Case report of syndromic multiple spiradenomas due to biallelic functional loss of CYLD

Colleen J. Beatty, MD, Ahmed Yousaf, BA, Abdullah Al-Bouri, MD, Andrew D. Thompson, MD, PhD, Katrin Kiavash, MD, and Michael S. Kolodney, MD, PhD

Morgantown, West Virginia

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INTRODUCTION

Multiple spiradenomas may arise in the setting of Brooke-Spiegler syndrome, due to mutations in CYLD gene; however, the genetic basis of multiple spiradenomas, without the presence of other adnexal tumors, has not been previously reported. In addition to Brooke-Spiegler syndrome (OMIM #605041), 2 other recognized cutaneous phenotypes are associated with CYLD mutations: Familial cylindromatosis (OMIM #132700) and multiple familial trichoepitheliomas (OMIM #601606). These CYLD cutaneous syndromes manifest exclusively as multiple cylindromas or trichoepitheliomas, respectively. Herein, we describe germline and somatic mutations in a patient presenting exclusively with multiple eccrine spiradenomas.

CASE REPORT

A Caucasian man in his 60s presented with multiple painful nodules on his scalp and neck (Fig 1) and additional lesions on his trunk. He had a history of 5 spiradenomas previously removed via biopsy. The patient had no living relatives but reported that his mother and maternal uncle both had a history of multiple, disfiguring tumors on their scalps. Informed consent was obtained, and 9 lesions were collected from the scalp via shave biopsy. The

Fig 1. Patient with multiple spiradenomas. Multiple pink and bluish papules on the scalp of a Caucasian man in his 60s.

Fig 2. Spiradenoma. Hematoxylin-eosin-stained section at ×4 and ×40 (inset) magnification. A well-circumscribed nodule is present in the dermis with cells creating ductal structures, consistent with a spiradenoma.

Abbreviation used:

LOF: loss of function

From the Department of Dermatology and Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Laboratory Medicine, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

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Correspondence to: Michael S. Kolodney, MD, PhD, Department of Dermatology, West Virginia University School of Medicine, 1 Medical Center Drive, Morgantown, WV 26506. E-mail: msk0012@hsc.wvu.edu.

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lesions were selected for removal by the patient based on size and symptomatology. Complete or partial specimens from each lesion were submitted for routine histologic evaluation, and a diagnosis of spiradenoma was confirmed in all specimens (Fig 2). No overlapping features of cylindroma were observed in any of the specimens. All of the lesions were pure spiradenomas. In total throughout his life, this patient had 14 skin biopsies, the pathology of all of which showed spiradenomas. No cylindromas or trichoepitheliomas were present.

Five of the specimens were bifurcated, and tissue was submitted for exome sequencing along with normal-appearing skin and blood. Exome sequencing and bioinformatics were performed as previously described. Germline variants and somatic mutations were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

As shown in Table 1, sequencing of the uninvolved perilesional skin and blood both revealed a germline single base deletion in exon 11 of CYLD, predicted to cause a frameshift. Three of the 5 tumors exhibited loss of heterozygosity of CYLD. One of the 2 remaining tumors showed a somatic splice junction mutation, and the other showed a nonsense mutation in exon 20 of CYLD. In summary, all 5 tumors exhibited genetic changes predicted to cause loss of function (LOF) of both CYLD alleles.

### DISCUSSION

The CYLD gene contains 20 exons encoding a deubiquitinating enzyme that functions as a tumor suppressor gene within the nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells pathway. A recent study by Nagy et al summarized the 107 germline variants that have been published to date associated with CYLD cutaneous tumor syndromes. The vast majority (99%) of mutations have been found within exons 9 to 20, with most of these occurring in exons 16, 17, and 20 (Table II). Little correlation exists between CYLD genotype and the cutaneous syndrome that the patient develops, and recent evidence indicates that expression of genes other than CYLD, such as DKK2, may influence whether tumors differentiate toward cylindromas or spiradenomas.

Genetic analysis of the patient’s blood and perilesional skin both showed a germline deletion in exon 11 of the CYLD gene, and all 5 spiradenomas that were sequenced exhibited genetic changes predicted to cause LOF of both CYLD alleles. The CYLD germline variant, in our patient, appears novel, but the R936* somatic mutation has previously been reported in a case of cylindroma. Our finding of different somatic mutations in multiple tumors, with similar histology, from a single patient has also been observed in other CYLD syndromes. These results...

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### Table I. CYLD sequencing results from the patient’s blood and 5 spiradenomas

| Tissue source            | Position (hg38) | Nucleotide change | Predicted effect on messenger RNA | Exon | Predicted effect on protein | Loss of heterozygosity at CYLD |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blood or normal skin     | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | No                             |
| Tumor 1                  | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | Yes                            |
| Tumor 2                  | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | Yes                            |
| Tumor 3                  | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | No                             |
| Tumor 4                  | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | No                             |
| Tumor 5                  | Chr16: 50781408 | t/-               | Frameshift                        | 11   | L561X                      | No                             |
|                          | Chr16: 50793665 | g/a               | Splice Junction                   | N/A  |                            |                                |
|                          | Chr16: 50796443 | c/t               | Stop Gain                         | 20   | R936*                      |                                |

Chr, chromosome; N/A, not applicable.

### Table II. CYLD cutaneous syndromes, with newly proposed multiple spiradenomas

| CYLD cutaneous syndromes | OMIM # | Disease features                           | Reported pathogenic germline mutations |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brooke-Spiegler syndrome  | 605041 | Cylindromas, spiradenomas, trichoepitheliomas | Chr16, exons 9-20 of CYLD^6           |
| Familial cylindromatosis | 132700 | Cylindromas                                 | Chr16, exons 9-20 of CYLD^4           |
| Multiple familial trichoepitheliomas | 601606 | Trichoepitheliomas                         | Chr16, exons 9-20 of CYLD^4           |
| Multiple spiradenomas    | N/A    | Spiradenomas                               | Chr 16, exon 11 of CYLD               |

Chr, chromosome; N/A, not applicable.

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parallel the described mechanism of disease in other CYLD cutaneous syndromes, with a germline LOF of 1 allele and then a “second hit” resulting in LOF of the remaining normal allele. Discovery of additional variants in patients with multiple spiradenomas may help elucidate how a single genetic variant causing LOF of CYLD can lead to various clinical phenotypes.

In summary, LOF mutations in CYLD gene appear to provide the basis for the rare clinical presentation of multiple spiradenomas. This adds a genetic basis for a fourth clinical phenotype, multiple spiradenomas, to the previously characterized CYLD cutaneous syndromes, which include Brooke-Spiegler syndrome, familial cylindromatosis, and multiple familial trichoepitheliomas.

Conflicts of interest
None disclosed.

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