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Molecular-genetic characterization of Ukrainian patients with mucopolysaccharidosis I: identification of three new mutations in α -L-iduronidase gene

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Mucopolysaccharidosis I (MPS I) is a rare hereditary autosomal-recessive metabolic disorder, which occurs due to the deficiency of the lysosomal enzyme α -L-iduronidase (*IDUA*; EC 3.2.1.76). There are three clinical forms of MPS I: Hurler syndrome, MPS I H; MIM # 607014, ORPHA 93473, Hurler/Scheie syndrome, MPS I H/S; MIM # 607015, ORPHA 93476, Scheie syndrome, MPS I S; MIM # 607016, ORPHA 93474. **Aim.** To identify the spectrum of mutations in the *IDUA* gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I. **Methods.** RFLP-analysis, automated sequencing. **Results.** We have identified 100 % (34/34) mutant alleles of the *IDUA* gene among 18 Ukrainian patients (one proband had a sibling with the identical genotype) with MPS I from 17 families. The spectrum of mutations in the *IDUA* gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I is represented by six known missence mutations: p.Q70*, p.W402*, p.A75T, p.A327P, p.P533L, p.S633I; two deletions: c.1398delC and c.46_57del_12, one insertion: c.889_899_ins_12, and one mutation in the splicing zone IVS11ds+5G–A. Three new missence mutations were revealed by us in the *IDUA* gene: p.N372S, p.Q563P and p. S633*. **Conclusions.** Our results may be used for planning the most reasonable algorithm of the molecular-genetic analysis of Ukrainian patients with MPS I.

Keywords: mucopolysaccharidosis, Hurler syndrome, Scheie syndrome, α-L-iduronidase.

Introduction

Mucopolysaccharidosis I (MPS I) is a rare hereditary autosomal-recessive metabolic disorder, which occurs due to the deficiency of the lysosomal enzyme α -L-iduronidase (*IDUA*; EC 3.2.1.76), involved in the multistage catabolism of dermatan sulphate (DS) and heparan sulphate (HS). The deficiency in α -L-iduronidase leads to the accumulation of non-degraded GAG substrate in the lysosomes of cells of different organs and tissues [1, 2].

Although the clinical phenotype of MPS I is a continuous spectrum from severe forms to mild ones, generally three clinical forms are distinguished: 1) severe form (Hurler syndrome, MPS I H; MIM # 607014, ORPHA 93473), with the manifestation of symptoms by the age of 12 months, life span of no more than 10 years and mental retardation, which is manifested at the age under three; 2) intermediate form (Hurler-Scheie syndrome, MPS I H/S; MIM # 607015, ORPHA 93476), with the manifestation of symptoms at the age from 1 to 6 years, longer life span and no or mild mental retardation, which is never manifested under 3; 3) mild form (Scheie syndrome, MPS I S; MIM # 607016, ORPHA 93474), with the manifestation of the first symptoms of the disease af-

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ter the age of 5, unchanged life span and complete absence of mental retardation [1].

The gene, encoding α -L-iduronidase (*IDUA*; MIM # 252800), was mapped in locus 4p16.3; it consists of 14 exons, separated by 13 introns. An open reading frame of cDNA (ORF) is ~ 2 kilobases long and encodes the polypeptide of 653 amino ac-ids [3]. At present there are over 220 mutations, identified and characterized in the *IDUA* gene, including missence/nonsense mutations, small deletions and insertions, four gross-deletions, one gross-insertion, 36 splicing mutations and three complex mutations (Human Gene Mutation Database-HGMD, http://www.hgmd.cf.ac.uk/ac/index.php). In general most mutations occur less than in 3 % of cases or are single.

The missence mutations p.W402*, p.Q70*, p.P533R and p.G51D are the most common for the gene IDUA. Mutation p.W402* has about 50 % distribution frequency in Northern Europe, Great Britain, North America, and Spain, whereas its frequency in the Russian Federation, Italy, and Brazil is 4 %, 11 %, and 20 % respectively, according to the estimates of different researchers [4, 5]. On the contrary, mutation p.Q70* occurs in Scandinavia and the Russian Federation much more frequently (up to 50 %) than in other countries [6]. The missence mutation p.P533R of probable North African origin is wide-spread in the Mediterranean region, and has 13 % and 10 % of mutant alleles in the IDUA gene in Italy and Spain, respectively. According to the data of Italian researchers, the missence mutation p.G51D is major for Italy only, and is registered with the frequency of 13 % for mutant alleles in the IDUA gene among Italian patients with mucopolysaccharidosis I [4]. The frequency of mutations in the IDUA gene for Ukraine has not been defined yet.

The aim of our work was to identify the whole spectrum of mutations in the *IDUA* gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I.

Materials and Methods

The material of the research was the blood of 17 patients with MPS I (7 boys and 10 girls), whose diagnosis was confirmed in the Clinical Genetics Laboratory, NCSH OKHMATDYT of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, using biochemical methods with the determination of the activity of α-L-iduronidase enzyme in lysosomes, and the blood of their 37 relatives (siblings and parents) from different regions of Ukraine [7]. The age of the patients at the moment of the diagnosis determination was 2 ± 1 years for Hurler syndrome, 14 ± 1 years for Hurler-Scheie syndrome and Scheie syndrome. One proband had a sibling with the identical genotype, who was not taken into consideration while identifying the mutation frequency. For control of the pathogenicity of new mutations, the blood samples of 100 volunteers aged 18 to 60 years without any clinical signs of lysosomal pathology were used. The parents of all the patients and volunteers gave their informed consent for the studies. The bioethics committee approved the research.

DNAs were extracted from the whole blood using the commercial NeoSorb kits (Neogen, Ukraine). The identification of major mutations p.Q70* and p.W402* was conducted using the RFLP-analysis as described in our previous publication [7].

The identification of rare mutations in the *IDUA* gene involved the method of direct automated sequencing by the Sanger's method using ABI 3130 analyzer (Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The sequences of primers for each of fourteen exons of the *IDUA* gene were selected using Primer3 program (http://simgene.com/Primer3). The analysis of sequencing results was made using programs Sequencing Analysis, v.1.1/3.1 (Applied Biosystems, Life Technologies Corporation, USA), Chromas and Blast (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast). The analysis of pathogenicity of new mutations was made using programs PolyPhen2 and Provean (http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph2/, http://provean.jcvi.org/index.php).

Results and Discussion

The studies, conducted by us, allowed identifying 100 % (34/34) mutant alleles of the *IDUA* gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I (Table 1).

The most common mutation for the investigated Ukrainian patients with MPS I was nonsense -muta-

Nucleotide replacement in the <i>IDUA</i> gene	Aminoacid replacement in the molecule of α-L-iduronidase	Number of exons	Number of mutant alleles in the ratio to the general number of alleles	Reference to the first description of the mutation in the <i>IDUA</i> gene
c.46_57del_12	p.S16_A19del	1	1/34	Bunge et al., 1994, [8]
c.208C>T	p.Q70*	2	11/34	Clarke et al., 1993, [9]
c.223G>A	p.A75T	2	1/34	Clarke et al., 1994, [10]
c.889_899_ins_12	p.T296_T299dup	7	3/34	Bunge et al., 1995, [11]
c.979G>C	p.A327P	8	1/34	Bunge et al., 1995, [11]
c.1115A>G	p.N372S	8	3/34	Our studies
c.1205G>A	p.W402*	9	5/34	Scott et al., 1992, [12]
c.1398delC	p.P467Rfs*58	9	3/34	Bertola et al., 2011, [4]
c.1598C>T	p.P533L	11	1/34	Voskoboeva et al., 1998, [13]
IVS11ds+5G–A	1738+5G>A	Int.11	1/34	Verturi et al., 2002, [14]
c.1688A>C	p.Q563P	12	1/34	Our studies
c.1898C>T	p.S633I	14	1/34	Beesley et al., 2001, [15]
c.1898C>A	p.S633*	14	2/34	Our studies

Table 1. The localization of the identified mutations in exons of the IDUA gene and their frequency

tion p.Q70* – 11 alleles out of 34. The frequency of this mutation is 32.4 % (11/34) which is close to the indices of the distribution of this mutation in Europe [6]. Two patients had this mutation in the homozygous state, seven patients – in the heterozygous state.

The other major mutation p.W402* in the *IDUA* gene was found in five patients with MPS I in the heterozygous state, which is 14.7 % (5/34), i.e. its distribution in Ukraine is close to the indices of Italy [4]. Two compound heterozygotes p.Q70*/p. W402* were revealed.

In addition to major mutations, the previously described deletion c.1398delC was identified with high frequency of 8.8% (3/34) in Ukraine, in homo- and heterozygous state in the patients with MPS I.

Four previously revealed mutations were described among the missence mutations, identified during the analysis, in addition to major p.Q70* and p.W402*: in exon 2 - p.A75T, in exon 8 - p.A327P, in exon 11 - p.P533L, and in exon 14 - p.S633I. The previously described mutation in the splicing zone for exon 11 IVS11ds+5G–A was identified for one patient in one allele. A previously known insertion of 12 basic pairs c.889_899_ins_12 was revealed in exon 7 in four patients, two of them were siblings. A

previously described deletion of 12 bp in exon 1 c.46_57del_12 was found in one patient.

Additionally, three mutations in the *IDUA* gene, which have been neither previously described nor included into HGMD database, were identified by us, namely, three missence mutations: p.N372S in exon 8 (in three alleles in two patients), p.Q563P in exon 12 (in one allele), and nonsense-mutation p.S633* in exon 14 (in two alleles in one patient) (Fig. 1).

No changes in the sequence of nucleotides of the *IDUA* gene were identified by us in the individuals of the control group, i.e. they may be estimated as mutations, and not as a polymorphic variant.

The detailed analysis of these mutations using programs PolyPhen2 and Provean confirmed their pathological character (Fig. 2).

A new missence mutation p.N372S, which was identified in exon 8, leads to the replacement of asparagine for serine, due to which the length of protein does not change, but there is a disorder in the functioning of the protein, which causes the change in the splicing site. A new missence mutation p. Q563P, which was identified in exon 12, results in the replacement of glutamine for proline, which does not have any significant impact on the protein func-



B – missence mutation p.N372S in the heterozygous state in exon 8;

C – missence mutation p.Q563P in the heterozygous state in exon 12;

D – missence mutation j	p.8633* in th	ne homozygous st	tate in exon 14.
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	species	a	а	alignment
	Human	56	53	TR LRALPLT Q G QLVLVW SDEHVG S
	mutated	56	3	TR LRALPLT Q GPLVL VWSDEHVG
	Fcatus	51	0	TQ LRALPLT S GQVLLVW
	Mmusculus	562		S R LRALPLT HGQL ILVWSDERVG
	Ggallus	51	0	GQVVVLWDDGCVN
	Drerio	55	8	GQVLIIWKDHCVG
A	Dmelanogaster	5	50	QQLSI AEVT QREV FISW MEHPKS
	Xtropicalis	43	37	GEVAV IW SDEHIT
	Species	aa		alignment
	Human	372	AC	RTLTARFQVNNTRPPHVQLLRK
	mutated	372	AC	RTLTARFQVS N TRPPHVQLLR
	Mmusculus	371	sq	RTLTARFQVNNTHPPHVQLLR
	Ggallus	318	TO	RTLTARFOMNNTKPPHVQMVR
	Drerio	372	SO	RTLTARFQINSTNPPHVQILR
	Dmelanogaster	365	TO	RTLLAHFRMNETKPPHSQLVQ
B	Xtropicalis	246	SO	RTLTARFQMNNTNPPHVQMVR

Fig. 2. The conservatism of new missence mutations in our studies:

A – new mutation p.Q563P (c.1688A>C);

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B – new mutation p.N372S (c.1115A>G).

tion, leading only to the point replacement of the aminoacid in its structure. A new nonsense-mutation p.S633* in exon 14 forms a stop-codon and shortens the protein by 21 aminoacids (~10 % from the total length of the protein).

Therefore, the spectrum of mutations in the IDUA gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I at presen is represented by 9 missence mutations, 2 deletions of 1 and 12 bp, 1 insertion of 12 bp, and 1 mutation in the splicing zone (Fig. 3).

Similar to many other European populations, two mutations may be considered to be major for Ukrainian patients with MPS I: p.Q70* (32.35 %) and p.W402* (14.7 %). As for rare mutations, the most common ones were found to be deletion c.1398delC (8.8 %) and a new missence mutation p.N372S (8.8 %), which were revealed in the homo-



Fig. 3. The localization of mutations in separate exons of the *IDUA* gene in Ukrainian patients with MPS I

and heterozygous state among Ukrainian patients with MPS I. The insertion c.889 899 ins 12 (8.8 %), identified in four patients in the heterozygous state, two of whom were siblings, was also found to be quite common. A new nonsense mutation p.S633* (5.9 %), which was identified in one patient, may also potentially be more common for Ukraine, as it was identified in the homozygous state. However, this may also be a result of the intrafamilial accumulation of the pathological mutation after the marriage of close relatives, who are parents of this patient. Other mutations were represented by single cases. Probably, these frequencies may change with further identification of new patients. The most rare mutations, identified by us in Ukrainian patients with MPS I, were localized in exons 2, 7, 8, 9, and 14, and one in each - in exons 1, 11, and 12 of the IDUA gene.

The complete characterization of the patients with MPS I with the consideration of the clinical form of the disease is presented in Table 2.

The results of molecular-genetic analysis of Ukrainian patients with MPS I, obtained by us, demonstrated that all the patients with major mutation p.Q70* in the homozygous state, and two patients, who were found to be compound heterozygotes of p.Q70X*/ p.W402*, have a severe form of the disease – Hurler syndrome, which is in good agreement with the data of other researchers about the association of major nonsense -mutations p.Q70* and p.W402* with the severe disease progression [6, 8]. The severe progression of MPS I was also noted for patients with the major mutation p.W402* in one allele and the missence mutation p.A75T (1 person) [15]. A previously known single-nucleotide deletion c.1398delC, identified in two patients in both the homozygous state and the compound with the major mutation p.W402*, also characterized the presence of the severe clinical form of MPS I, Hurler syndrome, in patients [4].

Two patients, who had a new, previously not described missence mutation p.N372S in the homozygous state and in the compound with the major mutation p. Q70*, were characterized by early onset of the disease and a severe phenotype. Three patients with the compounds combination of major mutations and rare mutations (genotypes p.Q70*/p.P533L, p.Q70*/c.46_57_ del_12 and p.W402*/p.S633I) had a severe form of the disease – Hurler syndrome with early onset of the disease.

Hurler-Scheie syndrome, which was identified in two patients, was associated with genotypes IVS11ds+5G-A/c.889_899_ins_12 and a new mutation in the homozygous state p.S633*/p.S633*.

Scheie syndrome was diagnosed in four patients, two of whom were siblings, with genotypes $c.889_899_ins_12/p.Q70^*$ – in three patients, and the missence mutation p.A327P in the

#	Gender	Age at the moment of diagnosis determination	Phenotype	First allele	Second allele
1	F	1.5 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.Q70*
2	М	3.5 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.Q70*
3	F	1 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.P533L
4	М	2.5 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	c.46_57_del_12
5	F	3 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.N3728
6	М	2.5 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.W402*
7	F	3 y.o.	Н	p.Q70*	p.W402*
8	М	2 y.o.	Н	p.S633I	p.W402*
9	F	2 y.o.	Н	p.A75T	p.W402*
10	F	4.5 y.o.	Н	c.1398delC	p.W402*
11	F	2 y.o.	Н	c.1398delC	c.1398delC
12	F	4 y.o.	Н	p.N3728	p.N372S
13	F	14 y.o.	H/S	p.8633*	p.S633*
14	М	15 y.o.	H/S	IVS11ds+5G-A	c.889_899_ins_12
15	М	9 y.o.	S	p.Q70*	c.889_899_ins_12
16	М	14 y.o.	S	p.Q70*	c.889_899_ins_12
17	F	8 y.o.	S	p.A327P	p.Q563P

Table 2. The characterization of patients with MPS I

H – Hurler syndrome, H/S – Hurler-Scheie syndrome, S – Scheie syndrome;

F - girls, M - boys;

Mutations highlighted in bold are new mutations, which have not been described in the literature.

compound with the new mutation p.Q563P - in one patient.

Therefore, our analysis of the molecular-genetic characterization of Ukrainian patients with MPS I allowed identifying 100 % mutant alleles. High frequency of mutations p.Q70* (32.35 %) and p.W402* (14.7 %) among Ukrainian patients substantiates RFLP-screening for the presence of these mutations at the first stage of the molecular-genetic analysis. It would be reasonable to start the analysis during the identification of rare mutations, which have led to the development of the disease in the proband, with "hot" regions of the IDUA gene – exons 2, 7, 8, 9, and 14, where most pathogenic mutations were localized in the patients, studied by us. During the planning of the analysis, this order would allow optimizing time and resources for the analysis and ensuring the maximal efficiency of the molecular genetic diagnostics of MPS I in Ukraine.

Conclusions

The molecular genetic analysis of pathogenic mutations in the *IDUA* gene in 18 Ukrainian patients with MPS I from 17 families (34 alleles) revealed 100 % mutant alleles.

The share of the alleles with the major mutation $p.Q70^*$ was the largest – 32.35 % (11/34). The other major mutation for European populations, $p.W402^*$, was found in five patients (14.7 %) in one allele, so it is also major for Ukraine.

Most rare mutations, identified by us in Ukrainian patients with MPS I, were localized in exons 2, 7, 8, 9, and 14 of the *IDUA* gene, and one in each - in exons 1, 11, and 12.

Three previously not described missence mutations in the *IDUA* gene - p.N372S, p.Q563P and p.S633* – were also revealed.

The data of the conducted molecular genetic analysis of mutations in the *IDUA* gene may be used

while planning the most reasonable algorithm of the molecular genetic analysis of Ukrainian patients with MPS I in order to enhance the quality of providing medical care to the families, suffering from this disease.

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Молекулярно-генетична характеристика пацієнтів з мукополісахаридозом І типу з України: виявлення трьох нових мутацій в гені α-L-ідуронідази

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Мукополісахаридоз І типу (МПС І) – рідкісне спадкове аутосомно-рецесивне метаболічне захворювання, яке виникає внаслідок дефекту лізосомального ферменту α -L-ідуронідази (*IDUA*; ЕС 3.2.1.76). Розрізняють 3 клінічних форми МПС І: синдром Гурлера, МПС І Г; МІМ # 607014, ОКРНА 93473, синдром Гурлер/Шейе, МПС І Г/Ш; МІМ # 607015, ОКРНА 93476, синдром Шейе, МПС I Ш; МІМ # 607016, ОКРНА 93474. **Мета.** Виявлення повного спектру мутацій в гені *IDUA* у паціснтів з МПС І з України. **Методи.** ПДРФ-аналіз, метод прямого автоматичного секвенування по Сенгеру на аналізаторі АВІ 3130 (Applied Biosystems). **Результати.** На підставі проведених нами досліджень було ідентифіковано 100% (34/34) мутантних алелів гену *IDUA* серед 18 хворих (один пробанд мав сибса с ідентичним генотипом) на МПС І пацієнтів з 17 родин з України. Спектр мутацій в гені *IDUA* у пацієнтів з МПС І в Україні представлений 6 відомими місенс-мутаціями – p.Q70*, p.W402*, p.A75T, p.A327P, p.P533L, p.S633I; 2 делеціями – c.1398delC та c.46_57del_12, 1 інсерцією с.889_899_ins_12, та 1 мутацією в зоні сплайсінгу IVS11ds+5G–A. Нами було виявлено три нових місенс-мутації в гені *IDUA*: p.N372S, p.Q563P та p.S633*. Висновки. Дані проведеного молекулярно-генетичного аналізу мутацій в гені *IDUA* можуть бути використані при плануванні найбільш раціонального алгоритму молекулярно-генетичного аналізу пацієнтів з МПС I в Україні.

Ключові слова: мукополісахаридоз, синдром Гурлер, синдром Шейе, а-L-ідуронідаза.

Молекулярно-генетическая характеристика пациентов с мукополисахаридозом I типа из Украины: виявление трёх новых мутаций в гене α-L-идуронидазы

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Мукополисахаридоз I типа (МПС I) – редкое наследственное аутосомно-рецессивное метаболическое заболевание, которое возникает вследствие дефекта фермента α-L-идуронидазы (*IDUA*; ЕС 3.2.1.76). Разделяют 3 клинических формы МПС I: синдром Гурлера, МПС I Г; МІМ # 607014, ORPHA 93473, син-

дром Гурлер/Шейе, МПС І Г/Ш; МІМ # 607015, ORPHA 93476, синдром Шейе, МПС I Ш; МІМ # 607016, ORPHA 93474. Цель. Выявление полного спектра мутаций в гене IDUA у пациентов с МПС І из Украины. Методы. ПДРФ-анализ, метод прямого автоматического секвенирования по Сенгеру на анализаторе ABI 3130 (Applied Biosystems). Результаты. На основании проведенных нами исследований было идентифицировано 100% (34/34) мутантных аллелей гена IDUA среди 18 пациентов (два пробанда имели сибсов с идентичными генотипами) с МПС І из 17 семей из Украины. Спектр мутаций в гене IDUA у пациентов с МПС І в Украине представлен известными 6 миссенс-мутациями - p.Q70*, p.W402*, p.A75T, p.A327P, p. P533L, p.S633I, 2 делециями - с.1398delC и с.46 57del 12, 1 инсерцией - с.889 899 ins 12 и 1 мутацией в зоне сплайсинга IVS11ds+5G-А. Нами было найдено три новых миссенс-мутаций в гене IDUA: p.N372S, p.Q563P и p.S633*. Выводы. Данные проведенного молекулярно-генетического анализа мутаций в гене IDUA могут быть использованы при планировании наиболее рационального алгоритма молекулярно-генетического анализа пациентов с МПС І в Украине.

Ключевые слова: мукополисахаридоз, синдром Гурлер, синдром Шейе, α-L-идуронидаза.

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