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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Clinical and genetic diagnosis of familial hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: Results in pediatric cardiology[☆]

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KEYWORDS

Children;
Hypertrophic
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Abstract

Introduction: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is most often of autosomal dominant inheritance with incomplete penetrance and variable expression. The main purpose of family screening is to identify relatives with unrecognized HCM and to monitor those at risk for disease, in order to minimize complications and to assess risk of sudden cardiac death. The ESC and ACCF/AHA guidelines on the diagnosis and management of HCM recommend the screening of child relatives from the age of 10-12 years.

Objectives: We studied the outcome of clinical screening and genetic testing of child probands and relatives (<18 years of age) from families with HCM and assessed the age-related penetrance of HCM during the follow-up of these young relatives.

Methods and Results: Twenty patients from ten families were included between 2004 and 2013, consisting of three probands and 17 first-degree relatives (80% male; median age 10 years). Fourteen child relatives were mutation carriers (70%; median age eight years). Seven (50%) of the 14 mutation carriers were diagnosed with HCM at initial assessment. At-risk child relatives were defined as those with a positive mutation but a negative phenotype at enrollment.

After 3.5 ± 0.8 years of follow-up, two of the phenotype-negative mutation carriers developed HCM at 10 and 15 years of age (28% penetrance rate).

Conclusions: The penetrance of HCM in phenotype-negative child relatives was 28% after 3.5 years of follow-up. This underlines the need for long-term monitoring of mutation carriers irrespective of the presence of a positive phenotype.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Crianças;
 Miocardiopatia
 hipertrófica familiar;
 Diagnóstico genético;
 Penetrância

Diagnóstico clínico e genético de miocardiopatia hipertrófica familiar: resultados em cardiologia pediátrica

Resumo

Introdução: A miocardiopatia hipertrófica (MCH) é uma patologia com transmissão essencialmente autossômica dominante, expressão clínica variável e penetrância incompleta. O rastreio familiar tem por objetivo identificar a ocorrência ou o risco de desenvolvimento da doença nos parentes em primeiro grau do caso índice. As normas de orientação da ESC e da ACCF/AHA recomendam a avaliação dos familiares em idade pediátrica a partir dos 10-12 anos.

Objetivos: Avaliaram-se os resultados de um programa de rastreio pediátrico de MCH familiar e o valor preditivo do seu estudo genético. Foi ainda aferida a penetrância fenotípica ao longo do tempo de seguimento destas crianças.

Métodos e resultados: Foram incluídas 20 pertencentes a dez famílias (2004-2013). Três das crianças constituíram-se como o caso índice, sendo as restantes parentes em primeiro grau de um doente com MCH (80% sexo masculino; idade mediana = 10 anos). Catorze crianças eram portadoras de mutação de um gene sarcomérico (70%; idade mediana = 8 anos). Sete (50%) dos 14 portadores de mutação apresentavam fenótipo positivo na primeira avaliação.

Foram definidos como «familiares em risco» aqueles com teste genético positivo, mas com fenótipo normal à apresentação. Após $3,5 \pm 0,8$ anos de seguimento, duas das crianças fenótipo negativo portadoras de mutação (gene *MYBPC3*) desenvolveram MCH, aos dez e 15 anos de idade (28% de taxa de penetrância).

Conclusões: A penetrância de MCH em crianças com fenótipo normal à apresentação foi de 28% após 3,5 anos de seguimento. Tal sublinha a importância da avaliação longitudinal dos portadores de mutação de genes sarcoméricos, independentemente da presença de fenótipo patológico.

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List of abbreviations

ACCF/AHA	American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association
BMI	body mass index
BSA	body surface area
CI	confidence interval
ECG	electrocardiogram
ESC	European Society of Cardiology
ICD	implantable cardioverter-defibrillator
HCM	hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
HGMD	Human Gene Mutation Database
LV	left ventricular
LVOT	left ventricular outflow tract
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
QTc	corrected QT
RR	relative risk
SAM	systolic anterior movement
SCD	sudden cardiac death
VT	ventricular tachycardia

Introduction

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is most often of autosomal dominant inheritance with variable expression and age-related incomplete penetrance.¹

Its clinical expression is heterogeneous, ranging from asymptomatic to severe heart failure symptoms or sudden cardiac death (SCD).²

The main purpose of family screening is to identify first-degree relatives of the proband with or at risk of developing the disease.

The latest guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association (ACCF/AHA) recommend screening of child relatives from the age of 10-12 years.^{3,4}

It is estimated that a mutation in the genes coding for sarcomeric proteins can be identified in 50-60% of cases of familial HCM.⁵ However, in children with a negative phenotype, the prognostic value of identifying such mutations is unclear.

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