False Low-Risk Single Nucleotide Polymorphism–Based Noninvasive Prenatal Screening in Pentasomy 49,XXXXY

Manesha Putra, MD1  Melissa A. Hicks, MS2  Jacques S. Abramowicz, MD3

1Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Detroit Medical Center, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan
2Detroit Medical Center University Laboratories, Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan
3Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Address for correspondence Manesha Putra, MD, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Detroit Medical Center, Wayne State University, 3990 John R, 7-Brush N, Detroit, MI 48201 (e-mail: mputra@med.wayne.edu).

Abstract

Introduction  Pentasomy 49,XXXXY is a sex chromosome anomaly difficult to be diagnosed prenatally. We describe a patient of pentasomy 49,XXXXY with false low-risk results using a noninvasive prenatal screening (NIPS). A 30-year-old G1P0 woman presented at 336/7 weeks, secondary to sonographic fetal anomalies. She had low-risk NIPS at 136/7 weeks. Anatomy survey showed bilateral clubfeet, clinodactyly of the left fifth digit, micropenis, and echogenic bowel. Cytogenetics analysis revealed pentasomy 49,XXXXY syndrome. We report third-trimester sonographic features of a fetus with pentasomy 49,XXXXY and the importance of thorough pre- and posttest counseling for NIPS.

Keywords
- sex chromosome aneuploidy
- NIPT
- prenatal diagnosis
- screening

Case Report

We present a case of 30-year-old gravida 1 para 0 woman presented to our institution for genetic counseling and amniocentesis at 336/7 weeks of gestation, secondary to ultrasound-detected fetal anomalies. She had previously undergone SNP-based NIPS at 136/7 weeks through her primary obstetric care provider. Results reported a low risk for trisomy 21, trisomy 18, trisomy 13, monosomy X, and...
triploidy/vanishing twin in a male fetus. Per the patient’s report, she elected not to attend an 18- to 20-week anatomy ultrasound; NIPS had screened for fetal sex, and she had had an early bedside ultrasound at her obstetric care provider office to establish her estimated due date.

The patient underwent anatomy survey at 30\(\frac{6}{7}\) weeks, at which time multiple congenital anomalies were noted, including bilateral clubfeet, clinodactyly of the left fifth digit, micropenis, echogenic bowel, and fetal growth restriction (FGR) (Fig. 1). During the genetic counseling session, she reported a family history of a brother with bilateral clubfeet, abnormal hands, and multiple severe impairments of unknown etiology despite extensive genetic work-up.

The patient consented to late-gestation amniocentesis following the genetic consultation. Fetal karyotype and chromosome microarray revealed pentasomy 49,XXXXY syndrome. Ultimately, the couple decided to terminate the pregnancy at \(\sim\)36 weeks. Physical exam after delivery revealed micropenis and bilateral clubfeet, consistent with prenatal sonographic finding. Autopsy was declined.

**Discussion**

We present prenatal diagnosis of fetus with pentasomy 49, XXXXY following a false-positive SNP-based NIPS. This report also highlights third-trimester sonographic features of a fetus with pentasomy 49, XXXXY including bilateral clubfeet, clinodactyly of the left fifth digit, micropenis, echogenic bowel, and FGR. Clubfoot was previously noted in four reports.\(^5\) Micropenis was also previously reported.\(^5\) These findings are ultimately nonspecific and should trigger further investigation, including invasive diagnostic testing with prenatal chromosome microarray, as in this case.

Sex chromosome anomaly screening has previously been reported to be difficult using massively parallel shotgun sequencing NIPS methods; however, SNP-based NIPS has been reported to be highly accurate for detection of these particular aneuploidies.\(^6\) Some experts have also alluded to the use of routine NIPS to screen for sex chromosome anomalies, as maternal serum screening does not provide a risk assessment for these conditions.\(^7\) However, in this case, we report a false “low-risk” NIPS result, which ultimately delayed ultrasound screening and resulted in delay of diagnosis.

Although the company was not validated to diagnose pentasomy cases, it did report “male” as the fetal sex. Due to the suspected maternal origin of the extra X chromosomes in pentasomy 49, XXXXY,\(^4\) we would have expected the SNP profile to at least be suggestive of Klinefelter’s syndrome (as both of the maternally derived X chromosome SNP profiles would be represented in the fetoplacental circulating cell-free DNA). If the SNP profiles were indeed reflective of at least Klinefelter’s syndrome, we would expect at the very least a “noninformative” or “no-call” result. This false low-risk result could theoretically result from confined placental mosaicism involving aneuploidy rescue in an early

---

**Fig. 1** Sonographic findings of pentasomy 49,XXXXY in our patient. (A) Right fifth digit clinodactyly, (B) micropenis, and (C) and (D) bilateral club feet.
trophoblastic progenitor. Placental pathology with karyotyping was not performed to explore this theory in this case.

Our report also highlights the importance of thorough pre- and posttest counseling for noninvasive DNA screening. It is a common misconception among patients (and even providers) that NIPS is diagnostic or “near diagnostic”; to mitigate this, pretest counseling points have been suggested to assist clinicians in performing this important task. Emphasizing the screening nature of NIPS is paramount prior to undergoing testing, and it should not replace the use of routine ultrasound to evaluate for fetal anomalies. Routine anatomy ultrasound may have resulted in earlier detection in this case.

It is worth noting that some commercial companies who provide NIPS will return “noninformative,” “no-call,” or “failed” results in the event of an unexpected cell-free DNA profile. In this case, such result could have prompted an anatomy ultrasound or invasive diagnostic testing and thus an earlier diagnosis. Noninformative results have been reported to be associated with an increased risk of aneuploidy; amniocentesis is often recommended by the reference laboratory in these cases. In addition, it is important to mention that ACOG and Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine have also continued to recommend conventional screening methods for the low-risk population given limited data of accuracy among them.

Acknowledgments
M.A.H. wishes to disclose that she is a regional consultant for Natera, Inc. and a speaker for Counsyl, Inc. J.S.A. is a contributor for UpToDate, Inc.

References
1. Friel LA, Czerwinski JL, Singletary CN. The impact of noninvasive prenatal testing on the practice of maternal-fetal medicine. Am J Perinatol 2014;31(09):759–764
2. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Committee Opinion Summary No. 640: cell-free DNA screening for fetal aneuploidy. Obstet Gynecol 2015;126(03):691–692
3. Tartaglia N, Ayari N, Howell S, D’Epagnier C, Zeitler P. 48,XXYY, 48, XXXY and 49,XXXXY syndromes: not just variants of Klinefelter syndrome. Acta Paediatr 2011;100(06):851–860
4. Deng H-X, Abe K, Kondo I, et al. Parental origin and mechanism of formation of polysomy X: an XXXX case and four XXXXY cases determined with RFLPs. Hum Genet 1991;86(06):541–544
5. Peitsidis P, Manolakos E, Peitsidou A, et al. Pentasomy 49,XXXXY diagnosed in utero: case report and systematic review of antenatal findings. Fetal Diagn Ther 2009;26(01):1–5
6. Samango-Sprouse C, Bajevic M, Ryan A, et al. SNP-based non-invasive prenatal testing detects sex chromosome aneuploidies with high accuracy. Prenat Diagn 2013;33(07):643–649
7. Pirollo LM, Salehi LB, Sarta S, et al. A new case of prenatally diagnosed pentasomy X: review of the literature. Case Rep Obst Gynecol 2015;2015:935202
8. Lebo RV, Novak RW, Wolfe K, Michelson M, Robinson H, Mancuso MS. Discordant circulating fetal DNA and subsequent cytogenetics reveal false negative, placental mosaic, and fetal mosaic cfDNA genotypes. J Transl Med 2015;13:260
9. Smith M, Lewis KM, Holmes A, Visootsak J. A case of false negative NIPT for Down syndrome-lessons learned. Case Rep Genet 2014;2014:823504
10. Sachs A, Blanchard L, Buchanan A, Norwitz E, Bianchi DW. Recommended pre-test counseling points for noninvasive prenatal testing using cell-free DNA: a 2015 perspective. Prenat Diagn 2015;35(10):968–971