

The cardiovascular implications of a rare unbalanced translocation involving a duplication of distal 10q and deletion of distal 15q

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Background

We report a case of a male infant with a rare unbalanced translocation [46,XY,der(15)t(10;15)(q25.3;q26.1)]. The patient presented with congenital heart disease and subsequent tracheal bleeding from multiple aortopulmonary collaterals.

Case Report

The patient had a prenatal diagnosis of coarctation (CoA) and suspected trisomy 18. His clinical exam demonstrated low birth weight, microcephaly, craniofacial dysmorphism, and musculoskeletal anomalies including rocker bottom feet. Multiple organ systems were involved. Postnatal cardiac imaging demonstrated a small but apex-forming left ventricle, bicuspid aortic valve (BAV), hypoplastic aortic arch with long segment CoA, atrial septal defect, and numerous coronary fistulae to the right ventricle. The patient underwent CoA repair and ASD closure via a sternotomy. Multiple aortopulmonary collaterals were identified initially at 16 months of age and serially embolized as the patient developed symptoms, including tracheal bleeding and desaturation.

Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) was normal for 13, 18, 21, and 22q11.2 probes. A karyotype revealed a derivative chromosome 15. Microarray delineated the rearrangement further to involve a 17.2 megabase (Mb) duplication of 10q25.3-q26.3 and a 10.1 Mb deletion at 15q26.1-q26.3.



Figure 1: Blood karyotype demonstrating the unbalanced translocation. Part of the distal arm of chromosome 15 is deleted and replaced by additional genetic material from chromosome 10 (arrow).

NR2F2 (COUP-TFII) Gene

- Mouse models demonstrate involvement in atrial identity, coronary artery development, and in vein and lymphatic identity.^{1,2,3}
 - In mice, veins gain arterial characteristics with ablation of the *NR2F2* gene.⁴
- Reported in patients with congenital heart disease including atrioventricular septal defects, double outlet right ventricle, tetralogy of Fallot, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, BAV, and CoA.^{5,6}
- *NR2F2* mutation disrupts synergistic transcriptional activation with GATA-4 transcription factor, which is associated with BAV.⁷
- Role in coronary fistulae or aortopulmonary collaterals not established in humans.

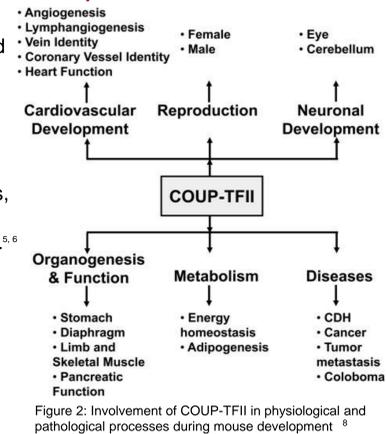


Figure 3: CT reconstruction prior to cardiac repair demonstrating hypoplasia of the transverse aortic arch (arrow). The arch is severely narrowed at the isthmus.

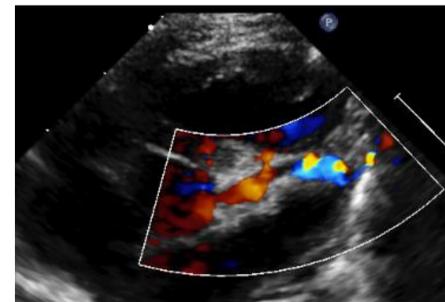


Figure 4: Transthoracic echocardiogram, parasternal short axis color doppler. The left main coronary artery and left anterior descending are dilated. Multiple fistulous connections to the right ventricle were present.



Figure 5: Power injection in the right internal mammary artery demonstrating multiple aortopulmonary collaterals. The pulmonary vascular resistance was elevated but normalized with FIO₂/iNO challenge.

Other Genes and Features

- Chromosome 15
 - *IGF1R* deletion implicated in IUGR and growth restriction.⁹
 - *CHD2* deletion associated with developmental delay and seizures.¹⁰
- Chromosome 10
 - 3 copies of *NFKB2* gene implicated in ureteropelvic junction obstruction.¹¹
 - Skeletal abnormalities and developmental delays seen in duplications.¹²
- One similar case report of a patient with 46,XY,der(15) t(10;15)(q25.2;q26.2) and a 5 Mb deletion of the terminal portion of 15q. The *NR2F2* gene was preserved. No cardiac defects were described.¹³



Figure 6: Our patient with ongoing developmental delays. Therapies have contributed in reaching milestones.

Conclusion

Unbalanced translocations resulting in chromosome 10q terminal duplications and 15q distal deletions are profoundly rare. This patient harbors numerous genes with incorrect dosage due to the translocation. Of interest, *NR2F2* that encodes a transcription factor essential for normal cardiovascular development and angiogenesis was deleted. Loss-of-function of this gene has been associated with BAV, atrioventricular septal defects, double outlet right ventricle, and CoA with ventricular septal defect in single case reports and may have played a role in our patient's initial and ongoing cardiac disease.

Understanding of specific genes affected can guide appropriate treatment and anticipatory guidance. Familial cases of cardiac lesions may be attributed to an *NR2F2* deletion. Further research is needed to understand the variable expression of cardiac defects with an *NR2F2* mutation.

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