# A very high density microsatellite map (1 STR / 41 kb ) of 1.7 Mb on Xp22 spanning the microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS) syndrome critical region 

Timothy C Cox ${ }^{1}$, Liza L Cox ${ }^{1}$ and A ndrea B allabio<br>Telethon Institute of Genetics and M edicine, San Raffaele Biomedical Science Park, Milan, Italy


#### Abstract

Microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS) syndrome is an X-linked disorder presenting only in XX individuals. It is characterised by dysmorphic features such as microphthalmia, sclerocornea, and linear streaks of erythematous and hypoplastic skin restricted to the head and neck. Karyotype analyses have so far revealed a terminal deletion or translocation causing monosomy for the distal Xp region (Xp22.3) in all patients. We have used existing cosmid clones from the region to perform a saturation screen for AC-type microsatellites with the goal of facilitating analysis of five novel patients with features of MLS. Three of these cases had an Xp22.3 abnormality, while the other two showed some characteristic features of MLS but had apparently normal karyotypes. Forty-two novel microsatellite markers have now been developed from the 1.7 Mb cloned interval. Ninety-three percent of the novel markers exhibited allelic variation, representing an average of one polymorphic PCR-based marker (STR) every 41 kb .


Keywords: Xp22; microsatellites; MLS; Aicard syndrome; Goltz syndrome; X chromosome; contiguous gene syndrome; microphthalmia; linear skin; focal dermal hypoplasia; paraffin-embedded

## Introduction

The high frequency of naturally occurring chromosomal rearrangements involving the distal short arm of

[^0]the X chromosome has made this region particularly amenable to deletion/phenotype correlation mapping. Recently, a new syndrome called microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS; MIM \#309801) has been added to this list of contiguous gene syndromes. The salient features of this syndrome include severe microphthalmia, sclerocornea, and linear streaks of erythematous and hypoplastic skin restricted to the head and neck. Clinical presentation in only XX individuals implies embryonic lethality in hemizygous individuals. With one possible exception, ${ }^{1}$ all published cases with a 'classical' MLS phenotype have presented with cytogenetically visible abnormalities involving X p22 and this
feature is generally accepted as a criterion for diagnosis. ${ }^{2-7}$

Some authors have noted clinical overlap between the M L S syndrome phenotype and that observed in two other X -linked dominant disorders exhibiting embryonic male lethality, A icardi syndrome and focal dermal hypoplasia (FDH) or Goltz syndrome, and this has led to the hypothesis that the latter two disorders may be due to different patterns of $X$-inactivation of the same gene or genes involved in expression of the MLS phenotype. ${ }^{6,8,9}$ B ased on the molecular characterisation of the chromosomal abnormalities in MLS patients, a 0.6 Mb genomic region was reported to contain all or part of the disease gene(s). ${ }^{10,11}$

Here we report the near-complete and fully annotated cosmid contig covering approximately 1.7 Mb distal to A melogenin and encompassing the critical region for MLS. Over 40 new polymorphic repeat markers have been developed and these, together with all relevant anchor STS markers from the larger linkage and YAC-based physical maps. ${ }^{12,13}$ have been precisely positioned on the cosmids to unequivocally correlate genetic and physical distances. The microsatellites have been used to analyse breakpoint positions in three M LS patients with Xp22 cytogenetic abnormalities and to search for submicroscopic deletions in two exceptional karyotypically normal cases with features of MLS.

## Materials and Methods

Cosmid Library Screening and Contig Assembly
Some of the cosmids have been previously described. ${ }^{11}$ Closure of gaps in this map was achieved by screening both the LLOXNC01 and the Reference Library Database X -chromosome specific cosmid libraries with probes derived from cosmid ends closest to each gap (see Figure1). Filters were hybridised as previously described. ${ }^{11}$

## Isolation of Polymorphic Microsatellite Markers

Digested Cosmid DNA s were immobilised on Hybond N + membrane and hybridised with a probe containing an uninterrupted dinucleotide stretch (CA 18). Restriction fragments displaying strong hybridisation signals were gel purified, cloned into appropriately restricted pBluescript vector and sequenced.

## STR Analysis

Sequences derived from CA-positive fragments were analysed for database homologies using the BLAST-N and

BLA ST-X algorithm as previously described. ${ }^{14}$ Primers were designed around each uninterrupted dinucleotide repeat ( $\geq 12$ repeating units).

## Patients

D etailed clinical presentations have been previously reported for BA $649^{1}$ and BA $96 .{ }^{15}$ A full case report of patient BA 530 will be presented elsewhere (K ayserili et al, submitted). Details of all other cases in this study are previously unreported.

## Preparation and PCR on DNA from Paraffin

## Embedded Tissue

Two to three $0.5 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ slices from a paraffin-embedded skin biopsy were used. The paraffin was dissolved with xylene. The tissue was pelleted, rinsed in ethanol, and desiccated. The tissue was then resuspended in $20 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of lysis buffer $(0.5 \mathrm{~mm}$ $\mathrm{KCl}, \quad 0.1 \mathrm{~mm}$ Tris-HCl pH $8.3,0.15 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{MgCl} 2,0.1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{ml}$ gelatin, $0.45 \%$ Nonidet P40, $0.45 \%$ Tween 20), $0.8 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of proteinase $\mathrm{K}(10 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{ml})$ added and the sample incubated at $65^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 1 h followed by heat inactivation at $98^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 20 min . Cell debris was briefly pelleted prior to use in amplification reactions; $0.5-2 \mu$ of the preparation was used for amplification of the developed microsatellites.

## Results

## Saturation Screen for CA-type Polymorphic Dinucleotide Repeats

A restriction fragment containing a CA 18 repeat was used as a probe on digests of 52 overlapping cosmids spanning the M LS region. ${ }^{11}$ Of the 44 subclones which exhibited medium to strong hybridisation signals and from which sequence was generated, 36 contained uninterrupted CA -repeat lengths of 12 units or greater ([CA ]n; $n \geq 12$ ). Six PCR -based markers other than CA repeats were developed: a GA-repeat (CxM 33); a tetranucleotide repeat, (AAAC)9; a common Xbal restriction site polymorphism; and polyA stretches of 23 (CxM 08); 27 (CxM 27); and 30 (CxM 10) nucleotides. For all these sequences primer pairs were designed.
One of the CA repeat units was revealed to correspond to DXS7108 (see Figure 1). In total, 40 novel potentially polymorphic markers, were identified. E ach microsatellite was tested for its level of polymorphism directly on the patient, parent samples, and on a set of eight unrelated phenotypically normal individuals (representing 12 independent $X$ chromosomes). Thirty-seven of the 40 newly developed markers exhibited allelic variation in the limited number of individuals examined (Table 1). A llele sizes, annealing temperature and primer sequences are available at http://www.tigem.it/TIGEM/PUBLIC/index.html.


Figure 1 Integrated physical and genetic map of 1.7 Mb distal to A melogenin in X p22.3. Patient breakpoints are indicated by jagged lines and underwritten 'BA' numbers. Cosmids derived from the L awrence L ivermore National L aboratories (LLNL) and Reference L ibrary Database (RLDB) X chromosome-specific libraries are represented by filled or lightly shaded rectangles, respectively. The relative degree of overlap of each named cosmid is also depicted. The names indicated for the RLDB cosmids have been shortened for the figure: each cosmid can be correctly identified by the addition of 'ICRFc104' to the front of each supplied identification. Published genes are drawn as lightly shaded arrows - the arrowhead representing the orientation of transcription with respect to the centromere and telomere. Filled arrow denotes unpublished gene 176X (B assi et al., in prepartaion). The regional positions of the newly developed markers ( $C \times M$ ) as well as STS and STR markers transposed from the YAC ${ }^{13}$ and Généthon linkage ${ }^{12}$ maps are indicated by proportionately sized horizontal bars above the cosmid contig. Relevant new STS markers (derived from cosmid endfragment sequencing) are indicated similarly below the cosmid contig.

## Assembly and annotation of the 1.7 Mb Cosmid Map in Xp22.3

We have determined precise cosmid locations for 13 Xp22 loci, whose position on the YAC map of this region had previously been determined (bins 55-73 from Ferrero et al). ${ }^{13}$ Ten of these 13 loci mapped to the cosmids with a relative physical order that was consistent with previous YAC data, ${ }^{13}$ with the exception of D X S410 which was mapped distal instead of proximal to CLCN4. Locus DXS6836, was localised between DXF22S5 and AMG, two to three bin positions away from its originally reported location. ${ }^{13}$ Four other loci investigated (DXS8051, DXS7103, DXS1313 and DXS1380) did not map within the current cosmid contig boundaries. Of note, an additional STS (HUMUT280; Genbank accession \#L 31676) has been fortuitously localised adjacent to DXS6848 in cosmid U 188H 7 (Figure 1) by homology searches from initial sequencing efforts (unpublished data).

In addition to these existing markers, the newly developed microsatellites from this region were also integrated into the cosmid map through PCR analysis of cosmid DNAs. A nnotation of the cosmid map allowed us to uncover some inconsistencies, involving contigs 6 and 7 of the original contig. ${ }^{11}$ The new cosmid order for this region (see Figure 1 has been confirmed by a combination of PCR-amplifiable STS and microsatellite markers as well as by hybridisation and cosmid fingerprinting.

To close the gaps between the contigs, ${ }^{11}$ we have used the STS markers and end-fragment subclones closest to the reported gaps to screen the Lawrence Livermore and the R LDB X chromosome specific cosmid libraries. In total, 60 clones ( 50 described by Wapenaar et al, ${ }^{11} 10$ newly isolated) comprise the minimal set of overlapping cosmids in the five contigs (represented in Figure 1) necessary to cover the 1.7 M b region.

## Patient Analysis

Four different types of patient were collected for analysis: G roup 1 - three patients with M LS carrying a cytogenetically detectable X p22 abnormality - BA 96, BA 389 and BA 530; Group 2 - two exceptional cases with M LS features but exhibiting an apparently 'normal karyotype' - BA 649 and BA 529; Group 3-three karyotypically normal patients with typical Aicardi syndrome - BA 306, BA 336 and BA 643; and Group 4 three karyotypically normal patients with FDH BA 330, BA 416 and BA 639. Patients with Xp22 abnormalities had either 'pure' terminal Xp deletions or unbalanced $X / a u t o s o m a l$ translocations (producing

X p22 monosomy). It is important to point out that the two patients with M LS features but normal karyotypes show linear skin lesions strikingly similar to those observed in MLS patients with documented Xp22 abnormalities, however, they do not exhibit microphthalmia.
A total of 52 polymorphic markers, 40 of which were developed in this study, were typed on patients' D NA and on their parents (where available), to characterise the extent of the cytogenitically detectable deletions and to search for the presence of submicroscopic deletions in those patients with normal karyotypes. The analysis of cases with cytogenetically visible abnormalities (Group 1) permitted a precise assignment of the deletion breakpoints. The breakpoints of patients BA $96{ }^{15}$ and BA 389 were mapped between DXS1043 and DXS1224, and between DXS1224 and DXS1226, respectively (Table1). In both cases, the results have been confirmed by fluorescence in situ hybridisation using a YAC probe (data not shown). The third MLS patient, BA 530, presents with the full spectrum of diagnostic MLS features and appears to be a 'pure' terminal deletion case as suspected cytogenetically.

Samples from the two karyotypically normal MLS patients (BA 649 and BA 529) were initially analysed using available polymorphic microsatellites from X p22: DXS1233, DXS1060, DXS996, DXS1223, DXS1043, DXS1224 and DXS1226. Subsequently, the microsatellites developed in this study were analysed. A II the results were consistent with two alleles being present for each marker tested on both these novel MLS patients. Therefore, fully informative markers provided a rapid scanning resolution of approximately 100 kb for BA 649 and 75 kb for BA 529 with no Xp abnormality evident (Table 1).

Similarly, the microsatellite analysis of A icardi and FDH syndrome patients found no evidence for submicroscopic deletions within the critical region for M LS (Table 1).

## Discussion

With the ultimate goal of identifying and characterising the gene(s) contributing to the M LS phenotype, we set out to develop a near-saturation map of AC-type microsatellites which would aid in the identification of deletion boundaries by comparing patient with parental alleles.

| Marker |
| :---: |
| DXS1233 |
| DXS1060 |
| DXS996 |
| Dxs1223 |
| DXS7103 |
| OACA2 [16] |
| DXS10005 (CxM 35) |
| DXS10002 (CxM 32) |
| DXS9996 (CxM 26) |
| DXS10003 (С×M 33) |
| DXS9995 (CxM 25) |
| DXS10009 (CxM 39) |
| DXS9997 (CxM 27) |
| DXS7108 |
| DXS10004 (CxM 34) |
| DXS9994 (CxM 24) |
| DXS9998 (CxM 28) |
| DXS10007 ( CxM 37$)$ |
| DXS9999 (CxM 29) |
| DXS10008 (CxM 38) |
| DXS10000 (CxM 30) |
| DXS10006 (CxM 36) |
| DXS10001 (CxM 31) |
| DXS9977 (CxM 07) |
| DXS9988 (CxM 18) |
| DXS9987 (CxM 17) |
| DXS9900 (CxM 20) |
| DXS9971 (CxM 01) |
| DXS9992 (CxM 22) |
| DXS9973 (CxM 03) |
| DXS9989 (CxM 19) |
| DXS9976 (CxM 06) |
| DXS9975 (CxM 05) |
| DXS9991 (CxM21) |
| DXS9972 (CxM O2) |
| DXS9979 (CxM 09) |
| DXS9974 (CxM 04) |
| DXS9978 (CxM 08) |
| T->C (Xbal) |
| DXS9981 (CxM 11) |
| DXS9985 (CxM 15) |
| DXS9980 (CxM 10) |
| DXS9983 (CxM 13) |
| DXS9982 (CxM 12) |
| DXS9986 (CxM 16) |
| DXS9984 (CxM 14) |
| DXS9993 (CxM 23) |
| DXS1043 |
| DXS7104 |
| Dxs7109 |
| DXS1224 |
| DXS1226 |


| Group 1 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| B596 | BS389 | mo | fa | BA550 |
| C | C | BC | B | C |
| F | в | A | D | A |
| н | c | AE | E | E |
| G | D | DG | G | D |
| D | f | вС | E | c |
| F | A | G | H | G |
| A | B | AD | E | A |
| F | F | DF | F | F |
| G | G | FG | B | G |
| A | в | EG | E | E |
| c | G | CE | G | c |
| M | H | FL | E | L |
| c | E | D | B | D |
| B | в | AB | A | в |
| c | c | вс | c | c |
| D | D | BD | D | в |
| A | c | в | B | в |
| E | A | BC | B | c |
| c | c | BC | A | c |
| в | в | BC | B | c |
| A | A | A | A | c |
| c | c | D | D | D |
| A | A | AB | A | A |
| A | E | BC | D | CD |
| D | E | AD | D | D |
| c | A | c | B | BC |
| c | A | c | C | c |
| CG | E | FG | B | BG |
| CD | FJ | EG | c | CG |



| Group 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| BA336 | mo | fa | BA306 | mo | fa | BA643 |
| AC | C | c | C | AC | C | AC |
| DE | B | A | AB | BD | B | BD |
| BD | EH | 1 | EI | CH | G | GH |
| DE | BD | G | DG | DG | F | FG |
| E | E | B | BE | E | E | E |
| BI | F | G | FG | AC | G | CG |
| CH | AD | D | AD | GH | G | GH |
| BE | DG | G | G | G | G | G |
| AB | BC | в | BC | B | B | B |
| A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| C | C | B | BC | BC | C | BC |
| в | AB | в | AB | B | в | B |
| AD | C | D | CD | D | D | G |
| CD | CE | F | CF | DE | G | EG |
| CF | F | D | DF | BG | H | GH |
| DF | CH | F | FH | CF | A | AC |
| G | EG | F | FG | BG | D | BD |
| CF | cg | C | CG | C | F | CF |
| DG | AE | D | AD | DH | C | CE |
| B | AB | B | $A B$ | B | B | B |
| BI | D | E | DE | DG | G | G |
| C | CD | B | BC | BD | c | BC |
| BE | G | F | FG | CH | J | HJ |
| EI | FI | K | IK | AL | E | AE |
| CD | E | E | E | DE | E | E |
| A | A | B | AB | B | A | AB |
| A | A | c | AC | c | A | AC |
| C | AC | c | C | CD | D | CD |
| BC | BC | D | CD | D | D | CD |
| A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| B | B | в | B | B | B | B |
| BC | B | B | B | B | в | B |
| c | CD | в | BC | BD | C | BC |
| c | BC | c | BC | AC | c | AC |
| D | AD | D | D | BD | D | BD |
| D | BD | D | BD | AD | D | D |
| в | AB | B | B | B | B | в |
| AB | B | B | B | B | c | BC |
| n | n | $\times$ | nx | n | $\times$ | x |
| в | B | E | BE | DE | B | BE |
| DE | FG | N | GN | DL | H | HL |
| в | AB | c | BC | C | c | C |
| AC | BC | B | B | BC | в | в |
| A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| CD | CD | D | CD | CD | C | C |
| A | AB | B | B | AB | D | BD |
| CD | DF | F | DF | BC | F | BG |
| D | D | D | D | CD | D | D |
| c | C | C | c | C | D | CD |
| c | c | c | c | c | в | BC |
| DE | G | G | G | AF | F | F |
| EI | CI | G | GI | GH | H | GH |



Table 1 A nalysis of MLS, A icardi and FDH syndrome patients using the newly developed and publicly available polymorphic markers

Together with the two previously identified markers from the region (DXS7108 and OACA 2), ${ }^{16}$ the 40 markers generated in this study represent a combined average of one STR every 41 kb (or one A C-type STR every 47 kb ). Considering the chosen threshold size of (CA) $n[n \geq 12$ ] for marker development, this frequency is consistent with original whole genome estimates. ${ }^{17}$

In addition to providing an anchored foundation for the subsequent efficient generation of its complete sequence, the direct integration of our 40 novel polymorphic markers into the recent $G$ énéthon linkage map $^{12}$ complements this broader coverage of markers and will be a valuable resource for positional cloning efforts of other disease genes mapped over this region of the $X$ chromosome.
Three M LS cases with cytogenetically visible abnormalities in Xp22 were tested together with their parents

Table 1 Continued.G roup 1: M LS patients with cytogenetic abnormalities of Xp22. Group 2: Patients with features of MLS but with normal karyotypes. Group 3: classical A icardi syndrome patients. Group 4: patients with Focal Dermal Hypoplasia (FDH). The markers tested on each group of patients are indicated in Table 1 in an ascending order that reflects their relative physical order on the chromosome (see Figure 1): top of column represents the telomeric end; the bottom, the centromeric end. The two horizontal lines (between CxM 27 and DXS7108 and between CxM 14 and CxM 23, represent the approximate positions of the patient breakpoints (BA 38 and BA 325, respectively, see Figure 1) that define the MLS critical interval designated for this study (see text for details). The total complement of alleles observed for each marker in this study were assigned letters according to decreasing size of the allele: A represents the largest allele of a given marker, B the second largest, etc. For the restriction site polymorphism, $\mathrm{T}->\mathrm{C}(\mathrm{X}$ bal ), the letters ' x ' (cut) and ' $n$ ' (not cut) in the spaces represent the status of each allele after digestion with the enzyme X bal. U nshaded columns represent parental samples. Black spaces indicate confirmation of the presence of two alleles for a given marker, i.e. not deleted. Dark grey shaded spaces (e.g. Group 1, columns 1, 2 and 5) indicate the confirmed absence of one allele. Lightly shaded spaces represent markers which could not be confirmed to be present as one or two copies in patient samples, i.e. uninformative. Blank spaces (in Group 1 patients) indicate that the marker(s) was not examined in those individuals. L etters in brackets (BA 649 column, G roup 2) indicate assumed allele sizes based on uninformativeness of parental alleles and because of limiting patient tissue samples. Due to technical difficulties, in many instances a consequence of product size limitations in amplifucation of DNA from paraffin-embedded tissue, the markers in the BA 649 column indicated with single ( $\checkmark$ ) or double ( $(\checkmark)$ checks could not be examined. Single checks imply potentially informative markers. D ouble checks imply fully informative markers. The reference for the previously reported marker OA CA 2 has been indicated.
using the microsatellites developed in this study (Table1). In defining these breakpoints, we have identified a patient (BA 530; Figure 1 and Table1) whose deletion extends only to the A melogenin locus. This deletion is one of the shortest known terminal deletions expressing the full spectrum of MLS clinical features, including the facial dermal aplasia, severe microphthalmia and agenesis of the corpus callosum.

One possible exception to the finding of cytogenetically visible abnormalities of Xp22 in MLS has been reported to date in the literature. ${ }^{1}$ The availability of biopsy specimens taken from the linear skin lesions of this patient provided a unique opportunity to investigate by PCR the minimal region of deletion causing the MLS phenotype. During this study, a second 'normal karyotype' patient presenting with the characteristic facial skin lesions was brought to our attention (Dr A D avid, personal communication, 1996) and was incorporated in the analysis. A lelle inheritance patterns were analysed and the results showed no demonstrable X p22 abnormality at the resolution limit defined by the physical order and informativeness of these markers ( 100 kb and 70 kb in BA 649 and BA 529, respectively). A number of explanations exist for these unique observations:
(1) these patients do not represent true examples of MLS (ie phenocopies);
(2) they have either small deletions which reside between informative markers developed in this study or point mutations in a gene from this region;
(3) they are mosaic for an Xp abnormality.

A lthough both patients present with the linear skin lesions restricted to the head and neck as the only truly characteristic feature of the MLS phenotype, the absence of microphthalmia does not rule out a diagnosis of MLS; ${ }^{1}$ this paper. A s further support for this, two other cases presenting with only the linear skin defects have been reported in the literature. ${ }^{9,18}$ B oth these patients have cytogenetically visible abnormalities involving Xp22 and each has had a child affected with the full spectrum of the M LS phenotype, supporting the hypothesis for a role of $X$-inactivation in the clinical presentation of the disorder. ${ }^{6,9}$ That either or both of these patients may be mosaic for an Xp22 abnormality and, consequently, that a bias against detection using the polymerase chain reaction has been introduced seems unlikely (but cannot be excluded) as no cytogenetic mosaicism was detected during the
repeated karyotype analyses on each patient. Furthermore, some of the informative marker results obtained on BA 649 have been confirmed on two different affected tissue types: biopsy samples from an area of erythematous facial skin and cardiomyopathic heart taken at autopsy.

The saturation development of AC-type microsatellites surrounding the critical interval for the MLS syndrome is a unique approach that permitted the detailed molecular analysis of each $X$ chromosome in critical patients which would have otherwise been impossible using standard techniques. Such high density microsatellite maps are very important resources for deletion scanning in any deletion-associated disease.

## Acknowledgements

Samples from BA 649 and from both parents were supplied by Dr Lynne Bird and Dr Henry Krous (San Diego, USA). Samples from BA 529 and from both parents, were supplied by Dr A lbert D avid (Paris, France). We are indebted to Dr Hülya K ayserili (Istanbul, Turkey) for providing DNA s and clinical details from the patient (BA 530) and her parents. We would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the following people for patient samples: Drs Mark Steele and Sharon Wenger (BA 336), Dr D avid M anchester (BA 416), D r Richard Lewis (BA 389), K erry Silvey (BA 330), and Dr Orsetta Zuffardi and Dr Romeo Carrozzo (BA 306 BA 643, and BA 639). The authors would also like to thank Drs B runella Franco and Brett Casey for their valuable assistance. TCC is supported by a CJ Martin Post-D octoral Training Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia and a 1996 AMRAD Post-Doctoral A ward. This work was funded by the Italian Telethon Foundation, the EC under Grant Nos. BM H 4- CT96-1134 and BMH4-CT96-0889, and NIH Grant No. 5R 01 NS31367-04 (Subcontract \#0206A). All newly developed CxM and STS marker sequences from this study have been submitted to Genbank. All sequences, database accession numbers and allele data, including primer pair sequences and conditions of amplification of each locus, are available on the TIGEM web site: http://www.tigem.it/TIG E M /PU B LIC/index.html.

## References

1 Bird LM, K rous HF, Eichenfield LF, Swalwell CI, Jones MC: Female infant with oncocytic cardiomyopathy and microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS): a clue to the pathogenesis of oncocytic cardiomyopathy? A mJ M ed G enet 1994; 53: 141-148.
2 Ropers H-H, Zuffardi O, B ianchi E, Tiepolo L: A genesis of the corpus callosum, ocular, and skeletal anomalies ( X -linked dominant Aicardi's syndrome) in a girl with balanced X/3 translocation. Hum Genet 1982; 61: 364-368.

3 A I-G azali LI, M ueller R F, Caine A et al: A n XX male and two $t(X ; Y)$ females with linear skin defects and congenital microphthalmia: a new syndrome at Xp22.3. J M ed Genet 1988; 25: 638-639.
4 Temple IK, H urst JA, H ing S, Butler L, B araitser M : De novo deletion of $X$ p22.2-pter in a female with linear skin lesions of the face and neck, microphthalmia, and anterior chamber eye anomalies. J M ed G enet 1990; 27: 56-58.
5 Donnenfeld AE, Coyne MD, Beauregard LJ: Microphthalmia and chorioretinal lesion in a girl with an Xp22.2-pter deletion and partial $3 p$ trisomy: clinical observations relevant to A icardi syndrome gene localization. A m J M ed Genet 1990; 37: 182-186.
6 Ballabio A, Andria G: Deletions and translocations involving the distal short arm of the human X chromosome: review and hypotheses. Hum Mol Genet 1992; 1: 221-227.
7 McKusick VA , Francomano C, A ntonarakis SE : Catalogs of autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive, and X-linked phenotypes: Mendelian Inheritance in Man. Johns H opkins U niversity Press: B altimore, M D, 1995.
8 Naritomi K, Izumikawa Y, Nagataki S et al: Combined Goltz and A icardi syndromes in a terminal $X p$ deletion: are they a contiguous gene syndrome? AmJMed Genet 1992; 43: 839-843.
9 Lindsay EA , G rillo A , Ferrero GB et al: M icrophthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS) syndrome: clinical, cytogenetic and molecular characterization. Am J M ed Genet 1994; 49: 229-234.
10 Wapenaar M C, B assi M T, Schaefer L et al: The genes for X-linked ocular albinism (OA1) and microphthalmia with linear skin defects (MLS): cloning and characterization of the critical regions. H um M ol G enet 1993; 2: 947-952.
11 Wapenaar M C, Schiaffino M V, Bassi MT et al: A YACbased binning strategy facilitating the rapid assembly of cosmid contigs: 1.6 Mb of overlapping cosmids in Xp22. H um M ol G enet 1994; 3: 1155-1161.
12 Dib C, Fauré S, Fizames C et al: A comprehensive genetic map of the human genome based on 5264 microsatellites. N ature 1996; 380: 152-154.
13 Ferrero GB, Franco B, Roth EJ et al: An integrated physical and genetic map of a 35 Mb region on chromosome Xp22.3-Xp21.3. Hum Mol Genet 1995; 4: 1821-1827.
14 Banfi S, Borsani G, Rossi E et al: Identification and mapping of human CDNAs homologous to Drosophila mutant genes through E ST database searching. N at G enet 1996; 13: 167-174.
15 Lindor NM, M ichels VV, H oppe DA , D riscoll DJ, Leavitt JA : X p22.3 microdeletion syndrome with microphthalmia, sclerocornea, linear skin defects, and congenital heart defects. A m J M ed Genet 1992; 44: 61-65.
16 Schiaffino M V, Bassi MT, Galli L et al: A nalysis of the OA 1 gene reveals mutations in only one-third of patients with X-linked ocular albinism. Hum M ol Genet 1995; 4: 2319-2325.
17 Weber JL: Informativeness of human (dC-dA )n.(dG-dT)n polymorphisms. Genomics 1990; 7: 524-530.
18 A llanson J, Richter S: Linear skin defects and congenital microphthalmia: a new syndrome at Xp22.2.J M ed Genet 1991; 28: 143-144.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Present address: Department of Genetics, University of A delaide, A delaide, South A ustralia
    Correspondence: A ndrea Ballabio, Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), San Raffaele Biomedical Science Park, Via Olgettina 58, 20132 Milan, Italy. Tel:
    +39-2-21560-206; Fax: $+39-2-21560-220 ; \quad$ E-mail: ballabio@tigem.it
    Received 19 November 1997; revised 5 February 1998; accepted 18 February 1998

