Non-mosaic partial duplication 12p in a patient with dysmorphic characteristics and developmental delay

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Abstract

Duplication of the short arm of chromosome 12 is a rare chromosomal abnormality that may arise de novo or result from malsegregation of a balanced parental translocation. This study comprises the clinical description, cytogenetic and cytogenomic analyses and genotype-phenotype correlation in a patient with facial dysmorphism, developmental delay and intellectual impairment caused by non-mosaic partial duplication and a paracentric inversion 12p. The patient’s GTG-banded karyotype was 46,XX,invdup(12)(pter→p13.32::p11.1→p13.31::p13.31→qter). A genetic gain of approximately 28 Mb was detected in the chromosomal region arr[GRCh37]12p13.31-p11.1(6914072_34756209)x3. The chromosomal alteration seen in our patient is described as “pure” partial duplication 12p. In most cases, duplication 12p phenotype is characterized by dysmorphic features, multiple congenital anomalies and intellectual disability. A small number of cases in literature have described genes associated with neurodevelopmental disease, such as ING4, CHD4, MFAP5, GRIN2B, SOX5, SCN8A and PIANP. In our patient the duplication 12p was de novo. This study should contribute to the genotype-phenotype correlation in partial duplication 12p cases.

Keywords: Duplication 12p, array-CGH, facial dysmorphism.

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Duplication of the short arm of chromosome 12, first described by Uchida and Lin (1973), is a rare chromosomal abnormality with an estimated incidence of 1/50,000 live births (Stengel-Rutkowski et al., 1981). According to (Allen et al., 1996) cases of duplication 12p can be divided into five categories based on the extent of the region duplicated and whether other chromosomal aneusomies are present. Category I is designated as a partial “pure” trisomy of 12p with a duplication point distal to 12p11 and not involving any other chromosome. Category II includes cases with trisomies 12p in association with cell-line mosaicism. Category III includes cases with complete and “pure” 12p trisomy with an additional trisomy or monosomy of the short arm of an acrocentric chromosome. Category IV and V involves complete trisomy 12p with monosomy or trisomy of non-acrocentric chromosomes other than 12p, or trisomic involvement of 12q, respectively. The duplication of 12p is defined as “complete” when there is duplication region of 12p11 or 12p12-12pter. The duplication of 12p is considered “pure” as having no other aneuosmy or additional aneusomies of only the pter regions of non-acrocentric chromosomes, and not involving mosaicism (Allen et al., 1996).

By these criteria, (Liang et al., 2006) compared 23 patients with “pure” trisomy 12p, subdividing the cases into four subgroups (A, B, C and D) to refine the karyotype-phenotype correlation based on the extent of 12p-duplicated region involved. Subgroup A is complete 12p trisomy, subgroup is B terminal trisomy 12p, subgroup is C distal trisomy 12p and subgroup is D proximal trisomy 12p.

Approximately 50 cases of duplications 12p have been described in the medical literature to date consisting of small studies and case reports, that are limited to descriptions of the clinical syndrome at birth or in early infancy. Little is known about the life expectancy of these children, beyond infancy and most of the diagnostic criteria are based on descriptions of infants and adolescents (Segel et al., 2006; Inage et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2012; Poirsier et al., 2014; Mekkawy et al., 2016). The clinical signs most com-
monly associated with duplication 12p are increased weight at birth, hypotonia, craniofacial anomalies such as turricephaly, macrocephaly, round face, full cheeks, frontal bossing, wide nasal bridge, short nose, anteverted nares, long philtrum, thin upper lip, short neck, dysmorphic ears, intellectual impairment and moderate to severe psychomotor delay (Hung et al., 2012; Poirsier et al., 2014).

Some dysmorphic features such as sparse hair and eyebrows, hypertelorism, wide and depressed nasal bridge, short nose with wide and anteverted nares, up-slanting palpebral fissures, epicanthic folds, full cheeks, long philtrum, and short neck seen in patients with 12p duplication overlap with patients with Pallister-Killian syndrome (PKS) (OMIM: 601803) (Image et al., 2010). The PKS is typically caused by the presence of a supernumerary iso-chromosome composed of the short arms of chromosome 12, generating tetrasomy 12p, which is often present in a tissue limited mosaic state (Peltonäki et al., 1987). However, some characteristics such as pigmentary skin differences, diaphragmatic hernia, congenital heart defects, and other systemic abnormalities are present only in patients with PKS (Izumi et al., 2012).

In most of the reported cases, duplication 12p resulted from malsegregation of a balanced parental translocation (Segel et al., 2006). Duplication 12p may also arise de novo from misalignment of low copy repeats (LCRs) through non-allelic homologous recombination (NAHR) (De Gregori et al., 2005).

The present study included the clinical description, cytogenetic and cytogenomic analyses, as well as genotype-phenotype correlation in a patient with facial dysmorphism, developmental delay and intellectual impairment caused by non-mosaic partial duplication 12p, de novo.

This 15-year-old girl, the only child of young and healthy non-consanguineous parents, was born at 40 weeks after uneventful pregnancy and delivery. Her birth weight was 2.535 kg (p 2.5), and length 48 cm (p>2.5). She presented jaundice at birth, and, therefore, received phototherapy for five days. At one year, the patient showed having seizures with recurrence. In the first genetics clinical evaluation, at 2.1 yo, height 86 cm (p<3.95), weight 12.5 kg (p<3.58) and OCP 47.5 cm (percentile < 2). Showed a broad forehead, flat face, narrow eye slits, microblepharon, anteverted nostrils, low nasal root with a broad nasal base, smooth nasolabial philtrum, tent-shaped upper lip, (Figure 1) scoliosis, single simian crease in the left hand, bilateral flat foot, right genu valgum, developmental delay and intellectual disability. In the follow up at 13 yo, information was that she could walk and talk when she was 3 yo. At 6 yo, she underwent surgical correction of genu valgum and showed short lower limbs. She developed thelarche at 10 yo, and pubarche at 11 yo. At that time, her cholesterol was 600 mg/dL, and she had hypothyroidism, good comprehension but unable to read or write.

Chromosomal analysis was carried out on temporary peripheral lymphocyte cultures obtained from the patient and her parents as described by Moorhead and Furman (1960), with modifications. GTG banding (550 bands) was performed as described by Seabright (1971) and high-resolution banding according to Yunis (1976), both with modifications. The patient’s GTG-banded karyotype was 46,XX,invdup(12)(pter→ p13.32::p11.1→ p13.31::p13.31→ qter) while the karyotype of both parents were normal. FISH analysis, performed according to the instructions of the manufacturer, using a WCP chromosome 12 probe (Cytocell Aquarius™ Oxford Gene Technology),

Figure 1 - Patient at 13 years. (A) Frontal view. (B) Side view. Note the frontal humps, flat cheeks, round face, full cheeks, short nose, low nasal bridge, thin upper lip and short neck.
revealed that one of the homologous chromosomes differed in size (Figure 2).

For cytogenomic analysis, DNA was extracted from 200 μL of the patient’s whole blood using the MasterPure Complete DNA and RNA Purification Kit (Epicentre, US) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Array-CGH was performed using the GenetiSure™ CGH + SNP 4x180k platform (Agilent). The data were analyzed using Nexus Copy Number software (Biodiscovery v. 8.0). Our analyses were based on the reference genome GRCh37/hg19 and online databases such as UCSC Genome Browser (GRCh37/hg19), Database of Genomic Variants (DGV), Database of Chromosomal Imbalance and Phenotype in Humans Using Ensembl Resources (DECIPHER), Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM) and PubMed. The array-CGH analysis showed a large genetic gain of approximately 27.842,138 base pairs (~28 Mb) arr[GRCh37]12p13.31-p11.1 (6914072_34756209)x3, including 282 genes (Figure 3).

The first patient with a duplication 12p was clinically diagnosed initially as having Down syndrome, due to the similarity of flat face and clinical features such as epistaxis.

Figure 2 - Chromosome 12 karyotyping and FISH. (A) GTG-banded karyotype of patient showing the normal and duplication and inversion paracentric 12p. (B) FISH metaphase using WCP probe for chromosome 12 of CYTOCELL AQUARIUS® Oxford Gene Technology indicating a difference in size in one of the patient’s homologous chromosome, the arrow indicates the duplication 12 p.

Figure 3 - Chromosome 12 characterization. (A) Array-CGH of chromosome 12, the color blue indicates the duplicated chromosomal region 12p13.31 → p11.1 of ~28 Mb in size. (B) Duplication 12p patients reported in the literature with chromosome region similar to that of the present case.
canthus, broad nasal bridge, bilateral simian creases, abnormal dermal patterns and intellectual disability. However, chromosomal analysis by quinacrine dihydrochloride was revealed a trisomy 12p and monosomy of the distal region of chromosome 8 (Uchida and Lin, 1973).

Since then, several researchers aimed at correlating the karyotype-genotype-phenotype with duplication 12p (Image et al., 2010). However, duplication 12p is a chromosomal alteration with little recurrence of cases in the literature. In addition, there is a great phenotypic variability due to different sizes and chromosome breaks of the 12p duplication (Eid et al., 2014).

De Gregori et al. (2005) describe the characterization of an interstitial duplication of 12p, dup (12) (p11.21 → p13.31), by array-CGH and FISH in a patient with mental retardation and dysmorphic features. They hypothesized that the duplication 12p could have been generated by homology of three blocks of low copy repeats (LCRs) flanking the duplication region. They suggested that misalignment of these LCRs could have mediated the recurrent rearrangement type de novo.

The duplicated chromosomal region in our patient is similar to that described by De Gregori et al. (2005), and in keeping with the LCRs model, the origin of the duplication in our patient is de novo. However, in our patient the orientation of the duplicated chromosomal segment is inverted.

The karyotype-phenotype correlation in our patient allows us to characterize the extent of the duplicate chromosome fragment into Category I and, depending on the extent of duplication, in the subgroup of group D (Allen et al., 1996; Liang et al., 2006). Category I is said to be the most benign group in trisomy 12p, in addition to points of 12p distal to 12p11 (Allen et al., 1996).

Among the subgroups of “pure” partial trisomy, the clinical features, such as broad ears and deformities in the feet were mapped to a segment of 5 Mb, the 12p13.1-p12.3 segment, because they were present in subgroup A and C patients, but not in subgroups B and D patients (Allen et al., 1996; Rauch et al., 1996; Zumkeller et al., 2004; Liang et al., 2006). In our patient these clinical features are not present.

Epicanthal folds, ear anomalies, short neck, and round face/prominent cheeks were observed in groups A, B, and C patients, but not in group D patients, suggesting that these features may be associated with a segment telomeric to 12p12.3 (Tekin et al., 2001; Tsai et al., 2005; Liang et al., 2006). However in our patient, round face/prominent cheeks and short neck were described, in addition to the 12p12 region duplication. The common phenotype is in most cases independent of the category, being facial dysmorphism, and developmental delay (Allen et al., 1996; Rauch et al., 1996).

Compared with cases described in the literature with “pure” partial duplication 12p similar to the duplication region of our patient, the clinical description included a round face, full cheeks, prominent forehead/frontal, short nose, wide/depressed nasal bridge, anteverted nostril, long/deep philtrum, large downward facing mouth, and inverted lower lip (Table 1) are present in most cases of Category I and subgroup D (De Gregori et al., 2005; Liang et al., 2006; Poisier et al., 2014).

The clinical findings, such as hypotonia, high forehead, prominent cheeks, flat face, large philtrum, short nose with anteverted nostril, broad everted lower lip, and short neck are in agreement with the partial duplication 12p in our patient. Although our patient did not present increased birth weight, she is currently overweight (Rauch et al., 1996).

The duplicated 12p13.1 region present in patients previously described in the literature contributes to the hypothesis that this region contains genes that are sensitive to gene dosage and that this region could be responsible for facial dysmorphism (Rauch et al., 1996; Tsai et al., 2005). This region is also altered in cases of PKS with overlapping facial features for 12p duplication/PKS (Izumi et al., 2012). The diagnosis of PKS requires the identification of mosaic isochromosome 12p by conventional karyotyping and FISH (Hung et al., 2012). Our patient showed clinical features consistent with a duplication 12p, but since no isochromosome 12p was detected by karyotyping and FISH, the patient was diagnosed with non-mosaic partial duplication 12p.

Izumi et al. (2012) hypothesized that duplication of the genes located within 12p13.31 might be sufficient to result in the core phenotype of 12p duplication/PKS. According to these authors, ING4, CHD4, and MFAP5, represent strong candidate genes, given their important roles in cell proliferation and differentiation. Moreover, alterations in these genes have been associated with neurological disorders.

According to Segel et al. (2006), genes that are important for early morphogenesis are affected by trisomy, while genes that are important for fetal and placental growth are not. However, genes responsible for brain development (functional and possibly structural) continue to be affected throughout pregnancy, resulting in poor brain development, and trisomy 12p influences the early developmental milestones, as well as cognitive and neurological function. Patients with trisomy 12p chromosome tend to have seizures at seven or eight years of age. In our patient, the seizures began in the first years of life, becoming recurrent. She also has speech and motor delay, and intellectual disability.

Currently, the use of array-CGH, is aimed at the elucidation of genetic variants, such as Copy Number Variants (CNVs) that can overlap genes and consequently alter the phenotype. The study of (Coe et al., 2014) correlated CNVs associated with many neurocognitive disorders in individuals with developmental delay. Among the mapped gain/duplication type CNVs, these overlap the GRIN2B, SOX5,
SCN8A and PIANP genes in the 12p12.1 and 12p13.3 regions. These genes act in the central nervous system and craniofacial development and are potential candidates for neurological changes in patients with 12p duplication (Poirsier et al., 2014).

Most reports of cases of duplication 12p describe the clinical characteristics of the patients and conventional cytogenetics analysis. Only for six cases of duplication 12p, an array-CGH analysis was performed to refine the chromosomal break points and describe the genes inserted in the duplicated chromosomal region, thus improving the genotype-phenotype correlation (De Gregori et al., 2005; Hung et al., 2012; Izumi et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2012; Poirsier et al., 2014; Mekkawy et al., 2016).

In conclusion, we describe a case of a rare chromosomal imbalance leading to partial duplication 12p and inversion of de novo origin that could have been generated as a result of the misalignment of LCR blocks. The phenotype-karyotype correlation showed similarities to previously reported cases of partial duplications 12p. Few cases in literature have described genes associated with neurodevelopmental disease, such as ING4, CHD4, MFAP5, GRIN2B, SOX5, SCN8A and PIANP. Our results contribute to the hypothesis that the 12p13.3 region is responsible for most of the dysmorphic features of duplication 12p.

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Conflict of interest

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

Author contributions

JSO generated and analyzed the data, visualization and writing of original draft, TMJ generated and analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript, RABS generated and DHS conceived the study, generated the data and participated in the writing, LRM provided resources and partici-
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Internet Resources

Nexus software, http://www.biodiscovery.com/nexus-copy-number/ (accessed 18 November 2017).

UCSC genome Browser, https://genome.ucsc.edu/ (accessed 04 June 2018).

Database of Genomic Variants (DGV), http://dgv.tcag.ca/dgv/app/home (accessed 06 June 2018).

Database of Chromosomal Imbalance and Phenotype in Humans Using Ensembl Resources (DECIPHER), https://decipher.sanger.ac.uk/ (accessed 05 July 2018).

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