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***LRRK2* Haplotype Analyses in European and North African Families with Parkinson Disease: A Common Founder for the G2019S Mutation Dating from the 13th Century**

To the Editor:

Parkinson disease [PD (MIM 168600)] is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder, characterized by resting tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, and gait disturbances. The *LRRK2* gene (GenBank accession number AY792511) was recently identified as being responsible for autosomal dominant PD (Paisan-Ruiz et al. 2004; Zimprich et al. 2004). Several groups have reported that a single pathogenic G6055A substitution (G2019S) in the *LRRK2* gene was associated with 3%–6% and 1%–2% of familial and sporadic PD, respectively (Di Fonzo et al. 2005; Gilks et al. 2005; Kachergus et al. 2005; Lesage et al. 2005; Nichols et al. 2005). In addition, Kachergus et al. (2005) demonstrated that, in 13 families of European descent, G2019S-mutation carriers shared a small ancestral haplotype, suggestive of a common founder.

In our sample of 198 affected probands from families with PD that is compatible with autosomal dominant inheritance, mostly from France and North Africa, we identified a total of 13 *LRRK2* G2019S-mutation carriers, one of whom was homozygous for this mutation. Five were of European descent (two from France and one each from Portugal, Belgium, and The Netherlands), one was from North America, and seven were from North Africa. Surprisingly, one 60-year-old healthy French control individual also carried the same mutation.

To determine whether a common haplotype was also shared by the G2019S carriers in our series, all available family members of the 14 *LRRK2*-positive families were genotyped for the 17 chromosome 12q microsatellite markers and four SNPs, described elsewhere (Kachergus et al. 2005), that span a 16-Mb region that includes the *LRRK2* gene. Seven markers (three microsatellites and four SNPs) were located within the gene. A total of 62 individuals were analyzed: 40 G2019S carriers (23 affected and 17 unaffected) and 22 noncarriers, 2 of whom were affected. The microsatellites were genotyped by mul-

tiplexing appropriate labeled primers. The fluorescent PCR products were then pooled for analysis, in two runs, on an ABI 3730 automated sequencer. Results were analyzed with GeneMapper 3.5 software (Applied Biosystems). Two DNA samples from CEPH reference families 1331-01 and 1331-02 were used as external standards, to control for consistency between runs. The four *LRRK2* SNPs were genotyped by using the SnapShot multiplex kit (Applied Biosystems), in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Haplotypes were constructed using the Merlin program (Abecasis et al. 2002; Center for Statistical Genetics), and their frequencies were estimated with the expectation-maximization algorithm (Excoffier and Slatkin 1995). The difference in haplotype distribution between mutation carriers and noncarriers was evaluated by χ^2 and Fisher's exact tests. Marker-allele frequencies and marker positions were described elsewhere (Kachergus et al. 2005). The age of the mutation was evaluated by estimating the age of the most recent common ancestor of the G2019S-mutation carriers on the basis of information from their shared haplotypes (Genin et al. 2004).

The *LRRK2* haplotype that was associated with the G2019S mutation in all families originating from Europe and North Africa (fig. 1) was consistent with that described by Kachergus et al. (2005). However, the shared region was smaller than the 145–154 kb previously published, which reduces the common haplotype to only 60 kb. This minimal haplotype (T-254-A-G-A-154) consisting of six adjacent markers spanning the region between SNP *rs7966550* (Entrez SNP) in exon 22 of the *LRRK2* gene and microsatellite marker *D12S2518* in intron 45 flanking the G2019S mutation in exon 41 was determined in French family 030, in which 29 members in two generations were available for study. Parental phases could also be unambiguously determined in six other families. In the remaining families, the haplotype could not be reconstructed unambiguously from the shared region, but the genotypes were all compatible with the presence of the common haplotype. In the majority of families, the shared region extended farther than the minimal haplotype, particularly 3' of the *LRRK2* gene, and independent of geographical origin. The common haplotype was also shared by five (24.7%) noncarriers of the G2019S mutation. However, the minimal haplotype was significantly more frequent in mutation

Marker	Family													
	030	212	755*	314	247	159	750	021	156	169	400**	134	411	163
<i>D12S87</i>	158	156	154	156/158	156/158	158	158	156	156/158	156/164	164	164	156/162	158/160
<i>D12S1648</i>	144	110	110	110/124	110/122	110	124/130	124	120/136	120/122	114/132	144	118/126	130/138
<i>D12S2080</i>	188	184/192	188	184/196	184/188	184	188/192	196	184	184	184/192	184	184/188	184/188
<i>D12S2194</i>	249	261	261	249/261	257/261	245/249	249/261	265	253/261	261/265	257/261	261	257	249/257
<i>D12S2514</i>	291	291	291	291	291/294	291/294	291	291	285/291	291/297	291	291	291/294	291
<i>D12S2515</i>	216	224	224	224	220/224	220	212/224	228	216/228	208/232	224	224	216/224	212/224
<i>rs7966550</i>	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
<i>D12S2516</i>	254	254	254	252/254	254	254	254	254	254	252/254	254	254	254/256	254
<i>rs1427263</i>	A	A	A	A/C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
<i>rs11176013</i>	G	G	G	A/G	A/G	G	A/G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
<i>rs11564148</i>	A	T/A	A	T/A	T/A	A	T/A	A	T/A	T/A	A	A	T/A	A
<i>D12S2518</i>	154	154	154	154/168	154	154	154	154	154	154/170	154	154	154	154
<i>D12S2519</i>	138	132	132	132/138	132	132	132/138	132	132/138	132/134	132/138	132/138	132/134	132
<i>D12S2520</i>	248	260	260	257/260	257/260	257/260	257/260	257	254/260	260	257/260	260	257/260	257/260
<i>D12S2521</i>	323	359	359	319/359	359/363	359/363	315/359	359	315/359	359/367	323/363	359	359/371	359/367
<i>D12S2522</i>	281	297	297	295/297	297	297	295/297	297	287/297	297/299	295/297	297	297	297
<i>D12S2523</i>	305	320	320	314/320	320	320	314/320	320	320/323	305/320	314/320	320	305/320	320
<i>D12S2517</i>	184	192	192	192/208	182/192	188/192	194/204	192	180/192	192/198	192/210	192	188/192	190/192
<i>D12S1048</i>	211	214	214	214/217	214	211/214	214/220	214	214/217	214/226	214/217	214	214/226	214/226
<i>D12S1301</i>	104	116	104	104/116	100/120	108/112	108	116	104/112	104/116	100/104	104	104/112	104/116
<i>D12S1701</i>	101	103	95	89/105	97	91/95	97/99	97	95/97	97/99	97/101	95	97/101	95/101
	France			The Netherlands	Portugal	Belgium	USA	Morocco			Algeria		Tunisia	
	European origin							North African origin						

Figure 1 Genotypes for chromosome 12q12 markers in the disease haplotype in subjects from 14 *LRRK2*-positive families. The sequences of the microsatellites and SNPs were from the GDB Human Genome Database and Entrez SNP, respectively. An asterisk (*) indicates an unaffected individual from the control population who carried the G2019S mutation. A double asterisk (**) indicates a homozygous G2019S carrier. For families in which phase could not be unambiguously determined, both alleles are shown. The haplotype shared by all G2019S carriers is highlighted in gray.

carriers (7/7) than in noncarriers (5/21) ($\chi^2 = 12.44$; $P < .001$), even when only the seven families in which the G2019S haplotype could be unambiguously determined were taken into account.

This finding, in addition to previous data, extends the potential founder effect observed in Norwegians, Irish, Polish, and Americans of European descent to other European countries (France, Belgium, Portugal, and The Netherlands) and to three countries in North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia). The widespread distribution of the founder effect in Europe and its extension to North Africa prompted us to evaluate the time at which the mutation event might have occurred. Using patients for whom extended haplotypes could be unambiguously determined in our study (from families 030, 755, 021, and 400) and the study of Kachergus and his collaborators (2005) (from families P-063 and 1120), we estimated that the mutation occurred 29 generations earlier (95% CI 15–55). If a generation is defined as 25 years,

the mutation occurred 725 (95% CI 375–1375) years ago, in the 13th century.

In conclusion, we have extended the founder effect for the *LRRK2* G2019S mutation to other European countries and to North Africa, and we have reduced the common ancestral haplotype to a 60-kb region. The most recent common ancestor probably lived ~725 years ago.

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SUZANNE LESAGE,¹ ANNE-LOUISE LEUTENEGGER,¹
PABLO IBANEZ,¹ SABINE JANIN,¹
EBBA LOHMANN,^{1,3} ALEXANDRA DÜRR,^{1,2,3}
AND ALEXIS BRICE,^{1,2,3,4} FOR THE FRENCH
PARKINSON'S DISEASE GENETICS STUDY GROUP*

¹INSERM U679 (formerly U289), *Neurologie et Thérapeutique Expérimentale*, and ²Département de Génétique, Cytogénétique et Embryologie, Hôpital de la Pitié-Salpêtrière, ³Fédération de Neurologie, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Pitié-Salpêtrière, ⁴Unité de Formation et de Recherche Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris

Web Resources

The accession number and URLs for data presented herein are as follows:

Center for Statistical Genetics, <http://www.sph.umich.edu/csg/abecasis/Merlin/>
Entrez SNP, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?CMD=search&DB=snp>
GDB Human Genome Database, <http://www.gdb.org/>
Genbank, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/> (for *Homo sapiens* LRRK2 [accession number AY792511])
Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Omim/> (for PD)

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Address for correspondence and reprints: Dr. Alexis Brice, INSERM U679, Hôpital de la Salpêtrière, 47, Boulevard de l'Hôpital, 75651 Paris Cedex 13, France. E-mail: brice@ccr.jussieu.fr

* Members of the French Parkinson's Disease Genetics Study Group are listed in the Acknowledgments.

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