



# AUTOIMMUNE POLYENDOCRINOPATHY-CANDIDIASIS-ECTODERMAL DYSTROPHY: A CASE REPORT

Tanju Celik<sup>1</sup>, Ozlem Nalbantoglu<sup>2</sup>, Semra Gursoy<sup>3</sup>, Ozlem Sangun<sup>4</sup>, Gulcin Arslan<sup>2</sup>, Behzat Ozkan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Behcet Uz Children Hospital, Pediatrics Department

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Behcet Uz Children Hospital Pediatric Endocrinology Department

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Behcet Uz Children Hospital Genetic Department

<sup>4</sup>Hatay State Hospital Pediatrics Department

## Introduction

Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy, candidiasis and ectodermal dystrophy (APECED)

- A rare hereditary disorder
- Autoimmune manifestations affecting both endocrine and non-endocrine tissues
- It is caused by mutations in the autoimmune regulatory (AIRE) gene
- Defined by the presence of two of the three major components:
  - Chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis
  - Autoimmune hypoparathyroidism
  - Addison's disease

Clinical manifestations may be developed during early years of life and may continue throughout decades.

Moreover, the syndrome also includes many other autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes mellitus, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, pernicious anemia, chronic active hepatitis, vitiligo, alopecia, Hashimoto thyroiditis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

Here, we present a case with APECED from a consanguineous family, who had mucocutaneous candidiasis, hypoparathyroidism, Addison's disease, Hashimoto thyroiditis, pernicious anemia and thrombocytopenia.

## Case Report

Our case was a six-year-old boy who was presented to our outpatient endocrinology clinic with nausea and vomiting, fatigue, hypopigmentation, constipation and diarrhea attacks.

He had a convulsion due to hypocalcemia and hypoparathyroidism.

On physical examination:

- Mucocutaneous candidiasis
- Alopecia
- Teeth-nail deformations
- Normal vital signs.

On laboratory examination:

- Anemia
- Thrombocytopenia
- Hypoglycemia
- Hyponatremia

The results of ACTH stimulating test confirmed primary adrenal insufficiency.

Genomic DNA from the peripheral blood lymphocytes was extracted with QIA amp DNA Blood Mini Kit (Qiagen GMBH, Hilden, Germany) using standard procedures. AIRE gene mutation analysis has demonstrated a homozygous missense mutation p.Arg15 His (c.44G>A) in exon 1. Mutation analysis of both parents has revealed heterozygous mutation p.Arg15 His (c.44G>A) in exon 1.

## Conclusion

Although the first clinical manifestation of APECED usually begins in childhood, the appearance order of other components might be delayed to make diagnosis more challenging.

In case, patients might be undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Clinicians should be aware of this entity in terms of endocrine and non-endocrine problems, because of the broad clinical spectrum.

In many cases, the diagnosis should be considered presenting at least one of the major clinical manifestations because of its high morbidity and mortality.

