Letters to the Editor

Autosomal Recessive Lymphedema?

To the Editor:

We described in a recent issue of your journal a brother and sister, both with congenital lymphedema of the feet, born to healthy parents (Kajii and Tsukahara, 1985). The disease in the family was thus apparently inherited in an autosomal recessive fashion. After the publication of the paper, we received from Prof. T. Schroeder-Kurth of Heidelberg an abstract of a paper presented at the Third Symposium on Clinical Genetics and Pediatrics held in Kiel in 1982 (Schroeder-Kurth, 1982). The paper dealt with a sister and brother with congenital lymphedema of the lower extremities but without other malformations, born to healthy, unrelated parents. They considered the following three possibilities. 1) The disease was dominantly inherited from a parent who did not express it. 2) A fresh mutation occurred twice. 3) Autosomal recessive inheritance.

The disease described by Prof. Schroeder-Kurth is apparently identical with that in our siblings.

References

- Kajii, T. and Tsukahara, M. 1985. Congenital lymphedema in two siblings. *Jpn. J. Human Genet.* 30: 31-34.
Schroeder-Kurth, T.M. 1982. Autosomal erbliches angeborenes Lymphödem? *Wissenschaftliche Information* 8: 447-479.

Tadashi KAJII
Masato TSUKAHARA
Department of Pediatrics
Yamaguchi University School
of Medicine
Ube 755, Japan
(Received December 28, 1985)