

[CASE REPORT]

The First Case of Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 8 in Monozygotic Twins

Jun Sawada¹, Takayuki Katayama¹, Takashi Tokashiki², Shiori Kikuchi¹, Kohei Kano¹, Kae Takahashi¹, Tsukasa Saito¹, Yoshiki Adachi³, Yuji Okamoto⁴, Akiko Yoshimura⁴, Hiroshi Takashima⁴ and Naoyuki Hasebe¹

Abstract:

Spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 (SCA8) is a rare hereditary cerebellar ataxia showing mainly pure cerebellar ataxia. We herein report cases of SCA8 in Japanese monozygotic twins that presented with nystagmus, dysarthria, and limb and truncal ataxia. Their *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG repeats were 25/97. They showed similar manifestations, clinical courses, and cerebellar atrophy on magnetic resonance imaging. Some of their pedigrees had nystagmus but not ataxia. These are the first monozygotic twins with SCA8 to be reported anywhere in the world. Although not all subjects with the *ATXN8OS* CTG expansion develop cerebellar ataxia, these cases suggest the pathogenesis of *ATXN8OS* repeat expansions in hereditary cerebellar ataxia.

Key words: Spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 (SCA8), monozygotic twin, CTA/CTG repeats, magnetic resonance imaging

(Intern Med 59: 277-283, 2020)

(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.2905-19)

Introduction

Spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 (SCA8) is an autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxia showing progressive relatively pure cerebellar ataxia (1, 2). Gait ataxia and cerebellar dysarthria are common initial symptoms, and clinical findings include nystagmus, limb incoordination, hyperactive tendon reflexes, spasticity, and diminished vibration perception (3).

This disease is caused by a trinucleotide CTG repeat expansion lying in the 3'-untranslated region of the gene called the ataxin 8 opposite strand (*ATXN8OS*) in human chromosome 13q21-21.33 (1). While normal alleles contain 15 to 50 repeats, expanded alleles contain 71-1,300 repeats or more (1, 4-6). The *ATXN8OS* CTG expansion appears to be toxic; however, not all subjects with the CTG expansion develop cerebellar ataxia. The phenotype of SCA8 varies more widely than those of the other types of SCA, and its

spectrum variance is not well established (7). Furthermore, the CTG expansion has been detected in patients with other neuropsychiatric diseases, such as other neurodegenerative diseases (8-11) and psychiatric diseases (12), as well as in healthy controls (13). These findings have resulted in controversy surrounding testing for the *ATXN8OS* CTG expansion in ataxic individuals (14).

We herein report the first cases of ataxia in Japanese monozygotic twins with *ATXN8OS* gene expansions.

Case Reports

Case 1 (III-5 in Fig. 1)

This patient was a Japanese woman who developed a staggering gait at 26 years old. She then noted disturbances in speech and swallowing. These symptoms gradually progressed, and she visited our hospital at 32 years old. She had histories of Kawasaki disease and meningitis at 3 and

¹Division of Neurology, Department of Internal Medicine, Asahikawa Medical University, Japan, ²Department of Neurology, National Hospital Organization Okinawa Hospital, Japan, ³Department of Neurology, National Hospital Organization Matsue Medical Center, Japan and ⁴Department of Neurology and Geriatrics, Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Japan
Received: February 24, 2019; Accepted: August 18, 2019; Advance Publication by J-STAGE: September 26, 2019
Correspondence to Dr. Jun Sawada, sawajun@asahikawa-med.ac.jp

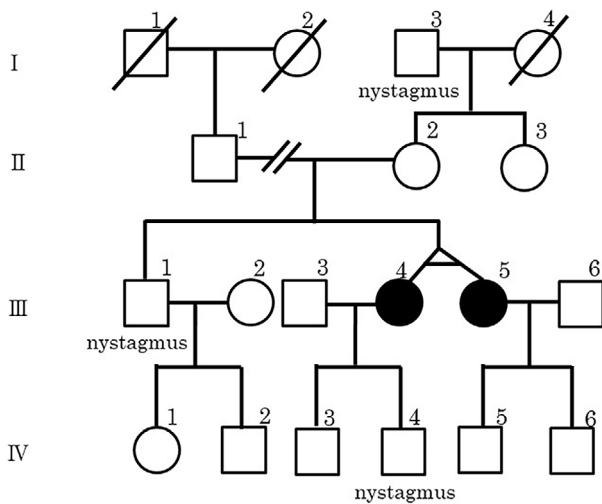


Figure 1. Family tree of the present cases. Black circles indicate patients expressing cerebellar ataxia manifestations (Case 1: III-5, Case 2: III-4). I-3, III-1, and IV-4 presented with nystagmus but not ataxia.

17 years of age, respectively.

A neurological examination revealed a disturbance in saccadic eye movement, horizontal nystagmus, slurred speech, tongue peripheral atrophy, and ataxia of the limbs and trunk. She had the highest score in the Mini-Mental State Examination (30/30). Laboratory findings showed no marked abnormalities in peripheral blood counts or general biochemical tests. Her thyroid function was normal, and anti-thyroid antibody was negative. Vitamin B₁, B₁₂, and E and folate levels were not reduced, while lactate and pyruvate levels were not elevated. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) revealed atrophy of the cerebellum (Fig. 2A, B). Brain scintigraphy was not conducted.

Case 2 (III-4 in Fig. 1)

The older sister of Case 1, who was identified as a monozygotic twin at birth, had noted a mild disturbance in speech when she was a senior high school student. She also developed a staggering gait at 25 years old. She was admitted to our hospital at 31 years old. A neurological examination revealed a disturbance in saccadic eye movement, nystagmus in the left gaze, slurred speech, tongue peripheral atrophy, and ataxia of the limbs and trunk. Brain MRI showed

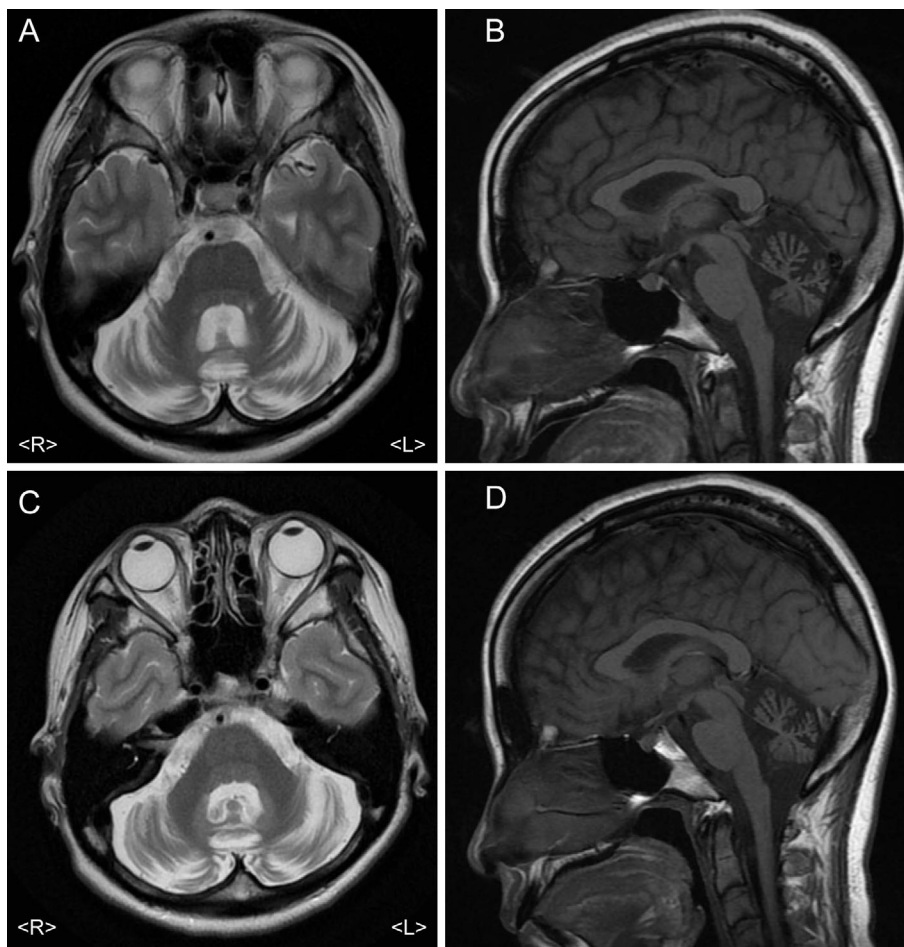


Figure 2. Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the twin cases (A, B: Case 1, C, D: Case 2). These images show atrophy of the cerebellar vermis and hemisphere (A, C: T2-weighted axial view, B, D: T1-weighted sagittal view).

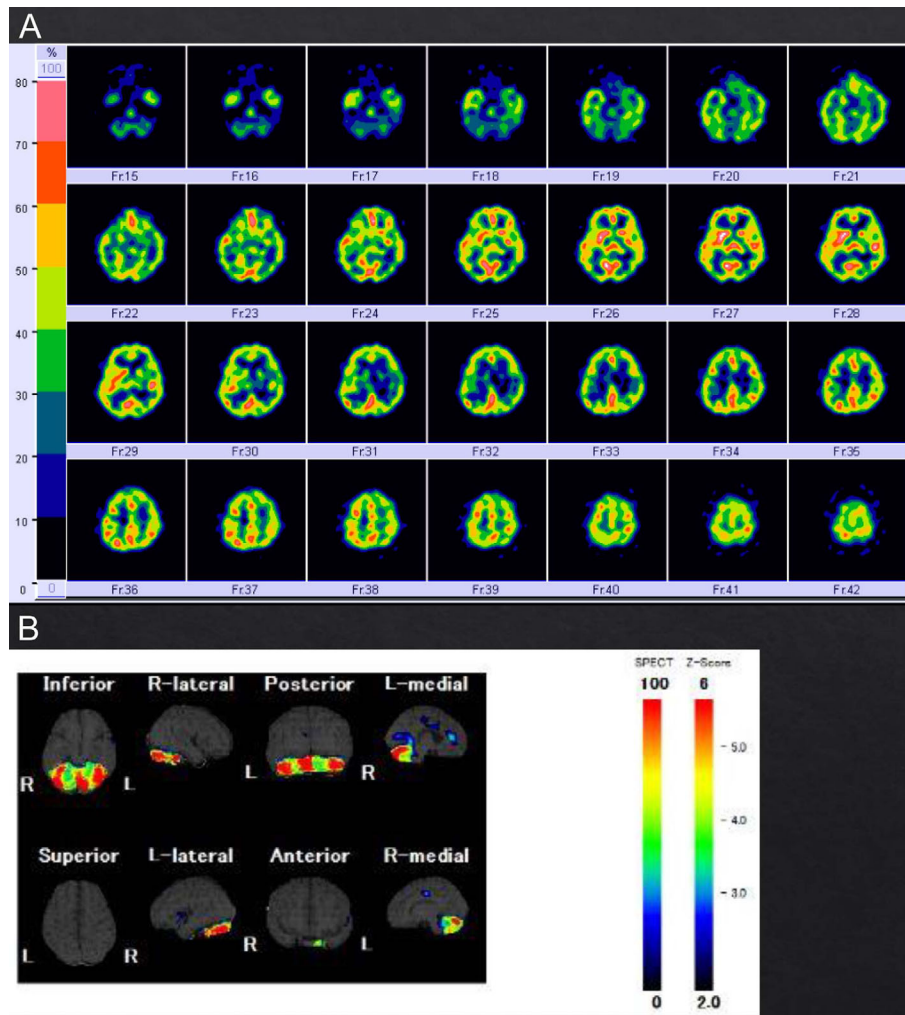


Figure 3. Cerebral blood flow scintigraphy (^{99m}Tc -ethyl cysteinate dimer) revealed bilateral reductions in the cerebral blood flow (A: axial view, B: the easy Z-score imaging system).

atrophy of the cerebellum (Fig. 2C, D). Cerebral blood flow scintigraphy (^{99m}Tc -ethyl cysteinate dimer) revealed a decreased uptake in the bilateral cerebellum (Fig. 3).

These monozygotic sisters were born in Tokyo. They had lived together until they were senior high school students (18 years old). They then moved to different prefectures and married and gave birth at around the same time.

Their maternal grandfather (I-3) and brother (III-1) as well as the second son (IV-4) of case 2 were noted to have nystagmus by their family. Other family members apart from the monozygotic sisters have not yet presented with ataxia or undergone brain MRI or a genetic analysis (Fig. 1).

Genetic testing

• Genomic DNA extraction

The genomic DNA of the patients was extracted from peripheral blood using a Gentra Puregene Blood kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The protocol was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Kagoshima University. All patients and family members provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

• A triplet-repeat expansion analysis of known SCA genes and whole-exome sequencing

We screened for the expansion of triplet repeats associated with SCAs (SCA1, -2, -3, -6, -7, -8, -12, -31, and DRPLA) by standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods using the GeneScan analysis software program with an ABI Prism 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Foster City, USA) as described previously (15). We also performed whole-exome sequencing on Case 1 to confirm the effects of other genes. Regarding the use of genomic DNA, 10-ng samples were amplified using the Ion AmpliSeqTM Exome RDY Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA), and libraries were prepared using the Ion XpressTM Barcode Adapters 1-16 Kit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Adaptor-ligated amplicon libraries were purified using the Agencourt AMPure XP System (Beckman Coulter Genomics, Danvers, USA). The concentration of the library was assessed using the Applied Biosystems[®] StepOneTM Real-Time PCR system and Ion Library TaqManTM Quantitation Kit, and equimolar amounts of each library were pooled together and run on an Ion Chef (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for emulsion PCR and loaded onto a PI v3 chip. This chip was run on the Ion Pro-

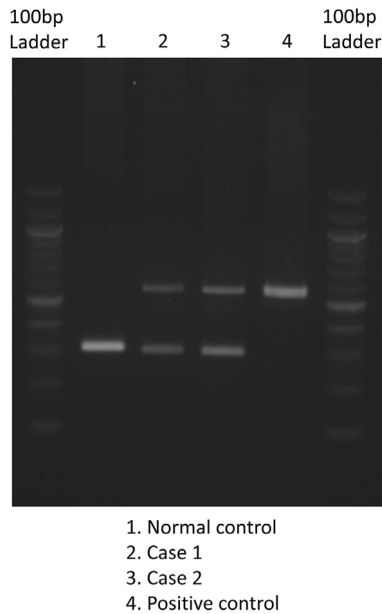


Figure 4. PCR results for the triplet repeat region of spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA) 8. The normal specimen (Lane 1) showed 25/26 repeats, and the positive control (Lane 4) showed 92/99 repeats. Case 1 (Lane 2) and Case 2 (Lane 3) examined in the present study both showed 23/95 repeats. PCR: polymerase chain reaction

ton sequencing system according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Data analysis and variant interpretation

Using the Torrent Suite software program, ver. 5.8.0, reads were aligned to the human reference genome (build GRCh37/hg19) and to the BED file designed using the Ion AmpliSeq Designer. DNA variants were called with the Torrent Variant Caller plug-in. The read depth and percentage of reads mapped to the target region (reads on target) were calculated using the Coverage Analysis plug-in.

We confirmed all previously reported pathogenic mutations by referencing the Human Gene Mutation Database Professional 2019.1 (<https://portal.biobase-international.com/hgmd/pro>). In addition, we checked all variants against global databases, including the 1,000 Genomes (<http://www.internationalgenome.org>), the Exome Sequencing Project (<http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS>), and the Exome Aggregation Consortium (<http://exac.broadinstitute.org/>), as well as against Japanese databases, including the integrative Japanese Genome Variation Database (iJGVD; <https://ijgvd.mega.bank.tohoku.ac.jp>) and the Human Genetic Variation Database (<http://www.hgvd.genome.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp>). We also checked the variants against our in-house whole-exome sequencing database of individuals with non-SCAs. *In silico* analyses of variants were performed using SIFT (<http://sift.jcvi.org>), PolyPhen2 (<http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph2>), PROVEAN (<http://provean.jcvi.org/index.php>), Mutation Assessor (<http://mutationassessor.org>), and Condel (<http://bg.ufl.edu/fannsdbs>). We completed the annotation process using

the CLC Genomic Workbench software and an in-house R script. All suspected variants were validated using Sanger sequencing and interpreted according to the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics standards and guidelines (16).

Results

A gene analysis of the sisters showed the expansion of *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG repeats as 25/97 repeats (Fig. 4), but no abnormalities were noted in other ataxia loci, including SCA1, SCA2, SCA3, SCA6, SCA7, SCA12, SCA17, and SCA31, or dentatorubropallidoluysian atrophy. Based on these findings, the sisters were diagnosed with SCA8. Although they were treated with taltirelin hydrate, their ataxia gradually progressed.

Whole-exome sequencing revealed four rare variants in ataxia-related genes: *FRMD7*, *CACNA1G*, *STUB1*, and *UBR4* (Table). Difficulties were associated with evaluating the pathogenic significance of these rare gene variants because other family members besides the monozygotic sisters had not undergone a genetic analysis.

Discussion

The clinical presentation of SCA8 patients is characterized by cerebellar ataxia of varying severity, and ataxia occurs alone or in combination with other features. The identification of a triplet repeat expansion of the *ATXN8OS* gene on chromosome 13q21 in a genetic analysis has been critical for confirming a diagnosis of SCA8 (1). However, genetic testing must be interpreted with caution due to several diagnostic pitfalls.

Expanded *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG repeats may rarely coexist with the expansion of SCA1, SCA3, SCA6, and SCA31 CAG repeats (3, 14, 17, 18); however, our genetic analysis ruled out this possibility. Furthermore, expanded *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG repeats have been detected in other neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson's disease (9, 19), multiple system atrophy (8), progressive supranuclear palsy (11), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (19, 20), and Alzheimer's disease (10), as well as psychiatric diseases (12) and even in healthy controls (13). Therefore, abnormal expansions alone are not sufficient to make a diagnosis of SCA8. In addition, incomplete penetrance of the *ATXN8OS* gene may result in difficulty reaching a diagnosis of SCA8 and lead to unusual and varied manifestations. With the accumulation of newly reported cases, it has become apparent that the clinical presentation of SCA8 varies (7). A disturbance in saccadic eye movement, nystagmus, dysarthria, and ataxia of the limbs and trunk, which are common manifestations of SCA8, were observed in our cases.

The cut-off value for the triplet length that genetically separates normal from affected individuals is controversial in SCA8 (5). The majority of symptomatic SCA8 patients had expansion lengths between 45 and 109, with greater than 80

Table. Summary of Molecular Findings and ACMG Criteria for Rare Variants in Ataxia-related Genes.

ge+I6+ A2:R8	Phenotype	Nucleotide change	Amino acid change	Chromosome	Control			In silico analysis				ACMG pathogenicity			ACMG criteria		
					Global database	Japanese database	In-house database	SIFT	PP2	PROVEAN	MA	Condel	Very Strong	Strong		Moderate	Support
<i>FRMD7</i>	congenital nystagmus	c.1003C>T	p.Arg335*	X	1.13985 x10 ⁻⁵	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	PVSI	-	PS4- moderate, PM2, PM4	PP4	pathogenic
<i>CACNA1G</i>	SCA42	c.1984T>C	p.Cys662Arg	17	0	0	0	0.031	0.04	-4.38	1.7	0.568107191	-	-	PS4- moderate, PM2	PP4	uncertain significance
<i>STUB1</i>	SCA48 amd SCAR16	c.786+ 1 delG		16	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	PS4- moderate, PM2, PM4	PP4	likely pathogenic
<i>UBR4</i>	episodic ataxia	c.2827G>T	p.Asp943Tyr	1	0	0	0	0.021	0.67	-0.83	0.895	0.408803356	-	-	PS4- moderate, PM2	PP4	uncertain significance

ACMG: American College of Medical Genetics, SCA: spinocerebellar ataxia, SCAR: spinocerebellar ataxia, autosomal recessive, PP2: PolyPhen2, MA: Mutation assessor

Control database: Global database (dbSNP, 1000genome, ExAC, ESP), Japanese database (HGVD, iUGVD)

In silico analysis cut off: SIFT<0.05, PP2>0.9, PROVEAN<-2.5, MA>1.9, Condel>0.47

repeats being frequently reported (7, 21). While 99% of control subjects were shown to have an *ATXN8OS* gene CTA/CTG repeat length of between 2 and 37 (22), 0.5% of control subjects in Scotland had composite triplet repeat lengths of greater than 91 (23). Although some difficulties are associated with establishing a definite cut-off value for an abnormal repeat length, a repeat length of at least 50 is expected for affected individuals based on the largest published *ATXN8OS* case series to date (21). However, most studies in various countries, including Japan, suggest a repeat length greater than 80 to be in the abnormal range (3, 7). Based on these findings, the repeat size of 97 in our cases appeared to be pathogenic.

The incidence of SCA8 in Japanese ataxic subjects is rare and differs by area (1.71-4.5%) (3, 4, 24). A survey of SCA patients in Hokkaido Prefecture, the northernmost region of Japan, detected no SCA8 patients (25). Among patients with sporadic cerebellar ataxia in a Japanese single-hospital cohort, abnormalities in spinocerebellar ataxia type 6 were the most common (36%), and the incidence of SCA8 was 3.6% (24). Aydin et al. reported that 5 out of 440 (1.1%) unrelated German patients suspected to be SCA-negative for the most common SCA subtypes (SCA1-3, SCA6, SCA7, and SCA17) had expanded *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG alleles with 92-129 repeats (26). Since the phenotype of SCA8 markedly varies, and given that the spectrum of presentation has not yet been well defined, the diagnosis of SCA8 may frequently be missed (7). The incidence of SCA8 may thus be more frequent than current estimations.

Since monozygotic twins are considered to be genetically identical, discordance in the disease phenotype between monozygotic twins has been used in genetic research to clarify the contribution of genetic and environmental factors to disease development. However, recent studies have shown that monozygotic twins differ both genetically and epigenetically (27). Monozygotic twins that are phenotypically discordant for monogenic diseases have been described in cases of Huntington's disease, familial Alzheimer's disease, and SCA (28-30). In the SCA group with the CAG expansion forms, monozygotic twin cases showed different clinical features, with SCA2 and dentatorubropallidoluysian atrophy presenting in different twins (31, 32). In our case, the monozygotic sisters had lived in different locations and environments but had very few clinical differences and similar ages at the onset. Therefore, genetic factors, including the *ATXN8OS* repeat expansion, may affect disease development more intensely than environmental factors.

We performed whole-exome sequencing on ataxia-related genes for Case 1, which revealed four rare variants. These genes (*FRMD7*, *CACNA1G*, *STUB1*, and *UBR4*) have been implicated in congenital nystagmus, SCA42, SCA 48 and SCAR16, and episodic ataxia, respectively (33-36). Evaluating the pathogenic significance of these rare gene variants has proven difficult because no family members other than the monozygotic sisters had undergone a genetic analysis. The pathogenic significance of these four rare variants there-

fore currently remains unclear; however, it cannot be denied that these mutations may have affected the phenotype of the monozygotic sisters and other family members. For example, the nonsense mutation in *FRMD7* should affect male family members who present with nystagmus because mutations in *FRMD7* cause X-linked idiopathic congenital nystagmus (33). Further studies of ataxia-related genes, including *in vivo* experiments, and their influence on clinical manifestations are needed.

Genetic counseling is one of the most sensitive issues for SCA8 because of the complexity of its inheritance, low penetrance, and clinical variety. Family members (I-3, III-1, and IV-4) of the present cases had nystagmus but not ataxia. Although a genetic analysis of these family members has not yet been performed, they may have expanded *ATXN8OS* CTA/CTG repeats. Long-term follow-up and appropriate genetic counseling for the family members are needed.

In conclusion, we herein report the first cases of SCA8 in monozygotic twins anywhere in the world. SCA8 often exhibits intra-family differences in clinical manifestations, and there is controversy surrounding the pathogenesis of the *ATXN8OS* CTG expansion; however, these twin cases suggest the pathogenesis of *ATXN8OS* CTG expansions in hereditary cerebellar ataxia. A long-term observational study on these monozygotic twin cases and their family members will be important for clarifying the contributions of genetic factors to SCA8.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).

Financial Support

This study was supported, in part, by grants from the Nervous and Mental Disorders and Research Committee for Ataxic Disease and Applying Health and Technology of Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour, Japan. This research is supported by the research program for conquering intractable disease from Japan Academy for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

Acknowledgement

The authors thank Dr. Y. Makita and Dr. Y. Yokohama of Asahikawa Medical University for providing genetic counseling to the patients.

References

- Koob MD, Moseley ML, Schut LJ, et al. An untranslated CTG expansion causes a novel form of spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA8). *Nat Genet* **21**: 379-384, 1999.
- Durr A. Autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxias: polyglutamine expansions and beyond. *Lancet Neurol* **9**: 885-894, 2010.
- Hu Y, Hashimoto Y, Ishii T, et al. Sequence configuration of spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 repeat expansions in a Japanese cohort of 797 ataxia subjects. *J Neurol Sci* **382**: 87-90, 2017.
- Ikeda Y, Shizuka M, Watanabe M, Okamoto K, Shoji M. Molecular and clinical analyses of spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 in Japan. *Neurology* **54**: 950-955, 2000.
- Ikeda Y, Dalton JC, Moseley ML, et al. Spinocerebellar ataxia type 8: molecular genetic comparisons and haplotype analysis of 37 families with ataxia. *Am J Hum Genet* **75**: 3-16, 2004.
- Todd PK, Paulson HL. RNA-mediated neurodegeneration in repeat expansion disorders. *Ann Neurol* **67**: 291-300, 2010.
- Gupta A, Jankovic J. Spinocerebellar ataxia 8: variable phenotype and unique pathogenesis. *Parkinsonism Relat Disord* **15**: 621-626, 2009.
- Factor SA, Qian J, Lava NS, Hubbard JD, Payami H. False-positive SCA8 gene test in a patient with pathologically proven multiple system atrophy. *Ann Neurol* **57**: 462-463, 2005.
- Wu YR, Lin HY, Chen CM, et al. Genetic testing in spinocerebellar ataxia in Taiwan: expansions of trinucleotide repeats in SCA8 and SCA17 are associated with typical Parkinson's disease. *Clin Genet* **65**: 209-214, 2004.
- Sobrido MJ, Cholfin JA, Perlman S, Pulst SM, Geschwind DH. SCA8 repeat expansions in ataxia: a controversial association. *Neurology* **57**: 1310-1312, 2001.
- Samukawa M, Hirano M, Saigoh K, et al. PSP-phenotype in SCA8: case report and systemic review. *Cerebellum* **18**: 76-84, 2019.
- Vincent JB, Yuan QP, Schalling M, et al. Long repeat tracts at SCA8 in major psychosis. *Am J Med Genet* **96**: 873-876, 2000.
- Vincent JB, Neves-Pereira ML, Paterson AD, et al. An unstable trinucleotide-repeat region on chromosome 13 implicated in spinocerebellar ataxia: a common expansion locus. *Am J Hum Genet* **66**: 819-829, 2000.
- Roda RH, Schindler AB, Blackstone C. SCA8 should not be tested in isolation for ataxia. *Neurol Genet* **3**: e150, 2017.
- Hirano R, Takashima H, Okubo R, et al. Fine mapping of 16q-linked autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxia type III in Japanese families. *Neurogenetics* **5**: 215-221, 2004.
- Li MM, Datto M, Duncavage EJ, et al. Standards and Guidelines for the Interpretation and Reporting of Sequence Variants in Cancer: A Joint Consensus Recommendation of the Association for Molecular Pathology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and College of American Pathologists. *J Mol Diagn* **19**: 4-23, 2017.
- Sulek A, Hoffman-Zacharska D, Zdzienicka E, Zaremba J. SCA8 repeat expansion coexists with SCA1—not only with SCA6. *Am J Hum Genet* **73**: 972-974, 2003.
- Izumi Y, Maruyama H, Oda M, et al. SCA8 repeat expansion: large CTA/CTG repeat alleles are more common in ataxic patients, including those with SCA6. *Am J Hum Genet* **72**: 704-709, 2003.
- Kim JS, Son TO, Youn J, Ki CS, Cho JW. Non-ataxic phenotypes of SCA8 mimicking amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and parkinson disease. *J Clin Neurol* **9**: 274-279, 2013.
- Hirano M, Samukawa M, Isono C, Saigoh K, Nakamura Y, Kusunoki S. Noncoding repeat expansions for ALS in Japan are associated with the *ATXN8OS* gene. *Neurol Genet* **4**: e252, 2018.
- Schols L, Bauer I, Zuhlke C, et al. Do CTG expansions at the SCA8 locus cause ataxia? *Ann Neurol* **54**: 110-115, 2003.
- Brusco A, Cagnoli C, Franco A, et al. Analysis of SCA8 and SCA12 loci in 134 Italian ataxic patients negative for SCA1-3, 6 and 7 CAG expansions. *J Neurol* **249**: 923-929, 2002.
- Zeman A. Spinocerebellar ataxia type 8 in Scotland: genetic and clinical features in seven unrelated cases and a review of published reports. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* **75**: 459-465, 2004.
- Sakakibara R, Tateno F, Kishi M, et al. Genetic screening for spinocerebellar ataxia genes in a Japanese single-hospital cohort. *J Mov Disord* **10**: 116-122, 2017.
- Sasaki H, Yabe I, Yamashita I, Tashiro K. Prevalence of triplet repeat expansion in ataxia patients from Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. *J Neurol Sci* **175**: 45-51, 2000.
- Aydin G, Dekomien G, Hoffjan S, Gerding WM, Epplen JT, Arning L. Frequency of SCA8, SCA10, SCA12, SCA36, FXTAS and C9orf72 repeat expansions in SCA patients negative for the most common SCA subtypes. *BMC Neurol* **18**: 3, 2018.
- Kelelaar MR, Hofstra RMW, Hayden MR. What monozygotic twins discordant for phenotype illustrate about mechanisms influencing genetic forms of neurodegeneration. *Clin Genet* **81**: 325-

- 333, 2012.
28. Sturrock A, Leavitt BR. The clinical and genetic features of Huntington disease. *J Geriatr Psychiatry Neurol* **23**: 243-259, 2010.
29. Brickell KL, Leverenz JB, Steinbart, et al. Clinicopathological concordance and discordance in three monozygotic twin pairs with familial Alzheimer's disease. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* **78**: 1050-1055, 2007.
30. Durr A. Autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxias: polyglutamine expansions and beyond. *Lancet neurol* **9**: 885-894, 2010.
31. Anderson JH, Christova PS, Xie TD, Schott KS, Ward K, Gomez CM. Spinocerebellar ataxia in monozygotic twins. *Arch Neurol* **59**: 1945-1951, 2002.
32. Sato K, Yunoki T, Morimoto N, et al. Differential clinical features in a pair of monozygotic twins with dentatorubropallidolusian atrophy. *Eur J Neurol* **18**: e100-101, 2011.
33. Tarpey P, Thomas S, Sarvananthan N, et al. Mutations in *FRMD7*, a newly identified member of the FERM family, cause X-linked idiopathic congenital nystagmus. *Nat Genet* **38**: 1242-1244, 2006.
34. Coutelier M, Blesneac I, Monteil A, et al. A recurrent mutation in *CACNA1G* alters Cav3.1 T-type calcium-channel conduction and causes autosomal-dominant cerebellar ataxia. *Am J Hum Genet* **97**: 726-737, 2015.
35. Genis D, Ortega-Cubero S, San Nicolas H, et al. Heterozygous *STUB1* mutation causes familial ataxia with cognitive affective syndrome (SCA48). *Neurology* **91**: e1988-e1998, 2018.
36. Conroy J, McGettigan P, Murphy R, et al. A novel locus for episodic ataxia: *UBR4* the likely candidate. *Eur J Hum Genet* **22**: 505-510, 2014.

The Internal Medicine is an Open Access journal distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view the details of this license, please visit (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).