



ADCY5-Related Dyskinesia: Improving Clinical Detection of an Evolving Disorder

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ABSTRACT: Background: The phenotypic spectrum of adenylyl cyclase 5 (ADCY5)-related disease has expanded considerably since the first description of the disorder in 1978 as familial essential chorea in a multiplex family.

Objective: To examine recent advances in the understanding of ADCY5-related dyskinesia and outline a diagnostic approach to enhance clinical detection.

Methods: A pragmatic review of the ADCY5 literature was undertaken to examine unique genetic and pathophysiological features as well as distinguishing clinical features.

Results: With over 70 cases reported to date, the phenotype is recognized to be broad, although distinctive features include prominent facial dyskinesia, motor exacerbations during drowsiness or sleep arousal, episodic painful dystonic posturing increased with stress or illness, and axial hypotonia with delayed developmental milestones. Uncommon phenotypes include childhood-onset chorea, myoclonus-dystonia, isolated nongeneralized dystonia, and alternating hemiplegia.

Conclusion: The ongoing expansion in clinical features suggests that ADCY5 remains underdiagnosed and may account for a proportion of “idiopathic” hyperkinetic movement disorders. Enhanced understanding of its clinical features may help clinicians improve the detection of complex or uncommon cases.

The advent of next-generation massively parallel sequencing technologies has given rise to rapid discoveries in underlying genetic causes of previously undiagnosed rare clinical syndromes. Descriptions of unifying clinical features, however, remains a crucial aspect in this evolving process. An example is the recognition of adenylyl cyclase 5 (*ADCY5*) gene mutations as a novel cause for a range of “dyskinetic” phenotypes. Detailed clinical descriptions of a curious familial disorder began in 1978 with the recognition that sporadic paroxysmal choreoathetosis in a young woman¹ had been transmitted to her daughter.² That same year, a family with “dyskinesia and facial myokymia,” in which the movements were both dystonic and choreic, was

reported.³ A combination of further clinical descriptions⁴ and familial linkage and exome sequencing analysis in this multigenerational family subsequently led to the discovery of a missense variant in the *ADCY5* gene.⁵ There has since been a rapid expansion of the reported phenotypes and pathogenic variants, including the one responsible for disease in the family first published in 1967.⁶ These genetic studies, in combination with functional studies of the effect of variants in vitro, have shed light on possible underlying disease mechanisms.^{7,8} Here, we review some of these advances with the aim of highlighting features of this novel disorder for clinicians to help improve detection.

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Methods

References for this review were identified by searches of PubMed and Google Scholar between 1965 and February of 2019 and from references of relevant articles and book chapters. Search terms included “Adenylyl cyclase,” “ADCY5,” “paroxysmal dyskinesias,” “episodic movement disorders,” and “sleep related movement disorders.” No language restrictions were imposed.

Results

From Molecule to Disease

Adenylyl cyclases (ACs) comprise a family of molecules involved in the conversion of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to cyclic adenosine-3', 5'-monophosphate (cAMP), a second messenger in a broad range of cellular activities. Six sequence dissimilar AC classes exist with eukaryotic groups belonging to class 3. Class 3 isoforms are membrane bound and divided into four subgroups based on their regulatory properties. Of these, group 3 comprises the highly homologous ADCY5 and ADCY6 proteins.^{9,10}

ADCY5 consists of 1,261 amino acids encoded by a 21-exon gene on chromosome 3. It contains an N-terminus and two six-unit membrane-spanning helices (M1 and M2) which flank intracellular catalytic cyclase domains (C1 and C2). ADCY5 is partly regulated by dopamine receptors (D): D1 stimulating and D2 inhibiting.^{10–14} Stimulation results in catalytic domains (C1a and C2a) interacting to form an ATP-binding heterodimer pocket.¹⁵ Bound ATP is converted into cAMP and pyrophosphate, which propagate downstream activity (Fig. 1). Inhibitory proteins conversely bind C1 and impair this interaction.^{10–13}

Chen and colleagues first identified a familial ADCY5 mutation of neurological consequence—c.2176G>A, p.A726T—in 2012⁵ before further describing c.1252C>T, p.R418W in 2 sporadic cases.⁷ Mutational outcomes were somewhat different despite affecting the same domain (C1) of the protein. The p.A726T variant was associated with a milder phenotype, and this genotype-phenotype correlation continues to hold as additional families with this variant have been found.⁶ Further mutations continue to be described (Fig. 1),^{15–23} although the 418 residue appears to be a hotspot (~50% of cases). C1a and C2a mutations possibly result in moderate-to-severe presentations, whereas C1b mutations and somatic mosaicism in milder disease are lacking axial symptomatology.^{6,16}

Gender-balanced, autosomal dominance predominates in families, although recessive inheritance is noted in two families with biallelic pathogenic variants.^{17,24} With the exception of c. g2176a;p.A726T,⁶ however, the majority of newly identified cases result from de novo mutations. The relatively common occurrence of somatic mosaicism in this disorder and the incomplete data on parents of seemingly sporadic cases make it difficult to be more precise. In one study, 6 of 13 sporadic cases and the

progenitors in two multigenerational families were mosaic.⁶ There are other reports of suspected mosaicism in a more mildly affected parent in 1 of 4 cases²³ and 1 of 2 cases.¹⁹ The read depth at the site of the variant in diagnostic exomes may not be sufficient to rule out mosaicism, and, in most cases, parents of sporadic cases are not evaluated.

Disease pathophysiology is increasingly, though, not entirely understood. A hypothetical disease mechanism is summarized in Figure 1 and detailed as follows. Functional studies suggest increased intracellular cAMP in response to chemical stress stimulation, indicating mutational gain of function.^{7,8} Amino acid substitutions conceivably alter the binding-pocket conformation, resulting in increased affinity for stimulatory proteins.⁵ ADCY5 is highly expressed in the nucleus accumbens and striatum, structures involved in sleep-wake cycle arousal and coordination of movements, respectively,²⁵ given that these structures subserve the mesolimbic dopaminergic system, their responses are typically stress sensitive.²⁶ Stress can increase striatal dopamine synthesis and release, while heightening receptor sensitivity.^{26,27} This typical response could be potentiated by the gain-of-function mutation and decreased expression of phosphodiesterase 10A (noted in some ADCY5-dyskinesia cases), an enzyme implicated in cAMP hydrolysis.²⁸ A combination of these molecular and brain regional features may explain the stress-sensitive, sleep-associated hyperkinetic phenotypes.^{25,29}

Although knockout mouse models manifest hypokinetic features,^{30,31} loss of function (c.2088+1G>A) has been implicated in human hyperkinetic movements in one family.¹⁸ The mechanism by which contrasting haploinsufficiency and missense mutations result in similar presentations is unclear. A recent imaging study, however, suggests some complexity to mutational effects, with p.R418W patients suffering decreased striatal dopamine transporter expression, nigral neuron and microstructural loss,²⁸ and possible prodromal nigral dysfunction.²⁸ Long-term follow-up of ADCY5 cases will be crucial in understanding the clinical relevance of these findings.

Less explored aspects include ADCY5-mediated neural developmental in cerebellar granular cells through the Hedgehog pathway. Although ADCY5 overexpression represses the pathway,³² the clinical implications are uncertain. Cardiac and pancreatic expression are also poorly detailed in the neurological literature. Overexpression in mice results in a cardiomyopathy whereas disruption confers protection.^{33,34} Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (rs11708067, rs2877716) are associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes by virtue of lowering ADCY5 pancreatic islet cell expression with resultant glucose hypometabolism.³⁵

On balance, cellular pathology and brain regional findings to date largely reconcile core clinical features. The biological basis for clinical heterogeneity, however, remains unexplained and requires further exploration.

“Core” Clinical Features

As mentioned above, documentation of the range of clinical manifestations of the disease began in 1978 in two American

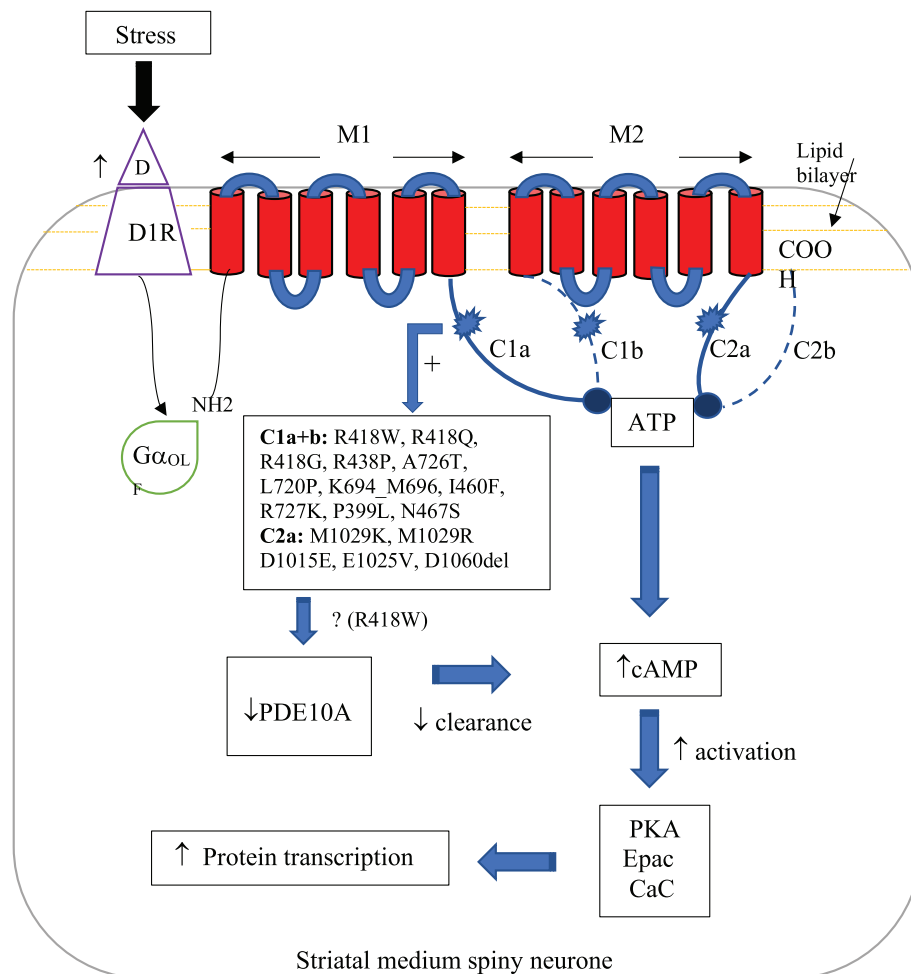


FIG. 1. Proposed disease mechanism. Stress increases striatal dopamine synthesis and release, heightening receptor sensitivity while activating ADCY5 through $G\alpha_{OL}$. ADCY5 mutations result in a gain-of-function response to this stimulus with increased binding of ATP by the catalytic pocket (C1a and C2a) as well as downstream decreased PDE10A expression. Both of these increase levels of cAMP and subsequent downstream cellular activity. Abbreviations: D, dopamine; D1R, dopamine receptor 1; $G\alpha_{OL}$, stimulatory G protein; ATP, adenosine triphosphate; PKA, protein kinase A; Epac, exchange proteins activated by cAMP; CaC, calcium channels; PDE10A, phosphodiesterase 10A.

families of European ancestry. At the time, one of these families was postulated to be suffering from a form of “essential” (benign) chorea.³ In 2001, Fernandez and colleagues further described features from five generations while proposing an alternate diagnosis, “familial dyskinesia and facial myokymia” (FDFM),⁴ to acknowledge a seemingly novel and unique syndrome. The progenitor in the second family was described as having sporadic paroxysmal choreoathetosis with hemiplegia,¹ but the disorder was much more severe and constant in her daughter and included many of the features later found to be part of the ADCY5-dyskinesia phenotypic spectrum.² We will now consider some of these clinical aspects. Cases shown in Videos S1 to S4 provide examples of the phenotypic manifestations of ADCY5-related dyskinesia.

Facial “Myokymia”

FDFM was characterised by the onset of generalized choreic dyskinesia in conjunction with perioral and -orbital movements resembling myokymia in either childhood or adolescence. Although myokymia was reportedly demonstrated on electromyography (EMG) in some family members,⁴ this finding has not been replicated in all subsequent cases, in which the facial movements represent a mixture of myoclonus and chorea.^{6,36} Further case descriptions led to the adoption of the more universally accepted terminology of ADCY5-related dyskinesia.⁶

The dyskinetic movements have been variably described as chorea, athetosis, dystonia, or myoclonus or a combination thereof. Limb EMG studies, in some cases, suggest a combination

of myoclonus and chorea.⁵ Both clinical and electrophysiological distinctions can, at times, be challenging.³⁷ Whereas these movements can affect all limbs, they are typically more prominent in the upper limbs.

“Ballistic Bouts” Worsened by Sleep

Exacerbations of hyperkinetic movements in a paroxysmal manner is a hallmark feature of the disease, although some prefer the term episodic in view of a lack of predictable stereotyped triggers.¹⁶ These episodes can last for minutes to hours and gradually worsen in frequency and severity into the third decade of life before becoming either constant or completely resolving. Some describe them as “ballistic bouts” and they can manifest with a characteristic painful (although not always), dystonic truncal flexion–extension, which progresses to retrocollis and upper limb extension. A noteworthy exacerbation, either in drowsiness or during sleep, has been reported.³⁸ Polysomnographic studies suggest preceding hypoxia before the movements in some cases. Poor sleep efficacy has also been noted, though the implicated underlying cause seems to vary. Although some suggest this to be a result of prolonged latency,^{16,39} others have found latency to be unimpaired while implicating sleep disruption from movements in the N2, rapid eye movement (REM), and awakening stages.⁴⁰ Other precipitating factors include emotional stress or laughter and intercurrent illness (with or without pyrexia), during which time the movements can occur in clusters and with increased frequency.^{6,16,38} Whereas alcohol has no discernible impact, sneezing has been found to worsen dyskinesia in some.¹⁶ Caffeine exacerbated dyskinesia in some cases¹⁶; however, a dramatic amelioration of the paroxysmal dyskinesias was noted in 1 patient.⁴¹ The episodes can also wax and wane over weeks to months in the absence of triggers. Whereas ballistic bouts are nonepileptic, focal epilepsy can rarely co-occur in ADCY5. Semiology is of dissociation and rhythmic head movements, with EEG recordings implicating a bifrontocentral focus.^{4,16}

Axial Hypotonia

Interepisodic neurological abnormalities do occur albeit variably. The most characteristic of these is axial hypotonia. Onset is typically in infancy with impact on motor milestones. Severity ranges from difficulties sitting up to an inability to walk independently into teenage years. An adaptive distinctive method of mobilization, termed “frog-like,” has been noted in severe cases.¹⁶ Axial hypotonia generally improves with age, although it can persist into adulthood.

Less Certain and Variable Features

Dystonic posturing in all limbs and writer’s cramp have been noted variably. Close to half have recordable signs of spasticity (increased tone, hyper-reflexia, and extensor plantar responses) at all disease stages, whereas spastic paraparesis has been documented in an adult.⁴² Detailed eye movement assessments suggest saccadic initiation and execution impairment particularly in

the vertical plane. This, with associated hypometria, is suggestive of oculomotor apraxia.^{16,39} Although slow, uncoordinated gait abnormalities have been described, convincing cerebellar gait features have not been well documented.^{6,16}

Language development delay may potentially be related to abnormal tongue and facial movements. Whereas a majority progress to normal language, some experience ongoing dysarthria. Cognitive impairment has been documented variably, with deficits in learning and problem solving noted on neuropsychological testing. Whereas mild nonspecific impairments in IQ and cognition have been observed, specific deficits in spatial working and episodic memory are evident on detailed assessments.^{6,16,39,43} These abnormalities occur across ages, and it remains unclear why they are variably observed. Their true frequency is uncertain given the lack of detailed cognitive assessments in reported cases. Psychiatric symptoms can occur intermittently throughout life and include depression, psychosis with delusions and auditory hallucinations, and obsessive–compulsive (OC) symptoms.^{6,16,24,43} Although OC symptoms and autistic-like behavior are related to haploinsufficiency,⁴⁴ their occurrence with gain-of-function mutations once again highlights the complexity of genotype–phenotype correlation. Cardiac failure from dilated cardiomyopathy has been reported as has cardiac death of unclear aetiology.^{4,17} Although this corresponds with ADCY5 expression, it remains unclear why this finding is not universal. The current movement disorder focus of ascertainment and reporting may be partly to blame.

Rare Phenotypes and Diagnostic Considerations

The core features described above are considered pathognomonic and should prompt genetic testing (conventional testing, such as cerebrospinal fluid analysis and brain imaging, is typically normal). A broad range of diagnostic possibilities should, however, be considered when confronted with these mixed phenotypes. Among these are paroxysmal dyskinesias. Although conventionally understood to be triggered by clear precipitants (kinesigenic, exercise, and hypnogenic), and characterized by normal interepisodic examinations, these conditions have an array of noted genetic causes (PRRT2, MR-1, SLC2A1, etc.). It is becoming increasingly understood, however, that different mutations in established genes can modify phenotypes with cases manifesting a mixture of additional interepisodic features while lacking clear triggers. ADCY5 has been implicated in some established syndromes and should therefore be considered a diagnostic possibility in these cases, despite a lack of core features. Further consideration should also be given to patients presenting with prominent sleep-related movements during the diagnostic process. Here, we detail some of these considerations (summarized in Table 1).

Sleep Predominance

The prominence of dyskinetic episodes in relation to sleep warrants the consideration of a number of sleep-related motor and

TABLE 1 Distinguishing features of disorders that may mimic ADCY5

Predominant Phenotype	Differential Diagnosis	Distinguishing Features (From ADCY5)	Useful Diagnostic testing (Abnormalities)
Sleep-related motor and behavioral disorders	Sleep-related hypermotor epilepsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movements anytime during sleep • Broad phenomenology • Presence of generalised seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video-EEG (unique clinical and electrographic semiology) • MRI brain (frontal lesions) • <i>CHRNA4</i>, <i>KCNT1</i>, <i>DEPDC5</i> gene testing
	Myoclonus at sleep onset, non-REM parasomnias, sleep-related rhythmic movement disorder, benign nocturnal alternating hemiplegia of childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack core ADCY5 features • Distinct movement phenomenology not resembling “ballistic bouts” (e.g., pure myoclonus or hemiplegia) 	Video-EEG (unique semiology)
Childhood onset chorea	Athetoid cerebral palsy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Static dyskinesia • History of birth injury 	MRI brain (focal dysplasia)
	Sydenham disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous movements • Chorea resolving over time 	ASO, anti-DNAse B titers
	<i>MKX2-1</i> -related benign hereditary chorea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milder chorea improving after childhood • Ligamentous laxity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic testing • Thyroid function (hypothyroidism) • Lung function ± pulmonary imaging (respiratory failure, pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary fibrosis) • Cardiac echocardiography (normal)
	<i>PDE10A</i> and <i>2A</i> mutations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diurnal fluctuations • Some ADCY5 core features in recessive cases (axial hypotonia, delayed developmental milestones, and cognitive abnormality) 	MRI brain (striatal lesions)
Myoclonus- dystonia	<i>SGCE</i> mutations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol response • Less frequent facial involvement • Axial dystonia rather than hypotonia • More frequent psychiatric symptoms 	Genetic testing
Focal dystonia + tremor	<i>ANO3</i> mutations	Absence of ADCY5 core features	Genetic testing
Alternating hemiplegia	<i>ATP1A3</i> mutations	Absence of interepisodic dyskinesia	Genetic testing

behavioral disorders as alternate diagnostic possibilities. Chief among these is sleep-related hypermotor epilepsy (SHE), although clear distinguishing features from ADCY5 exist.⁴⁵ Whereas SHE patients can suffer from episodes beginning in childhood, they tend to occur at any time during sleep, which is atypical for ADCY5. SHE episodes can also occur in clusters and are stereotypical in individuals, although manifest with a wide range of phenomenology (vocalization, cycling, episodic nocturnal wandering, etc.) across cases, unlike ADCY5.⁴⁶ The unique phenotype of asymmetric tonic/dystonic seizures (previously mistaken as nocturnal paroxysmal dystonia) can, however, resemble ADCY5 semiology.⁴⁶ Secondary generalized seizures are not universal and should not be relied upon to exclude SHE. Furthermore, the epilepsy observed in ADCY5 cases have different clinical and electrophysiological semiology, as previously detailed.^{4,6} Efforts should therefore be made to capture events on video-EEG. Although several SHE genes have been identified (*CHRNA4*, *KCNT1*, and *DEPDC5*), no ADCY5 cases have coexistent SHE.⁴⁶ A less compelling possibility would be

myoclonus at sleep onset.^{47,48} Although the semiology (non-rhythmic myoclonic jerks with flexion of trunk, hips, and knees occurring exclusively during the transition between wakefulness and sleep with disruption of sleep) somewhat resembles ballistic bouts, coexistent core ADCY5 features would distinguish the conditions. Less pertinent considerations include non-REM parasomnias,^{49,50} sleep-related rhythmic movement disorder,⁵¹ and benign nocturnal alternating hemiplegia of childhood.⁵² Although some of these conditions occur in sleep transition, they lack core ADCY5 features and present with distinct phenomenology.

Chorea Predominance

Infantile-onset chorea presents unique diagnostic considerations. Although many of these cases have been previously diagnosed as dyskinetic (athetoid) cerebral palsy, this diagnosis should be avoided if the neurological syndrome is progressive and the history lacks an intrauterine or perinatal insult or accompanying

imaging abnormalities. Cases lacking these features have been demonstrated to have *ADCY5* mutations.¹⁶ Sydenham chorea is another consideration whereby movements occur continuously from an onset in childhood with a gradual resolution in later stages. Although this can be observed in *ADCY5* cases, a more typically presentation is of movement onset in infancy, with episodic worsening occurring later in childhood. Benign hereditary chorea (BHC) is another differential consideration in these cases. A well-recognized cause is mutations in *NKX2-1*. *ADCY5* mutations have, however, been implicated in BHC cases that are *NKX2-1*-mutation negative.¹⁹ The increased expression of *ADCY5* in the striatum longitudinally in contrast to *NKX2-1* results in some noteworthy clinical differences. First, *ADCY5* cases suffer more severe dystonic posturing and progression of symptoms into adulthood, unlike the relatively mild course with improvements after childhood noted with *NKX2-1*. The exacerbation of dyskinesia by stress, action, and excitement and the sleep-related ballistic bouts observed in *ADCY5* also distinguish these disorders. Finally, mutations in these genes result in different extraneural features—cardiomyopathy as a rare feature of *ADCY5* and hypothyroidism, respiratory distress, and ligamentous laxity in *NKX2-1* patients.⁵³

In *ADCY5*-negative cases of childhood onset chorea with variable associated core features, testing for *PDE10A*⁴⁷ and *PDE2A*⁴⁹ mutations should be considered. *PDE* genes encode an enzyme that hydrolyses cAMP and cyclic guanosine monophosphate downstream from *ADCY5*. Mutations severely decrease respective enzymatic activity and therefore clearance. Cases of largely de novo dominant (p.Phe300Leu and p.Phe334Leu) and inherited recessive homozygous mutations (p.Tyr107Cys and p.Ala116Pro) in *PDE10A* and an isolated case with a de novo homozygous missense mutation (c.1439A>G; p.Asp480Gly) in *PDE2A* have been described.^{54–56} Phenotypes seem to vary with the types of mutations. Dominant cases manifest with a milder disease marked by diurnal fluctuations of childhood-onset chorea that variably progresses into adulthood. Characteristic striatal T₂-hyperintense changes on MRI lasting years is a unique diagnostic feature. Recessive *PDE10A* cases demonstrate a more severe phenotype with axial hypotonia, delayed developmental milestones, and cognitive abnormality, but without MRI changes.^{57,58}

Myoclonus-Dystonia Predominance

Presentations with both early-onset generalized and focal dystonia have been noted. In cases of generalized dystonia, patients typically present with dystonia in combination with myoclonus (myoclonus-dystonia phenotype).²⁰ The location of dystonia can be widespread and involve the face (blepharospasm and orolingual), cervical, and axial regions while relatively sparing the lower body, although dystonic gait abnormalities have been described. Onset is typically in childhood and associated with developmental delay. The commonest cause of myoclonus-dystonia is mutations in the epsilon sarcoglycan gene (*SGCE*).⁵⁹ Some cases that are negative for this abnormality have *ADCY5* mutations. Potential distinguishing features include a lack of alcohol response, more frequent facial involvement, the presence

of axial hypotonia rather than dystonia, and the less frequent presence of psychiatric symptoms in *ADCY5* cases.^{20,43,59} Although cervical dystonia can occur in conjunction with other *ADCY5* features,²¹ this was the sole presentation in two members of a single family.²¹ These patients suffered exclusively from cervical dystonia and head tremor in their late twenties. Another cause for this presentation is mutations in anoctamin 3 (*ANO3*). Reliable clinical features to distinguish between cases of *ANO3* and *ADCY5* presenting with isolated craniocervical dystonia with prominent tremor and myoclonus-dystonia^{59–61} are currently lacking.

Alternating Hemiplegia Predominance

A number of *ADCY5* patients have displayed features of alternating hemiplegia in childhood (AHC).^{1,22} Core *ADCY5* features occur in conjunction with brief hemiplegic attacks beginning in childhood and worsening in duration over time. The episodes can variably affect different body parts (including speech) whereas consciousness is preserved. Attacks can follow periods of rest, tiredness, or occur while eating and are not related to typical *ADCY5* triggers nor demonstrate improvements after sleep as observed with other causes of AHC, particularly mutations in the *ATP1A3* gene.^{22,62} The presence of interepisodic dyskinesia is a distinguishing feature of *ADCY5* from *ATP1A3*, although more definitive characteristics are currently lacking.

Cases of these isolated phenotypes have arisen from exploratory testing of *ADCY5* in these populations after exclusion of more familiar genetic causes. Available evidence suggests that *ADCY5* is a rare cause of these presentations, and the detection rates of these approaches are low in populations studied (e.g., 11% of pediatric undiagnosed hyperkinetic movements).²³ This is compounded further by contrasting reports, with some groups finding no cases of *ADCY5* mutations in their populations (e.g., myoclonus-dystonia),²² despite others reporting substantial proportions with similar phenotypes.²⁰ More clarity in distinguishing clinical features in cases lacking core *ADCY5* features is therefore necessary before widespread testing of these phenotypes can be recommended in clinical practice.

Treatment Considerations

A range of medications have been trialed to manage symptoms with variable success.^{4,6,16–19,42} Acetazolamide (up to 30 mg/kg) appears to be the most efficacious option in the control of chorea and dyskinesia. Other beneficial agents for dyskinesia include trihexyphenidyl (up to 30 mg/day), tetrabenazine (50 mg/day), clonazepam, propranolol, levocarnitine, melatonin, chlorthalidone, and methylphenidate,⁶³ although these medications have also been reported by some to worsen symptoms. Clonazepam has been found to improve nocturnal dystonic episodes and axial hypotonia in some cases. Variable responses have been noted with antiepileptics; low-dose gabapentin (20 mg/kg) may improve coexisting epilepsy, although higher doses worsen dyskinesias⁴; levetiracetam has provided moderate movement improvements in some cases^{4,6,16}; carbamazepine, topiramate, ethosuximide, primidone, and phenobarbital do not seem to

have any impact. Multiple other agents, including antihistamines, levodopa, antidepressants, and CoQ10, either have no impact or worsen symptoms. Botulinum neurotoxin has been used with good success for cervical dystonia²¹ whereas pallidal DBS seems to provide modest improvements for the hyperkinetic movements, but not for axial hypotonia.⁶⁴

Conclusion

The spectrum of phenotypes associated with ADCY5 mutations has dramatically expanded since its relatively recent description in the family originally described as having FDFM. The unique core features of facial myoclonus, axial hypotonia, and ballistic bouts in relation to drowsiness and sleep are worthy of recognition by clinicians to further improve detection. Although mutations have been implicated less frequently in other well-recognized phenotypes—BHC, AHC, myoclonus-dystonia, and isolated dystonia—more case descriptions are required to establish whether or not signature ADCY5 features occur in these cases. The field has advanced a great deal in a short period. Improved clinical detection will help to further advance this fast-maturing genetic disorder.

Author Roles

(1) Research Project: A. Conception, B. Organization, C. Execution; (2) Manuscript Preparation: A. Writing of the First Draft, B. Review and Critique.

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Supporting Information

Supporting information may be found in the online version of this article.

Case 1, Video S1. This is a 27-year-old woman with a history of autism, delayed motor milestones, and special education needs in school for speech and language difficulties. She had a 1-year history of gait abnormalities. The video demonstrates an unusual dystonic gait particularly with left leg, pelvic, and trunk involvement as well as flexion of the upper limbs (right more than left) and slowness and loss of dexterity on finger movements in both hands.

Case 2. This 16-year-old boy experienced motor regression at the age of 12 months losing his ability to roll over and balance

himself while sitting. At 18 months, he could pull himself up to stand but not walk; at the age of 4 to 5 years, he could walk with a walker and at age 6 he began using a wheelchair. He had no cognitive disturbances. Two and a half years before he was first seen, he began having painful spasms beginning in his hands and subsequently spreading to involve his trunk and legs. These would occur at least weekly, lasting for 2 to 3 minutes at a time followed by rest and then recurrence of the movements on and off sometimes for 3 to 4 hours at a time. The movements would occur particularly at night when lying down, but would not wake him from sleep. Shortly before he was seen, he also developed more complex semirhythmic movements of the left hand. **Video S2.** The patient provides a history describing the nature of the paroxysmal events. **Video S3.** demonstrates the interictal clinical examination. He has dysarthria with slow tongue movements, and his mouth is held open most of the time. He demonstrates a variety of abnormal involuntary movements, including myoclonic jerks (particularly the face), axial tremor, choreoathetotic movements of the limbs, axial hypotonia, lower limb hypertonia, hyperactive deep tendon reflexes, ankle clonus and extensor plantar responses, and the tendency to sit with his legs crossed over each other.

Case 3, Video S4. This 24-year-old man of Pakistani ancestry demonstrates generalized chorea, with prominent facial and tongue involvement. Axial hypotonia is noted (Video courtesy: Dr. Bettina Balint).