to diagnose before RNA sequencing by NGS because of its unusual pathology and immunohistochemical profile, namely, a combination of prominent inflammatory cells, no mitotic...
activity (0/10 HPF), and S100/CD34 coexpression. However, Hung et al.’s case of infantile fibrosarcoma also showed prominent inflammatory cells [4]. S100-protein and CD34 co-positivity are generally rare in sarcomas; these can be interpreted as hybridomas or evidence of dual differentiation. However, infantile fibrosarcomas often show coexpression of these two antibodies [11, 27]. Miettinen et al. and Wong et al. reported a non-pleomorphic, low-grade spindle cell neoplasm with LMNA-NTRK1 fusion, that was diagnosed as infantile fibrosarcoma [17, 27]. Miettinen et al. ’s case showed low mitotic rates (<5/10 HPFs), and S100 protein/CD34-coexpression [27]. Wong et al.’s case was CD34/vimentin-positive [17]. Our LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma was consistent with Hung et al. and Miettinen et al.’s infantile fibrosarcoma with S100 protein/CD34 coexpression. The main differential diagnosis of this LMNA-NTRK1 fusion tumor was IMT, but it can be ruled out based on its immunoprofile (SMA-negative, with S100/CD34 coexpression).

NTRK1 encodes TRKA receptor tyrosine kinase, which has a high affinity for nerve growth factor [3]. Genetic alterations of NTRK1 by translocations, amplifications, deletions, and point mutations have been reported in various tumor types, suggesting the potential role of Trk in oncogenesis [28, 29]. More recently, NTRK1 chromosomal rearrangements have been identified in additional tumor types (Supplementary file, Table 2) [10, 21, 30, 31], suggesting that while oncogenic activation through NTRK1 fusion is not frequent, it can occur in various cancers. Interestingly, a significant number of NTRK1-associated gene fusions have developed as a result of intrachromosomal gene fusion [11]. Depending on the directions of transcription of NTRK1 and its fusion partner, intrachromosomal fusions can occur either through simple interstitial deletion (e.g., LMNA-NTRK1) or through a more complex break/inversion mechanism (e.g., TPR-NTRK1 or TPR-NTRK1), if the two genes are transcribed in opposite directions [13]. A 737-kbp deletion yielded the 5’ end of LMNA (localized to 1q22), and exons 12–17 [17].

Pan-Trk IHC can be used to detect NTRK fusion tumors; however, the expression site within the tumor cell differs according to the fusion partner genes [4]. We found strong nuclear envelope and cytoplasmic positivity in our LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor. Intense nuclear staining in our TPR-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma was observed with Trk (clone A7H6R) IHC, which is consistent with Hechtman et al. ’s report using monoclonal antibody [MAb] EPR17341 [32]. However, a diffuse and strong cytoplasmic staining with MAb EPR17341 was reported in both LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive tumor and TPR3-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcoma [1, 33]. Davis et al. reported nuclear positivity in NTRK3 fusion tumors and cytoplasmic positivity in NTRK1/2 fusion tumors using the panTrk IHC (EPR17341) [8]. These differences in immunopositivity might be due to different Trk antibody clones.

ETV6-NTRK3 and (rarely) EML4-NTRK3, LMNA-NTRK1, TPR3-NTRK1, and SQSTM1-NTRK1 fusions have been reported in infantile fibrosarcomas (Table 1) [4, 8, 16]. The six cases of classic infantile fibrosarcoma and one IMT in our study had an ETV6-NTRK3 fusion verified by ETV6 break-apart FISH and/or RNA sequencing. The diffuse cytoplasmic Trk positivity in our cases is consistent with the Trk immunopositivity patterns in ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive tumors from previous reports [4, 27].

Although ETV6-NTRK3 is a genetic hallmark of infantile fibrosarcoma, it has also been reported in ALK-negative IMTs. So far, six cases of ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMTs have been published [5–7]. Chang et al. reported that ALK-altered thoracic IMTs were 73% (24/33), and the remaining ALK-negative IMTs had ROST fusion (15%, 5 cases) or ETV6-NTRK3 fusion (9%, 3 cases) or RET fusion (3%, 1 case) [6]. Our IMT case is unique because it occurred in the extrapulmonary sequestered lung, had ETV6-NTRK3 fusion, and is the youngest reported ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMT in the literature [34]. The previously reported youngest patient with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive IMT was 2 years old [6].

These NTRK fusion tumors tend to respond to NTRK inhibitors [2, 11]. LOXO-101 is an orally bioavailable tyrosine kinase inhibitor that inhibits Trk catalytic activity with a low nanomolar potency. A phase 1 study with LOXO-101 in soft tissue sarcoma with LMNA–NTRK1 fusion and non-small cell lung cancer harboring TPR-NTRK1 fusion showed a good response [35, 36]. Crizotinib was a durable response in the LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma [37]. NTRK gene fusion could be a novel target of NTRK inhibitors for multiple tumor types [2].

In conclusion, we report two cases of NTRK1 fusion-positive and seven cases of NTRK3 fusion-positive pediatric sarcomas and IMT that were diagnostically challenging without molecular features. These three types of fusion-positive mesenchymal tumors (TPR-NTRK1, LMNA-NTRK1, and ETV6-NTRK3) differed in their H&E morphology, immunoprofile, and Trk immunopositivity patterns. In the case of LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma, S100/CD34/CD10-coexpression was a novel finding. The S100 protein, nestin, and CD10 positivity in infantile fibrosarcoma was also a new finding. The TPR-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma was positive for CD34 and nestin but negative for S100 protein. Thus, the Trk and CD3/S100/nestin/CD10 immunophenotype could be used for differential diagnosis. The sacrococcygeal infantile fibrosarcoma was unable to achieve complete resection, and the exact outcome is unknown because the patient was lost to follow-up. However, the remaining patients with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive infantile fibrosarcomas survived for up to 17.3 years (median survival: 8.3 years), without tumor recurrence, after complete resection of the tumor. The patients with these fusion-positive tumors may benefit from NTRK inhibitor therapy if the tumors cannot be controlled by conventional treatment [38].

List Of Abbreviations

ARHGEF2, Rho-Rac guanine nucleotide exchange factor 2
BCAN, brevican
CEN, centromeric
CHOP, chromatin target of PRMT1
CNV, copy number variation
CT, computerized tomography
ETV6, ets variant 6  
EML4, Echinoderm Microtubule Associated Protein like-4  
FFPE, formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded  
FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization  
HPF, high-power field  
ICE, ifosfamide, carboplatin, and etoposide  
IHC, immunohistochemical  
IMT, inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor  
InDel, insertion and deletion  
LMNA, lamin A/C  
LSI, locus-specific identifier  
Mab, monoclonal antibody  
MRI, magnetic resonance imaging  
NFASC, neurofascin  
NGS, next-generation sequencing  
NTRK, neurotrophic receptor kinase  
PRMT1, Protein Arginine Methyltransferase 1  
RABGAP1L, RAB GTPase activating protein 1-like  
SNUH: Seoul National University Hospital  
SNV, single nucleotide variation  
TEL: telomeric  
TFG, TRK-fused gene  
TPM3, tropomyosin 3  
TPR, translocated promoter region, nuclear basket protein

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate: The institutional review board of Seoul National University Hospital approved this study (IRB No: 1905-001-1029 and 1905-108-1035). The authors complied with the Declaration of Helsinki and the Human Research Protection Program.

Consent for publication: All materials had been obtained for medical care of the patients, which were anonymized and retrospectively reviewed. No extra-human materials were obtained for this study. Under the Korean Bioethics and Safety Act, additional consent to publish was waived.

Availability of data and materials: All the genetic data can be found in our SNUH’s big data server managing by the center for precision medicine.

Competing interests: The authors declared that they have no competing interests

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Authors’ contributions: S-H Park designed, supervised, and edited this study and manuscript. J Kang wrote the manuscript, J-W Park, J Kang, JM Lim, and S-H Park collected and analyzed the clinicopathological data. Jaemoon Koh, JM Bae, and S-H Park performed the histological examination of sarcomas. JK Won, H Yoon, and JH Shin analyzed the genetic data of tumors. S-K Kim did surgical resection of the tumor, and JY Choi and HJ Kang have treated and made follow-up the patients by chemotherapy. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Supplementary Figure Captions

Supplementary Figure 1A. RNA sequencing confirmed TPR-NTRK1 fusion using the Arriba fusion gene calling method. 1) Circular plot. 2) The fusion gene retained the protein tyrosine kinase domain. 3) The schematic view showed TPR-NTRK1 fusion by 488 bp deletion (breakpoints: chromosome 1: 186337018; 1: 156844363).

Supplementary Figure 1B. RNA sequencing confirmed LMNA-NTRK1 fusion using the Arriba fusion gene calling method (breakpoints: chromosome 1: 156104766; 1: 156844698). 1) The schematic view showed LMNA-NTRK1 fusion. 2) Circular plot. 3) The fusion gene retained the protein tyrosine kinase domain.

Supplementary Figure 1C. RNA sequencing confirms ETV6-NTRK3 fusion in the fifth case of infantile fibrosarcoma using the Arriba fusion gene calling method. 1) The schematic view showed ETV6-NTRK3 fusion (breakpoints: chromosome 12: 12022903; 15: 8843984). 2) Circular plot. 3) The fusion gene retained the protein tyrosine kinase domain.

Supplementary Figure 1D. RNA sequencing confirmed ETV6-NTRK3 fusion in the 6th case of infantile fibrosarcoma using the Arriba fusion gene calling method. 1) The schematic view showed ETV6-NTRK3 fusion (breakpoints: chromosome 12: 12022903; 15: 88524591). 2) Circular plot. 3) The fusion gene retained the protein tyrosine kinase domain.

Table

Table 1. Clinicopathological comparison of our two cases of TPR-NTRK1 and LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive sarcomas and 6 cases of our infantile fibrosarcoma.
| TPANTRK1 fusion-positive pediatric sarcoma | LMNA-NTRK1 fusion-positive pediatric sarcoma | ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive inflammatory myxofibrosarcoma |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Age/Gender | 12 y/ male | 3 y/ male | 6 mo/female |
| Site | Dura, parieto-occipital | Forehead dermis and subcutaneous tissue | Left lower lobe of the lung |
| Size | 6.0x5.0x3.0cm | 4.0x3.5x3.0cm | 5.6x3.5x3.0cm |
| Histology | Mixed oval to spindle cells | Spindle cells intermixed with prominent lymphoplasma cells | Spindle myofibroblasts |
| Histological grade | High-grade | Low-grade | Low-grade |
| Nuclear pleomorphism | Relatively uniform cells without pleomorphism | Uniform cells without pleomorphism | Uniform cells with mild pleomorphism |
| Tumor necrosis | Absent | Absent | Absent |
| Mitotic rate | 25/10 HPFs | 0/10 HPFs | 1/10 HPFs |
| Ki67 labeling index | 36.0% | 18.2% | 37% |
| Immuno-positive markers | Trk/CD34/Nestin/vimentin/p53 | Trk/ S100/CD34/Nestin/vimentin/ | Trk/SMA/vimentin |
| Trk positive pattern | Nucleus | Nuclear membrane | Cytoplasmic |
| Immuno-negative or retained expression (RE) markers | S100/CD56/SMA/desmin/myogenin/STAT6/EMA/ERG/CD99/CD21/CD35/GFAP/Olig2/p16 (RE)/INI-1(RE) | SMA/desmin/myogenin/STAT6/CD56/EMA/CD1a/CD21/CD35/CD43/WT-1 (c-terminal)/MelanA/HMB45/BRAF/ALK | S100/desmin/myogenin/STAT6/CD56/EMA/CD1a/CD21/CD35/CD43/WT-1 (c-terminal)/MelanA/HMB45/BRAF/ALK |
| Genetic abnormalities other than NTRK1 fusion | NTRK1 amplification (copy number: 11), H3F3A amplification (copy number: 12) | absent | absent |
| Final diagnosis | Undifferentiated sarcoma | Infantile fibrosarcoma, low grade | Infammatroy myxofibrosarcoma |
| Treatment | Surgery+ vincristine, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide (6 cycles)/ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide (6 cycles), alternative, total 12 cycles | Surgery only | Surgery only |
| Outcomes and follow-up | NED (1.4 years) | NED (0.8 years) | NED (0.3 years) |
| Known mesenchymal tumors with this type of fusion | Lipofibromatosis, adult uterine undifferentiated sarcoma | Infantile fibrosarcoma, lipofibromatosis-like neural tumor, Undifferentiated sarcoma, Cellular mesoblastic nephroma | Infantile fibrosarcoma |
NED: no evidence of disease

Figures

A-E) Case 1 with TPR-NTRK1 fusion: MRI reveals A) T1-low, B-D) T2-high dura-based mass with enhancement. E) The tumor was located in the right temporal convexity and right cerebellar tent. The inlet is the cut surface of the tumor, yellowish, and solid without hemorrhage or necrosis. F, G) Case 2 with LMNA-NTRK1 fusion tumor: T2 weighted MRI revealed low-density mass on the left forehead. The cut surface of the tumor shows a gray-white solid appearance without hemorrhage or necrosis.
Figure 2

A) Chest CT of the ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor (IMT) reveals a heterogeneously enhancing tumor in the left lower part of the thorax. B) The mass arises from extrapulmonary sequestration, supplied by the left phrenic artery, which is separated from the lower lobe of the lung. C) The cut surface of the tumor is hemorrhagic and has congested large vessels. D) This is the microscopic picture of the squared part of figure C. It is a well-encapsulated, but partly adhered to the lower lobe of the left lung. The tumor arose from the extrapulmonary sequestration and pushed the left lower lobe of the lung. Hemorrhage was developed by previous embolization of large vessels of the sequestrated lung, under the impression of arteriovenous malformation.
Figure 3

A) Histology of the intracranial undifferentiated sarcoma with TPR-NTRK1 fusion shows alternating cellular areas with collagen bands show a tiger-like appearance. The tumor cells are oval to short spindle cells. B) The forehead mesenchymal tumor with LMNA-NTRK1 fusion shows relatively low cellular spindle cell mesenchymal tumor with keloid type collagen laydown. C) The pulmonary inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion shows bland-looking spindle cells with intermixed lymphoplasmacytic cells. D) A sacrococcygeal infantile fibrosarcoma with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion shows fascicular spindle cells with high cellularity (A-D: H&E, bar: A-D: 50 μm).

Figure 4

A, B) Sarcoma with TPR-NTRK1 fusion shows co-positive for nestin and CD34. C, D) ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive infantile fibrosarcoma is co-positive for S100 protein and CD34. E-H) The LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma has lots of CD3-positive T-cell infiltration and robustly coexpressed CD34, S100, and CD10. (A: nestin, B: F: CD34, C, G: S100 protein, E: CD34, H: CD10, Bar: 200 μm).
Figure 5

Trk immunohistochemistry shows A) Nuclear positivity in TPR-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma (Case 1), B) mostly nuclear membrane, and cytoplasmic stain in LMNA-NTRK1 fusion sarcoma (Case 2), and C) mainly cytoplasmic stain in ETV6-NTRK3 fusion sarcoma. In figure B, the Trk-negative cells are infiltrating inflammatory cells (A-C: Trk IHC, lower bar: 50 μm). D. locus-specific identifier (LSI) FISH study using ETV6 fluorescence dual-color break apart DNA probes show one fused and one widely separated SpectrumGreen and SpectrumOrange signals in an infantile fibrosarcoma with ETV6-NTRK3 fusion-positive.

Figure 6
The custom NGS panel revealed TPR-NTRK1 fusion (IGV capture).

**Supplementary Files**

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