Activating mutation M453V in receptor TSHR as a cause familial hyperthyroidism

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Background

The most common hyperthyroidism in children is connected with excessive levels of thyroid hormones as an effect of activation thyreotropin receptor (TSHR) by uncontrolled production anti-thyroid-stimulating antibodies in Graves’ disease. The other rare cause of hyperthyroidism is activating mutation in receptor TSHR in thyroid gland.

Cases reports

CASE NO 1- 11-year-old boy

- He was born from first pregnancy at term by Caesarean section. During gestation his mother was treated with thyreostatic drugs because of hyperthyroidism. Thyroid hormones and antithyroid antibodies were checked because of bradycardia in newborn and his thyroid disorders’ family history. Then we diagnosed hypothyroidism and started therapy with L-thyroxine (10ug/kg/day orally). Because of rapid normalisation of TSH, low levels of his antithyroid antibodies and normal thyroid gland by ultrasonography we decreased the dose of L-thyroxin and finished his therapy with L-thyroxin when he was 6 months. His motor and mental development was normal.

- When he was 3 years, he lost his body mass, he had tachycardia and advanced bone age (7 years). In laboratory labs TSH was decreased (0 ulU/ml); elevated free thyroid hormones (FT3- 8.09 pg/ml (↑); FT4- 2.61 ng/ml (↑), with normal level of anti-thyroid antibodies (TPO- 5 IU/ml; ATG< 10 IU/ml, anti-TSH- 0.77; TSI-52; TBI-19%). In ultrasonography thyroid tissue was with excessive flow. We diagnosed hyperthyroidism and we started treatment with taking methimazole in 3 doses (1 mg per kg daily orally), beta- blocker in dose 1 mg per kg once a day orally and vit.B (1 tbl. daily orally). We had not observed any side effects connected with the anti-thyroid therapy. We modified the doses of thyrostatic drugs according to levels of thyroid hormones. The tests of stopped that therapy were ineffective and now we make a plan the radical therapy.

CASE NO 2- his 40-year-old mother

- She was diagnosed hyperthyroidism when she was 6 years. She started the typical therapy of hyperthyroidism (thyreostatic drugs and beta- blockers in appropriate doses). She had positive family history with Graves’ disease (her father and her 2 siblings).

- Because of ineffective drug therapy, she had strumectomy at 12-yrs aged. Because of recurrence of hyperthyroidism and presenting enlarged multinodular goitre pressing trachea in ultrasonography, she had the second strumectomy, when she was 30 years old. After surgery she had radiiodine therapy to eliminate thyroid tissue. In effect now she has hypothyroidism and she is administered with L-thyroxin.

CASE NO 3 – 8- year-old boy

- He was born from first pregnancy at term by Caesarean section (was born after second strumectomy and after radioiodine therapy), was admitted to our Outpatient Clinic when he was 6 years because of hyperthyroidism (FT3- 8.24 pg/ml (↑); FT4- 2.76 ng/ml (↑); TPO- 13.6 IU/ml (N); ATG< 10 IU/ml (N); anty-TSH- 0.72 (N) and we started appropriate therapy (MMI 0.5mg/kg/dz.; β-blocker 0.5mg/kg/d.).

In order to find genetic basic of familial hyperthyroidism we sent blood samples obtained from the two children and both parents to Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism Zone, Departments of Medicine, Oncology, Pathology, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute Cumming School of Medicine in University of Calgary in Canada. In mother and her children was identified a novel activating mutation M453V in receptor TSHR (heterozygous c.1357A>G), which initiates excessive production thyroid hormones and hyperthyroidism.

Results

Conclusions

1. In case of familial hyperthyroidism it is worth to find and identify mutation in genes in receptor TSHR, which may determine risk assessment of hyperthyroidism and may use earlier appropriate therapy.

2. The patients with activating mutation in receptor TSHR often need radical therapy, because long term therapy with thyreostatic drugs is ineffective.