Clinical heterogeneity and phenotype/genotype findings in 5 families with GYG1 deficiency

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Published in:
Neurology: Genetics

DOI:
10.1212/NXG.0000000000000208

Publication date:
2017

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Citation for published version (APA):

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Download date: 27. dec. 2018
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ABSTRACT

Objective: To describe the variability of muscle symptoms in patients carrying mutations in the GYG1 gene, encoding glycogenin-1, an enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of glycogen, and to discuss genotype-phenotype relations.

Methods: We describe 9 patients from 5 families in whom muscle biopsies showed vacuoles with an abnormal accumulation of glycogen in muscle fibers, partially a-amylase resistant suggesting polyglucosan bodies. The patients had either progressive early-onset limb-girdle weakness or late-onset distal or scapuloperoneal muscle affection as shown by muscle imaging. No clear definite cardiac disease was found. Histologic and protein analysis investigations were performed on muscle.

Results: Genetic analyses by direct or exome sequencing of the GYG1 gene revealed 6 different GYG1 mutations. Four of the mutations were novel. They were compound heterozygous in 3 families and homozygous in 2. Protein analysis revealed either the absence of glycogenin-1 or reduced glycogenin-1 expression with impaired glucosylation.

Conclusions: Our report extends the genetic and clinical spectrum of glycogenin-1-related myopathies to include scapuloperoneal and distal affection with glycogen accumulation. Neurol Genet 2017;3:e208; doi: 10.1212/NXG.0000000000000208

GLOSSARY

FSHD – facioscapulohumeral dystrophy; mRNA – messenger RNA; PAS – periodic acid-Schiff.

Mutations in genes involved in the muscular glycogen metabolism cause glycogen storage myopathies and cardiomyopathies.1,2 Defects in enzymes that control muscle glycogen breakdown are more common than diseases involved in glycogen synthesis. Glycogenin is a glycosyltransferase that catalyzes the formation of an 8–12 glucose molecule chain at its tyrosine 195 residue.3 Two types of glycogenin have been identified in humans: glycogenin-1 and glycogenin-2 encoded by GYG1 and GYG2 genes, respectively.4,5 Glycogenin-1 (37 kDa) is expressed preferentially in skeletal muscle and to a lesser extent in the liver, whereas glycogenin-2 (66 kDa) is abundant in cardiac muscle and the liver but sparse in the pancreas and absent in skeletal muscle.

*These authors contributed equally to the manuscript.

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<tr>
<td>A-1 (M)</td>
<td>Scapuloperoneal/running and climbing stair difficulties, calf and thigh cramps, and knee drop/28-29</td>
<td>32/asymmetric scapular weakness and atrophy (right Del and SSp) and no scapular winging</td>
<td>32/distal weakness (TA, PL, and EDL) &gt; proximal weakness (GMe) and stepping and waddling gait</td>
<td>1,509/myopathic</td>
<td>N/NI</td>
<td>Nl at 42 y old, mild PVC decrease (by 20%) since 49 y old</td>
<td>Del, BH, ECR, ECU, and GMe weakness, no UL elevation since 48 y old, used a walking frame since 49 y old, and outside wheelchair use since 50 y old</td>
<td>CT (3) and WB-MRI (1) (c.646C&gt;T)+ (c.143+3G&gt;C)</td>
<td>First biopsy: Del/33/vascular myopathy containing PAS-positive inclusions, fascicular atrophy, mild necrosis, and endomyositis fibrosis; EM: presence of normally branched glycogen and no fibrillary forms</td>
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<td>B-1 (M)</td>
<td>Proximal/muscle fatigability at running without myalgia/15-17</td>
<td>27/forearm muscle hypertrophy, mild scapular winging and no weakness</td>
<td>27/pelvimemoral weakness (Ps, GMe, Adds &gt; GMe, and Ham), thigh and gluteal atrophy, calf hypertrophy, and waddling gait</td>
<td>700–1,100/myopathic</td>
<td>N/NI</td>
<td>Nl</td>
<td>Del, SSp, SSc, and IS mild weakness at 28 y old</td>
<td>CT (1) and WB-MRI (1) (c.143+3G&gt;C)+ (c.143+3G&gt;C)</td>
<td>Second biopsy: Del/36/vascular myopathy containing PAS-positive inclusions and partially α-amylase resistant; EM: coexistence of normal granular glycogen with abnormal filamentous glycogen and abnormal dilated mitochondria</td>
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<td>B-2 (M)</td>
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<td>27/mild scapular winging and no weakness</td>
<td>27/pelvimemoral weakness (GMe &gt; Ps and Ham), thigh and gluteal atrophy, calf hypertrophy, and waddling gait</td>
<td>1,016/ND</td>
<td>N/NI</td>
<td>Nl</td>
<td>Del, SSp, SSc, and IS mild weakness at 28 y old</td>
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<td>Del/26/vascular myopathy containing PAS-positive inclusions, only 1 fiber was α-amylase resistant</td>
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<td>B-3 (M)</td>
<td>Asymptomatic/no symptoms</td>
<td>23/no muscle weakness and atrophy or hypertrophy</td>
<td>23/no muscle weakness and atrophy or hypertrophy</td>
<td>Nl/ND</td>
<td>ND/ND</td>
<td>ND but no respiratory symptoms</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>CT (1) (c.143+3G&gt;C)+ (c.143+3G&gt;C)</td>
<td>ND</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-1 (F)</td>
<td>Distal/right then left stepping gait/47-49</td>
<td>58/distal weakness (ED, ECR, and ECU), hand atrophy (interosseus, thenar, and hypothenar muscles)</td>
<td>58/distal weakness (TA, lower leg atrophy, and stepping gait)</td>
<td>Nl/myopathic</td>
<td>AVB-II at 58 y old overt coronary artery disease since 70 y old requiring stenting, aceslamic acid and atorvastatin</td>
<td>Nl, OSAS at 70 y old requiring NIV</td>
<td>PL and EDL weakness at 73 y old</td>
<td>WB-MRI (1) and MRI (3) (c.143+3G&gt;C)+ (c.996_1005del10)</td>
<td>First biopsy: TA/51/vascular myopathy</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<th>Whole phenotype/symptoms of onset/age, y</th>
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<tr>
<td>C-2 (M)</td>
<td>Distal/left stepping gait/72 (but older difficulties in starting efforts during gymnastics, better after 1 minute of effort or alleviated by taking sugar)</td>
<td>72/distal weakness (ED and EDM, atrophy (ED, EDM, right Tr, and right Pec)</td>
<td>72/distal weakness (TA, PL, and EDL) more than pelvifemoral weakness (GMA, GME, Ps, and hamstrings), thigh and lower leg atrophy, Achilles contractures, and stepping gait</td>
<td>Nil/ myopathic</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Difficulties in index finger extension (left then right) and inability to stand from squatting position at 77 y old</td>
<td>CT (1) and WB-MRI (1)</td>
<td>[c.143 + 3G-&gt;C]+ [c.996_1005del10] First biopsy: TA/74/ advanced fibrofatty degeneration and myofibrillar myopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-3 (F)</td>
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<td>81/no weakness or atrophy and left UL elevation limitation (musculotendinous cuff surgery)</td>
<td>81/distal weakness (TA, PL, and EDL) &gt; pelvifemoral weakness (GMA, GME, Ps, and Quad) and inability to walk on heels and tiptoes</td>
<td>ND/ND</td>
<td>Myocardial infarction at 76 y old requiring stenting</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>Shortness of breath on exertion</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND Second biopsy: Del/77/ vacuolar myopathy containing α-amylase-resistant PAS-positive inclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-1 (F)</td>
<td>Proximal/problems in climbing stairs/50</td>
<td>76/asymmetric appearance, upper right limbs more affected than left, marked atrophy of biceps brachii on the right (2/5), mild on the left (4/5), and clear facial muscle weakness</td>
<td>76/asymmetric appearance and right LLs more affected than the left</td>
<td>252/ myopathic</td>
<td>NI/Ni</td>
<td>NI</td>
<td>Cannot walk without support, hyperlordotic, waddling gait, and uses roller</td>
<td>WB-MRI (1)</td>
<td>[c.166G-&gt;C]+ [c.472delA] Vastus lateralis/76/ abnormal glycogen accumulation (polyglucosan bodies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-1 (F)</td>
<td>Proximal/slower in running and cycling compared with her peers/teen</td>
<td>45/pronounced anterior thigh compartment atrophy, hip flexion, abduction, and adduction and knee extension weakness to 4 on MRC</td>
<td>Normal muscle strength</td>
<td>183/ myopathic</td>
<td>ND/ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
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<td>MRI (1)</td>
<td>[c.487delG]+ Vastus lateralis/45/ myopathic with evidence of abnormal glycogen accumulation (polyglucosan bodies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: Add – thigh adductor; AVB – atrioventricular block; BH – biceps humeri; CPK – creatine phosphokinase; Del – deltoid; ECR – extensor carpi radialis; ECU – extensor carpi ulnaris; ED – extensor digitorum; EDL – extensor digitorum longus; EDM – extensor digiti minimi; EM – electronic microscopy; FVC – forced vital capacity; GMA – glutaeus maximus; GME – glutaeus medius; Ham – hamstring muscle; IS – infraspinatus; LL – lower limb; MRC – Medical Research Council Scale for muscle power; ND – not done; Ni – normal; NnIV – nocturnal noninvasive ventilation; OSAS – obstructive sleep apnea syndrome; PAS – periodic acid-Schiff; Pec – pectoralis; PL – peroneus longus; Ps – psoas; Quad – quadriceps; SSC – subscapularis; SSP – supraspinatus; TA = tibialis anterior; Tr = trapezius; UL = upper limb; WB-MRI = whole-body MRI.
In the past 6 years, 20 patients of various ethnic backgrounds have been reported with glycogen storage myopathy due to GYG1 gene mutations (GSDXV, OMIM #613507).\textsuperscript{6–12} Patients with GSDXV carry mutations leading to inactivation of the autoglucosylolation of glycogenin-1 or impairment of glycogenin-1 interaction with glycogen synthase.\textsuperscript{6–8,12,13} In reported cases of glycogen deficiency, skeletal muscle involvement was always that of a limb-girdle myopathy, accompanied in some instances by an additional distal involvement.\textsuperscript{6–13} Cardiomyopathy in patients with GSDXV is rare,\textsuperscript{6,14} but mutations in the GYG1 gene can be observed with no skeletal muscle signs.\textsuperscript{14}

We report here a detailed clinical and muscle imaging assessment as well as protein and genetic features of 9 patients with GSDXV. Remarkably, the clinical spectrum uncovers not only the previously reported proximal myopathy but also new muscle patterns, thus extending the clinical conditions due to GYG1 gene mutations.

\section*{METHODS}

Five men and 4 women from 5 families originating from France (families A, B, and C) and Denmark (families D and E) were included in this study (table and figure 1). Clinical, histologic, and muscle imaging data were taken from the patients’ medical records. Patient B-1 was reported as patient P1 in a previous publication.\textsuperscript{7} During their follow-up, muscle imaging was performed in all patients, except patient C-3: muscle CT in 4 patients, muscle MRI in 2, and whole-body MRI in 6 (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A13).

\subsection*{Standard protocol approvals, registrations, and patients consents.}

Written informed consent was obtained from all patients before muscle biopsies and DNA collection.

\subsection*{Muscle pathology analyses.}

At least 1 muscle biopsy was performed in 6 patients (5 in A-1, 2 in C-2, and 1 in B-1, C-1, D-1, and E-1) in deltoid in 4 patients, extensor carpi radialis in 2, tibialis anterior in 2, and vastus lateralis in 2. Morphologic and histochemical analyses of fresh-frozen muscle tissue were performed by standard techniques, including periodic acid–Schiff (PAS) staining before and after digestion with \(\alpha\)-amylase.\textsuperscript{13} (figure 2).

\subsection*{Molecular genetic analysis.}

After DNA extraction from peripheral leukocytes, coding regions of GYG1 were sequenced (DNA Blood Mini kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and compared with the reference sequence (accession number NM_004130). Total messenger RNAs (mRNAs) were extracted from a fresh muscle biopsy of patient B-1 (RNA Mini kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and amplified by reverse transcription PCR (Promega, Fitchburg, WI). Exome sequencing was performed in family C at the French National Centre for Genotyping and in family D at the Broad Institute’s Genomics Platform. Pathogenic mutations were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

\section*{RESULTS}

\subsection*{Clinical and muscle imaging features.}

Clinically, the 9 patients in this study can be categorized into 3 subgroups according to the pattern of muscle affection: proximal, distal, and scapuloperoneal. The proximal subgroup included patients B-1, B-2, and E-1 who showed a teenage onset of pelvifemoral (B-1, B-2, and E-1) and scapular weaknesses (B-1 and B-2) (table and figure 1). This muscle affection was confirmed by muscle imaging, showing partial and symmetric fatty replacement of deltoid muscles in upper limbs and a more advanced involvement of gluteus magnus and medius, vastus lateralis and intermedius, adductor magnus, and biceps femoris muscles in lower limbs (figures e-1E, e-1E–E, e-1J, e-1F, e-1F, e-1G, e-1G, e-1O, and e-1O, links.lww.com/NXG/A13).

Conversely, patients C-1, C-2, and C-3 had a predominant distal myopathy pattern, manifesting late in the fifth–eighth decade of life by asymmetric stepping gait (table). Unfortunately, muscle imaging was performed only in patient C-1 at disease onset and showed a highly specific extensor tibialis anterior muscle involvement (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A13). No earlier muscle imaging was available for patients C-1 and C-2, and the oldest sister C-3 refused medical investigations. At more advanced stages, the disease affected extensor digitorum and medial gastrocnemius muscles (figures e-1I, e-1I–J, e-1K, e-1L, and e-1M) but also progressed toward proximal muscles (figures e-1J, e-1J–J, e-1K, e-1K, e-1L, e-1M, and e-1M).

Another unexpected presentation was observed in patient A-1, who had a scapuloperoneal distribution in the first stages of the disease. For this patient, muscle imaging was performed 4 times over the course of 20 years, allowing us to precisely track muscle involvement distribution and progression. In the first 7–8 years of the disease onset, the pattern was clearly peroneal in lower limbs, involving tibialis anterior and extensor digitorum longus muscles and...
to a lesser extent the soleus muscles (figure e-1A, links.lww.com/NXG/A13) and scapular muscles in upper limbs, mainly deltoid muscles in an asymmetric pattern (figure e-1B). After 13–14 years of progression, the disease involved almost all calf muscles and spread to the thighs and pelvic muscles, while at this time, deltoids had become totally replaced by fat (figure e-1C and e-1C’). In more advanced stages, 23–24 years after disease onset, almost all lower limb muscles, anterior arm, and posterior forearm compartments were involved (figure e-1D and e-1D’). Patient D-1 is peculiar, as she was diagnosed with the disease at 50 years of age with difficulties climbing stairs, suggesting a proximal lower limb weakness at onset. Her assessment 26 years later showed facial muscle weakness with a highly asymmetric scapulohumeral and pelvifemoral myopathies, thus resembling facioscapulohumeral dystrophy (FSHD), which was excluded by genetic testing. Muscle imaging showed a peculiar pattern with scapulohumeral and a more diffuse lower limb involvement. Unfortunately, there was no muscle imaging performed at disease onset to better categorize this patient pattern of myopathy. However, the fact that distal parts of the upper and lower limbs were more conserved than proximal parts suggests that patient D-1 should be categorized within the proximal subgroup of patients. Of note, asymmetric
limb involvement was found in 4 patients (A-1, C-1, C-2, and D-1) involving deltoid muscles in 2 (A-1 and D-1) and distal lower limb muscles in 2 (C-1 and C-2). In addition, the creatine phosphokinase (CPK) level was either normal in the oldest patients (C-1, C-2, C-3, D-1, and E-1), while as high as 7 times above the upper reference level in the youngest (A-1, B-1, and B-2).

All 9 patients reported here were also regularly assessed for heart and respiratory involvement. Only 2 patients (patients C-1 and C-2) had cardiac abnormalities in the context of coronary artery disease at age 58 and 76 years, respectively. Except for patient A-1, who had mild restrictive respiratory syndrome, and patient C-1 requiring night time nasal ventilation for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome since age 70 years, respiratory assessments were unremarkable in all other patients.

Morphologic features. Almost all the 6 patients who had a muscle biopsy performed showed PAS-positive inclusions, partially resistant to α-amylase, representing polyglucosan bodies (figure 2). Abnormally structured glycogen, suggesting polyglucosan bodies, was shown on electron microscopy in patients A-1, B-1, C-2, D-1, and E-1 (data not shown). Abnormal histologic findings, usually not associated with GSDXV, were found in a few patients, such as mild necrosis (patient C-1), moderate endomysial fibrosis (patients C-1 and C-2), abnormal mitochondria accumulation (patients C-1), and extensive fatty replacement and myofibrillar disarrangements (patient C-3).

Molecular genetics. Results of molecular investigations for tested family members are summarized in the table. In patient A-1, we identified a new nonsense mutation in exon 6 (c.646C>T, p.Arg216*) (inherited from his mother) in association with the previously reported splicing mutation in intron 2 (c.143+3G>C, p.Asp3Glufs*4). In family B, the
same splicing mutation in intron 2 was found in a homozygous state in twins (B-1 and B-2) and their younger brother (B-3). Parents and sister were heterozygous for the mutation. Total mRNAs were extracted from a muscle biopsy from patient B-1, allowing for the identification of two transcripts: the previously reported in 4 families7 with exon 2 skipped and the normal one (figure 3A). Patient E-1 carried a previously reported small out-of-frame deletion (c.487delG, p.Asp163Thrfs*5).6

Exome sequencing of families C and D led to the identification of 3 novel mutations in GYG1. In family C, we identified 2 compound heterozygous mutations: a small 10 bp out-of-frame deletion in the last coding exon (NM_004130.3, c.996_1005del10, p.Tyr332*) leading to a frameshift that creates a premature stop codon and may produce a truncated protein and the previously reported splicing mutation in intron 2 (c.143+3G>C).7 The intron 2 mutation was found in a heterozygous state in a nonaffected brother and sister, while the 10-bp deletion was found in a heterozygous state in another nonaffected brother. In patient D-1, 2 compound heterozygous mutations (c.166G>C, p.Asp56His/c.472delA, p.Asp159Thrfs*5) were identified.

**Protein analysis.** Expression of glycogenin-1 is shown in figure 3. Under normal conditions, glucosylated glycogenin-1 within glycogen particles cannot be...
detected unless the epitope is exposed after digestion with α-amylase. In patient A-1 (figure 3B), glycogenin-1 was absent before and after α-amylase treatment, indicating that glycogenin-1 is not produced. In patient B-1 (figure 3B), glycogenin-1 was not detected before α-amylase treatment, while it was reduced after α-amylase treatment compared with control, indicating that the expressed glycogenin-1 protein is still able to autoglucosylate. In patients C-1 and C-2 (figure 3, C and D), glycogenin-1 was detected before α-amylase treatment (2 bands with a slight molecular weight difference) and was still present (but lower molecular weight) at similar amounts after α-amylase treatment, indicating preserved protein expression but impaired glucosylation.

DISCUSSION We report 9 patients who showed unexpected clinical phenotypes and variable protein consequences because of mutations in the GYG1 gene of which 4 are novel.

Patient A-1 had an initial scapular and peroneal pattern of muscle affection, which has not been described previously in patients with GSDXV. However, 1 patient described in the original description of the disease (6) likely could have had the same phenotype since he was described to have weakness of shoulder abduction, elbow flexion and extension, and foot dorsiflexion. Unfortunately, no muscle imaging was performed in that patient to more accurately classify the pattern of affection. In family C, the disease started distally and evolved to the proximal limb compartments. By contrast, the 9 published patients showing distal involvement (6–10) had either an initial diffuse (7,8) or a proximal (6,7,9,10) pattern. Only 1 published case (4) may be reminiscent of family C with primary distal involvement, although the disease started late in lower limbs. On the other hand, our 4 patients with proximal pattern are similar to almost all the 20 cases reported so far. (7–12) Indeed, these previously reported patients had a wide range of age and symptoms at onset that generally pointed toward limb-girdle weakness. (7–12) In some instances, symptoms of onset suggested exercise intolerance, (8,9,11,12) which was modest and was not the predominant feature of the phenotype. CPK levels were usually normal but were found mildly to moderately elevated in 3 cases, reaching almost 1,100 IU/L in the youngest patient. (7,9,11) The disease course was progressive in all patients, and muscle weakness was most disabling in the 7 oldest patients (aged 57–82 years), as they were unable to raise arms above their head and required aid for walking short distances or permanent wheelchair use. Muscle imaging was described only in 5 patients. (8,10–12) Except for 1 patient with almost all muscles involved, (10) the 4 others had mainly affected scapular and pelvifemoral girdle muscles similar to our patients B-1, B-2, and E-1 (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A13). The open ring-like aspect of the right soleus muscle observed in 1 patient (9) was never observed in our patients.

As for previously published patients, (7,8,10,11) an intriguing asymmetry was observed in at least 5 of our patients manifesting as asymmetric weaker upper limb elevation or scapular winging, associated in 1 patient with facial weakness leading initially to a clinical diagnosis of FSHD. Thus, the presence of an asymmetric muscle involvement in a patient with glycogen storage myopathy should prompt GYG1 gene analysis.

Cardiac involvement has to be evaluated with care. A patient previously reported (6) developed ventricular fibrillation since age 19 years, which required implantable cardiac defibrillator. Among the 18 other published cases, 11 had normal cardiac assessments, while 7 had variable and inconclusive cardiac abnormalities usually at advanced ages and sometimes with clear coronary arteries or high blood pressure diseases. (7–12) These findings are similar to those of our patients. Recently, a series of 3 patients with GYG1 mutation with severe cardiac affections but with no skeletal muscular involvement was published, (14) suggesting that distinct phenotypes with cardiac or skeletal muscle involvement exist, which could relate to the mutation type.

All of our biopsied patients exhibited inclusions containing PAS-positive material partially resistant to α-amylase and abnormally structured glycogen suggesting polyglucosan bodies. This is similar to 17 of the 20 previously reported patients, in whom a major finding was the presence of inclusions in the center and subsarcolemmal regions of up to 50% of the fibers, containing a partially α-amylase–resistant PAS-positive material. Inclusions surrounded by normal glycogen content were visualized in some fibers. In other fibers, a depletion of normal glycogen was observed around the inclusions. Similar to previously reported cases, (7,12) some of our patients showed occasionally atypical features such as nemaline rods and increased interstitial connective and fat tissues. It is worthy to note that among those patients who had abnormal PAS-positive inclusions, 2 had a first muscle biopsy which was either normal (10) or showed nonspecific myopathic features. (9) Moreover, there are 2 patients who showed nonspecific myopathic changes without inclusions or polyglucosan bodies. (9,11) These atypical features emphasize the benefit of repeating muscle biopsy when the diagnosis has not formerly been established.

The fact that mutations in 1 gene may lead to such various clinical patterns is one of the intriguing results
that arise from our study. From this point of view, the mutation c.143+3G>C seems to be particularly demonstrative. Clinically, all the previously reported 11 patients carrying the homozygous c.143+3G>C mutation had a proximal pattern similar to the one observed in the 2 affected patients from our family B. However, there is a great heterogeneity at least in terms of age at disease onset among individuals carrying this homozygous mutation. In fact, the 2 patients from family B had a teenage onset, while their younger brother is still asymptomatic, suggesting incomplete penetrance of this mutation. By contrast, the age at onset of the disease in the 11 published patients carrying this homozygous mutation ranged from childhood to 55 years old. A muscle complementary DNA study from our patient B-1 revealed not only the mRNA with exon 2 skipped as previously described but also the normal one. This new finding can explain faint traces of protein observed in patient B-1 myoblasts on Western blot and in the different muscle biopsies of patients of family C, suggesting variable levels of mRNA splicing in these tissues. We speculate that the level of normal transcript expression may modulate the deleterious effect of glycogenin-1 deficiency and therefore the age at onset and symptom intensity. Moreover, this balance between the 2 forms seems variable among individuals.

In our series, the c.143+3G>C mutation was also found in a compound heterozygous state combined with the new nonsense c.646C>T mutation (p.Arg216*) or the new out-of-frame 10 bp deletion c.996_1005del10 (p.Tyr332*). The c.646C>T mutation may result in a complete absence of protein production through an mRNA nonsense-mediated decay phenomenon. The total absence of glycogenin-1 on Western blot found in myoblasts from patient A-1 reinforces the notion of such a mechanism. On the other hand, a Western blot study of patient A-1 carries the notion of such a mechanism. On the other hand, a Western blot study of patient A-1 reveals the shorter form related to p.Tyr332 without muscle biopsies from patients C-1 and C-2 revealed the presence of 2 unglycosylated glycogenin-1 bands without α-amylase treatment, probably the normal form and the shorter form related to p.Tyr332*. This result is comparable with a Western blot finding from a previously reported patient 7° carrying the c.143+3G>C mutation and the nonsense c.970C>T (p.Arg324*), which also showed 2 unglycosylated glycogenin-1 bands without α-amylase treatment. Based on this observation, we speculate that this shorter protein had different deleterious effects on the normal one resulting from the c.143+3G>C mutation. We hypothesize that truncated GYG1 protein impairs normal autoglucosylation of the normal form. Different phenotypes could be explained by imbalance in the production of normal mRNA, mRNA with exon 2 skipped, and truncated mRNA. The more this shorter protein is abundant, the more distal the phenotype seems to be. Clearly, these mutations need to be more deeply investigated at mRNA, protein, and functional levels to help us better understand their phenotypic consequences.

Our findings demonstrate that GYG1 mutations may lead to a wide spectrum of clinical phenotypes including limb-girdle and scapuloperoneal muscle weaknesses but also late-onset distal myopathy. This study also highlighted the value of glycogenin-1 protein and mRNA studies to better understand the phenotype/genotype correlations in this group of diseases.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
The authors thank Nicolas Levy for his contribution to molecular investigations.

DISCLOSURE
R. Ben Yau, A. Hubert, I. Nelson, and J. Dahlqvist report no disclosures. D. Gait has received honoraria from AstraZeneca and has received research support from the Danish Cancer Society. N. Streichenberger and M. Beuvin report no disclosures. M. Krahn has served on the editorial board of Cahiers de Myologie; holds patents for “Exon-skipping for dystrophinopathies therapy” and “In vitro genetic diagnostic of inherited neuromuscular disorders”; and has received research support from the European Community Seventh Framework Program, INSERM, and AFM-TELETHON. P. Pietro, F. Parisot, and F. Michel report no disclosures. E. Malfatti has served on the editorial board of Frontiers in Neurology. N. Romero reports no disclosures. R. Carlier has received speaker honoraria from Genzyme. B. Eymard has been a consultant for conferences of LFB, Biogen and BioMarin companies and has received research support from Association Francaise contre les myopathies (AFM). P. Labrune and M. Duno report no disclosures. T. Krag has received research support from AP Moller Foundations, the Augustinus Foundation, and the Danieisen Foundation. M. Cerino and M. Bartoli report no disclosures. G. Bonne has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Neuromuscular Diseases and Neuromuscular Disorders and has received research support from the ANR French-German grant (ANR-BMBF), Association Institut de Myologie (AIM), GIS Maladies Rares “Plateforme Mutations,” and the CURE-CMD Translational Award. J. Vissing has served on the scientific advisory boards of Sanofi/Genzyme, aTyr Pharma, Ultragynex Pharmaceuticals, Santhera Pharmaceuticals, Sarepta Therapeutics, Noveo Nordisk, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, and Stealth BioTherapeutics; has received travel funding and speaker honoraria from Sanofi/Genzyme, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Ultragynex Pharmaceuticals, Santhera Pharmaceuticals, and aTyr Pharma; has served on the editorial boards of Neuromuscular Disorders and the Journal of Neuromuscular Diseases; and has received research support from the Lundbeck Foundation, the Novo foundation, the Danish Medical Research Council, the University of Copenhagen, and the Research Committee of the National Hospital. P. Laforet is a member of the Sanofi Genzyme Pompe advisory board; has received travel funding and speaker honoraria from Sanofi Genzyme; and has received research support from Sanofi.
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