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Contents

Editorial
Bombay phenotype in Orissa: What could we make out of it
Kanjaksha Ghosh, K. Vasantha 79

Review Articles
Coagulation disorders seen through the window of molecular biology
Kanjaksha Ghosh 81
DNA profiling: Social, legal, or biological parentage
A. K. Sharma 88

Commentary
Can parallel mutation and neutral genome selection explain Eastern African M1 consensus HVS-I motifs in Indian M haplogroups
Clyde Winters 93

Original Articles
PvuII polymorphism of estrogen receptor-α gene in breast cancer
D. Surekha, S. Vishnupriya, D. Nageswara Rao, K. Sailaja, D. Raghunadharao 97
Possible risk factors for Down syndrome and sex chromosomal aneuploidy in Mysore, South India
Suttur S. Malini, Nallur B. Ramachandra 102
Identification of a rare blood group, “Bombay (Oh) phenotype,” in Bhuyan tribe of Northwestern Orissa, India
R. S. Balgir 109

Short Article
Emergence of an unrelated highly aberrant clone in an AML patient at relapse four months after peripheral blood stem cell transplantation
Pratibha S. Amare Kadam, Hemani V. Jain, Purvish M. Parikh, Tapan K. Saikia, Sandhya Agarwal, Indu Ambulkar 114

Case Reports
Rett syndrome molecular diagnosis and implications in genetic counseling
M. Noruzinia, M. T. Akbari, M. Ghofrani, H. Sheikha 119
Mowat-Wilson syndrome in a Moroccan consanguineous family
Ratbi Ilham, Elalaoui Chafai Siham, Dastot-Le Moal Florence, Goossens Michel, Giurgea Irina Sefiani Abdelaziz 122

Letter to the Editor
Translocation t(2;14)(p13;q32) in a case of Ph+ acute lymphoblastic leukemia
Lily Kerketta, Babu Rao Vundinti, Kanjaksha Ghosh 125

Author Index - 2007 127
Title Index - 2007 129
List of Reviewers for 2007 130

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Translocation t(2;14)(p13;q32) in a case of Ph+ acute lymphoblastic leukemia

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Sir,

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is a malignant (clonal) disease of the bone marrow in which early lymphoid precursors proliferate and replace the normal hematopoietic cells of the marrow. At least two-third of ALL cases show clonal chromosomal abnormalities. In ALL the most common chromosomal changes are t(12;21), t(9;22), t(4;11), del(6q) followed by t(8;14), t(1;19), and del (9p). [1] The t(9;22)(q34;q11) or Ph' chromosome is found in 17% of adult cases of ALL and 6% of childhood ALL. [2] Various additional chromosomal abnormalities have been reported in Ph'-positive ALL. [3] Here we report a rare association of t(2;14)(p13;q32) in a case of Ph'-positive ALL. A 26-year-old female, a mother of two children, presented with fever and cough for 1 month and progressive weakness and fatigability. She had a history of arthralgia, with pain in both upper and lower limbs and low-grade backache. On examination, the patient had pallor, sternal tenderness, and massive splenomegaly; she had no liver enlargement or lymphadenopathy. Peripheral blood examination showed hemoglobin 7.4 g/dl; white blood cells 7.3 × 10^3/µl; and platelets 1.5 × 10^3/µL. The bone marrow (BM) was normocytic and normochromic. BM smear showed infiltration by leukemic blasts (78%). The blasts showed positivity with CD10 (95%), CD19 (98%), CD22 (90%), CD13 (98%), CD34 (98%), and HLA-DR (99%). Based on these findings, and using the criteria of the European Group for the Immunological Characterization of Acute Leukemia (EGIC), the patient was diagnosed as having common precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Cytogenetic analysis of unstimulated BM cells was performed at the time of diagnosis using direct harvest and harvest after 24-h culture. Metaphase chromosomes were GTG-banded and karyotyped according to ISCN (2005). Chromosomal analysis revealed a mosaic karyotype with 46, XX, t(9;22)(q34;q11), t(2;4)(p13;q32) [22], and 46, XX (8) [Figure 1A, B].

The t(2;14)(p13;q32) was a rare but recurrent chromosomal abnormality reported in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). [4, 5] However, t(2;14) is reported to be uncommon in ALL cases and other lymphoid malignancies. [6] The t(2;14) has been detected as a secondary chromosomal abnormality in Ph'-positive CML cases. [7] In case of ALL, t(2;14) was detected along with other chromosomal aberrations. [7] To the best of our knowledge, our case is the second case where t(2;14) was present as a primary clone along with Ph' chromosome in ALL patient. Inaba et al. [8] have reported a similar chromosome abnormality in ALL patients.

In case of t(2;14)(p13; q32), the 14q32 band has been known to contain at least two regions of preferential breakage in leukemia patients. One is the immunoglobulin heavy-chain (Ig H) region and the other, located 15-20 million base pairs centromeric to the Ig H locus at q32-1, [9] has been identified in T-cell malignancies of
patients with ataxia telangiectasia (AT). It was suggested that a break in this site appears to confer a proliferative advantage to the cells.\[10\] Chromosomal translocation t(2;14)(p13;q32) occurs as the sole cytogenetics abnormality in a rare but clinically aggressive subset of CLL/immunocytoma, suggesting that deregulated expression of BCL II A may play a major and primary role in the pathogenesis of the disease. In our case, two cytogenetic abnormalities, i.e., t(9;22)(q34;q11), t(2;14)(p13;q32) originated together and shown lymphatic marker CD10 and myeloid marker CD13 expression, which is a rare event. The patient was not responding to the standard chemotherapy protocols and the cytogenetic investigation after two months revealed the same chromosome abnormality that was detected at the time of diagnosis. Hence, the t(2;14) along with the Ph' chromosome is a poor prognostic factor in ALL patients.

References


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