


BRIEF COMMUNICATION



Rapid exome sequencing in critically ill infants: implementation in routine care from French regional hospital's perspective

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This monocentric study included fifteen children under a year old in intensive care with suspected monogenic conditions for rapid trio exome sequencing (rES) between April 2019 and April 2021. The primary outcome was the time from blood sampling to rapid exome sequencing report to parents. All results were available within 16 days and were reported to parents in or under 16 days in 13 of the 15 individuals (86%). Six individuals (40%) received a diagnosis with rES, two had a genetic condition not diagnosed by rES. Eight individuals had their care impacted by their rES results, four were discharged or died before the results. This small-scale study shows that rES can be implemented in a regional University hospital with rapid impactful diagnosis to improve care in critically ill infants.

European Journal of Human Genetics (2022) 30:1076–1082; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41431-022-01133-7>

INTRODUCTION

In severely ill children hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) or pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), a quick etiological diagnosis is key to proper care management. The phenotypic and genetic variability of severe early genetic conditions and the lack of developmental data make a phenotype-first approach challenging. Exome (ES) and genome sequencing (GS) have been used in research studies for decision-making and care of critically ill patients with a proof-of-principal in 2012 [1] then in larger studies when the turn-around time from blood sampling to results became compatible with the time constraints of the NICU/PICU [2–6].

In France, current genetic testing with no phenotypic diagnosis includes as first-tier testing array-comparative genomic hybridization array (CGH-array). Further testing is carried out using gene panels, ES or GS. This lengthy process does not suit the timeline of critical care. The aim of this study was to evaluate the possibility of on-site rES in a French regional university hospital of getting a rapid genetic diagnosis in critically ill infants.

METHODS

Patients

The inclusion criteria were: children under one year admitted to intensive care who would benefit from an early diagnosis as evaluated by the NICU/

PICU team, suspicion by a consultant of the clinical genetics team of a monogenic condition (i.e.: multi-systemic involvement, severity of symptoms, consanguinity), both biological parents available (Fig. 1). Patients were excluded if a genetic diagnosis was clinically recognizable, if a chromosomal anomaly was thought more likely or if another non-genetic condition could explain the phenotype.

Study design and ethics

This prospective single-center study recruited patients from April 2019 to April 2021 who were admitted in the NICU or PICU of the University hospital of Montpellier. Informed signed consent was obtained from both parents. This study was accepted by the ethical committee of Montpellier university hospital (CNRIPH 18.07.17.33927).

Outcomes

The primary outcome was the number of results reported to parents within 16 days from blood sampling. Secondary outcomes were the number of diagnosis, the number of cases where rES led to a change in medical care, as defined by a treatment, test, action performed because of the rES results.

Clinical data and concomitant genetic testing

Clinical data was collected from medical records and phenotype was described using the human phenotype ontology (HPO) [7] terms and detailed in Table 1. Patients were clinically reevaluated at 3 months and a year after the inclusion. Other genetic tests, including array-CGH if indicated, were performed as part of standard genetic testing.

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Received: 4 April 2022 Revised: 18 May 2022 Accepted: 9 June 2022

Published online: 22 June 2022

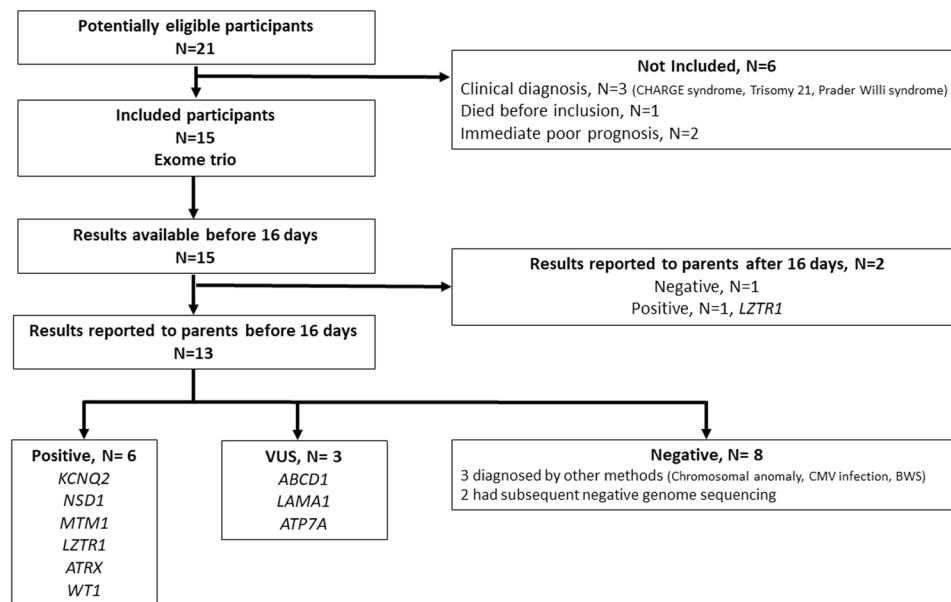


Fig. 1 Flowchart of included individuals. BWS Beckwith Wiedemann syndrome, CMV Cytomegalovirus.

ES processing and interpretation

DNA was extracted from a venous blood sample. We used the SureSelect QTX Library prep (Agilent technologies) enrichment kit and SureSelect Human All Exons V7 (Agilent technologies) following the manufacturer's instruction. Sequencing was performed on a NextSeq 500 (Illumina). Bioinformatics were performed following Broad institute GATK best practice guidelines [8]. Pipeline for variant calling and prioritization is reported in literature [9].

rES data was jointly interpreted by molecular biologists and clinical geneticists in a multi-disciplinary approach. Classification of variants followed the recommendations of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) [10]. The report was written by the molecular biologist. Variants were confirmed with Sanger sequencing and a new report issued.

RESULTS

Population

Fifteen patients were included in this study. The median age at blood sampling was 38 days (extremes: 4–272; interquartile range: 8–82). Phenotypes of patients are summarized in Table 1; results and impact on care in Table 2. Prenatal invasive genetic testing was carried out in 5 mothers of included infants.

Primary outcome

Results were reported to parents within 16 days from blood sampling in 13/15 cases (86%), with a median of 14 days (extremes 9–145; interquartile range: 13–15; Table 2). All rES results were available within 16 days. For individual 4, the parents declined the scheduled genetic consultation, because of their child's death. For individual 7, the parents were not available for a consultation before day 16. Of the 15 children, two died before the results.

Secondary outcome

Number of diagnoses after rES analysis. A diagnosis was made by rES in 6 individuals (40%, Table 2). Concomitant tests are summarized in Table 1. In individual 13 diagnosis was made by array-CGH (concomitant genetic test) who had a diagnosis of complex chromosome 18 rearrangement. A variant of unknown significance (VUS) was found in *LAMA1* (Laminin alpha-1, MIM 150320) is in trans of an interstitial deletion due to the complex chromosomal rearrangement which could partly explain the

phenotype [11]. Individual 5 had a diagnosis of Beckwith Wiedemann syndrome with mosaic paternal uniparental disomy. In individual 11, because of the severity of the phenotype, a double diagnosis (genetic and a cytomegalovirus infection) was suspected. rES overturned this hypothesis.

rES impact in patient's care. The diagnosis changed patients' care in patients where rES was positive in four individuals. In individual 1 with a pathogenic variant in the potassium voltage-gated channel subfamily Q member 2, (*KCNQ2*, MIM 602235), anti-epileptic drugs were switched to carbamazepine, rapidly stopping the seizures. For individual 2, as rES excluded a severe metabolic disorder, the ventricular septal defect was repaired. Individual 3 who had a myotubularin gene variant (*MTM1*, MIM 300415) had his muscular biopsy cancelled and was evaluated for a clinical trial of gene therapy (Clinical trial "ASPIRO", NCT03199469). In individual 15, the *WT1* variant (*WT1* transcription factor, MIM 607102) explained the terminal renal failure. Because of the increased tumor risk, she underwent bilateral gonadectomy and nephrectomy with a diagnosis of nephroblastoma at pathological examination. Cytotype further revealed 46, XY chromosomes.

Negative results were also useful in three individuals. For individual 5, rES eliminated differential diagnoses so active care was continued as Beckwith Wiedemann syndrome generally has a good prognosis when properly managed [12]. For individuals 9 and 10, the negative results helped the pediatric team to offer invasive surgical procedures that would not have been considered had there been a severe genetic disease diagnosed by rES.

In individual 8 a VUS was found in *ATP7A* (ATPase Copper Transporting Alpha, MIM 300011), the gene responsible for Menkes syndrome. After review by the clinical genetics team and the molecular biologists, this variant was reported, because further biochemical testing was necessary with a potential treatment [13].

A VUS was also found in *ABCD1* (ATP Binding Cassette Subfamily D Member 1, MIM 300371, c.896A > G;p.His299Arg) responsible for adrenoleukodystrophy [14] in individual 15. Very long fatty chain screening showed slightly increased C26 at 1.38 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (normal 0.3–1.2). Familial segregation showed that two maternal great-uncles carry the variant with normal very long fatty acid chain screening re-classifying this variant as likely benign, reassuring for her (male karyotype), and family counselling.

Table 1. Phenotype of included individuals.

sex	Patient 1		Patient 2		Patient 3		Patient 4		Patient 5		Patient 6		Patient 7		Patient 8		Patient 9		Patient 10		Patient 11		Patient 12		Patient 13		Patient 14		Patient 15					
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male				
Consanguinity	No	No	Yes, first cousins	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No				
Family history	No relevant family history	Several deaths in neonate boys on the maternal side	Unexplained death of maternal uncle at 7 days, great-cousin with developmental delays	No relevant family history	No relevant family history	Several unrelated de novo genetic disorders	Sudden infant death syndrome in a maternal and paternal great-cousin	No relevant family history	No relevant family history	Stagnation of estimated fetal weight in the last three weeks of pregnancy	Generalized edema on third trimester ultrasound	Intra uterine growth retardation	No relevant family history	No relevant family history	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Planned C-section for transverse presentation				
Pregnancy	Midface retrusion at second trimester ultrasound	Hydramnios on this twin with amniotic rupture and premature birth	Normal	Preeclampsia at 38GW	Increased nuchal translucency, unilateral hypoplastic femur, malformation of D7 vertebrae, delayed bone maturing, preterm birth threat at 32 GW	Normal	Oligoamnios at the end of pregnancy	Stagnation of estimated fetal weight in the last three weeks of pregnancy	Generalized edema on third trimester ultrasound	Intra uterine growth retardation	3rd trimester: small for gestational age with unilateral pyelectasis and small left ventricle, gestational diabetes	Bichorial biamniotic pregnancy, IUGR and oligoamnios on this twin	Gestational diabetes and hydramnios	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal				
Birth	Vaginal birth	Vaginal birth	Vaginal birth	C-section	Vaginal birth	Planned C-section for maternal reason (history of repeated C-section)	Instrumental vaginal birth	Planned C-section (placental position and breach position)	Vaginal birth	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies	Emergency c-section for cardiac rhythm anomalies				
Term	39 and 5 days	30 and 5 days	38	38 and 6 days	37	38 and 3 days	41 and 1 day	39	35 and 4 days	29 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days	36 and 2 days				
birth weight (g) (centiles)	3770 (90th)	1165 (21th)	3490 (77.5th)	3170 (64th)	2190 (2nd)	3910 (95th)	2630 (0.9th)	2430 (0.6th)	3235 (97th)	780 (1st)	2210 (7th)	3185 (35th)	1570 (39th)	3550 (69th)																				
birth length (cm) (centiles)	48 (27th)	38 (26th)	51.5 (66th)	48 (43rd)	42 (0.1th)	50 (68th)	50 (32th)	47 (6th)	52 (100th)	31 (0.24th)	45 (14th)	54 (99th)	42 (52th)	51 (76th)																				
birth HC (cm) (centiles)	35 (75th)	27 (20th)	35.5 (80th)	34 (58th)	33 (29th)	34 (42th)	34 (17th)	32.5 (6th)	33.5 (83th)	22 (0.04th)	31 (7th)	35.3 (66th)	29 (33th)	34 (37th)																				
APGAR at 1/5/10 minutes	10/10/10	5/6/7	1/2/6	6/8/10	10/10/10	4/9/10	2/5/7	9/10/10	1/7/9	2/8/8	5/9/10	4/5/5	9/9/9	NA/10/NA																				
Neonatal period	Neonatal seizures	Hospitalized at birth	Transitory respiratory distress with a two day hospitalization	Normal until 4 h of life	Hospitalized at birth, ICU from 15 days old	Transitory respiratory distress	Transitory respiratory distress treated with non-invasive ventilation, at 2 hours of life, hypotonia and abnormal movements	Transitory hypothermia, hypocalcemia, gastro-esophageal reflux	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth	Hospitalized at birth				
Cause for ICU entry	Neonatal seizures	Prematurity	Seizures, renal failure and metabolic anomalies	Hypoglycemia	Bradycardia and respiratory distress	Seizures	Hypotonia and abnormal movements	Post-operative care	Generalized edema	Prematurity and small for gestational age	Respiratory distress	Respiratory distress and hypotonia	Prematurity	End stage renal failure																				
Age at ICU entry	2 days	at birth	6 days	4h	15 days	9 days	2 h	2,7 months	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth	at birth				
Clinical features (HPO terms)	HP-0200134: Epileptic encephalopathy; HP-0000272: Malar flattening; HP-0000158: Macroglossia; HP-0001319: Neonatal hypotonia	HP-0001622: Premature birth; HP-0009062: Infantile axial hypotonia; HP-0002509: Limb hypertonía; HP-0001629: HP-0002643: Neonatal respiratory distress; HP-0001684: Secundum atrial septal	HP-0005575: Hemolytic-uremic syndrome; HP-0100952: Enlarged cardiac myopathy; HP-0006277: Pancreatic hypoplasia; HP-0009890: Abnormality of the cerebellar	HP-0000105: Enlarged kidney; HP-0001639: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; HP-0006277: Pancreatic hypoplasia; HP-0009890: Abnormality of the cerebellar	HP-0010880: Increased nuchal translucency; HP-0005613: Aplasia/hypoplasia of the femur; HP-0002750: Delayed skeletal maturation;	HP-0001250: Seizures; HP-0000836: Hyperthyroidism	HP-0008846: Severe intrauterine growth retardation; HP-0008935: Generalized neonatal hypotonia; HP-0003131: Cystinuria; HP-0003297:	HP-0008846: Severe intrauterine growth retardation; HP-0008935: Generalized neonatal hypotonia; HP-0003131: Cystinuria; HP-0003297:	HP-000269: Heterotopias/abnormal migration; HP-0100631: Neoplasm of the adrenal gland; HP-0001579: Primary hypercortisolism;	HP-0010310: chyl/o/ra; HP-0007430: generalized edema	HP-0008846: Severe intrauterine growth retardation	HP-0001319: Neonatal hypotonia; HP-0001631: Atrial septal defect; HP-0011369: gyral pattern; HP-0011968: Mongolian spot; HP-0004734: Dilation of renal calicles; HP-0002015: Poor head circumf.	HP-0006955: Olivopontocerebellar hypoplasia; HP-0009879: Simplified gyral pattern; HP-0006956: Dilation of lateral ventricles; HP-0007370:	HP-0004602: Cervical C2/3 vertebral fusion; HP-0000902: Rib fusion; HP-0011369: gyral pattern; HP-0011968: Mongolian spot; HP-0004734: Dilation of renal calicles; HP-0002015: Poor head circumf.	HP-0006955: Olivopontocerebellar hypoplasia; HP-0009879: Simplified gyral pattern; HP-0006956: Dilation of lateral ventricles; HP-0007370:	HP-0004602: Cervical C2/3 vertebral fusion; HP-0000902: Rib fusion; HP-0011369: gyral pattern; HP-0011968: Mongolian spot; HP-0004734: Dilation of renal calicles; HP-0002015: Poor head circumf.	HP-0006955: Olivopontocerebellar hypoplasia; HP-0009879: Simplified gyral pattern; HP-0006956: Dilation of lateral ventricles; HP-0007370:	HP-0004602: Cervical C2/3 vertebral fusion; HP-0000902: Rib fusion; HP-0011369: gyral pattern; HP-0011968: Mongolian spot; HP-0004734: Dilation of renal calicles; HP-0002015: Poor head circumf.	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Table 1. continued

	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4	Patient 5	Patient 6	Patient 7	Patient 8	Patient 9	Patient 10	Patient 11	Patient 12	Patient 13	Patient 14	Patient 15
Other genetic tests performed	Concomitant array-CGH	Prenatal caryotype 46, XX; post-natal concomitant array-CGH, Steinert and Prader-Willi syndrome testing	Concomitant array-CGH, Prader-Willi and Steinert, spinal muscular atrophy	Concomitant array-CGH	Concomitant array-CGH and methylation of 11p15.5	Prenatal caryotype and array-CGH	Epilepsy gene panel analysis was sent before exome sequencing, Array-CGH not performed	Concomitant array-CGH	Concomitant array-CGH, 7p53 sequencing	Prenatal array-CGH	Concomitant array-CGH	Prenatal array-CGH with post-natal results	Concomitant array-CGH	Array-CGH prior to RES	Concomitant array-CGH
	Patient 1 defect; HP:0001181: Adducted thumb; HP:0001520: Large for gestational age	Patient 2 arteriosus; HP:0001972: Macrocytic anemia; HP:0100807: Long fingers	Patient 3 vermiformis; HP:0012460: Dysmorphic inferior cerebellar vermiformis; HP:0006955: Olivopontocerebellar hypoplasia; HP:000260: Large anterior fontanel; HP:0002119: Enlarged ventricular system	Patient 4 hairline; HP:0000158: Macroglоссия; HP:0000470: Short neck; HP:0001528: Hemihypertrophy; HP:0001998: Neonatal hypoglycemia	Patient 5 intrauterine growth retardation; HP:0008905: Rhizomelia; HP:0001840: Metatarsus adductus; HP:0001172: Abnormal thumb morphology; HP:0000201: Pierre-Robin sequence; HP:0007466: Midfrontal capillary hemangioma; HP:001968: Feeding difficulties; HP:0001662: Bradycardia; HP:0012416: Hypercapnia	Patient 6 HP:0001511: Intra-uterine growth restriction; HP:000252: Microcephaly; HP:0001319: Neonatal hypotonia	Patient 7 Hyperlysinuria; HP:0003532: Omithinuria	Patient 8 Adducted thumb; HP:0001511: Intra-uterine growth restriction; HP:000252: Microcephaly; HP:0001319: Neonatal hypotonia	Patient 9 HP:000181: Adducted thumb; HP:0001511: Intra-uterine growth restriction; HP:000252: Microcephaly; HP:0001319: Neonatal hypotonia	Patient 10 (Empty)	Patient 11 (Empty)	Patient 12 swallowing; HP:000463: Anteverted nares	Patient 13 Aplasia/Hypoplasia of the corpus callosum; HP:0001319: Neonatal hypotonia; HP:0012020: Right aortic arch; HP:0011683: Restrictive ventricular septal defect; HP:0001631: Atrial septal defect; HP:0000316: Hypertelorism; HP:0000294: Low anterior hairline; HP:0002045: Hypothermia; HP:0003128: Lactic acidosis	Patient 14 erence HP:0040195; Supernumerary vertebrae; HP:0002937: Hemivertebrae; HP:0003316: tebrae; HP:0003316: Butterfly vertebrae; HP:0030024: Pretragial ectopia	Patient 15 Renal cortical hypercystogenicity; HP:0012021: Persistent patent ductus venosus; HP:0003774: Stage 5 chronic kidney disease

CK creatinine kinase, CMV cytomegalovirus, MA not available.

Table 2. Results of included individuals.

	Patient 1	Patient 2	Patient 3	Patient 4	Patient 5	Patient 6	Patient 7	Patient 8	Patient 9	Patient 10	Patient 11	Patient 12	Patient 13	Patient 14	Patient 15	
Age at blood sampling (days)	7	57	38	20	51	45	16	4	82	4	84	16	8	114	272	
Results after blood sampling (days)	9	14	14	13	13	14	11	15	13	14	13	13	14	13	11	
Parental report (days)	9	14	14	145	13	14	26	15	13	14	13	13	16	13	11	
Exome results	KCNQ2 (NM_172107.4)	NSD1 (NM_022455.5)	MTM1 (NM_000252.3)	Negative	Negative	Negative	LZTR1 (NM_006767.4)	Negative A1P7A (NM_000052.7)	Negative	Negative	Negative	ATRX (NM_000489.6)	Negative LAMA1 (NM_005559.4)	Negative	WT1 (NM_024426.6)	
Variant	c.740C>T p. Ser247Leu	c.566C>T p. Lys185*	c.1792del p. (His596 Metext*23)				c.742G>A p. Gly248Arg	c.542C>T p. Thr18 Ile				c.738C>T p. (Arg208Cys)	c.2515C>T p. (Pro835Ser)		c.1399C>T p. (Arg467Ttp)	c.896A>G p. (His299Arg)
ACMG classification	5	5	5				5	3				5	3	5	3	
ACMG criteria	PS2, PM1, PM3, PP3, PP5, BP1	PV51, PS2, PM2, PP5	PV51, PM2, PP5				PS3, PM1, PM2, PP3, PP4	PM2, PP3				PM1, PM2, PP5	PP3, BP1	PM2, PP2	PS1, PS2, PM2	PM2, PP3
Inheritance	<i>de novo</i>	<i>de novo</i>	X-linked, maternally inherited				Paternally inherited	X-linked, maternally inherited				Maternally inherited	Maternally inherited	<i>de novo</i>	X-linked, maternally inherited	
Etiology	Early infantile epileptic encephalopathy 7 (OMIM#613720)	Sotos syndrome (OMIM#614753)	X-linked centronuclear myopathy (OMIM#310400)	Hemolytic and uremic syndrome and lympho-histiosis with no known genetic cause	Bethwick Wiedeman syndrome due to mosaic paternal unidisomy	Unknown syndrome with no genetic known cause	Noonan syndrome (OMIM#600574)	Neonatal distress due to birth complications	Unknown syndrome with no genetic known cause	Unexplained chylothorax	CMV infection	ATRX-related disorder (OMIM#309380)	<i>de novo</i> complex anomaly of chromosome 18	No known genetic etiology	Derys Drash syndrome (OMIM#194080)	
Change in patient care	Drug switch to carbamazepam and controlled seizures	Surgical repair of VSD and early intervention	Evaluation for inclusion in gene transfer study, no muscular biopsy	No change (patient died before the results)	Active care was continued	No change	No change, went home before the results (17 days)	Serum copper and ceruloplasmin were tested at time of exome results and at 6 and 12 months	Surgery to remove adrenal glands was carried out	Surgery to close thoracic canal was carried out	No change	Early intervention	No change	No change	Bilateral nephrectomy and gonadectomy, karyotype	
Outcome	Alive at 2 years and 11 months, epileptic encephalopathy	Alive at 3 years old, mild developmental delays	Died at 115 days (3months 1/2)	Died at 28 days of organ failure	Died at 2 months and 15 days of respiratory failure	Died at 1 month and 29 days	Alive and well at 2 years old	Alive and well at 1 year and 11 months	After the exome results: ARX sequencing, Beckwith Wiedeman syndrome test and genome sequencing were performed with no genetic diagnosis. Alive at 2 years and 3 months	Alive and well at 1 year and 10 months	Alive at 1 year and 8 months	Developmental delays at 1 year and 5 months	Died at 12 days of respiratory failure, before the exome and Array-CGH results	Alive at 1 year and 3 months	Alive at 1 year and 8 months	

The classification of variants follow the recommendation of ACMG [10]. OMIM online medelian inheritance in man.

DISCUSSION

This monocentric study shows the experience of a French regional university hospital, very close to what can be implemented in clinical routine care. rES was useful in early diagnosis and medical care. In this study, 6 individuals (40%) received a diagnosis with rES. This yield is comparable to larger studies who have found a variable diagnostic yield (21–72% [15]). Some symptoms have remained unexplained: macroglossia in individual 1 and seizures in individual 7. Seizures have occasionally been reported in individuals with cardio-facio-cutaneous syndrome which is a RASopathy [16] but is not reported as a usual feature of Noonan syndrome including in individuals with *LZTR1* pathogenic variants. A negative exome is useful while discussing the possibility of palliative care: a poor genetic prognosis can direct towards palliative care and negative rES to continue active invasive care. The usefulness of a negative result has also been previously reported [6]. A positive result limits the number of diagnostic invasive tests and cost [17, 18].

Teams considering this strategy as a first-tier genetic test in critically ill children should implement a protocol for dealing with incidental findings of the ACMG list [19], heterozygosity for a genetic disorder with a high rate of heterozygosity in the general population, and VUS. In the case of VUS, further tests can be needed to specify the pathogenicity of the variant. VUS in individuals 8 and 15 highlights the difficulties arising with the uncertainty of the clinical consequences of VUS, the medical and familial stress generated by the subsequent delay of the additional tests. In the diagnostic clinical setting, teams should have a protocol for reporting VUS and incidental findings [19].

Limits to this study include its small size sample. Other studies have reported quicker turnaround time with the shortest of 3.3 days [6]. In their study, 86% (ultra-rES) and 78% (rES) of parents had the result before their child was discharged or died.

The rapid evolution of genetic sequencing technologies as well as the acceptability of costs involved by health services might be hurdles to a quick introduction of the latest sequencing technologies in routine patient care [6]. Concerning funding of rapid pan-genomic sequencing, rES reduces unnecessary, costly, and sometimes invasive procedures as well as the time to diagnosis. It also allows genetic counselling as well as proper care management of the child according to their diagnosed condition [18]. Parental acceptance is good with little adverse reactions [20]. Hence, the medical, psychological, and monetary benefits of rES outweigh the risks.

In conclusion, rES is feasible in critically ill infants in a French regional university hospital with a good diagnostic yield. It can be offered in individuals for whom a genetic condition is suspected where a diagnosis could help in their care. New studies show a possible switch to rGS to diagnose monogenic diseases but also chromosomal abnormalities. Sequencing technology and costs as well as evolution of data storage will make GS more accessible and may soon become the first-tier genetic test in critically ill children with suspected genetic disorders.

DATA AVAILABILITY

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all the families for their involvement in the study. We also thank Dr Marie Christine Picot for her help in the methodology and Dr Florence Masson, Dr Floriane Hemery, Dr Odile Plan for their involvement in patient care.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

CFW, KY, GB, MBH and MW participated in drafting the manuscript and correction of the manuscript. GB, MT, MF, GC, TG, were involved in correction of the manuscript. PB, LP, CC, GC, JB, OP, MBH, CM, GC, RM, MD were involved in the curation of data. KY,

OA, GB, NRP, DM, CW, MBH, VR, MT, KY, OA, TG DG and MW participated in the curation and interpretation data. MW, MD, DG were implicated in the grant applications.

FUNDING

Funding for this study was obtained thanks to internal research credits of the university hospital of Montpellier ("Appel d'offre interne jeune chercheur").

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

ETHICS APPROVAL

This study was accepted by the ethical committee of Montpellier university hospital (CNRIPIH 18.07.17.33927). All parents signed a consent to participate to the study for themselves and their child.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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