Disease causing property analyzation of variants in 12 Chinese families with polycystic kidney disease

Kexian Dong1,2 | Xiaogang Liu3 | Xueyuan Jia1,2 | Huanhuan Miao4 | Wei Ji1,2 | Jie Wu1,2 | Yun Huang1,2 | Lidan Xu1,2 | Xuelong Zhang1,2 | Hui Su1,2 | Guohua Ji1,2 | Peng Liu1,2 | Rongwei Guan1,2 | Jing Bai1,2 | Songbin Fu1,2 | Xianli Zhou4 | Wenjing Sun1,2

1Laboratory of Medical Genetics, Harbin Medical University, Harbin, China
2Key Laboratory of Preservation of Human Genetic Resources and Disease Control in China, Ministry of Education, Harbin Medical University, Harbin, China
3Department of Nephrology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, Harbin, China
4In-Patient Ultrasound Department, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, Harbin, China

Correspondence
XianLi Zhou, 246 Xuefu Road, Nangang District, Harbin 150086, China.
Email: hrbzhouxl@163.com

Wenjing Sun, 157 Baojian Road, Nangang District, Harbin 150081, China.
Email: sunwj@ems.hrbmu.edu.cn

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Abstract

Background: Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is an inherited disease that is life-threatening. Multiple cysts are present in the bilateral kidneys of PKD patients. The progressively enlarged cysts cause structural damage and loss of kidney function.

Methods: This study examined and analyzed 12 families with polycystic kidney disease. Whole exome sequencing (WES) or whole genome sequencing (WGS) of the probands was performed to detect the pathogenic genes. The candidate gene segments for lineal consanguinity in the family were amplified by the nest PCR followed by Sanger sequencing. The variants were assessed by pathogenic and conservational property prediction analysis and interpreted according to the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics.

Results: Nine of the 12 pedigrees were identified the disease causing variants. Among them, four novel variants in PKD1, c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3, c.1216T>C:p.C406R, c.8548T>C:p.S2850P, and c.3865G>A:p.V1289M (NM_001009944.2) were detected. After assessment, the four novel variants were considered to be pathogenic variants and cause autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in family. The detected variants were interpreted.

Conclusion: The four novel variants in PKD1, c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3, c.1216T>C:p.C406R, c.8548T>C:p.S2850P, and c.3865G>A:p.V1289M(NM_001009944.2) are pathogenic variants and cause autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease in family.

KEYWORDS
autosomal dominant, inheritance, novel variants, pedigree, polycystic kidney disease

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1  |  INTRODUCTION

Polycystic kidney disease (PKD) is a monogenic inherited disease involving bilateral kidneys, impacting renal structure and function (Obeidova et al., 2014). According to the inherited pattern, PKD is divided into autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD, OMIM#173900) and autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD, OMIM#263200). ADPKD affects more than 12 million individuals worldwide with a morbidity of 1:500–1:1000 (Lanktree et al., 2018; Willey et al., 2017). ADPKD is a life-threatening disease, impacting extrarenal organs including liver, brain, and pancreas, resulting end-stage kidney disease (ESRD) (Casteleijn, Spithoven, Rookmaaker, Vergouwen, & Gansevoort, 2015; Edrees et al., 2016; Litvinchuk, Tao, Singh, & Vasylyeva, 2015). Extrarenal cysts are also common in ADPKD, especially liver cysts, and 94% of ADPKD patients older than 35 have polycystic liver disease. The incidence of cysts in female is higher than that in male. 7%–36% of ADPKD patients have pancreatic cysts, and the incidence of pancreatic cysts is higher in patients with PKD2 mutations (Kim et al., 2016). 25%–30% of ADPKD patients have cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular complications, especially cardiac hypertrophy and coronary artery disease, are the leading cause of death in patients with ADPKD (Krishnappa, Vinod, Deverakonda, & Raina, 2017). About 9%–12% of ADPKD patients suffer from intracranial aneurysm (Flahault & Joly, 2019). About 45% of ADPKD patients have abdominal hernias, which may be associated with kidney enlargement (Li et al., 2011).

Two acknowledged genes, PKD1 (78% in affected pedigrees) and PKD2 (15% in affected pedigrees), are considered as the pathogenic genes of ADPKD (Cornec-Le Gall, 2018). However, approximately 10% of patients with ADPKD have no variant detected in either PKD1 or PKD2 (Meng et al., 2018; Porath et al., 2016). Polycystin-1 (PC1) is the protein product of PKD1, which is an integral membrane protein with 11 membrane-spanning domains. The protein product of PKD2, polycystin-2 (PC2), is also located on the cell membrane as a nonselective Ca2+ channel. The C-termini of PC1 and PC2 interact to regulate ion transportation (Ghata & Cowley, 2017; Hafer & Conran, 2017; Kim & Park, 2016; Kinoshita et al., 2016). According to Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease Mutation Database (PKDB), more than 1000 pathogenic variants in PKD1 and more than 200 pathogenic variants in PKD2 were detected in ADPKD pedigrees. Generally, patients with ADPKD have no apparently symptoms until 40 s age (Pei et al., 2015). Thus, molecular diagnosis of an individual with ADPKD family history is meaningful.

In this study, we collected 12 families with ADPKD in North China. WES or WGS of the blood samples from 12 probands were performed to detect the candidate pathogenic variants. To identify the disease causing variants, bioinformatic analysis was performed. The nest PCR was used to amplify the candidate regions in the patients and other individuals in the family followed by Sanger sequencing. Several prediction tools were used to assess and analyze the pathogenic and conservational properties of the variants.

2  |  MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1  |  Ethical compliance

The study protocol was approved by Institutional Research Board of Harbin Medical University (protocol number HMUIRB20190010) and all participants provided written informed consent.

2.2  |  Subjects

In this study, 12 unrelated families in Northeast China with polycystic kidney disease were analyzed. Clinical information and peripheral blood samples from the probands and other available family members were obtained. The peripheral blood from the individuals was collected into a qualified negative pressure vacuum EDTA anticoagulant tube. The pedigree maps of Family 1–4 were shown in Figure 1a,d,f,h. The pedigree maps of Family 5–12 were shown in Figures S1A, S2A, S3A, S4A, S5A, S6A, S7 and S8. More information was described in the Materials and Methods part of Supplementary files.

2.3  |  Pathogenic gene detection

Whole exome sequencing (WES) and whole genome sequencing (WGS) of the blood sample from the probands were performed by Novogene technology limited-liability Company (Beijing, China). The disease of the proband of Family 5 was a little more complicated. She had not only polycystic kidney and liver, but also choledochal cystic dilatation combined with cholangiocarcinoma. To further study the case, we did WGS for Family 5, while other families were detected by WES. To perform WES, genomic DNA extracted from peripheral blood for each sample was fragmented to an average size of 180–280 bp and used to create a DNA library following established Illumina paired-end protocols. The Agilent SureSelect Human All Exon V6 Kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) was used for exome capture according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The Illumina Novaseq 6000 platform (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) was used for genomic DNA sequencing by Novogene Bioinformatics Technology Co., Ltd (Beijing, China).
FIGURE 1  Pedigrees of Family 1–4 and the Sanger sequencing results. (a) The pedigree of Family 1. (b) The Sanger sequencing results showing the deletion variant PKD1:c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1. (c) The T-vector ligation product from the proband showing the mutated and wild-type sequences of III1 and III6. (d) The pedigree of Family 2. (e) The Sanger sequencing results showing the missense variant PKD1:c.1216T>C:p.C406R of II2 and II3. (f) The pedigree of Family 3. (g) The Sanger sequencing results showing the missense variant PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P of III1. (h) The pedigree of Family 4. (i) The Sanger sequencing results showing the missense variant PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M of I2 and I3. A square represents male, and a circle represents female. Black indicates patients. The black arrow indicates the probands. Asterisks indicate the individuals who were clinically examined and underwent genetic analyses. The red arrows indicate the position of the duplication variant or the corresponding wild-type base.
China) to generate 150 bp paired-end reads with a minimum coverage of 10x for ~99% of the genome (mean coverage of 100×). As for WGS, genomic DNA extracted from the peripheral blood was fragmented to an average size of ~350 bp and used to create a DNA library following established Illumina paired-end protocols. The Illumina Novaseq 6000 platform was used for genomic DNA sequencing by Novogene Bioinformatics Technology Co., Ltd to generate 150 bp paired-end reads with a minimum coverage of 10x for ~99% of the genome (mean coverage of 30x).

DNA extraction was performed using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen, #69506, Dusseldorf, Germany) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, a DNA collection spin tube was used to isolate genomic DNA from the blood sample. Because of the complexity of the PKD1 gene, long-range PCR (LR-PCR) was used as the first step to amplify the PKD1 (NC_000016.10) exons 15–21, exons 2–8, exons 22–26, exons 13–15, exons 1–8, and exons 27–34, respectively. The LR-PCR products were amplified as the template to obtain the candidate region within the 16th exon, 6th exon, 26th exon, 15th exon, 5th exon, 22nd exon, and 29th exon. The candidate regions in PKD2 (NC_000004.12) were amplified by common PCR. The information of those primers was shown in Table S1. The PCR products were sequenced by TsingKe Biological Technology (Beijing, China) using Sanger sequencing.

2.4 | Variants analysis

In WES and WGS, the reads that aligned to exon regions were collected for variant calling and identification of SNV and indels using Samtools mpileup and bcftools (GRCh37/ hg19). The frequencies of variants were evaluated in the 1000 Genome Project (https://www.1000genomes.org), the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAc) and the Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD) (http://gnomad.broad institute.org). The significance of the variants was assessed using Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM, http://omim.org), the Human Gene Mutation Database (HGMD, http://www.hgmd.cf.ac.uk/ac/all.php), and the Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease Database (PKDB, http://pkdb.pkdcure.org); as well as SIFT (http://sift.jcvi.org), Polyphen2_HVAR (http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph2/), MutationTaster (http://www.mutationtaster.org), and Mutation Assessor (http://mutationassessor.org/r3/) substitution assessment tools. The conserved properties of the variants were analyzed using University of California Santa Cruz Genome Browser (UCSC, http://genome.ucsc.edu). The prevalence of the studied variants was compared with that of 51 individuals in control group. The interpretation of the variants was according to the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) (Richards et al., 2015).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Clinical presentation

Twelve unrelated Chinese families with polycystic kidney disease were studied. The probands’ clinical examination results of kidney function and ultrasound of the abdominal urology were shown in Table 1. Among the 12 probands, nine of them were female and three were male. According to the ultrasound examination of abdominal urinary organs, besides kidneys, the livers of all the probands were also affected with multiple cysts. They were regularly received kidney or liver puncture to extract the cystic liquid. There was a case also affected with choledochal cystic dilatation combined with cholangiocarcinoma (Family 5). The levels of urea, creatinine and uric acid were examined in the patients of Families 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, and 11. All of the examining results of urea and creatinine exceeded the normal level, while the uric acid levels in Family 2 and 9 lied among the normal range.

3.2 | Four novel variants in PKD1 are detected among 11 candidate disease causing variants

To identify the pathogenic genes involved in the families with polycystic kidney disease, WES or WGS was performed on the probands. The results showed PKD1 variants were detected in Families 1–6, 9, and 10, PKD2 variants were detected in Families 7–9. No candidate variant in PKD1 or PKD2 was detected in Families 11 and 12. The sequences were blat to GRCh37/hg19. PKD1 transcript was NM_001009944.2, encoding protein NP_001009944.2. PKD2 transcript was NM_000297.4, encoding protein NP_000288.1. The variants information of the ADPKD families were summarized in Table 2.

To identify the variants in the families, targeted DNA fragments from the available individuals including the probands were PCR amplified followed by Sanger sequencing and analyzed. The Sanger sequencing results indicated that the patients with polycystic kidney disease carried the variants in PKD1, while the normal ones did not carry the mutation sites (Figure 1b,e,g,i, Figures S1B, S2B, S3B, S4B, S5B and S6B). Notably, the four variants in PKD1, c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1, c.1216T>C:p.C406R in Family 2, c.8548T>C:p. V1289M in Family 3 and c.3865G>A:p.V1289M in Family 4 were the novel variants that had not been published in PKDB, OMIM, HGMD, or any other published articles. Since there was one base pair deletion of PKD1 gene in a heterozygous form in WES data of Family 1, further investigation into the proband’s sequence was performed by ligating the nest PCR product to the T linear vector and sequencing. The sequencing results showed that the patients (III3 and III6) carried one mutated sequence and
one normal sequence (Figure 1c), which confirmed the mutation existed as a heterozygous form. In summary, 11 candidate disease causing variants were detected in 10 of 12 ADPKD pedigrees. Among them, four variants in \textit{PKD1} were novel.

### 3.3 The pathogenic and conservational properties analysis of the 11 candidate disease causing variants

To further evaluate the significance of the 11 variant sites in Family 1–10, the pathogenic and conservational properties were predicted and analyzed using multiple prediction tools (Table 3). The frequency information in the population of the variants were detected in the gnomAD, 1000 Genome Program and ExAC. The frequencies of all the 11 variants were less than 0.01 or not available, which meant those variants barely occurred in normal persons.

#### TABLE 1 Clinical examination results of the ADPKD probands

| Proband  | Age | Gender | Urea (normal range 2.9–8.2 mmol/l) | Creatinine (normal range 44–97 μmol/l) | Uric acid (normal range 208–428 μmol/l) | Affected organs |
|----------|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Family 1 | 55  | Male   | 37.36↑                           | 909.7↑                                 | 569.6↑                                 | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 2 | 60  | Female | 24.59↑                           | 414.6↑                                 | 358.4                                   | Kidney, liver, pancreas enlargement |
| Family 3 | 50  | Male   | 12.24↑                           | 169.0↑                                 | 517.9↑                                 | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 4 | 47  | Female | N/A*                            | N/A                                    | N/A                                    | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 5 | 56  | Female | N/A*                            | N/A                                    | N/A                                    | Kidney, liver, choledochal cystic dilatation, cholangiocarcinoma |
| Family 6 | 53  | Female | N/A                              | N/A                                    | N/A                                    | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 7 | 42  | Female | N/A                              | N/A                                    | N/A                                    | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 8 | 65  | Female | 9.26↑                            | 200↑                                   | 405.2↑                                 | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 9 | 61  | Female | 9.93↑                            | 122↑                                   | 372.7                                  | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 10| 28  | Female | 40.54↑                           | 666↑                                   | 530.7↑                                 | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 11| 45  | Female | 8.43↑                            | 214↑                                   | 450.0↑                                 | Kidney, liver   |
| Family 12| 58  | Male   | N/A                              | N/A                                    | N/A                                    | Kidney, liver   |

*aNot available.*

#### TABLE 2 Candidate pathogenic variants information

| Pedigree | Gene | Exon | Variant | Genotype | NM number | Amino acid change | PKDBa |
|----------|------|------|---------|----------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| Family 1 | \textit{PKD1} | 16 | Deletion | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 | —     |
| Family 2 | \textit{PKD1} | 6 | Missense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.1216T>C:p.C406R | —     |
| Family 3 | \textit{PKD1} | 26 | Missense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.8548T>C:p.S2850P | —     |
| Family 4 | \textit{PKD1} | 15 | Missense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.3865G>A:p.V1289M | —     |
| Family 5 | \textit{PKD1} | 5 | Nonsense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.1198C>T:p.R400X | Definitely Pathogenic |
| Family 6 | \textit{PKD1} | 22 | Nonsense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.8095C>T:p.Q2699X | Definitely Pathogenic |
| Family 7 | \textit{PKD2} | 6 | Nonsense | Heterozygote | NM_000297 | c.1390C>T:p.R464X | Definitely Pathogenic |
| Family 8 | \textit{PKD2} | 4 | Nonsense | Heterozygote | NM_000297 | c.916C>T:p.R306X | Definitely Pathogenic |
| Family 9 | \textit{PKD2} | 8 | Nonsense | Heterozygote | NM_000297 | c.1774C>T:p.R592X | Definitely Pathogenic |
| \textit{PKD1} | 29 | Missense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.9884A>G:p.N3295S | Indeterminate |
| Family 10 | \textit{PKD1} | 40 | Missense | Heterozygote | NM_001009944 | c.11333C>A:p.T3778N | Likely Neutral |

*aThe clinical significance of variants in Polycystic Kidney Disease Database, http://pkdb.pkdcure.org.*
| Pedigree | Gene | Amino acid change | Novel | gnomAD\(^a\) | 1000G\(^b\) | ExAC\(^c\) | SIFT\(^d\) | Polyphen2\(_{-}\)HVAR\(^e\) | MutationTaster\(^f\) | Mutation Assessor\(^g\) | PhyloP\(^h\) | PhastCons\(^i\) |
|----------|------|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Family 1 | PKD1 | c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 | Yes   | —           | —           | —        | —        | 1, 12           | 2.615, M       | 0.001         | 0.999     | 0.155, 0.322 |
| Family 2 | PKD1 | c.1216T>C:p.C406R  | Yes   | —           | —           | —        | 0.000, D | 0.999, D        | 1, D           | 2.615, M       | 0.001     | 0.999         |
| Family 3 | PKD1 | c.8548T>C:p.S2850P | Yes   | —           | —           | —        | 0.012, D | 0.999, D        | 0.999988, D   | 2.085, M       | 0.001     | 0.999         |
| Family 4 | PKD1 | c.3865G>A:p.V1289M | Yes   | 2.56E-05    | —           | 1.84E-05 | 0.031, D | 0.977, D        | 0.000047, N   | 1.71, L        | 0.561     | 0.029         |
| Family 5 | PKD1 | c.1198C>T:p.R400X | No    | 1.49E-05    | —           | —        | —        | 1, A           | 0.818         | 0.081, 0.001  | 0.981     |                |
| Family 6 | PKD1 | c.8095C>T:p.Q2699X | No    | 4.07E-06    | —           | —        | —        | 1, A           | 4.106         | 1             | 0.981     |                |
| Family 7 | PKD1 | c.1130C>T:p.R464X | No    | —           | —           | —        | —        | 1, A           | 3.305         | 0.981         | 0.981     |                |
| Family 8 | PKD2 | c.916C>T:p.R306X | No    | 4.07E-06    | —           | —        | —        | 1, A           | 4.106         | 1             | 0.981     |                |
| Family 9 | PKD2 | c.1774C>T:p.R592X | No    | —           | —           | —        | —        | 1, A           | 4.357         | 1             | 0.981     |                |
| Family 10| PKD1| c.11333C>A:p.T3778N| No    | 4.40E-05    | 5.02E-05    | 0.083, T | 0.998, D | 0.998926, D    | 1.72, L        | 2.757         | 1          | 0.905         |

\(^a\) The frequencies listed in the Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD, October 2016).
\(^b\) The frequencies listed in the 1000 Genomes Project (1000 G, August 2015).
\(^c\) The frequencies listed in the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC, August 2016).
\(^d\) Score range from 0–1.0. Scores ≤0.05 indicate damaging effects and scores >0.05 indicate tolerated effects.
\(^e\) Score range from 0–1.0, where 1.0 is more damaging.
\(^f\) Score range from 0–215, where a smaller score is more different than the original amino acid. The result can be A (disease causing automatic), D (disease causing), N (polymorphism), or P (polymorphism automatic).
\(^g\) If the score is larger and more pathogenic, the result indicates a change in the function as H (high), M (medium), L (low) or N (neutral).
\(^h\) Score range from −14 to +6. Sites predicted to be conserved are assigned positive scores, while sites predicted to be fast-evolving are assigned negative scores.
\(^i\) Score range from 0 to 1, where the closer the value is to 1, the more probable the nucleotide is conserved.
which were predicted by SIFT, Polyphen2_HVAR, MutationTaster, and MutationAssessor for the pathogenic properties. The prediction results of \( \text{PKD1}:c.1216T>C:p.C406R \) in Family 2 and \( \text{PKD1}:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P \) in Family 3 were consistent and showed to be disease causing, changing the protein function in a medium degree (Figure 2a,c). However, some prediction results were not consistent to each other when they predicted the variants \( \text{PKD1}:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M \) in Family 4, \( \text{PKD1}:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S \) in Family 9 and \( \text{PKD1}:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (b) The conservation of p.C406 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (c) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (d) The conservation of p.S2850 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (e) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (f) The conservation of p.T3778 using the UCSC Genome Browser.

**FIGURE 2** The pathogenic and conservational properties of missense variants in Family 2, Family 3, Family 4, Family 9, and Family 10. (a) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.1216T>C:p.C406R \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (b) The conservation of p.C406 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (c) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (d) The conservation of p.S2850 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (e) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (f) The conservation of p.V1289 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (g) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (h) The conservation of p.N3295 using the UCSC Genome Browser. (i) The pathogenic properties of \( \text{PKD1}:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N \) according to the prediction tool Polyphen2_HVAR. (j) The conservation of p.T3778 using the UCSC Genome Browser.
PKD1:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N in Family 10. The missense variant PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M in Family 4 was predicted to be pathogenic in Polyphen2_HVAR and SIFT (Figure 2e), while not strong disease causing variants according to the other two prediction tools. The missense variant PKD1:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S in Family 9 was predicted to be disease causing in Polyphen2_HVAR (Figure 2g) and MutationTaster, while may be benign according to SIFT and MutationAssessor. The missense variant PKD1:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N in Family 10 was predicted to be disease causing in MutationTaster and change the protein function in a medium degree according to MutationAssessor, but may be benign predicted by SIFT and Polyphen2_HVAR (Figure 2i). The variant PKD1:c.916C>T:p.R306X in Family 8 and PKD2:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N in Family 10 were in a low conservational property.

PhyloP and PhastCons were used to predict the conservational properties of those variants (Table 3). To assess the conservational property of amino acid residues of the five missense variants, alignment of human wild-type protein and other animal uromodulin homologs (rhesus, mouse, dog, elephant, chicken, X-tropicalis, and zebra fish) was performed using UCSC (Figure 2b,d,f,h,j). The results showed that PKD1:c.1216T>C:p.C406R in Family 2, PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P in Family 3, PKD1:c.8095C>T:p.Q2699X in Family 6, PKD2:c.1390C>T:p.R464X in Family 7, PKD2:c.916C>T:p.R306X in Family 8, and PKD2:c.1774C>T:p.R592X in Family 9 are nonsense variants, which cannot be predicted by SIFT, Polyphen2_HVAR and MutationAssessor. According to MutationTaster, all the three nonsense variants were disease causing automatic variants.

In conclusion, the missense variants PKD1:c.1216T>C:p.C406R in Family 2 and PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P in Family 3 showed high degree of pathogenic property. The missense variants PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M in Family 4, PKD1:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S in Family 9 and PKD1:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N in Family 10 were conserved, while PKD1:c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1, PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M in Family 4, and PKD1:c.1198C>T:p.R400X in Family 5, the other eight variant sites were conserved.

3.4 Interpretation of the variants according to the ACMG

To interpret the studied variants, the standards and guidelines from ACMG were adopted. The prevalence of the variant in affected individuals is significantly increased compared with the prevalence in controls (PS4). Variants are sited in mutational hotspots (Dong et al., 2019), in which pathogenic variants in one or several nearby residues have been observed with greater frequency (PM1). Those variants that are absent from gnomAD, 1000 Genome Program and ExAC databases are considered follow a moderate piece of evidence for pathogenicity (PM2). The in-frame deletion variant and nonsense are likely to disrupt protein function due to length changes in the protein and considered moderate evidence of pathogenicity (PM4). The patient has a family history of disease that is consistent with de novo inheritance without parental samples testing and the phenotype in the patient matches the gene’s disease association with reasonable specificity (PM6). Those variants only occurred in ADPKD patients not in normal individual of the affected family, which obeys the co-segregation rule (PP1). The prediction results of several common prediction tools SIFT, Polyphen2_HVAR, MutationTaster, MutationAssessor, PhyloP, and PhastCons supported the pathogenicity of the missense variants (PP3). The phenotype and family history of the variant carriers are highly consistent with ADPKD (PP4). The variants have been classified as pathogenic in PKDB database (PP5). Variants both occur in ADPKD patient and normal individual of the family, which against the co-segregation principle (BS4). Multiple lines of computational evidence suggest no impact on gene or gene product (BP4). The missense variant was reported as benign (BP6). The interpretation results of the studied variants were listed in Table 4.

4 DISCUSSION

In this study, 12 unrelated Chinese families with ADPKD were studied. Eight candidate disease causing variants in PKD1 and three candidate disease causing variants in PKD2 were detected in 10 pedigrees. The 11 variants were considered as the candidate pathogenic mutation sites. Among them, deletion variant PKD1:c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1, missense variant PKD1:c.1216T>C:p.C406R in Family 2, missense variant PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P in Family 3, and missense variant PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.
In addition, because of the co-segregation rule and previous assessed. The variant type distribution was shown in Figure 3. Family 10, the pathogenic and conservational properties were

4, S2850P in Family 3, PKD1

: c.3865G > A: p. V1289M in Family 4 are novel variants which have not been reported before. Generally, deletion, insertion, or nonsense variants are considered as definitely pathogenic mutations. Thus, identified deletion variant PKD1:c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1, nonsense variants PKD1:c.1198C>T:p.R400X (Peters, Ariyurek, van Dijk, & Breuning, 2001) in Family 5, PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P in Family 3, PKD1: c.11333C>A:p.T3778N (Rossetti et al., 2001) in Family 6, PKD2:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N (Rossetti et al., 2001) in Family 9 were the ADPKD causing variants. However, missense variant PKD1:c.916C>T:p.R306X in Family 2, PKD1: c.9884A>G:p.N3295S (Yu et al., 2011) in Family 9

c.1390C>T:p.R464X: PKD2 nonsense Family 6 PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5 Pathogenic
c.916C>T:p.R306X: PKD2 nonsense Family 8 PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5 Pathogenic
c.1774C>T:p.R592X: PKD2 nonsense Family 9 PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5 Pathogenic
c.1216T>C:p.C406R: PKD1 missense Family 2 PS4+PM1+PM2+PM6+PP3+PP4 Pathogenic
c.8548T>C:p.S2850P: PKD1 missense Family 3 PS4+PM1+PM2+PM6+PP3+PP4 Pathogenic
c.9884A>G:p.N3295S: PKD1 missense Family 9 PS4+PM1+PM2+PP1+PP4 Pathogenic
c.3865G>A:p.V1289M: PKD2 missense Family 4 PS4+PM2+PM6+PP4 Likely pathogenic
c.11333C>A:p.T3778N: PKD1 missense Family 10 PS4+PM1+PM2+PP4+BS4+BP4+BP6 VUSm

TABLE 4 Interpretation of the variants according to the ACMG

| Variant | Gene | Variant type | Pedigree | Interpretation | Conclusion |
|---------|------|--------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 | PKD1 | deletion | Family 1 | a PS4+PM1b+PM2c+PM4d+PM6e+PP1f+PP4g | Pathogenic |
| c.1198C>T:p.R400X | PKD1 | nonsense | Family 5 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5h | Pathogenic |
| c.8095C>T:p.Q2699X | PKD1 | nonsense | Family 6 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP4+PP5 | Pathogenic |
| c.1390C>T:p.R464X | PKD2 | nonsense | Family 7 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5 | Pathogenic |
| c.916C>T:p.R306X | PKD2 | nonsense | Family 8 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM4+PP1+PP4+PP5 | Pathogenic |
| c.1774C>T:p.R592X | PKD2 | nonsense | Family 9 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PP1+PP4+PP5 | Pathogenic |
| c.1216T>C:p.C406R | PKD1 | missense | Family 2 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM6+PP3+PP4 | Pathogenic |
| c.8548T>C:p.S2850P | PKD1 | missense | Family 3 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PM6+PP3+PP4 | Pathogenic |
| c.9884A>G:p.N3295S | PKD1 | missense | Family 9 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PP1+PP4 | Pathogenic |
| c.3865G>A:p.V1289M | PKD2 | missense | Family 4 | PS4+PM2+PM6+PP4 | Likely pathogenic |
| c.11333C>A:p.T3778N | PKD1 | missense | Family 10 | PS4+PM1+PM2+PP4+BS4+BP4+BP6 | VUSm |

Note: The phenotype in the patient matches the gene's disease association with reasonable specificity.

Note: Pathogenicity classification has been made from a reputable source.

* The prevalence of the variant in affected individuals is significantly increased compared with the prevalence in controls.

† The variant is located in mutational hotspots in which pathogenic variants are with greater frequency.

‡ The frequency of the variant is less than 0.01 or absent from gnomAD, 1000 Genome Program and ExAC databases.

§ Protein length changes as a result of in-frame deletions/insertions in a nonrepeat region or stop-loss variants.

‖ Cosegregation with disease in multiple affected family members in a gene definitively known to cause the disease.

¶ Patient's phenotype or family history is highly specific for a disease with a single genetic etiology.

∥ De novo variant detected in the patient not in other individuals of the family.

© Multiple lines of computational evidence suggest no impact on gene or gene product (conservation, evolutionary, splicing impact, etc.).

©© Multiple lines of computational evidence support a deleterious effect on the gene or gene product (conservation, evolutionary, splicing impact, etc.).

©©© Lack of segregation in affected members of a family.

©©©© In silico predictions agree the variant as benign.

©©©©© Reputable source reports a variant as benign.

©©©©©© Variant of undetermined significance.

V1289M in Family 4 is a novel variant which has not been reported before. Generally, deletion, insertion, or nonsense variants are considered as definitely pathogenic mutations. Thus, identified deletion variant PKD1:c.6930delG:p.C2311Vfs*3 in Family 1, nonsense variants PKD1:c.1198C>T:p.R400X (Peters, Ariyurek, van Dijk, & Breuning, 2001) in Family 5, PKD1:c.8095C>T:p.Q2699X (Tan et al., 2009) in Family 6, PKD2:c.1390C>T:p.R464X (Audrezet et al., 2012) in Family 7, PKD2:c.916C>T:p.R306X (Garcia-Gonzalez et al., 2007; Magistroni et al., 2003; Rossetti et al., 2012) in Family 8 and PKD2:c.1774C>T:p.R592X (Audrezet et al., 2012) in Family 9 were the ADPKD causing variants. However, missense variants are usually difficult to be identified. To confirm the disease causing property of the missense variants PKD1:c.1216T>C:p.C406R in Family 2, PKD1:c.8548T>C:p.S2850P in Family 3, PKD1:c.3865G>A:p.V1289M in Family 4, PKD1:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S (Yu et al., 2011) in Family 9 and PKD1:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N (Rossetti et al., 2001) in Family 10, the pathogenic and conservational properties were assessed. The variant type distribution was shown in Figure 3. In addition, because of the co-segregation rule and previous report (Rossetti et al., 2001), PKD1:c.11333C>A:p.T3778N is not responsible for Family 10. Among the seven reported variants, only the missense variant PKD1:c.9884A>G:p.N3295S was detected in Chinese while others were in European.

For Family 11 and Family 12, besides PKD1 and PKD2, the newly reported pathogenic gene of ADPKD, GANAB (Porath et al., 2016), is also analyzed for disease causing variant, while no variant was detected. We also checked the variants of the pathogenic genes of other genetic cystic kidney diseases such as tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC), von Hippel–Lindau (VHL) disease or autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), although the patients did not show other obvious clinical symptoms or did not show the inheritance mode of autosomal recessive. The pathogenic genes of tuberous sclerosis complex are TSC1 and TSC2, of von Hippel–Lindau disease are VHL and CCND1, and of autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease is PKHD1 listed in OMIM. We did not find any variant in TSC1, TSC2, VHL, CCND1, or PKHD1 genes in the WES results of the patients in Family 11 and Family 12. Therefore, to identify the pathogenic gene, it needs more analysis of the families.
Totally, we identified seven pathogenic variants, three likely pathogenic variants and one variant of undetermined significance which need to be further studied. Nine out of 12 (75%) of the ADPKD pedigrees were detected disease-causing variants. According to report, PKD1 mutations comprise about 78% of ADPKD cases, while PKD2 mutations comprise about 14% of the cases. The remaining cases have no identifiable mutations (Cornec-Le Gall, 2019).

Several, rather than all, classical methods were used in this study to assess the pathogenic properties of missense mutations. In Family 3, only the proband was sequenced because informed consent was not obtained from other individuals in the family. The assessment of more samples could better explain this phenomenon. The pathogenie gene for ADPKD in Family 10–12 has not been identified, and needs further studied. The pathogenic mechanism of the variants as well as the relationship with clinical manifestations should be further studied.

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**
Kexian Dong, Xueyuan Jia, Songbin Fu, Xianli Zhou, and Wenjing Sun conceived and designed the study; Xiaogang Liu, Huanhuan Miao, Wei Ji, Jie Wu, Yun Huang, Lidan Xu, Xuelong Zhang, and Hui Su collected the clinical information; Kexian Dong, Rongwei Guan, Jing Bai, Guohua Ji, and Peng Liu performed the experiments; Kexian Dong, Xueyuan Jia, Songbin Fu, Xianli Zhou, and Wenjing Sun analyzed the data; Kexian Dong, Songbin Fu, and Wenjing Sun prepared the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**ORCID**
Songbin Fu [https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0382-9888](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0382-9888)
Wenjing Sun [https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5638-5892](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5638-5892)

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**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

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