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Novel NaPi-IIc mutations causing HHRH and idiopathic hypercalciuria in several unrelated families: long-term follow-up in one kindred

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Abstract

Homozygous and compound heterozygous mutations in *SLC34A3*, the gene encoding the sodium-dependent co-transporter NaPi-IIc, cause hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria (HHRH), a disorder characterized by renal phosphate-wasting resulting in hypophosphatemia, elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels, hypercalciuria, rickets/osteomalacia, and frequently kidney stones or nephrocalcinosis. Similar albeit less severe biochemical changes are also observed in heterozygous carriers, which are furthermore indistinguishable from those encountered in idiopathic hypercalciuria (IH). We now searched for *SLC34A3* mutations (exons and introns) in two previously not reported HHRH kindreds, which resulted in the identification of three novel mutations. The affected members of kindred A were compound heterozygous for two different mutations, c.1046_47del and the intronic mutation c.560+23_561-42del, while the index case in kindred B was homozygous for the nonsense *SLC34A3* mutation c.1764C>G (p.Y588X). The patient in kindred C was diagnosed with IH because of bilateral medullary nephrocalcinosis,

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WEB RESOURCES

1000 Genomes Project, <http://www.1000genomes.org/>

dbSNP, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/>

Mayo Clinic, Mayo Medical Laboratories, <http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/>

NIH Clinical Center, <http://cclinprod.cc.nih.gov/dlm/testguide.nsf/Index/1D336E0232533D3285256B9C0059ECEA>

Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim>

NCBI Reference Sequence, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/RefSeq/>

The Sequence Manipulation Suite, <http://www.bioinformatics.org/sms/>

University of California-Santa Cruz (UCSC) Human Genome Browser, <http://genome.ucsc.edu/>

suppressed PTH levels, and hypercalciuria; she was found to have a novel heterozygous c.1571_1880del mutation. The HHRH patients in kindred A were treated for up to 7 years with oral phosphate, which led to reversal of hypophosphatemia, hypercalciuria, and prevention or healing of the mild bone abnormalities. PTH levels were normal throughout the observation period, while 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels remained elevated and may thus be helpful for assessing treatment efficacy and patient compliance in HHRH.

1. INTRODUCTION

Phosphate is essential for numerous cellular processes, DNA synthesis, and it is part of structural hydroxyapatite, thereby providing strength to the skeleton, which furthermore serves as a reservoir for this mineral [1]. Intestinal phosphate absorption occurs through paracellular, as well as active transcellular mechanisms involving the sodium-dependent phosphate co-transporter NaPi-IIb (*SLC34A2*) [2,3]. In the proximal tubules of the kidney, two closely related transporters, namely NaPi-IIa (*SLC34A1*) [4] and NaPi-IIc (*SLC34A3*) [5] reabsorb more than 70% of filtered phosphate. Expression of both transporters at the brush border membrane is directly or indirectly influenced by two phosphaturic hormones, parathyroid hormone (PTH) and fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23), and possibly by the biologically active form of vitamin D, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D [6].

NaPi-IIa and NaPi-IIc functions have been extensively studied through different *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches. For example, studies in rodents have shown that injection of PTH rapidly reduces expression of NaPi-IIa and with some delay NaPi-IIc [7], while FGF23 requires several hours before a significant decrease in serum phosphate levels can be observed [8,9]. Furthermore, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D was previously shown to regulate expression of NaPi-IIa in juxtamedullary kidney cortex, but not in the superficial cortex [6]; the role of 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D in the regulation of NaPi-IIc has not yet been investigated. Although the ablation of NaPi-IIc provided no clear evidence for a role of this transporter in renal phosphate handling [5], the combined ablation of NaPi-IIa and NaPi-IIc revealed that both transporters have an important role in maintaining rodent serum phosphorus levels within normal limits [10].

However, most significant insights into the importance of NaPi-IIc in human phosphate homeostasis were obtained by revealing that inactivating mutations on both parental alleles are the cause of hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria (HHRH; OMIM: 241530) [11-13]. HHRH was first defined as a distinct disorder when Tieder et al. reported a Bedouin kindred, in which consanguinity suggested an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance [14,15]. Individuals affected by HHRH, who carry homozygous or compound heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutations, show increased urinary phosphate excretion leading to hypophosphatemic rickets, bowing, and short stature, as well as elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels leading to hypercalciuria because of enhanced intestinal absorption of calcium and reduced PTH-dependent calcium-reabsorption in the distal renal tubules. Heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutations are frequently associated with hypercalciuria, but none of the heterozygous carriers of the originally described HHRH patients had renal calcifications and kidney stones [14,15]; subsequent investigations, however, revealed renal complications in numerous patients with homozygous or compound heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutations [13,16-21]. The presence of kidney stones or nephrocalcinosis in HHRH kindreds is different from the findings in FGF23-dependent hypophosphatemic disorders such as X-linked hypophosphatemia (XLH; mutant PHEX) [22], autosomal dominant hypophosphatemia (ADHR; mutant FGF23) [23], or autosomal recessive hypophosphatemia (ARHR; mutant DMP1 or ENPP1) [24-26], in which affected individuals show inappropriately normal or suppressed 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels despite significant

hypophosphatemia and thus no increase in urinary calcium excretion (at least prior to treatment with oral phosphate) [12,27].

Based on the underlying molecular defect that results in an FGF23-independent increase in urinary phosphate excretion, HHRH is thought to require a different therapeutic approach than FGF23-dependent hypophosphatemic disorders such as XLH. While oral phosphate supplements in combination with active vitamin D analogs are generally required for the treatment in the latter disorder [28], treatment with phosphate supplements alone is deemed sufficient for individuals with HHRH [14,15]; particularly since endogenously elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels are predicted to prevent an increase in PTH secretion triggered by intermittent elevations in serum phosphate. In fact, therapy of HHRH patients with oral phosphate alone raises blood phosphate levels and is generally successful in resolving acute symptoms and abnormal bone mineralization, but no long-term follow-up studies exist evaluating the efficacy of this therapeutic approach. Despite persistent hypophosphatemia, phosphate treatment usually also leads to an improvement of the rachitic bone changes in XLH, yet it is well established that these patients often develop secondary or tertiary hyperparathyroidism when treated with oral phosphate alone [29]. Similar data evaluating outcomes in HHRH are lacking and it is conceivable that long-term oral phosphate supplementation of HHRH patients may affect parathyroid function and/or increase the risk for the development of nephrocalcinosis and kidney stones by increasing the urinary phosphate load, even if treatment with activated vitamin, which may worsen the degree of hypercalciuria, is avoided [16,18,30].

We here describe two previously not reported HHRH kindreds, in whom we discovered novel homozygous and compounded heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutations. Occurrence of renal calcifications as the initial finding in a third unrelated patient with a heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutation strengthens previous observations suggesting an increased risk for nephrocalcinosis and renal stones in this population. Follow-up of the three affected members in one of these families allowed us to assess the efficacy of standard oral phosphate supplementation with regard to skeletal and laboratory findings.

2. METHODS

2.1. Laboratory Assays

With the exception of genetic analyses, all laboratory studies were performed at local laboratories (normal ranges are provided in parenthesis after each value). Initial laboratory tests were done for each patient before oral phosphate supplements were administered. The 25(OH) vitamin D levels were measured by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectroscopy or chemiluminescence immunoassay, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels by radioimmunoassay or enzyme-linked immunoassay. Serum intact PTH levels were determined by electrochemiluminescence immunoassay and FGF23 level were measured by c-terminal FGF23 ELISA (Immutopics, San Clemente, CA). The renal tubular reabsorption of phosphorus was calculated using the following formula: %TRP = $100 \times (1 - (\text{urine phosphorus} \times \text{serum creatinine}) / (\text{serum phosphorus} \times \text{urine creatinine}))$; when serum phosphorus is below the reference range for age, %TRP should be above 90. TmP/GFR was estimated using the Walton and Bijvoet nomogram [31,32].

2.2. SLC34A3 genetic analysis

Mutational and haplotype analysis of *SLC34A3* was performed after informed written consent was obtained using forms approved by the institutional review board of Massachusetts General Hospital. The entire *SLC34A3* gene, including approximately 800 bp 5' of the transcriptional start site, all intervening sequences and approximately 200 bp of the

3' UTR, was amplified by PCR from genomic DNA of the index cases (A/II-3, B/II-2, C/II-3), followed by nucleotide sequence analysis at the Massachusetts General Hospital DNA Sequencing Core Facility or at Genewiz Inc. (Cambridge, MA). PCR assays to confirm the findings in index cases and to analyze family members and controls were designed as described [11,12] using Qiagen reagents (Valencia, CA) at standard PCR cycling conditions. The following primers were used for c.1046_47del: 5'-CTCTGACCTCTGTCTGCC-3' and 5'-GGAAGGGGAAGTCTATGG-3', followed by nucleotide sequence analysis; for c.560+23_561-42del: 5'-AGCATGGTGGCTGCTAAGC-3' and 5'-GGGTGTCAGGCTGGCGGC-3', and for c.1571_1880del: 5'-CATCCAATTCTTCTCAACCTG-3' and 5'-CCATTCCTGGGAGCTTC-3', both latter amplicons were separated by 3% agarose TAE gel electrophoresis to detect mutant alleles that are shortened by 30 and 310 bp, respectively. The primers for c.1764C>G were 5'-GCTCCTTCTGTAGGGTGGAG-3' and 5'-AAGCAGGTGACCGGAGG-3', followed by restriction enzymatic digestion with *Bfa*I, resulted in the generation of two fragments (520 bp and 142 bp, respectively), whereas the PCR product derived from the wild-type allele revealed a single band of 662 bp.

Searches of NCBI-dbSNP [33] and the 1000 genomes project [34] were negative for the identified mutations. GenBank accession numbers for *SLC34A3* are as follows: genomic contig NT_024000.15; cDNA, NM_080877.1; protein, NP_543153.1.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Kindred A

The 8 year old index case A/II-3 was referred to S.R.S. for evaluation of bowed legs. With the exception of an uncomplicated clavicular fracture as a toddler, childhood development was within normal limits. Physical examination confirmed genu valgum without evidence for pain or swelling, but revealed no additional skeletal findings.

The initial laboratory testing (Fig. 1) showed a low serum phosphorus level of 1.17 mmol/L (1.45-1.78 mmol/L) and an elevated alkaline phosphatase of 496 U/L (86-315 U/L) with normal serum calcium, creatinine, PTH and 25(OH) vitamin D levels. Despite hypophosphatemia, tubular reabsorption of phosphate (TRP) was decreased at 75% (>90%) and the maximal renal phosphate reabsorption per glomerular filtration rate (TmP/GFR) was low at 0.86 mmol/L (1.51-2.18 mmol/L), which was consistent with renal phosphate wasting. Inappropriately low tubular reabsorption of phosphate along with an appropriately elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D level of 260 pmol/L (40-140 pmol/L) raised the suspicion for HHRH. A subsequently obtained 24-hour-urine collection showed an elevated level of urinary calcium excretion (0.13 mmol/kg/day; normal: 0.05-0.1 mmol/kg/day); the urinary calcium/creatinine ratio was elevated at 0.97 mmol/mmol (0.03-0.71 mmol/mmol). Urine analysis showed no evidence for glucose, protein, or amino acids; serum bicarbonate level was within normal limits. Radiographs of both knees revealed valgus deformity and generalized osteopenia with numerous transversely oriented reinforcement lines in the medullary portions of the distal femora and proximal tibiae, as evidence for previous intermittent mineralization defects (Suppl. Fig. 1).

Laboratory investigations of the patient's four siblings were conducted, which revealed no abnormalities for his sister (A/II-1) and one of his brothers (A/II-2). The affected brothers, A/II-4 and A/II-5, were asymptomatic and showed no evidence for bowing. Radiographic evaluation, however, revealed multiple growth arrest lines and demineralization consistent with hypophosphatemic rickets. Both children showed biochemical abnormalities including hypophosphatemia, hypercalciuria, and increased 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels (Fig.1). The non-consanguineous parents were found to be healthy and their laboratory results were

within normal limits, with the exception of a slightly reduced serum phosphorus level of the father (0.82 mmol/L; normal: 0.85-1.52 mmol/L).

Treatment of A/II-3 with oral phosphate supplements (250 mg bid; 20 mg/kg/day) was started at the age of 9^{1/12} years; the dose was slowly increased to 40 mg/kg/day (divided into three doses). Similar treatment was initiated for A/II-4 and A/II-5, which led to normalization of serum phosphorus levels and urinary calcium excretion in all three children; PTH and 25(OH) vitamin D remained within normal limits. Conversely, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels remained elevated in all three individuals (Fig. 2A-F), while alkaline phosphatase activity normalized in A/II-4 and A/II-5, but increased during puberty in A/II-3. After improving serum phosphorus levels, A/II-3 showed some catch-up growth from the 3rd to the 25th percentile; if growth continues along this percentile he would reach the mid-parental height. There was no change in growth velocity for A/II-5, who continued growth along the 3rd percentile after oral phosphate supplements had been started. A/II-4 showed only mild improvement in growth velocity; 5th to the 10th percentile (data not shown). No episodes of hematuria were reported for the three affected members and screening by renal ultrasound showed no evidence for nephrolithiasis.

3.2. Kindred B

The index case (B/II-2) was evaluated for non-specific bone pain in her native country as a toddler. After immigrating at the age of 5 years with her family to the United States of America, she again came to medical attention for bilateral genu valgus. At the age of 7 years, laboratory evaluation revealed hypophosphatemia, decreased 25(OH) vitamin D levels, and elevated alkaline phosphatase levels. At the age of 8 years, an eight-plate was placed to correct alignment without compressing the growth plate, and was removed one year later. She was initially treated with ergocalciferol and calcium carbonate for suspected vitamin D deficiency, which resulted in normalization of her 25(OH) vitamin D levels, but did not correct her hypophosphatemia. When she was referred at the age of 11 years to N.D., hypercalciuria was noted leading to the presumptive diagnosis of HHRH and she was started on 1000 mg K-Phos tid.

The patient's maternal great-grandmother and paternal grandfather were siblings. Her father's height is 172.7 cm, he has no evidence for bowed legs and no history of bone pain, but had previously passed a calcium oxalate stone. Laboratory investigations showed a low serum phosphorus level (0.74 mmol/L; normal: 0.81-1.45 mmol/L), low 25(OH) vitamin D (21 nmol/L; normal: 80-250 nmol/L) and decreased TRP (81.4%, normal: >90%) as well as a low TmP/GFR of 0.6 mmol/L (0.63-1.32mmol/L). The patient's mother is healthy, her height is 165.1 cm and she has no history of bone or kidney disease; the two siblings of B/II-2 showed some biochemical abnormalities (Fig. 1).

At presentation to our hospital (A.S.) she was 12^{4/12} years old, her height was 152.4 cm (54th percentile) and her weight 74 kilogram (>97th percentile). Physical examination revealed no bony abnormalities for the upper extremities with normal range of motion and strength, but the lower extremities showed scars from prior surgery and marked genu valgum with intramedullary distance of 12 cm. A renal ultrasound was significant for nephrocalcinosis (data not shown).

Laboratory evaluation revealed a low serum phosphorus level of 0.97 mmol/L (1.23-1.62 mmol/L) and an elevated alkaline phosphatase level of 470 U/L (15-350 U/L). Her 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D level was elevated to 294 pmol/L (62-224 pmol/L), while the 25(OH) vitamin D level was at 30 nmol/L (82-250 nmol/L). Serum calcium, PTH, and creatinine were within normal limits, as was c-terminal FGF23 (68 RU/ml; normal: <230 RU/ml).

Urine analysis revealed a TRP of only 56.6% (>90%) and a low TmP/GFR of 0.75 mmol/L (1.14-2.13 mmol/L). The urinary calcium/creatinine ratio was slightly elevated at 0.71 mmol/mmol (0.03-0.68 mmol/mmol), but there was no evidence for generalized tubular dysfunction as indicated by the lack of proteinuria, glucosuria, or aminoaciduria, and a normal serum bicarbonate level.

3.3. Kindred C

The index case (C/II-3) was referred to T.S. at the age of 7^{10/12} years, because of abdominal pain over the flank area for the past year, which prompted ultrasonographic studies revealing bilateral medullary nephrocalcinosis (Suppl. Fig. 2). Her history was otherwise unremarkable except for increased urinary frequency and mild asthma. There was no history of macroscopic hematuria, passage of stones/gravel or urinary tract infection. The family history was significant for the maternal grandfather being diagnosed with kidney stones and Crohn's disease; other members of the father's family had been diagnosed with what was referred to as "nephritis". The older brother was found to have hypercalciuria when he was evaluated for discomfort with urination two years prior to the presentation of the index case; subsequent evaluations showed normal urinary calcium excretion. Both parents and the older sister are healthy without urinary symptoms, stones, osteopenia and/or bone fractures.

The patient's height at presentation was 123.9 cm (30th percentile), weight 23.6 kg (34th percentile), and BMI 15.4 kg/m². Laboratory studies revealed normal levels for calcium, phosphorus, alkaline phosphatase, creatinine, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D and 25(OH) vitamin D. PTH was below the normal range (0.6 pmol/L; normal: 0.7-7.5 pmol/L) and c-terminal FGF23 was within the normal range (109 RU/ml; normal: <230 RU/ml). The urinary calcium/creatinine ratio was elevated at 0.93 mmol/mmol (0.03-0.71 mmol/mmol), TRP was 86% (>90% in the setting of hypophosphatemia) and TmP/GFR was at the lower end of the normal range at 1.5 mmol/L (1.45-2.46 mmol/L). A 24-hour urine collection with simultaneous blood evaluation for nephrocalcinosis made primary hyperoxaluria, Dent's disease, renal tubular acidosis, hypophosphatasia, and an activating mutation in calcium-sensing receptor unlikely; familial hypomagnesemia with hypercalciuria as the cause of nephrocalcinosis was equally unlikely. The patient's hypercalciuria was treated symptomatically with Amiloride and potassium citrate. On this therapy her laboratory studies were: calcium, 2.55 mmol/L; phosphorus, 1.71 mmol/L; magnesium, 0.9 mmol/L; bicarbonate, 29 mmol/L; alkaline phosphatase, 241 U/L; creatinine, 61.9 μmol/L; 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D, 120 pmol/L; and 25(OH) vitamin D, 130 nmol/L. The serum PTH was at the lower end of the normal range with 1.5 pmol/L (1.5-6.5 pmol/L). The repeat TRP measurement was 76%, a fasting TmP/GFR was low at 1.2 mmol/L (1.45-2.46 mmol/L). The urinary calcium/creatinine ratio was elevated at 0.76 mmol/mmol (0.03-0.71 mmol/mmol) with an excretion of 0.12 mmol/kg/day. The renal ultrasound revealed no change in the medullary nephrocalcinosis. The increase in urine phosphorus excretion despite a low serum PTH level, associated with an 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D at the upper end of the normal range and increased urine calcium excretion led us to search for a defect in one of the sodium-phosphate co-transporters.

3.4. Mutational Analysis

Mutational analysis of the *SLC34A3* gene for individuals A/II-3, A/II-4 and A/II-5 revealed compound heterozygosity for two novel mutations: c.1046_47del and c.560+23_561-42del (Fig. 1). c.1046_47del leads to a frame-shift in exon 10 of *SLC34A3*, while the consequences of c.560+23_561-42del in intron 6 are uncertain, but may involve alternative splicing as has been reported for other intronic *SLC34A3* deletions [13]. c.1046_47del was inherited from the healthy mother A/I-2, while c.560+23_561-42del was inherited from the

father A/I-1. The unaffected siblings A/II-1 and A/II-2 are each carriers of either one of the two mutations.

Consistent with consanguinity of her parents, patient B/II-2 was found to be homozygous for a novel missense mutation in exon 13 (c.1764C>G; p.Y588X) (Fig. 1), which prematurely terminates the open reading-frame 12 amino acids before the natural termination codon. The c.1764C>G p.Y588X nucleotide change introduces a novel *Bfa*I endonuclease restriction site, which permitted confirmation of the results obtained by nucleotide sequence analysis and showed that her parents and her two siblings are heterozygous carrier of the mutation. B/II-2 was furthermore homozygous for several known single nucleotide polymorphisms throughout *SLC34A3* (Suppl. Fig. 3).

Patient C/II-3 revealed a novel heterozygous deletion of 310 bp in exon 13 (c.1571_1880del), but no evidence for a mutation on the second allele. c.1571_1880del is predicted to change the NaPi-IIc co-transporter protein after amino acid residue 523, followed by 13 unrelated amino acids and a termination codon. The deletion was also identified in her father C/I-2. Several known heterozygous and homozygous polymorphisms were found throughout the gene (Suppl. Fig. 3). One of the heterozygous polymorphisms (rs34372115; c.200G/A), which changes arginine 67 to histidine (R67H), has a minor allele frequency of only 8.6-15% [34] and thus could have represented the second mutation; however, it was inherited paternally on the same allele as c.1571_1880del.

4. DISCUSSION

The index cases in kindreds A and B showed hypophosphatemia due to increased urinary phosphate excretion, normal calcium, and normal or suppressed PTH levels, thus excluding hyperparathyroidism. In response to the hypophosphatemia, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels were appropriately increased and normal FGF23 levels made FGF23-dependent causes of increased urinary phosphate excretion unlikely. Furthermore, urinary calcium excretion was increased, presumably because of 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D-mediated enhanced intestinal calcium absorption, but there was no evidence for generalized renal tubular defects, i.e. metabolic acidosis, aminoaciduria, glucosuria, or hematuria. Based on the laboratory and radiographic findings, the diagnosis of HHRH was considered and confirmed through the identification of previously not reported mutations in *SLC34A3*/NaPi-IIc that are predicted to affect co-transporter function and thus likely lead to impaired phosphate reabsorption in the renal proximal tubules. The identified *SLC34A3*/NaPi-IIc mutations co-segregate with biochemical and clinical abnormalities in the respective kindreds and were not found in publically available SNP databases, including the 1000 genomes project, making it likely that these are the causes of HHRH.

In family A, we discovered two novel compound heterozygous mutations: c.1046_47del and c.560+23_561-42del, which are predicted to severely alter or abolish NaPi-IIc function. One of the two mutations, c.560+23_561-42del, deletes 30 bp in intron 6, which may result in abnormal spliceosome assembly [35], and may lead to non-sense mediated decay of the mRNA, as has been described previously for deletions in intron 9 and 10 [13]. The change in open reading frame caused by the second mutation, c.1046_47del, introduces 242 novel amino acid residues in the C-terminal portion, which have no homology with proteins in the RefSeq database and likely impair function of the NaPi-IIc co-transporter, or lead to non-sense mediated decay of the mRNA. Likewise, the homozygous mutation c.1764C>G (p.Y588X) in exon 13 found in the index case of kindred B, most likely provides a molecular explanation for her HHRH. This mutation changes tyrosine at position 588 at the C-terminal end to a termination codon thus deleting the terminal 12 amino acids of the co-transporter protein. The equivalent C-terminal portion of the closely related NaPi-IIa

contains a class 1 PDZ binding domain (TRL), which interacts with several sodium hydrogen exchange regulatory factors (NHERF) [36-39]. Although NaPi-IIc lacks a PDZ binding domain, interaction with NHERF1 and NHERF3 has been reported, raising the possibility that the identified mutation impairs this interaction [40,41]. Functional evaluation of c.1764C>G (p.Y588X) in *Xenopus* oocytes has not been performed, but a mutation (p.V446Stop) that we recently reported in an unrelated kindred leads to a complete loss of [P³²]-transport in support of this conclusion [19].

The deletion of 310 bp in exon 13, c1571_1880del detected in C/II-3, is predicted to cause a frame-shift and thus likely results in a truncated and presumably nonfunctional protein or in non-sense mediated decay of the mRNA. This deletion was identified on the paternal allele, while there was no evidence for a second mutation on the maternal allele. Consistent with the lack of a second mutation, patient C/II-3 showed only hypercalciuria and biochemical findings suggestive of a PTH- and FGF23-independent renal phosphate leak.

Kindred A further supports the notion that HHRH is frequently caused by compound heterozygous NaPi-IIc mutations. This suggests either that *SLC34A3*/NaPi-IIc has a high mutation frequency or that heterozygous carrier status may be relatively frequent in the population, as also illustrated in C/II-3 and other previously described patients [13,16,18-21,30]. The subtle proximal tubular abnormalities associated with heterozygous carrier status in the original Bedouin kindred were initially not thought to increase the risk for kidney stones [13]. However, several heterozygous carriers of *SLC34A3* mutations in subsequently investigated HHRH kindreds revealed kidney stones, nephrolithiasis, and/or increased urinary calcium excretion, similar to the findings in C/II-3 [16,18,30]. At least certain heterozygous *SLC34A3* mutations may thus increase the relative risk for developing nephrocalcinosis and/or kidney stones, which frequently occur in the general population. Alternatively, it is possible that a *SLC34A3* mutation was missed for C/II-3 on the second allele, or that other genetic modifiers of renal phosphate handling, for example NHERF-1 or *SLC34A1*/NaPi-IIa, carry additional nucleotide sequence variations in this individual.

Improvement of rachitic changes in XLH are often observed despite persistent hypophosphatemia, while oversupplementation or treatment with oral phosphate alone may cause secondary or tertiary hyperparathyroidism [29]. Likewise in HHRH patients therapy with oral phosphate supplements alone is generally effective in resolving bone pain and abnormal mineralization, and it was shown to reverse most biochemical abnormalities, except the decrease in TmP/GFR [14]. However, there are no long-term studies documenting that treatment of HHRH patients with oral phosphate alone is efficacious and safe. In fact, it is unknown whether secondary hyperparathyroidism can develop as reported in FGF23-dependent renal phosphate-wasting disorders such as XLH [42], whether 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels or other parameters remain abnormal in this group of patients, or whether an increased urinary phosphate load can lead to renal calcifications.

Based on biochemical follow-up data that were available for the affected members in kindred A (A/II-3, A/II-4 and A/II-5), oral phosphate supplement resulted in normalization of serum phosphorus and urine calcium levels, while there was no evidence for the development of secondary hyperparathyroidism over the course of up to 7 years. Alkaline phosphatase levels normalized in A/II-4 and A/II-5 over the course of therapy, but improved only partially in A/II-3 and increased during pubertal development, which could be indicative of skeletal growth, since catch-up growth and follow-up X-rays suggest that his rickets had healed. Despite improvement of most abnormalities with oral phosphate treatment, all three affected siblings had persistently elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels. It is therefore conceivable that higher daily doses and/or more frequent administration of

phosphate are needed to suppress the 1-alpha-hydroxylase and/or that our patients were not fully compliant with their supplements.

To monitor compliance with oral phosphate supplements, measurement of 24 hour urinary phosphate excretion is usually performed; this requires, however, considerable cooperation of the often pediatric patients. In HHRH patients, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels are typically elevated because hypophosphatemia increases renal 1-alpha-hydroxylase activity without abatement by elevated FGF23 levels. In fact, FGF23 levels should be suppressed due to the primary renal defect in *SLC34A3/NaPi-IIc*, which is responsible for increased urinary phosphate excretion in HHRH; however, current FGF23 assays are not sufficiently sensitive to distinguish normal from suppressed levels. Our observations in kindred A thus suggest that measurement of 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels, a widely available test, can be helpful for monitoring therapy and compliance. Since 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D stimulates FGF23 production, which could lead to a further increase in urinary phosphate excretion, normalization of this parameter may be an important goal and further improve outcomes.

In summary, we have identified four novel mutations in *SLC34A3/NaPi-IIc* in two unrelated HHRH kindreds and a case of IH with bilateral nephrocalcinosis. Follow-up of the three affected cases in kindred A suggests that sole therapy with oral phosphate supplements resolved or improved hypophosphatemia, hypercalciuria, and prevented progression or development of skeletal abnormalities without increasing PTH levels. In the absence of other biomarkers, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels may be a helpful laboratory parameter for assessing the treatment efficacy and compliance.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Three novel NaPi-IIc/*SLC34A3* mutations causing HHRH and one novel mutation in this gene causing IH
- Long-term follow up during treatment with oral phosphate
- Persistent elevation of 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels

	A/I-1	A/I-2	A/II-1	A/II-2	A/II-3	A/II-4	A/II-5	B/I-1	B/II-1	B/II-2	B/II-3	C/II-3
Age [years]	43	40	15	12	8	6	2	46	15	12	7	7
Calcium _{tot} [mmol/L]	2.34 (2.1-2.56)	2.26 (2.1-2.56)	2.14 (2.1-2.56)	2.29 (2.1-2.56)	2.55 (2.15-2.7)	2.43 (2.15-2.7)	2.6 (2.15-2.7)	2.35 (2.18-2.55)	2.58 (2.23-2.6)	2.43 (2.1-2.6)	2.53 (2.28-2.63)	2.38 (2.15-2.63)
Calcium _{free} [mmol/L]	1.21 (1.21-1.34)	1.3 (1.21-1.34)	1.24 (1.21-1.34)	1.31 (1.21-1.34)	1.25 (1.21-1.34)	1.21 (1.21-1.34)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Phosphorus [mmol/L]	0.82 (0.85-1.52)	0.85 (0.85-1.52)	1.21 (0.85-1.52)	1.52 (0.85-1.52)	1.17 (1.45-1.78)	1.16 (1.45-1.78)	1.2 (1.45-1.78)	0.74 (0.81-1.45)	1.29 (0.81-1.81)	0.97 (1.23-1.62)*	1.49 (0.8-2)	1.78 (0.97-1.94)
PTH [pmol/L]	3.2 (0.6-6.9)	5.9 (0.6-6.9)	2.5 (0.6-6.9)	3.1 (0.6-6.9)	1.2 (1.0-5.0)	1.9 (1.0-5.0)	3.6 (0.6-6.9)	5.1 (1.5-6.5)	2.7 (1.5-6.5)	2.7 (1.5-6.5)	2.1 (1.5-6.5)	0.6 (0.7-7.5)
ALP [U/L]	ND	68 (42-120)*	60 (50-162)*	292 (42-362)*	496 (86-315)*	362 (93-309)*	312 (104-345)*	79 (25-150)	178 (60-400)	470 (15-350)	253 (100-400)	92 (69-325)*
Creatinine [mmol/L]	100 (70-115)	86 (70-115)	61 (40-90)	64 (40-90)	64 (20-65)	33 (20-65)	31 (20-65)	79 (67-113)	79 (67-113)	50 (35-62)*	41 (33-55)	53 (35-71)
25(OH)D [nmol/L]	103 (-75)	86 (-75)	73 (25-250)	81 (25-250)	82 (25-250)	72 (25-600)	72 (25-600)	21 (80-250)	32 (80-250)	30 (80-250)	17 (80-250)	97 (50-250)
1,25(OH) ₂ D [pmol/L]	82 (39-193)	85 (39-193)	104 (39-193)	110 (39-193)	260 (40-140)	180 (40-140)	206 (40-140)	118 (26-195)	159 (26-195)	294 (62-224)	92 (26-195)	143 (70-185)
TRP [%]	ND	ND	ND	ND	75 (-90)	87.3 (-90)	ND	81.4 (-90)	91.2 (-90)	56.6 (-90)	86.8 (-90)	86 (-90)
TmP/GFR [mmol/L]	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.86 (1.51-2.18)	1.1 (1.48-2.46)	ND	0.6 (0.63-1.32)	1.34 (1.11-1.82)	0.75 (1.14-2.13)	1.36 (1.45-2.46)	1.5 (1.45-2.46)
Ca/Cr [mmol/mmol]	ND	ND	ND	ND	0.97 (0.03-0.71)*	1.34 (0.03-0.85)*	1.7 (0.06-1.41)*	0.34 (0.03-0.68)*	0.13 (0.03-0.68)*	0.71 (0.03-0.68)*	0.5 (0.03-0.71)*	0.93 (0.03-0.71)*
c.1046_47del	--	--	+	--	+	--	+	+	+	+	+	+
c.560+23_561-42del	--	+	--	--	--	+	--	+	--	--	--	--
c.1764C>G	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	+	+	+	+
c.1571_1880del	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Fig. 1. Laboratory findings in patients with hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria (HHRH) or idiopathic hypercalciuria (IH) caused by novel *SLC34A3* mutations Biochemical parameters for the index cases in kindreds A, B, and C were measured at the indicated ages before therapy was initiated. Age-related reference ranges in parentheses (*<http://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com/>, °<http://cclnprod.cc.nih.gov/dlm/testguide.nsf/Index/1D336E0232533D3285256B9C0059ECEA>, and respective clinical laboratories); age-related reference ranges for TmP/GFR and Ca/Cr are from [43] and [44], respectively. All abnormal values are shown in bold. Circles denote females, squares denote men. Black symbols indicate affected individuals, who presented with hypophosphatemia, hypercalciuria, elevated 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D levels, and skeletal findings consistent with rickets, while grey symbols indicate affected individuals, who had one or more of the above biochemical abnormalities. Open symbols indicate healthy individuals. Abbreviations are as follows: ALP, alkaline phosphatase; Ca/Cr= urinary calcium/creatinine ratio; n.d., not determined; PTH; parathyroid hormone; TmP/GFR, maximum tubular phosphate reabsorption per glomerular filtrate; TRP, tubular phosphate reabsorption; 1,25(OH)₂D, 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D; 25(OH)D, 25(OH) vitamin D

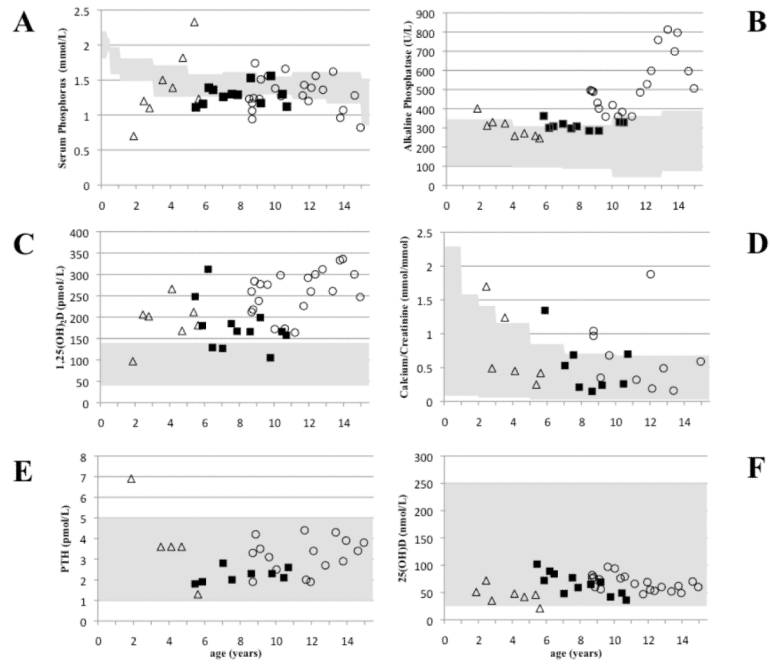


Fig. 2. Long-term follow-up of several laboratory parameters for the affected members in kindred A (II-3, II-4, and II-5)
 Serum phosphate (panel A); alkaline phosphatase (panel B), 1,25(OH)₂ vitamin D (panel C), urinary calcium/creatinine ratio (panel D), parathyroid hormone (panel E), and 25(OH) vitamin D (panel F).
 Grey areas indicate normal range, age-matched where indicated. Open circles, A/II-3; closed squares, A/II-4; open triangles, A/II-5.