

ELECTRONIC LETTER

Founder mutations of *CYP1B1* gene in patients with congenital glaucoma from the United States and Brazil

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J Med Genet 2004;41:e6 (<http://www.jmedgenet.com/cgi/content/full/41/1/e6>)

Primary congenital glaucoma is an important cause of childhood blindness worldwide. In congenital glaucoma, the anterior segment of the eye fails to develop completely; this results, in particular, in malformation of the trabecular meshwork and aqueous outflow pathways.^{1,2} Although sporadic cases arise frequently, many cases of congenital glaucoma are inherited as an autosomal recessive trait, and the disease is common, particularly in countries in which consanguinity is customary.³

One gene responsible for autosomal recessive congenital glaucoma, *CYP1B1*, has been discovered.^{4,5} This gene codes for cytochrome P450 1B1, a monooxygenase that may be involved in the metabolism of a variety of substrates, including steroids and retinoids.⁶ Although the role the gene product plays in congenital glaucoma is not well understood, the protein is likely to be responsible for the metabolism of another compound or compounds that perform critical functions in the developing eye. Interestingly, heterozygous carriers of mutations of *CYP1B1* do not have clinically evident ocular or systemic phenotypic abnormalities.⁷

The *CYP1B1* gene is composed of three exons, two of which are translated to produce the protein. Mutations that cause congenital glaucoma have been found in exons 2 and 3. Missense and frameshift mutations have been identified, with most of the missense mutations occurring in highly conserved functional regions of the gene.⁸ Mutations were first found in this gene in a population of Turkish patients with congenital glaucoma.⁴ Subsequently, different mutations have been found in a variety of ethnic groups, including Saudi Arabians, Japanese people, and Slovakian gypsies.^{5,9-11}

Most of the mutations of *CYP1B1* in patients with congenital glaucoma have been identified in ethnically homogeneous populations. In an earlier study, we screened American and Brazilian families with congenital glaucoma for mutations of the *CYP1B1* gene to determine the frequency of mutations of *CYP1B1* in patients with congenital glaucoma in ethnically diverse populations: 3/21 families had mutations of *CYP1B1* (Finzi S, Figureiredo Sena D, Del Bono E, Haines JL, Wiggs JL. Clinical phenotypes associated with *CYP1B1* mutations in patients with congenital glaucoma from the U.S. and Brazil. Manuscript submitted). Interestingly, all of the mutations we found had been identified previously in other populations (and two were found in the American and Brazilian patients in this study).

Recurrent mutations have been described in patients with many human diseases, including cystic fibrosis,¹² breast cancer associated with mutations in *BRCA2*¹³ and juvenile glaucoma associated with mutations in *TIGR* and *Myocilin* genes.¹⁴ The recurrence of a particular mutation may be the result of a "hot spot" for a mutation, such as CpG dinucleotides.¹⁵ Alternatively, the same mutation may be found in unrelated patients because of migration of a founder chromosome that carries the mutation. In such cases, the genetic markers on the mutant chromosome would be the same in all occurrences and can be matched across

Key points

- Primary congenital glaucoma, an important cause of childhood blindness worldwide, is characterised by abnormal development of the ocular anterior segment, including the trabecular meshwork and aqueous outflow pathways. Mutations of *CYP1B1*, the gene that codes for cytochrome P450 1B1, are associated with autosomal recessive congenital glaucoma. Most of the mutations of *CYP1B1* in patients with congenital glaucoma have been identified in ethnically homogeneous populations, with the highest prevalences in the Turkish, Saudi Arabian, and Slovakian populations.
- The aim of this study was to characterise mutations in *CYP1B1* in patients with congenital glaucoma from populations with diverse ethnicity.
- 21 pedigrees from the United States and Brazil were screened for mutations in *CYP1B1* by direct genomic sequencing.
- Four different mutations were found in three pedigrees. All of the mutations had been identified previously in isolated homogeneous populations, and two mutations (Glu387Lys and 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC) were present in both the Brazilian and American study populations. Haplotypes constructed from seven new microsatellite markers that flank the *CYP1B1* gene and five previously described single nucleotide polymorphisms within the gene were used to establish the identity of the chromosome associated with each mutation. A common haplotype was found for Brazilian and American patients with the Glu387Lys and 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutations, which indicated that migration of an original founder chromosome was responsible for their recurrence. The haplotypes identified in the study population were the same as those associated with these mutations in other populations.
- Four founder mutations were identified in this study in two ethnically heterogeneous populations. The identification of founder mutations of *CYP1B1* in ethnically diverse populations suggests that these older mutations may have a higher carrier frequency in these populations and that genetic testing for the founder mutations may lead to productive genetic counselling for congenital glaucoma.

populations. This study aimed to determine whether multiple occurrences of mutations in *CYP1B1* are the result of gene regions prone to mutation or the consequence of inheritance of ancient founder chromosomes.

Table 1 Oligonucleotide primers used to amplify new microsatellite repeats that flank the *CYP1B1* gene

Marker	Primer	
	Forward	Reverse
M1	AGGGTGTCCCTTCTGCTCA	AGGACAATCCCAAGTGACTA
M2	GTGCTGCATTTCTATGAAA	CATGATTAGTACATATCTC
M3	TACGCCAAGACAATAGCCCA	AAAGAGCCAGACTCCGTCTC
M4	CTGCTTCAAAAACCTTTTGA	TGTGTAAGGATTGATCACC
M5	ATCTAAGTGTCCATCAACAG	TAACAAGATGCCCTTCAATT
M6	TCTGTAGGAGCACATAGTCC	GGCACAATCTCAGGAGACTC
M7	TTCAGGAGAAGAGCACTGG	AGTCACACTGAGCTCAAAC

METHODS

Participants

Our research programme followed the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and was approved by the institutional review board of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Informed consent was obtained from the participants after we explained the nature and possible consequences of the study.

We identified nine Brazilian families and 12 American families with one or more members with congenital glaucoma from the ethnically heterogeneous populations of the United States and Brazil. Affected individuals had raised intraocular pressures before they were aged three years. Each family had a pedigree structure consistent with autosomal recessive inheritance. All of these families had lived in Brazil or the United States for at least three generations. The stated ancestry was mainly western European. All patients underwent a complete eye examination, including anterior segment evaluation, with slit lamp, funduscopy, tonography, and gonioscopy. Congenital glaucoma was defined as an increase in intraocular pressure >21 mm Hg in both eyes before the age of three years.

Microsatellite repeat marker haplotype analysis

We amplified the portions of exons 2 and 3 of the *CYP1B1* gene that code for translated sequence and flanking splice sites from genomic DNA in family members affected and unaffected by disease and screened for mutations by direct genomic sequencing. We located microsatellite repeat markers in genomic regions that flank the *CYP1B1* gene by using BLAST (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>) to identify repeat sequences of C and A nucleotides in the bacterial artificial chromosomes that contained the *CYP1B1* genomic sequence (<http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>). We amplified each microsatellite repeat with flanking oligonucleotide primers (table 1). Amplification conditions for all seven new microsatellite repeat markers were 50 ng DNA, 20 pmol of each primer, 200 μ M nucleotide triphosphate, 50 mM potassium chloride, 20 mM Tris buffer (pH 8.4), 0.01% Triton X-100 (Shun Chia Industrial Company, Taipei, Taiwan), and 0.1 unit Taq DNA polymerase. We incubated samples in an ABI 2700 thermocycler (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) for 5 minutes at 94°C; for 35 cycles of 45 seconds at 94°C, 45 seconds at 55°C, and 45 seconds at 72°C; and then for 1 minute at 55°C and 5 minutes at 72°C. We separated the amplification products with electrophoresis on 6% polyacrylamide gel. All the amplification products were 100–300 base pairs long, and alleles were resolved after 2.5 hours of electrophoresis at 80 W (constant voltage). We stained the gel with SYBR Green Dye (Roche Molecular Pharmaceuticals, Nutley, NJ, USA) and identified alleles with a fluorescent imager (Bio-Rad FX; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA, USA).

DNA sequencing

We used oligonucleotides that flanked and were within the translated exons of the *CYP1B1* gene to amplify genomic DNA purified from each affected participant and relevant family members. Primers were based on sequences identified by the primer3 software (http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3_www.cgi) and are available on request. Exon 2 was amplified as five overlapping fragments and exon 3 as two overlapping fragments. The amplification products were sequenced with BigDye Chemistry software (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) and an ABI 310 automated sequencer (Global Medical Instrumentation, Albertville, Minnesota, USA). Each fragment was sequenced in the forward and reverse direction.

RESULTS

A total of 126 people (51 affected by disease and 75 unaffected) were screened for mutations. Mutations were

Table 2 *CYP1B1* mutations in patients with congenital glaucoma from multiple populations

Mutation	Location in molecule	Origin	Identified in this study	Other studies that identified mutation
Trp57Stop	Exon 2, hinge region	Brazil Canada		16 17
Gly61Glu	Exon 2, hinge region	Morocco Turkey Saudi Arabia		18 8 19
Arg368His	Exon 3, J helix	Saudi Arabia Brazil Indian		21 16 20
Glu387Lys	Exon 3, K helix	Slovakian gypsies Canadian Brazil USA		11 8, 21 16 8
Pro437Leu	Exon 3, meander	Brazil Turkey	Yes	16 8
Ala443Gly	Exon 3, meander	Germany Brazil		22 16
Arg469Trp	Exon 3, heme binding	Saudi Arabia British Turkish		5 8 8
268delSNF	Exon 2	Saudi Arabia USA	Yes	19
4339/ 4340delG	Exon 2	Brazil Morocco		16 18
8037_8046-dupTCATG-CCACC	Exon 3, frameshift	Germany Brazil USA British Turkey		22, 23 16 8 8 8
8182delG	Exon 3, frameshift	Brazil USA	Yes	16 8

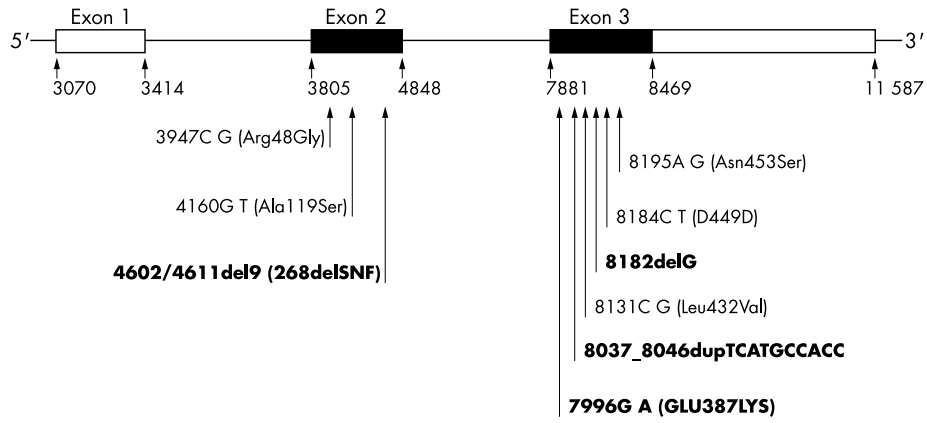


Figure 1 CYP1B1 gene structure showing location of intron and exon boundaries and mutations identified in study population and single nucleotide polymorphisms used for haplotype analysis. DNA sequence variants associated with disease shown in bold. Nucleotide positions determined according to CYP1B1 Genbank accession number U56438.

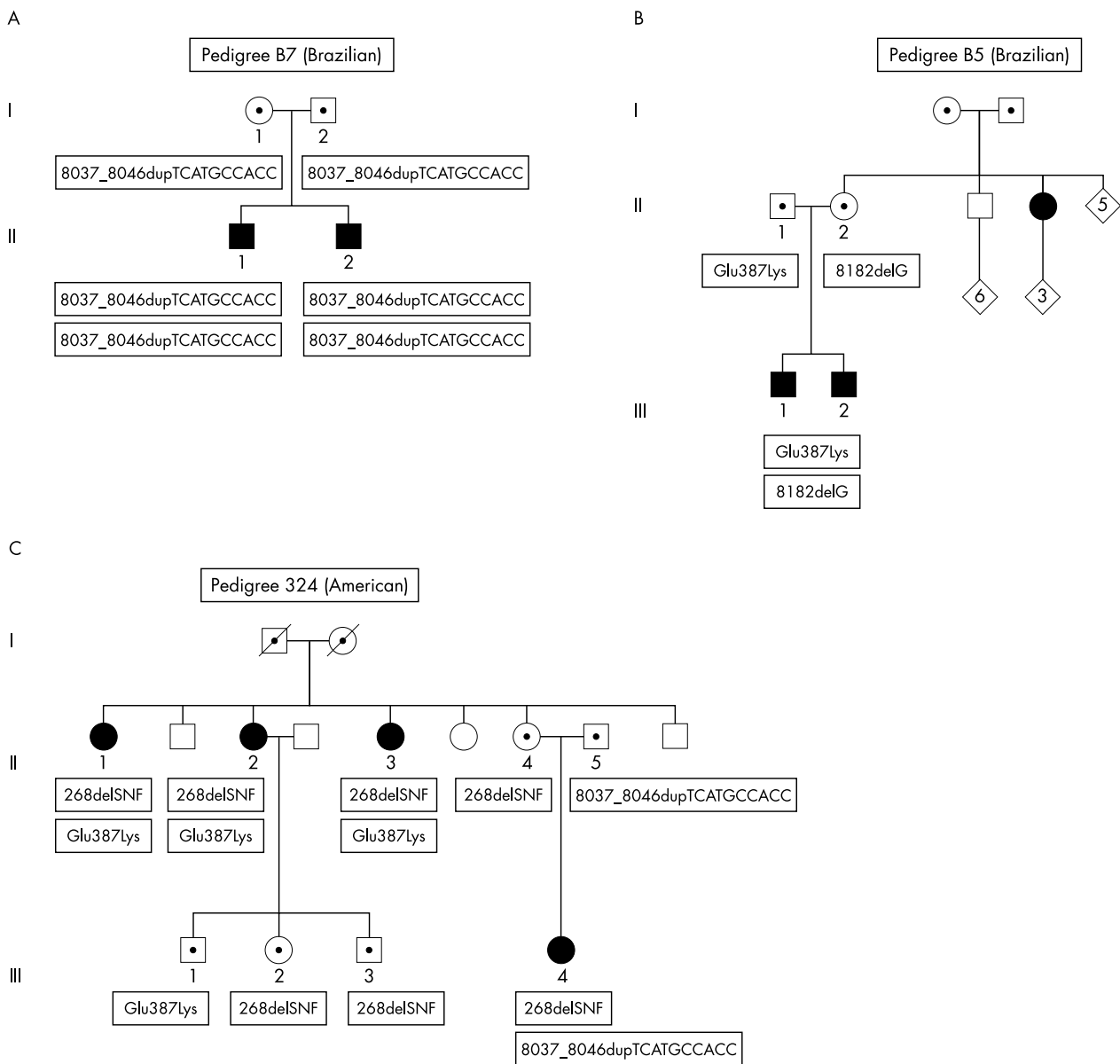


Figure 2 Pedigrees with congenital glaucoma with mutations of CYP1B1. ●, ■ affected people; ○, □ heterozygous carriers. Mutations carried by family member shown below pedigree symbol.

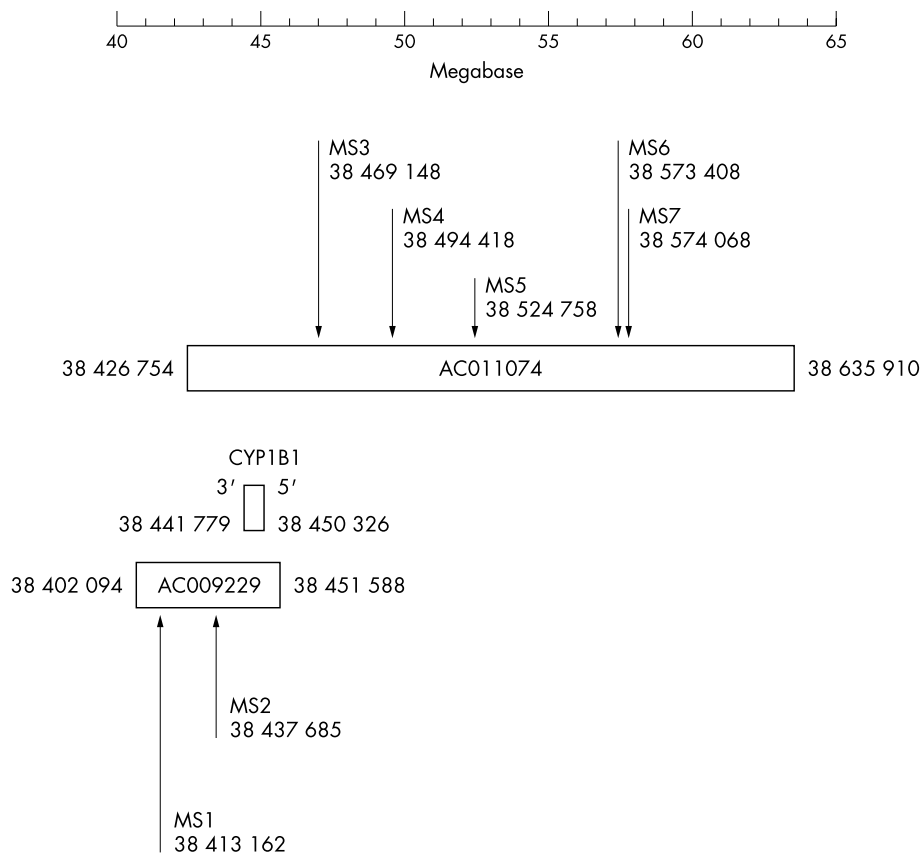


Figure 3 Location of novel microsatellite repeat markers in the genomic sequence (bacterial artificial chromosomes AC011074 and AC009229) that flank *CYP1B1* gene. Alignment of bacterial artificial chromosome sequences with *CYP1B1* gene and five novel microsatellite markers was done with BLAST (www.ncbi.nih.nlm.gov) and BLAT (www.genome.ucsc.edu).

found in two Brazilian families and one American family (fig 1). People with mutations had raised intraocular pressures before they were aged three years. In each family, the inheritance of the disease was consistent with an autosomal recessive pattern. In affected members from the two Brazilian families, three different mutations were found: 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC, 8182delG, and Glu387Lys

(fig 2A and 2B). The mutation 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC is a duplication of 10 base pairs that occurs in exon 3 and causes a frameshift that leads to premature termination of the polypeptide chain. The mutation 8182delG is also a frameshift mutation, while Glu387Lys is a missense mutation that occurs in the highly conserved K helix of the protein. In family B7, both parents were heterozygous

Table 3 Intragenic haplotypes associated with mutations of *CYP1B1* found in multiple populations

Mutation	Origin	Arg48Gly (C/G)	Ala119Ser (G/T)	Val432Leu (G/C)	Asp449Asp (T/C)	Asn453Ser (A/G)	Identified in this study	Studies that identified mutation
Try57Stop	Canada	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		17
	Brazil	C	G	G	T	A		16
Gly61Glu	Saudi Arabia	C	G	G	T	A		19
	Morocco	C	G	G	T	A		18
Arg368His	Saudi Arabia	C	G	G	T	A		19
	Brazil	C	G	G	T	A		16
Glu387Lys	Romania	G	T	C	C	A		11
	Brazil	G	T	C	C	A		16
	USA	G	T	C	C	A	Yes	
	Brazil	G	T	C	C	A	Yes	
4339/4340delG	Brazil	C	G	G	T	A		16
	Morocco	C	G	G	T	A		18
268delSNF	Saudi Arabia	C	G	G	T	A		19
	USA	C	G	G	T	A	Yes	
8037_8046dup- TCATGCCACC	Brazil	C	G	G	T	A		16
	Brazil	C	G	G	T	A	Yes	
	USA	C	G	G	T	A	Yes	
8182delG	Brazil	C	G	C	C	G		16
	Brazil	C	G	C	C	G	Yes	
	Brazil	C	G	C	C	G	Yes	

NA, not available.

Table 4 New microsatellite repeat markers that flank the *CYP1B1* gene

Marker	Number of alleles	Allele	Frequency
M1	9	267	0.10
		265	0.15
		263	0.25
		261	0.10
		259	0.10
		257	0.15
		255	0.10
		251	0.05
		247	0.05
M2	3	159	0.60
		157	0.20
		155	0.20
M3	6	158	0.20
		154	0.15
		146	0.20
		138	0.10
		134	0.20
M4	6	130	0.15
		207	0.10
		205	0.15
		203	0.20
		201	0.20
		197	0.20
M5	7	195	0.15
		170	0.10
		168	0.10
		166	0.10
		164	0.20
		162	0.20
		160	0.15
M6	5	150	0.15
		113	0.15
		111	0.25
		109	0.20
		107	0.20
		105	0.20
M7	4	185	0.20
		183	0.30
		181	0.30
		179	0.20

carriers of the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation, and both affected children were homozygous for the mutation. Member II-1 was born with corneal oedema and had high intraocular pressure at age one month (early clinical details for II-2 are not available, but examination at age two years showed evidence of surgery for glaucoma, which indicated the disease was present at an early age). In Brazilian family B5, the affected members in generation III were compound heterozygotes with 8182delG and Glu387Lys mutations. Both children had severe early onset glaucoma, with high intraocular pressures and corneal oedema. Their mother's sister also had a history of congenital glaucoma, but clinical details and DNA could not be obtained.

In one American pedigree, three mutations were found: 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC, Glu387Lys, and 268delSNF

(Fig. 2C). Mutation 268delSNF is a deletion of nine base pairs at position 4602/4611 (reference sequence Genbank U56438). The nine base pairs are part of a direct repeat that begins at nucleotide 4602 and ends at 4619, so it is not possible to distinguish which repeat has been deleted. The nine base pair deletion results in an inframe deletion of three amino acids (serine, asparagine, and phenylalanine (SNF)) that begins at position 268. In the American family, all affected patients in generation II were Glu387Lys and 268delSNF compound heterozygotes. Interestingly, two of the four affected siblings in generation II had severe early onset glaucoma (intraocular pressures of 25 (at age two months) and 28 (at age one month), with associated corneal oedema), but the other two siblings (with the same *CYP1B1* sequence variants) did not have evidence of glaucoma until their mid teenage years. The affected patient in generation III was also a compound heterozygote but had the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC and 268delSNF mutations. This patient was born with severe glaucoma characterised by corneal oedema and high intraocular pressures of 28 OD and 30 OS.

All of the mutations we identified had been found previously in patients from populations with homogeneous ethnicity. Table 2 lists the mutations of *CYP1B1* we identified in this study as well as mutations in *CYP1B1* identified in more than one population in other studies.

Two of the mutations identified in this patient population, 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC and Glu387Lys, were found in a Brazilian pedigree and the American pedigree. These mutations could have originated from a single ancestral mutation or from two independent mutation events. To determine if these mutations resulted from migration of an ancestral chromosome, we constructed haplotypes with alleles from single nucleotide polymorphisms within the *CYP1B1* gene, as well as novel microsatellite repeat markers in close proximity to the *CYP1B1* gene. To be certain that the microsatellite repeat markers were located adjacent to the coding regions of the *CYP1B1* gene, we identified the bacterial artificial chromosomes from the human genome that contained the *CYP1B1* genomic sequences with the publicly available human genome sequence (<http://www.genome.ucsc.edu>). New microsatellite repeats within the bacterial artificial chromosome sequences that flanked the *CYP1B1* gene were identified with BLAST (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>). Figure 3 shows the locations of the new microsatellite repeat markers relative to the *CYP1B1* coding sequence and the sequence position in the bacterial artificial chromosome.

Five single nucleotide polymorphisms previously described within the coding sequence of the *CYP1B1* gene were informative in our families.^{4 8 19} Population studies indicate that these alleles exist in multiple haplotypes in unaffected populations.¹⁶ Alleles at each of the single nucleotide polymorphisms were identified by direct genomic sequencing, and haplotypes were determined from segregation of the alleles and the mutations in the affected pedigree. When possible, the intragenic haplotype associated with each

Table 5 Extragenic haplotypes associated with mutations of *CYP1B1* in American and Brazilian patients

Pedigree	Mutation	MS1	MS2	MS3	MS4	MS5	MS6	MS7
324	8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC	259	159	154	203	168	111	181
B7	8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC	259	159	154	203	168	111	183
324	Glu387Lys	267	159	130	203	150	111	183
B5	Glu387Lys	267	159	130	ND	150	111	183
B5	8182delG	267	159	134	ND	164	111	183
324	268delSNF	259	159	154	205	162	109	183

ND, not done.

mutation was compared with haplotypes previously published for the same mutation in other populations (table 3).

The affected participants from pedigrees 324 (American) and B7 (Brazilian) that had the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation had a common intragenic haplotype, which suggests that they shared a common ancestral chromosome. Similarly, a common haplotype was found in the affected people and in unaffected heterozygous carriers of the American and Brazilian pedigrees with the Glu387Lys mutation. The haplotype of the chromosome with the 8182delG in Brazilian family B5 is likely to be the same as that reported for the same mutation in another Brazilian family.¹⁶ The haplotype of the chromosome with the SNF268del mutation is also the same as that previously reported for a Saudi Arabian family with this mutation.¹⁹ The intragenic single nucleotide polymorphism haplotype associated with 268SNFdel is the same as that associated with 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC.

To further define the haplotypes of the chromosomes with mutations of *CYP1B1*, we identified alleles at new microsatellite repeat markers that flanked the gene in all members of pedigrees 324, B5, and B7. Two novel microsatellite repeat markers were identified in genomic sequence 3' to the *CYP1B1* gene (M1 and M2) and five novel microsatellite repeat markers in genomic sequence 5' to the *CYP1B1* gene (M3, M4, M5, M6, and M7). These microsatellite repeat markers spanned a 25 megabase region of genomic DNA. Figure 3 shows the position of each microsatellite on the public human genome sequence (<http://www.genome.ucsc.edu>). Each microsatellite repeat marker had at least three alleles in a control population of 40 American chromosomes. Table 4 shows the alleles and allele frequencies.

The extragenic haplotypes were identified by observing the segregation of microsatellite repeat marker alleles with each mutation in the three pedigrees with mutations of *CYP1B1*. Table 5 shows that the extragenic haplotype associated with the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation in families 324 and B7 was the same. Similarly, the extragenic haplotype associated with the Glu387Lys mutation in families 324 and B5 was the same but was different from that associated with the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation. The 268SNFdel intragenic haplotype was the same as that for the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation. The extragenic haplotype for these two mutations differed, however, in the genomic region that flanked the 5' end of the gene (M4, M5, M6, and M7). The 8182delG mutation seemed to have intragenic and extragenic haplotypes distinct from any of the other mutations in this study.

DISCUSSION

Mutations of *CYP1B1* have been found in patients with congenital glaucoma from defined populations worldwide. In our study, mutations in these genes were also found in populations with diverse ethnicity, although with lower prevalence (3/21 families) than in the ethnically homogenous populations of Turkey and Saudi Arabia.^{4,5}

We identified two frameshift mutations (one deletion and one duplication) that result in premature termination of the polypeptide change and an inactive protein product. We also identified one inframe deletion of nine base pairs and three amino acids, which presumably also causes a loss of function. One missense mutation, Glu387Lys, was identified in this population, which could lead to an inactive protein or a protein with a gain of function or dominant negative effect. The Glu387Lys change occurs in a highly conserved region of the protein, which suggests that the change in amino acid could result in inactivation of protein activity. Interestingly, this mutation is found on a chromosome with a collection of polymorphic variants that independently have been shown to

reduce the enzymatic activity of the protein.²⁴ The combined effect of the Glu387Lys missense change and the amino acid substitutions Arg48Gly, Ala119Ser, and Leu432Val may result in a significant loss of protein function.

All of the mutations we identified were first described in other populations,^{5,8,11,16-23} and two of the mutations that we identified in this study we had found in an earlier study of the two populations (Finzi S, Figureiredo Sena D, Del Bono E, Haines JL, Wiggs JL. Clinical phenotypes associated with *CYP1B1* mutations in patients with congenital glaucoma from the U.S. and Brazil. Manuscript submitted). A number of mutations of *CYP1B1* have been found in patients from multiple populations (table 2). Only the mutations reported in the Japanese population have not been found in any other population.^{9,10}

In control populations, the five intragenic single nucleotide polymorphisms used in this study are informative and present in a relatively equal distribution of haplotypes.^{16,19} We showed that newly identified microsatellite repeat markers that flank the *CYP1B1* gene also are highly informative in control patients from the United States. The probability of inheriting the same five single nucleotide polymorphism alleles in combination with the same seven microsatellite alleles is highly unlikely by chance alone ($p < 0.0001$, assuming linkage equilibrium between microsatellite markers). The identification of the same collection of alleles for these 12 polymorphisms segregating with the same mutation in unrelated patients indicates these people have acquired copies of the same ancestral chromosomes.

Haplotype analysis allowed us to show that 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC is found on the same ancestral chromosome in the American and Brazilian families in this study. Moreover, this is likely to be the same haplotype associated with this mutation in other Brazilian and American patients.^{8,16} The 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation has been found in a number of different ethnic groups (tables 2 and 3) and, although haplotypes have not been published for all of the chromosomes that carry this mutation, a common founder chromosome is likely to be responsible for the multiple occurrences of this mutation in the various populations in which it has been identified. The geographic distribution of 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC suggests that the founder chromosome has spread widely.

Similarly, the common haplotype of the chromosome that carries the Glu387Lys missense mutation identified in the American and Brazilian families is likely to be the same haplotype as that described for this mutation in patients with congenital glaucoma from Romania and Brazil.^{11,16} These results also suggest that this is an ancient chromosome that has migrated to a number of different populations.

The discovery of the 1143/1152del9(SNFdel268) mutation in our American pedigree is the second report of this mutation, which was previously identified in Saudi Arabians. In our study, this is the only mutation associated with variable expression of the disease phenotype. In the Saudi Arabian population, this mutation may also have been associated with a variable phenotype.¹⁹ The intragenic haplotype of the chromosome that carried this mutation in our American pedigree is the same as that reported for the Saudi Arabian pedigree.¹⁹ Interestingly, the information from the intragenic single nucleotide polymorphisms suggests that the haplotype of the chromosome that carries the SNFdel268 mutation is the same as the haplotype of the chromosome that carries the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation. The extragenic microsatellite repeat alleles are partially the same, which suggests that the chromosomes that carry these two mutations may have had a common origin. The SNFdel268 and 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutations might have arisen independently on the same ancestral chromosome,

which raises the possibility that the intragenic single nucleotide polymorphism haplotype (C/G/G/T/A) is prone to mutation.

The 1651delG mutation was found in one Brazilian pedigree and has been previously reported in another Brazilian pedigree and an American family of Hispanic origin.^{8,16} The haplotype associated with this mutation seems to be the same haplotype associated with the previously reported mutation, which suggests that these two Brazilian families carry a common chromosome. A haplotype for the American family was not reported.

We identified four founder mutations in two ethnically diverse populations. Founder mutations are also the oldest mutations, so they may be the most frequent mutations found in an ethnically heterogeneous population. In this study, the married in mutation carriers had the Glu387Lys mutation or the 8037_8046dupTCATGCCACC mutation, which suggests a higher prevalence of these mutations in the general population. It would be interesting to determine the carrier frequency of the founder mutations in the normal American and Brazilian populations. The identification of a panel of mutations of CYP1B1 with higher carrier frequency could provide a basis for genetic testing for CYP1B1 carrier status and may lead to productive genetic counselling for congenital glaucoma.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the families for their willing participation and acknowledge support from the National Eye Institute (RO1 EY09847).

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Conflicts of interest: None declared.

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Received 26 May 2003

Accepted 16 June 2003

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