SHORT COMMUNICATION

A new autosomal recessive nonsyndromic hearing impairment locus DFNB96 on chromosome 1p36.31–p36.13

Muhammad Ansar¹, Kwanghyuk Lee², Syed Kamran-ul-Hassan Naqvi¹, Paula B Andrade², Sulman Basit¹, Regie Lyn P Santos-Cortez², Wasim Ahmad¹ and Suzanne M Leal²

A novel locus for autosomal recessive nonsyndromic hearing impairment (ARNSHI), DFNB96, was mapped to the 1p36.31–p36.13 region. A whole-genome linkage scan was performed using DNA samples from a consanguineous family from Pakistan with ARNSHI. A maximum two-point logarithm of odds (LOD) score of 3.2 was obtained at marker rs8627 (chromosome 1: 8.34 Mb) at $\theta=0$ and a significant maximum multipoint LOD score of 3.8 was achieved at 15 contiguous markers from rs630075 (9.3 Mb) to rs10927583 (15.13 Mb). The 3-unit support interval and the region of homozygosity were both delimited by markers rs3817914 (6.42 Mb) and rs477558 (18.09 Mb) and contained 11.67 Mb. Of the 125 genes within the DFNB96 interval, the previously identified ARNSHI gene for DFNB36, *ESPN*, and two genes that cause Bartter syndrome, *CLCNKA* and *CLCNKB*, were sequenced, but no potentially causal variants were identified.

Journal of Human Genetics (2011) 56, 866–868; doi:10.1038/jhg.2011.110; published online 22 September 2011

Keywords: 1p36.31–p36.13; autosomal recessive nonsyndromic hearing impairment; *CLCNKA*; *CLCNKB*; DFNB96; *ESPN*

Although >90 autosomal recessive nonsyndromic hearing impairment (ARNSHI) loci have been mapped and 41 ARNSHI genes have been identified, hundreds of ARNSHI genes remain to be discovered; knowledge on the functionality of these genes should aid in improving current diagnostic and treatment protocols for hearing impairment (HI). Here, a new locus is reported, DFNB96, which maps to the 1p36.31–p36.13 region with a maximum multipoint logarithm of odds (LOD) score of 3.8. The DFNB96 locus was mapped to a region containing 11.67 Mb using DNA samples from a consanguineous Pakistani family, which segregated ARNSHI. Upon study approval from the Institutional Review Boards of Quaid-I-Azam University and the Baylor College of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals, informed consent was obtained from the participating family members. ARNSHI was segregated from Family 4514, consanguineous kindred from Sindh province, Pakistan (Figure 1a). No possible cause of environmental HI, such as perinatal events, infections, ototoxic drug use and trauma, was elucidated. A careful physical examination was performed to rule out syndromic or vestibular disease. Audiograms from two HI individuals, IV-1 and IV-6, revealed bilateral severe-to-profound HI which was pre-lingual by clinical history (Figure 2).

Standard DNA extraction from venous blood was performed for nine family members, of which four were found to have HI (Figure 1a). The *GJB2* gene (MIM 121011) was sequenced in HI individuals and was found to be negative for *GJB2* variants. DNA

samples from the nine family members were used to perform a whole-genome linkage scan at the Center for Inherited Disease Research using the Infinium iSelect array, which has ~6000 SNP markers. No Mendelian inconsistencies in the genotype data were identified through PEDCHECK.¹ Likewise, double-recombination events over short genetic distances, which are mostly caused by genotyping error, were not detected with MERLIN² software.

Linkage analysis was performed using a completely penetrating autosomal recessive mode inheritance with a disease allele frequency of 0.001. Marker allele frequencies were estimated using observed and reconstructed genotypes of founders from 60 Pakistani families that underwent a genome scan at the same time. Using MLINK of the FASTLINK package,³ a maximum two-point LOD score of 3.2 was obtained for marker rs8627 (chromosome 1: 8.34 Mb) at $\theta=0$ (Table 1). Genetic map distances according to the Rutgers combined linkage-physical map of the human genome Build 36 version⁴ were used to carry out the multipoint analysis. For markers that were not found on the Rutgers map, the physical map position from the human reference sequence (Build 36) was used to interpolate the genetic map position. Multipoint linkage analysis was performed using ALLEGRO1.2c⁵ on chromosome 1p36 region. A significant maximum LOD score of 3.8 was obtained for 15 adjacent markers from rs630075 (9.29 Mb) to rs10927583 (15.13 Mb). The observed LOD score of 3.8 is greater than the LOD of 3.3, which is the criterion for determining the genome-wide

¹Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Biological Sciences, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan and ²Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, USA

Correspondence: Dr SM Leal, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza 700D, Houston, TX 77030, USA.

E-mail: sleal@bcm.edu

Received 25 May 2011; revised 25 July 2011; accepted 30 August 2011; published online 22 September 2011

Figure 1 (a) Pedigree drawing and haplotype of family 4514. Filled symbols denote individuals with ARNSHI, while *clear* symbols represent hearing individuals. The haplotype segregating with ARNSHI is shown in a box, with paternal haplotypes shown on the left side and maternal haplotypes on the right. The region of homozygosity in individuals with ARNSHI is delimited by markers rs3817914 (chromosome 1: 6.42 Mb) and rs477558 (chromosome 1: 18.09 Mb). (b) Chromosome 1p displaying the genetic interval for DFNB96. The locations of NSHI gene *ESPN* and syndromic genes *CLCNKA* and *CLCNKB* with their direction of transcription denoted by an arrow are also displayed.

Figure 2 Audiograms of individuals IV-1 and IV-6 of family 4514. Air conduction testing is marked using circles for the right ear and crosses for the left ear. Black markings are for individual IV-1 while gray markings are for individual IV-6. Testing was performed for individual IV-1 at age 24 and for IV-6 at age 38. Hearing impairment for both individuals was bilateral and severe-to-profound, involving all frequencies.

significance for parametric linkage studies.⁶ The 3-unit support interval lies between the SNP marker loci rs3817914 (6.42 Mb) and rs477558 (18.09 Mb) (Table 1). When haplotypes were reconstructed using

SimWalk2,⁷ the region of homozygosity was found to be bounded by the same markers that flank the 3-unit support interval (Figure 1a). The upper and lower boundaries of homozygosity were delimited by historic recombination events between markers rs3817914 and rs8627, and markers rs10927583 and rs477558, respectively.

The linkage interval spans 17.53 cM region, which contains 11.67 Mb and 125 known genes. Nine HI loci involved in syndromic or nonsyndromic HI have been mapped to the short arm of chromosome 1 (1p). The syndromic loci include (a) STL2 (Stickler syndrome) at 1p21.1, which is due to mutations in the *COL11A1*⁸ (MIM 120280) gene, (b) WS2B⁹ (Waardenburg syndrome type 2B; MIM 600193) at 1p21-p13.3 and (c) Bartter syndrome due to three genes, *BSND*¹⁰ (MIM 606412) at 1p32.3, and *CLCNKA*¹¹ (MIM 602024) and *CLCNKB*¹¹ (MIM 602023), both at 1p36.13. For autosomal dominant nonsyndromic hearing impairment three loci have been mapped: (a) DFNA2A at 1p34.2, due to mutations in the *KCNQ4*¹² (MIM 603537) gene, (b) DFNA2B at 1p34.3 due to *GJB3*¹³ (MIM 603324) mutations and (c) DFNA37¹⁴ at 1p21, for which the gene is unknown. For ARNSHI only DFNB36 at 1p36.31, due to mutations in *ESPN*¹⁵ (MIM 606351) gene (Figure 1b), has been identified. Of these loci, the DFNB96 interval partially overlaps with the *ESPN* gene and also contains two Bartter syndrome genes, *CLCNKA* and *CLCNKB*. The genes *ESPN*, *CLCNKA* and *CLCNKB* were sequenced in hearing individual III-2 and two HI individuals, IV-1 and IV-6 (Figure 1a).

Table 1 Two-point and multipoint LOD scores for family 4514 at chromosome 1p36.31–p36.13

Marker ^a	Physical map position ^b	Genetic map position ^c	Multipoint LOD score	Two-point LOD score at $\theta=$						
				0.00	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.30	0.40
rs729206	5 295 728	13.90	–∞	–∞	–2.4	–1.1	–0.6	–0.3	–0.1	–0.1
rs709209	6 201 001	15.76	–∞	–∞	–2.4	–1.1	–0.6	–0.2	–0.1	–0.1
rs3817914	6 423 619	16.21	–∞	–∞	–2.5	–1.2	–0.7	–0.2	–0.1	–0.1
rs8627	8 335 522	19.58	3.7	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.5	1.8	1.1	0.5
rs630075	9 293 498	21.16	3.8	2.5	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.3	0.7	0.3
rs6541085	10 208 296	22.24	3.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.4	–0.0	–0.2
rs912962	10 271 299	22.33	3.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.4	–0.0	–0.2
rs649101	10 412 698	22.54	3.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	0.7	0.2	–0.1
rs2506887	10 507 259	22.68	3.8	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.0	–0.3	–0.3
rs488834	10 690 489	23.03	3.8	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.2
rs2273348	11 001 664	23.68	3.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.2
rs4846012	11 480 513	24.86	3.8	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.0	1.4	0.8	0.3
rs11800086	11 894 336	26.07	3.8	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.2
rs3818157	11 949 895	26.22	3.8	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.1
rs761162	14 243 724	31.08	3.8	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.3	–0.1	–0.2
rs7531416	14 621 347	32.11	3.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.3	0.6	0.1
rs3927648	14 742 313	32.49	3.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.2
rs3845596	15 061 886	33.52	3.8	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.3
rs10927583	15 131 012	33.74	3.8	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
rs477558	18 092 414	39.60	–3.3	–2.1	–0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
rs766325	18 829 045	42.28	–3.0	–2.2	–1.0	–0.4	–0.2	–0.1	–0.1	–0.1
rs1266438	19 968 763	44.67	–2.7	–2.4	–1.1	–0.5	–0.3	–0.2	–0.1	–0.1

Abbreviation: LOD, logarithm of odds.

^aMarkers in bold denote marker limits based on the 3-unit support interval and the homozygous region.^bPhysical map positions in base pairs from Build 36 of the human reference sequence.^cGenetic map positions in cM from the Rutgers combined linkage-physical map of the human genome Build 36 version.

After sequencing using the BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit and Applied Biosystems 3730 DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA), no potentially causal variants were found to segregate with HI in family 4514, thus excluding the three genes to be the cause of HI in family 4514. The linkage region at 1p36.31–p36.13 was therefore assigned as the interval for the novel ARNSHI locus DFNB96. Identification of the gene for DFNB96 will provide us with additional insight into the genetic etiology of HI.

ELECTRONIC DATABASE INFORMATION

The following URLs were accessed for data in this article:
Hereditary Hearing Loss Homepage (<http://hereditaryhearingloss.org>)
UCSC Genome Browser (<http://genome.ucsc.edu>)
OMIM (<http://www.omim.org>).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are highly grateful to the family members who participated in this study. This study was supported by the Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan (to WA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—National Institute of Deafness and other Communication Disorders grants R01-DC03594 and R01-DC011651 (to SML). Genotyping services were provided by CIDR and were funded through a federal contract from the NIH to the Johns Hopkins University (Contract No. N01-HG-65403).

1 O'Connell, J. R. & Weeks, D. E. PedCheck: a program for identification of genotype incompatibilities in linkage analysis. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **63**, 259–266 (1998).

- Abecasis, G. R., Cherny, S. S., Cookson, W. O. & Cardon, L. R. Merlin—rapid analysis of dense genetic maps using sparse gene flow trees. *Nat. Genet.* **30**, 97–101 (2002).
- Cottingham, R. W. Jr, Idury, R. M. & Schäffer, A. A. Faster sequential genetic linkage computations. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **53**, 252–263 (1993).
- Matise, T. C., Chen, F., Chen, W., De La Vega, F. M., Hansen, M., He, C. *et al.* A second-generation combined linkage physical map of the human genome. *Genome Res.* **17**, 1783–1786 (2007).
- Gudbjartsson, D. F., Jonasson, K., Frigge, M. L. & Kong, A. Allegro, a new computer program for multipoint linkage analysis. *Nat. Genet.* **25**, 12–13 (2000).
- Lander, E. & Kruglyak, L. Genetic dissection of complex traits: guidelines for interpreting and reporting linkage results. *Nat. Genet.* **11**, 241–247 (1995).
- Sobel, E. & Lange, K. Descent graphs in pedigree analysis: applications to haplotyping, location scores, and marker-sharing statistics. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **58**, 1323–1337 (1996).
- Richards, A. J., Yates, J. R. W., Williams, R., Payne, S. J., Pope, F. M., Scott, J. D. *et al.* A family with Stickler syndrome type 2 has a mutation in the *COL11A1* gene resulting in the substitution of glycine 97 by valine in alpha-1(XI) collagen. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **5**, 1339–1343 (1996).
- Lalwani, A. K., Baldwin, C. T., Morell, R., Friedman, T. B., San Agustin, T. B., Milunsky, A. *et al.* A locus for Waardenburg syndrome type II maps to chromosome 1p13.3–2.1. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **55** (Suppl), A14 (1994).
- Birkenhager, R., Otto, E., Schurmann, M. J., Vollmer, M., Ruf, E.-M., Maier-Lutz, I. *et al.* Mutation of *BSND* causes Bartter syndrome with sensorineural deafness and kidney failure. *Nat. Genet.* **29**, 310–314 (2001).
- Schlingmann, K. P., Konrad, M., Jeck, N., Waldegger, P., Reinalter, S. C., Holder, M. *et al.* Salt wasting and deafness resulting from mutations in two chloride channels. *New Engl. J. Med.* **350**, 1314–1319 (2004).
- Kubisch, C., Schroeder, B. C., Friedrich, T., Lutjohann, B., El-Amraoui, A., Marlin, S. *et al.* *KCNQ4*, a novel potassium channel expressed in sensory outer hair cells, is mutated in dominant deafness. *Cell* **96**, 437–446 (1999).
- Xia, J., Liu, C., Tang, B., Pan, Q., Huang, L., Dai, H. *et al.* Mutations in the gene encoding gap junction protein beta-3 associated with autosomal dominant hearing impairment. *Nat. Genet.* **20**, 370–373 (1998).
- Talebizadeh, Z., Kenyon, J. B., Askew, J. W. & Smith, S. D. A new locus for dominant progressive hearing loss *DFNA37* mapped to chromosome 1p21. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* **67**(Suppl 2), 314 (2000).
- Naz, S., Griffith, A. J., Riazuddin, S., Hampton, L. L., Battey, J. F. Jr, Khan, S. N. *et al.* Mutations of *ESPN* cause autosomal recessive deafness and vestibular dysfunction. *J. Med. Genet.* **41**, 591–595 (2004).