ORIGINAL ARTICLE

MicroRNAs in cardiac arrhythmia: DNA sequence variation of MiR-1 and MiR-133A in long QT syndrome

PAULA L. HEDLEY1,4, ANTING L. CARLSEN1, KASPER M. CHRISTIANSEN1, JØRGEN K. KANTERS2,5, ELIJAH R. BEHR3, VALERIE A. CORFIELD4 & MICHAEL CHRISTIANSEN1

1Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology and Genetics, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2Laboratory of Experimental Cardiology, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3Department of Cardiology, St George’s Hospital, London, UK, 4Department of Biomedical Science, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa, and 5Department of Cardiology, Gentofte & Herlev University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark

Abstract
Long QT syndrome (LQTS) is a genetic condition associated with prolonged ventricular repolarization, primarily a result of perturbations in cardiac ion channels, which predisposes individuals to life-threatening arrhythmias. Using DNA screening and sequencing methods, over 700 different LQTS-causing mutations have been identified in 13 genes worldwide. Despite this, the genetic cause of 30–50% of LQTS is presently unknown. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small (~22 nucleotides) noncoding RNAs which post-transcriptionally regulate gene expression by binding complementary sequences within messenger RNAs (mRNAs). The human genome encodes over 1800 miRNAs, which target about 60% of human genes. Consequently, miRNAs are likely to regulate many complex processes in the body, indeed aberrant expression of various miRNA species has been implicated in numerous disease states, including cardiovascular diseases. MiR-1 and MiR-133A are the most abundant miRNAs in the heart and have both been reported to regulate cardiac ion channels. We hypothesized that, as a consequence of their role in regulating cardiac ion channels, genetic variation in the genes which encode MiR-1 and MiR-133A might explain some cases of LQTS. Four miRNA genes (miR-1-1, miR-1-2, miR-133a-1 and miR-133a-2), which encode MiR-1 and MiR-133A, were sequenced in 125 LQTS probands. No genetic variants were identified in miR-1-1 or miR-133a-1; but in miR-1-2 we identified a single substitution (n.100A>G) and in miR-133a-2 we identified two substitutions (n.19G>A and n.98C>T). None of the variants affect the mature miRNA products. Our findings indicate that sequence variants of miR-1-1, miR-1-2, miR-133a-1 and miR-133a-2 are not a cause of LQTS in this cohort.

Key Words: DNA mutational analysis, single nucleotide polymorphism, gene expression regulation, long QT syndrome

Background
Long QT syndrome (LQTS) is a genetic condition characterized by prolongation of the QT interval, syncopal attacks, T-wave abnormalities, ventricular tachycardia of the torsades de pointes (TdP) type and an increased risk of sudden death [1]. The population prevalence of LQTS is estimated to be between 1:2000 and 1:5000 [1,2] and the disease phenotype is associated with highly variable expressivity [3] and incomplete penetrance [4]. Presently, using genetic screening and DNA sequencing techniques, over 700 LQTS-causing mutations have been identified in 13 genes [5,6]. These genes are involved in the correct execution of the cardiac action potential. Genetic screening of the five most frequently affected genes (KCNQ1, KCNH2, SCN5A, KCNE1 and KCNE2) results in the identification of a disease-causing mutation in 50–70% of symptomatic LQTS cases [7]; the additional eight genes, which complete the list of LQTS-causative genes known presently, each account for very few LQTS cases [5,6]. A number of LQTS cases, with as-yet-unknown genetic aetiology, might be attributable to mutations in genes...
which regulate the expression of these LQTS-causing genes.

Initially characterized by Lee et al. [8] in 1993, microRNAs (miRNA) are first transcribed as long primary miRNA transcripts containing a stem loop secondary structure, which, when excised by splicing or cleaved by the nuclear RNA cleaving enzyme, Droshera, is called pri-miRNA. Removal of the terminal loop from the pre-miRNA by the cytoplasmic RNA cleaving enzyme, Dicer, produces the small (~22 nucleotides) mature miRNA duplex [9]. Usually, one strand is preferentially selected for entry into the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC), while the other strand, known as the miRNA* strand, is degraded. RISC is a multi-protein complex which uses the single stranded miRNA as a template for recognizing complementary messenger RNAs (mRNAs). The targeted transcripts are regulated through the binding of these complementary sequences and subsequent repression of gene expression through the regulation of mRNA translation or degradation [8,10–12]. The miRNAs of animals achieve this regulation through an imperfect association with mRNA target regions [13–15]. Furthermore, this incomplete complementarity with targets provides an opportunity for animal miRNA’s to bind multiple different mRNA targets; similarly a given target might bind multiple miRNAs [16,17].

The human genome may encode over 1800 microRNAs [18,19], which target about 60% of human genes [13,20]. Consequently, miRNAs are likely to be involved in most biological processes [14,21]. Indeed, miRNAs have been reported to regulate many complex processes in the body and aberrant expression of various miRNA species has been implicated in numerous disease states including cancer [22], diabetes [23,24], systemic lupus erythematosus [25] and cardiovascular disease, e.g. heart failure, hypertrophy, conduction disturbances and arrhythmogenesis [26–35].

MiR-1 and MiR-133A are muscle-specific miRNAs, expressed predominantly in the heart and skeletal muscle [36]; they are the most abundant miRNAs expressed in the heart [30,37]. The bicistronic miRNA clusters encoding miR-133a-1/miR-1-2 (located on chromosome 18) and miR133a-2/miR-1-1 (located on chromosome 20) are regulated cooperatively by the myocyte enhancer factor-2 (MEF2) transcription factor and the serum response factor (SRF) which are essential regulators of muscle development [38,39]. The sequences of the mature miR-1-1 and miR-1-2 are identical (MiR-1), as are those of miR-133a-1 and miR-133a-2 (MiR-133A). Targets of MiR-1 and MiR-133A include those mRNA transcripts encoding proteins involved in cardiovascular development [29], hypertrophy [26,27] and ion channel function [30]. Ion channels, such as RYR2, KCNQ1 and KCN2, have been shown to be regulated, at least in part, by MiR-1 or MiR-133A [34,35,40].

MiR-1 was shown to play a role in cardiac morphogenesis and conduction in a genetic knockout mouse model [35]. Mice lacking miR-1-2 show an approximate 50% lethality between late embryogenesis and shortly after birth, as a consequence of ventricular septal defects. Postnatal survivors displayed a range of cardiac phenotypes, however while most displayed no structural dysfunction many suffered sudden death. Electrocardiography of mutant mice showed that many mutant carriers displayed prolonged ventricular depolarisation [35]. Mice lacking either MiR-133A gene did not exhibit cardiac defects nor was their life span reduced compared to control animals [41]. However, increased levels of MiR-133A prolong the action potential in isolated ventricular myocytes and cause QT prolongation in mice [31]. Furthermore, using a guinea pig model, Shan et al. could show that increasing MiR-1 and MiR-133A induced QT prolongation, while antisense silencing of MiR-1 and MiR-133A abolished Arsenic trioxide-induced QT prolongation [42]. MiR-133A was shown to bind to the 3’UTR of KCNQ1 mRNA which encodes Kv7.1 [40]. Kv7.1 is the pore-forming subunit of the voltage-gated potassium channel which is responsible for the Iks cardiac potassium current. This current is essential for the repolarisation phase of the cardiac action potential, and mutations in KCNQ1 are known to cause a loss-of-function phenotype, which manifests clinically as LQTS [5].

We hypothesized that genetic variation in MiR-1 or MiR-133A might explain some cases of LQTS as the phenotype is a result of loss-of-function and gain-of-function perturbations in cardiac ion channels.

Methods

Patient samples

Unrelated probands, referred from specialist cardiology centres in Denmark and the UK to Statens Serum Institut for genetic investigation of LQTS (n = 125; 70% female), were included in this retrospective study. These probands are primarily of Northern European descent (96%) and consequently, data from various European genetics screening panels (retrieved from NCBI dbSNP) were used as in silico control of allele frequencies.

The probands had been screened for mutations in KCNQ1, KCNH2, SCN5A, KCNE1 and KCNE2 by capillary-electrophoresis single strand conformation polymorphism (CE-SSCP) followed by DNA sequencing of aberrant conformers as described elsewhere [43–45]. Screening for mutations in CAV3 was previously performed by direct sequencing [46]. Forty-eight (38%) had been found to carry a probably damaging variant in any one of these genes [47], these constitute the mutation carrier sub-group.
miRNA variants in long QT syndrome

Those probands in whom no mutation was identified constitute the non-mutation carrier sub-group.

Ethics statement

This study was performed in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983. All patients gave informed consent.

Genetic screening

DNA extraction. Genomic DNA (gDNA) was extracted from frozen EDTA-blood using a Qiagen kit (Qiagen, QmbH, Hilden, Germany).

Polymerase chain reaction. Four miRNA genes (mir-1-1, mir-1-2, mir-133a-1 & mir-133a-2) were PCR amplified from 125 gDNA samples (Table I). Primers were designed using NCBI/Primer-BLAST program [48] (Table I); all primers were modified with M13 tails (F: TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGT; R: CAGGAAACAGCTATGACC).

A 25 μL PCR mix incorporated 1 U of TEMPase Hot Start DNA Polymerase (Ampliqon ApS), 1 × Tempase buffer I (Ampliqon ApS), 2 mM dNTPs, 0.4 um of the forward and reverse primers, and 2.5 ng gDNA template.

PCR amplifications were performed in GeneAmp® PCR System 2700 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) using the following amplification protocol: initial heat activation step at 95°C for 15 min, 38 cycles of 30 s at denaturing temperature 94°C, 45 s at annealing temperature 58°C, and 40 s at extension temperature 72°C, and a final indefinite hold step of 4°C.

PCR products were quantified by 2% agarose gel electrophoresis and product size was confirmed through a visual comparison with Sigma Direct load Wide Range DNA marker (Sigma-Aldrich Denmark A/S).

Direct sequencing. PCR products were purified using ExoSap (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and sequenced using the Big Dye dideoxy terminator cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems) and the 3730 DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Sequence analysis was carried out using the Sequencher 4.9 software (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI, USA).

Data analysis

Multiple sequence alignment and nucleotide conservation across species. BLAST (http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi) analyses of the two miRNA genes which harboured nucleotide variants (miR-1-2 – NR_029662.1 and miR-133a-2 – NR_029676.1) identified several similar sequences in a number of species. These sequences were aligned in Bioedit using ClustalW in order to identify conserved regions [49].

Prediction of RNA secondary structure. RNAfold Webserver (http://rna.ubi.univie.ac.at/cgi-bin/RNAfold.cgi) was used to compute the minimum free energy (MFE), the partition function, the matrix of base pairing probabilities, and the centroid structure [50].

Statistical analysis

Tests for allele frequencies, heterozygosity values, genic differentiation and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium were carried out using the exact tests of GenePop on the web (http://genepop.curtin.edu.au/). Fisher’s exact test was used to detect differences in allele distribution with respect to mutation status; a 5% alpha error was considered acceptable. The exact Hardy Weinberg test was applied to compare the overall frequencies of the identified genotypes and verify whether the distribution of these genotypes was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium [51,52].

Results

Three genetic variants were identified in this cohort, minor allele frequencies (MAF) for mutation carriers, non-mutation carriers and in silico controls are reported in Table II. All variants conformed to Hardy Weinberg expectations and there was no statistically significant difference in allele frequencies between mutation carriers (n = 48) and non-mutation carriers (n = 77).

| NCBI ref seq | miRNA gene | Forward primer | Reverse primer | Amplicon |
|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| NR_029780.1  | mir-1-1    | AGACAGAGAGGCTCGCCGCA | ACACGAGGCTCGACCGCGC | 342 bp   |
| (71 bp)      |            |                 |                 |          |
| NR_029662.1  | mir-1-2    | TTGCGAGAGGCTCGCCGCA | TGGAACGCTTGACGCTGAG | 365 bp   |
| (85 bp)      |            |                 |                 |          |
| NR_029675.1  | mir-133a-1 | AGCCGGAGAAGACCGTGAGA | TTTGAAATCTTGTACGCTGAG | 444 bp   |
| (88 bp)      |            |                 |                 |          |
| NR_029676.1  | mir-133a-2 | ATCTCAGGAGAAGTCGCTT | GGGCTTGACTTTTAGGCTGT | 264 bp   |
| (102 bp)     |            |                 |                 |          |
No genetic variants were identified in miR-1-1; but in miR-1-2 we identified a single substitution (rs9989532: n.100A > G) (Figure 1); in nine probands (all heterozygote carriers). Multi-species sequence comparison of DNA sequences similar to the miR-1-2 gene region is represented in Figure 2; the n.100G nucleotide is highly conserved among all mammals queried as well as zebrafish in a region which is highly conserved among apes.

No sequence variants were detected in miR-133a-1, but in miR-133a-2 we identified two substitutions (n.19G > A and n.98C > T) (Figure 1). The n.19G > A polymorphism occurred in 64 probands (eight homozygote carriers and 56 heterozygote carriers), while the n.98C > T variant occurred in a single non-mutation carrier. Similar allele frequencies are reported in dbSNP for these variants; rs13040413, n.19G > A has a reported MAF of 0.250 in the CEU population and rs200375711, n.98C > T has a reported MAF of 0.002 in the ClinSeq population (CSAgilent). This Figure is reproduced in colour in the online version of The Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation.

### Table II. Minor allele frequencies of the genetic variants identified in this study.

| Gene     | SNP ID                  | Variant     | MAF study sub-populations | MAF dbSNP populations |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|          |                         |             | LQTSmc (n = 48)           | LQTSnmc (n = 77)     |
| miR-1-2  | rs9989532               | n.100A > G  | 0.042                     | 0.032                 |
| miR-133a-2 | rs13040413             | n.19G > A   | 0.250                     | 0.312                 |
|          | rs200375711             | n.98C > T   | 0.000                     | 0.006                 |
|          |                         |             |                           |                       |
|          |                         |             | HapMap-CEU (n = 113)      |                       |
|          |                         |             |                           |                       |
|          |                         |             | pilot1_CEU_low_coverage_panel (n = 60) | 0.013  | 0.008 |
|          |                         |             |                           |                       |
|          |                         |             | CSAgilent (n = 247)       | 0.002                 |

MAF, minor allele frequency; mc, mutation carrier; nmc, non-mutation carrier. All variants were in Hardy Weinberg Equilibrium, allele distribution was not significantly different between the two sub-populations.

Discussion

Presently, mutations in 13 genes are described to cause LQTS; taken together mutations in these genes explain 50–70% of LQTS cases. This means that causality in 30–50% of LQTS cases is as yet unknown. Animal models suggest that miRNAs might be involved in the regulation of cardiac action potential [35].

A number of associations between SNPs in predicted miRNA binding sites on target mRNAs and phenotypic traits have been reported [22,54–56]. A limitation of this study is that we have not assessed the MiR-1 and MiR-133A binding sites of putative target transcripts; instead we focused on identifying genetic variation within the miRNA genes themselves.

SNPs are rarely seen in the seed regions (short 3–8 nucleotide regions important for target specificity) of miRNAs; which suggests a strong selective constraint on the seed regions of mature miRNA. However, Mencia et al provided the first example of
miRNA variants in long QT syndrome

Figure 2. (A) Pri-miR-1-2 multiple species sequence alignment. Pre-miR-1-2 is indicated in a blue box, mature MiR-1 is indicated in a red box, the seed region is highlighted, rs9989532 is indicated by a black arrow. (B) Pre-miR-1-2 secondary structure, mature MiR-1 is indicated in red. Secondary structure was predicted using RNAfold Web Server [50]. This Figure is reproduced in colour in the online version of The Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation.

Figure 3. (A) Pri-miR-133a-2 multiple species sequence alignment. Pre-miR-133a-2 is indicated in a blue box, mature MiR-133A is indicated in a red box, the seed region is highlighted, rs13040413 and rs200375711 are indicated by black arrows. (B) Pre-miR-133a-2 secondary structure, mature MiR-133A is indicated in red, n.98C is indicated in blue. Secondary structure was predicted using RNAfold Web Server [50]. This Figure is reproduced in colour in the online version of The Scandinavian Journal of Clinical & Laboratory Investigation.
human inherited condition associated with miRNA mutations; when they discovered that mutations in the seed region of MiR-96 were responsible for non-syndromic progressive hearing loss in two families [57]. Outside of the seed region several variants have been associated with clinical phenotypes. Dorn et al. demonstrated that a rare variant in mature MiR-499 protected against cardiomyopathy in a transgenic mouse model [58] and Ohanian et al. identified a genetic variant in mir-133a-2 which altered strand abundance resulting in an accumulation of the miRNA* strand in an atrial fibrillation patient [59]. Furthermore, several SNPs in pri-miRNA genes have been reported to affect processing and expression levels of mature miRNA [52].

Conclusion
To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to report miRNA genetic variation in LQTS patients. We found three allelic variations none of which affect the mature miRNA products, although the miR-133a-2:n.98C>T variant is present in the excised pre-miRNA molecule (Figure 1) and may affect subsequent processing to mature MiR133A. Our findings indicate that sequence variation of miR1-1, miR1-2, miR133a-1 and miR133a-2 are not a cause of LQTS in this cohort.

Acknowledgements
We gratefully acknowledge the technical assistance of Dennis Schmidt and the financial support of the Danish Research Council (Grant: HEARTSAFE).

Declaration of interest: The authors report no conflict of interest. The authors alone are responsible for the content and writing of the paper.

References
[1] Crotti L, Celano G, Dagradi F, Schwartz PJ. Congenital long QT syndrome. Orphanet J Rare Dis 2008;3:18.
[2] Goldenberg I, Zareba W, Moss AJ. Long QT Syndrome. Curr Probv Cardiol 2008;33:629–94.
[3] Vincent GM, Timothy KW, Leppert M, Keating M. The spectrum of symptoms and QT intervals in carriers of the gene for the long-QT syndrome. N Engl J Med 1992;327:846–52.
[4] Priori SG, Napolitano C, Schwartz PJ. Low penetrance in the long-QT syndrome: clinical impact. Circulation 1999;99:529–33.
[5] Hedley PL, Jorgensen P, Slamacowiz S, Wangari R, Moolman-Smook J, Brink PA, Kanters JK, Corfield VA, Christiansen M. The genetic basis of long QT and short QT syndromes: a mutation update. Hum Mutat 2009;30:1486–511.
[6] Yang Y, Yang Y, Liang B, Liu J, Li J, Grunnet M, Olesen S-P, Rasmussen HB, Ellinor PT, Gao L, Lin X, Li L, Wang L, Xiao J, Liu Y, Liu Y, Zhang S, Liang D, Peng L, Jespersen T, Chen Y-H. Identification of a Kir3.4 mutation in congenital long QT syndrome. Am J Hum Genet 2010;86:872–80.
[7] Christiansen M, Hedley PL. Long QT testing: implications for complex diagnosis in personalized medicine. Per Med 2010;7:125–7.
[8] Lee RC, Feinbaum RL, Ambros V. The C. elegans heterochronic gene lin-4 encodes small RNAs with antisense complementarity to lin-14. Cell 1993;75:843–54.
[9] Carthew RW, Sontheimer EJ. Origins and mechanisms of miRNAs and siRNAs. Cell 2009;136:642–55.
[10] Bartel DP. MicroRNAs: genomics, biogenesis, mechanism, and function. Cell 2004;116:281–97.
[11] Filipowicz W, Bhattacharyya SN, Sonenberg N. Mechanisms of post-transcriptional regulation by microRNAs: are the answers in sight? Nat Rev Genet 2008;9:102–14.
[12] Lagos-Quintana M, Rauhut R, Lendeckel W, Tuschl T. Identification of novel gene targets for small expressed RNAs. Science 2001;294:853–8.
[13] Lewis BP, Burge CB, Bartel DP. Conserved seed pairing, often flanked by adenosines, indicates that thousands of human genes are microRNA targets. Cell 2005;120:15–20.
[14] Lewis BP, Shih IH, Jones-Rhoades MW, Bartel DP, Burge CB. Prediction of mammalian microRNA targets. Cell 2003;115:787–98.
[15] Valencia-Sanchez MA, Liu J, Hannon GJ, Parker R. Control of translation and mRNA degradation by miRNAs and siRNAs. Genes Dev 2006;20:515–24.
[16] Krek A, Grun D, Poy MN, Wolf R, Rosenberg L, Epstein EJ, MacMenamin P, de Piedade I, Gunsalus KC, Stoffel M, Rajewsky N. Combinatorial microRNA target predictions. Nat Genet 2005;37:495–500.
[17] Rajewsky N. microRNA target predictions in animals. Nat Genet 2006;38(Suppl.):S8–13.
[18] miRBase. 2012. Available from: http://www.mirbase.org/cgi-bin/mirna_summary.pl?for=hsa
[19] Bentwich I, Avniel A, Karov Y, Aharonov R, Gilad S, Barad O, Barzilai A, Eina R, Einav U, Meiri E, Sharon E, Spector Y, Bentwich Z. Identification of hundreds of conserved and nonconserved human microRNAs. Nat Genet 2005;37:766–70.
[20] Friedman RC, Farh KK, Burge CB, Bartel DP. Most mammalian mRNAs are conserved targets of microRNAs. Genome Res 2009;19:92–105.
[21] Lim LP, Lau NC, Garrett-Engele P, Grimson A, Schelter JM, Castle J, Bartel DP, Linsley PS, Johnson JM. Microarray analysis shows that some microRNAs downregulate large numbers of target mRNAs. Nature 2005;433:769–73.
[22] Ryan BM, Robles AI, Harris CC. Genetic variation in microRNA networks: the implications for cancer research. Nat Rev Cancer 2010;10:389–402.
[23] Poy MN, Eliasson L, Kruftfeldt J, Kuwajima S, Ma X, MacDonald PE, Pfeffer S, Tuschl T, Rajewsky N, Rorsman P, Stoffel M. A pancreatic islet-specific microRNA regulates insulin secretion. Nature 2004;432:226–30.
[24] Poy MN, Haussler J, Trajkovski M, Braun M, Collins S, Rorsman P, Zavolan M, Stoffel M. miR-375 maintains normal pancreatic alpha- and beta-cell mass. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2009;106:5813–8.
[25] Carlse AL, Schetter AJ, Nielsen CT, Lodö C, Knudsen S, Voss A, Harris CC, Hellmark T, Segelmak M, Jacobsen S, Bengtsson AA, Heegaard NH. Circulating microRNA expression profiles associated with systemic lupus erythematosus. Arthritis Rheum 2013;65:1324–34.
[26] Care A, Catalucci D, Felicetti F, Bonci D, Addario A, Gallo P, Bang ML, Segalini P, Gu Y, Dalton ND, Elia L, Latronico MV, Holmdal M, Autore C, Russo MA, Dorn GW 2nd, Ellingsen O, Ruiz-Lozano P, Peterson KL, Croce CM, Peschle C, Condorelli G. MicroRNA-133 controls cardiac hypertrophy. Nat Med 2007;13:613–8.
[27] Belda S, He A, Kong SW, Lu J, Bejar R, Bodyak N, Lee KH, Ma Q, Kang PM, Golub TR, Pu WT. MicroRNA-1
negatively regulates expression of the hypertrophy-associated calmodulin and Met2a genes. Mol Cell Biol 2009;29:2193–204.

[28] Kim GH. MicroRNA regulation of cardiac conduction and arrhythmias. Transl Res 2013;161:381–92.

[29] Liu N, Olson EN. MicroRNA regulatory networks in cardiovascular development. Dev Cell 2010;18:510–25.

[30] Luo X, Zhang H, Xiao J, Wang Z. Regulation of human cardiac ion channel genes by microRNAs: theoretical perspective and pathophysiological implications. Cell Physiol Biochem 2010;25:571–86.

[31] Matkovich SJ, Wang W, Tu Y, Eschenbacher WH, Dorn LE, Condorelli G, Diwan A, Neronne JM, Dorn GW 2nd. MicroRNA-133a protects against myocardial fibrosis and modulates electrical repolarization without affecting hypertrophy in pressure-overloaded adult hearts. Circ Res 2010;106:166–75.

[32] Nair N, Kumar S, Gongora E, Gupta S. Circulating miRNA as novel markers for diastolic dysfunction. Mol Cell Biochem 2013;376:33–40.

[33] Small EM, Olson EN. Pervasive roles of microRNAs in cardiovascular biology. Nature 2011;469:36–42.

[34] Terentyev D, Bellevich AE, Terentyeva R, Martin MM, Malana GE, Kuhn DF, Abbadjatif M, Feldman DS, Elton TS, Gyorko S. miR-1 overexpression enhances Ca(2+) release and promotes cardiac arrhythmogenesis by targeting PP2A regulatory subunit B56alpha and causing CaMKII-dependent hyperphosphorylation of RyR2. Circ Res 2009;104:514–21.

[35] Zhao Y, Ransom JF, Li A, Vedantham V, von Drehle M, Muth AN, Tsuchihashi T, McManus MT, Schwartz RJ, Srivastava D. Dysregulation of cardiacogenesis, cardiac conduction, and cell cycle in mice lacking miRNA-1-2. Cell 2007;129:303–17.

[36] Lagos-Quintana M, Rauhut R, Yalcin A, Meyer J, Lendeckel W, Tuschl T. Identification of tissue-specific microRNAs from mouse.Curr Biol 2002;12:735–9.

[37] Liang Y, Ridzon D, Wong L, Chen C. Characterization of microRNA expression profiles in normal human tissues. BMC Genomics 2007;8:166.

[38] Liu N, Williams AH, Kim Y, McAnally J, Bezprozvannaya S, Sutherland LB, Richardson JA, Bassel-Duby R, Olson EN. An intragenic MEF2-dependent enhancer directs muscle-specific expression of microRNAs 1 and 133. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2007;104:20844–9.

[39] Zhao Y, Samal E, Srivastava D. Serum factor response regulates a muscle-specific microRNA that targets Hand2 during cardiogenesis. Nature 2005;436:214–20.

[40] Xiao L, Xiao J, Luo X, Lin H, Wang Z, Nattel S. Feedback remodeling of cardiac potassium current expression: a novel potential mechanism for control of repolarization reserve. Circulation 2008;118:983–92.

[41] Liu N, Bezprozvannaya S, Williams AH, Qi X, Richardson JA, Bassel-Duby R, Olson EN. microRNA-133a regulates cardiomyocyte proliferation and suppresses smooth muscle gene expression in the heart. Genes Dev 2008;22:3242–54.

[42] Shan H, Zhang Y, Lu Y, Zhang Y, Pan Z, Cai B, Wang N, Li X, Feng T, Hong Y, Yang B. Downregulation of miR-133 and miR-590 contributes to nicotine-induced atrial remodeling in canines. Cardiovasc Res 2009;83:465–72.

[43] Hofman-Bang J, Behr ER, Hedley P, Tfelt-Hansen J, Kanders JK, Haunsoe S, McKenna WJ, Christiansen M. High-efficiency multiplex capillary electrophoresis single strand conformation polymorphism (multi-CE-SSCP) mutation screening of SCN5A: a rapid genetic approach to cardiac arrhythmia. Clin Genet 2006;69:504–11.

[44] Larsen LA, Andersen PS, Kanders JK, Jacobsen JR, Vuust J, Christiansen M. A single strand conformation polymorphism/heteroduplex (SSCP/HD) method for detection of mutations in 15 exons of the KVLQT1 gene, associated with long QT syndrome. Clin Chim Acta 1999;280:113–25.

[45] Larsen LA, Christiansen M, Vuust J, Andersen PS. High-throughput single-strand conformation polymorphism analysis by automated capillary electrophoresis: robust multiplex analysis and pattern-based identification of allelic variants. Hum Mutat 1999;13:318–27.

[46] Hedley PL, Kanters JK, Dembic M, Jespersen T, Skibbye L, Aïdt FH, Eschen O, Graff C, Behr ER, Schlamowitz S, Corfield V, McKenna WJ, Christiansen M. The role of CAV3 in long QT syndrome: clinical and functional assessment of a caveolin-3/Kv11.1 double heterozygote versus caveolin-3 single heterozygote. Circ Cardiovasc Genet 2013;6:452–61.

[47] Christiansen M, Hedley PL, Thelade J, Stovring B, Leren TP, Eschen O, Sørensen KM, Tøby-Jæger-Hansen A, Ousager LB, Pedersen LN, Frikke-Schmidt R, Aïdt FH, Hansen MG, Hansen J, Thomsen PE, Toft E, Henrikssen FL, Bundred H, Jensen HK, Kanters JK. Mutations in Danish patients with long QT syndrome and the identification of a large founder family with p. F29L in KCNH2. BMC Med Genet 2014;15:31.

[48] Ye J, Coulouris G, Zaretskaya I, Cutcutache I, Rozen S, Madden TL. Primer-BLAST: a tool to design target-specific primers for polymerase chain reaction. BMC Bioinformatics 2012;13:134.

[49] Hall TA. BioEdit: a user-friendly biological sequence alignment editor and analysis program for Windows 95/98/NT. Nucleic Acids Symp Ser 1999;41:95–8.

[50] Gruber AR, Lorenz R, Bernhart SH, Neubock R, Hofacker IL. The Vienna RNA website. Nucleic Acids Res 2008;36:W70–4.

[51] Raymond M, Roussé F. GENEPOP (version 1.2): population genetics software for exact tests and ecumenicism. J Heredity 1995;86:248–49.

[52] Roussé F. GENEPOP’007: a complete reimplementation of the Genepop software for Windows and Linux. Mol Ecol Resources 2008;8:103–6.

[53] Bieseker LG. Opportunities and challenges for the integration of massively parallel genomic sequencing into clinical practice: lessons from the ClinSeq project. Genet Med 2012;14:393–8.

[54] Borel C, Antonarakis SE. Functional genetic variation of human miRNAs and phenotypic consequences. Mamm Genome 2008;19:503–9.

[55] Kim J, Bartel DP. Allelic imbalance sequencing reveals that single-nucleotide polymorphisms frequently alter microRNA-directed repression. Nat Biotechnol 2009;27:472–7.

[56] Saunders MA, Liang H, Li WH. Human polymorphism at microRNAs and microRNA target sites. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2007;104:3300–5.

[57] Mencía A, Modámio-Hoybjer S, Redshaw N, Morin M, Mayo-Merino F, Olavarrieta L, Aguirre LA, del Castillo I, Steel KP, Dalmary T, Moreno F, Moreno-Pelayo MA. Mutations in the seed region of human miR-98 are responsible for nonsyndromic progressive hearing loss. Nat Genet 2009;41:609–13.

[58] Dorn GW 2nd, Matkovich SJ, Eschenbacher WH, Zhang Y. A human 3′ miR-499 mutation alters cardiac mRNA targeting and function. Circ Res 2012;110:958–67.

[59] Ohanian M, Humphreys DT, Anderson E, Preiss T, Fatkin D. A heterozygous variant in the human cardiac miR-133 gene, MIR133A2, alters microRNA duplex processing and strand abundance. BMC Genet 2013;14:18.

[60] Genomes Project C, Abecasis GR, Auton A, Brooks LD, DePristo MA, Durbin RM, Handsaker RE, Kang HM, Marth GT, McVean GA. An integrated map of genetic variation from 1,092 human genomes. Nature 2012;491:56–65.