

# Globally, *CYP1B1* Mutations in Primary Congenital Glaucoma Are Strongly Structured by Geographic and Haplotype Backgrounds

Subhabrata Chakrabarti,<sup>1</sup> Kiranpreet Kaur,<sup>1</sup> Inderjeet Kaur,<sup>1</sup> Anil K. Mandal,<sup>2,3</sup> Rajul S. Parikh,<sup>3</sup> Ravi Thomas,<sup>2,3</sup> and Partha P. Majumder<sup>4</sup>

**PURPOSE.** To obtain a global perspective on the distribution and evolution of *CYP1B1* mutations in primary congenital glaucoma (PCG) worldwide.

**METHODS.** Five intragenic single-nucleotide polymorphisms in *CYP1B1*—R48G, A119S, V432L, D449D, and N453S—were used to generate haplotype data from 138 Indian patients with PCG and 132 ethnically matched normal controls, which were then analyzed in conjunction with data from other populations. Maximum-likelihood estimates of haplotype frequencies were estimated from the genotype data. Subsets of patients and normal control subjects were also genotyped with respect to eight short tandem repeat (STR) markers around the *CYP1B1* locus (*D2S305*, *D2S165*, *D2S367*, *D2S2259*, *D2S391*, *D2S3337*, *D2S23678*, and *D2S286*), to gain evolutionary insights.

**RESULTS.** Common mutations in *CYP1B1* that are causal of PCG occurred on a uniform haplotype background among Indian patients, which is completely distinct from the modal haplotype background found among unaffected control subjects. Comparison of these data with data from other global regions reveals strong clustering of *CYP1B1* mutations by geographic and haplotype backgrounds. The two distinct modal haplotypes found among Indian patients with PCG and control subjects are both ancient with ages of similar magnitudes, as indicated by large variances in the number of repeats at eight STR loci. Together with data from chimpanzee and normal control subjects from India and other global regions, it was possible to make a parsimonious reconstruction of the evolution of these haplotypes.

**CONCLUSIONS.** The strong association of specific haplotypes with some predominant *CYP1B1* mutations underlying PCG and the observed geographical clustering, probably due to founder effects, may be useful for predictive testing. (*Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2006;47:43–47) DOI:10.1167/iovs.05-0912

From the <sup>1</sup>Kallam Anji Reddy Molecular Genetics Laboratory, the <sup>2</sup>Jasti V. Ramanamma Children's Eye Care Centre, and the <sup>3</sup>VST Centre for Glaucoma Care, L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India; and the <sup>4</sup>Human Genetics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, India.

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Corresponding author: Subhabrata Chakrabarti, Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, India; subho@lvpei.org.

Primary congenital glaucoma (PCG; online Mendelian Inheritance in Man [OMIM] 231300; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Omim/searchmorbid/>), provided in the public domain by the National Center for Biotechnology Information, Bethesda, MD) is a recessively inherited disorder of the eye with variable penetrance. The trabecular meshwork and anterior chamber angle of the eye are affected, leading to the obstruction of aqueous outflow, increased intraocular pressure (IOP) and optic nerve damage. The onset of this disease is seen in the neonatal or early infancy period and, if untreated, results in an irreversible blindness.<sup>1</sup> The prevalence of PCG varies across populations and continents (1/20,000–1/10,000 in Western populations)<sup>2</sup> and is higher in inbred populations (1/2500 among the Saudi Arabians,<sup>3</sup> 1/1250 among the Slovakian Roms,<sup>2</sup> and 1/3300 among inhabitants of Andhra Pradesh, India).<sup>4</sup> Genetic heterogeneity is well documented in PCG and three loci on chromosomes 2p21 (*GLC3A*),<sup>5</sup> 1p36 (*GLC3B*),<sup>6</sup> and 14q24.3 (*GLC3C*) (Stoilov IR, et al. *IOVS* 2002;43:ARVO E-Abstract 3015) have been identified by linkage analysis. At the *GLC3A* locus that harbors the human cytochrome P450 gene *CYP1B1* (OMIM 601771), more than 40 different mutations that cause PCG have been identified,<sup>7–10</sup> indicating a high degree of allelic heterogeneity.

Among patients with PCG, the proportion due to *CYP1B1* mutations is variable across populations; from ~100% among Saudi Arabians<sup>2</sup> and Slovakian Roms,<sup>3</sup> to ~50% among Brazilians,<sup>11</sup> ~30% in Indonesians,<sup>9</sup> and ~20% in Japanese.<sup>12</sup> The Slovakian Rom and Saudi Arabian patients with PCG exhibit allelic homogeneity that has largely been attributed to consanguinity and inbreeding.

Five intragenic SNPs in *CYP1B1* (GenBank Accession Number U56438)—3947 C→G (R48G; exon 2), 4160 G→T (A119S; exon 2), 8131 G→C (V432L; exon 3), 8184 T→C (D449D; exon 3), and 8195 A→G (N453S; exon 3), have been used to generate data on haplotypes associated with the mutant chromosomes in a large set of Slovakian Roms,<sup>2</sup> Saudi Arabian,<sup>3</sup> Brazilian,<sup>11</sup> and American patients with PCG.<sup>13</sup> All Slovakian Rom patients possessed a single *CYP1B1* mutation (E387K) on a uniform haplotype (G-T-C-C-A) background.<sup>2</sup> A similar scenario was also noted among Saudi Arabian,<sup>3</sup> but not among Indonesian,<sup>9</sup> or Japanese<sup>12</sup> patients. In the present study, we generated comparable data from India and analyzed these in conjunction with data from other populations to obtain a global perspective on the distribution and evolution of the *CYP1B1*-associated PCG mutations.

## METHODS

### Clinical Details of the Patients and Control Subjects

The study adhered to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki. With approval of the Institutional Review Board, 138 consecutive patients with diagnosed PCG and 132 ethnically matched control subjects, presenting at the L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India, from

TABLE 1. Summary of Observed *CYP1B1* Mutations among Patients with PCG in India

<i>CYP1B1</i> Mutations (n = 62)	Homozygous	Heterozygous	Compound Heterozygous
R368H (n = 30)	21 (70.00)	6 (20.00)	3 (10.00)
Other mutations (n = 32)	23 (71.87)	8 (25.00)	1 (3.12)

Data are the number (% of total).

January 2001 to May 2004, were recruited with informed consent. The diagnosis of PCG was confirmed independently by two surgeons based on clinical examination. In each case of PCG, the eye had an increased corneal diameter (>12.0 mm) with raised IOP (>21 mm Hg) and/or presence of Haab's striae, or optic disc changes. The ages at onset were at 0 to 1 year of age and symptoms of epiphora and photophobia were the corroborating features. Normal adults without any signs or symptoms of glaucoma and other systemic diseases served as control subjects. Their visual acuity ranged from 20/20 to 20/40, and IOP was <21 mm Hg. Clinical examination on stereo biomicroscopy did not reveal any changes in the optic disc suggestive of glaucoma. The patients and control subjects were matched with respect to their geographical region of habitat.

### Molecular Analysis

Peripheral blood samples (5–10 mL) were collected by venipuncture, and DNA was isolated by standard protocols.<sup>14</sup> The entire *CYP1B1* gene was bidirectionally resequenced on a DNA analyzer (model 3100; Applied Biosystems, Inc. [ABI], Foster City, CA) using appropriate oligonucleotide primers and PCR protocols.<sup>15</sup> We have also genotyped subsets of patients and normal control subjects with respect to eight short tandem repeat (STR) loci on chromosome 2, around the *CYP1B1* locus, to gain evolutionary insights. The order of the STR loci that were screened is: *D2S305*, *D2S165*, *D2S367*, *D2S2259*, *CYP1B1*, *D2S391*, *D2S337*, *D2S2368*, *D2S286*. (Intermarker genetic distances are provided online in Supplementary Table S1 at <http://www.iovs.org/cgi/content/full/47/1/43/DC1>.) All the fluorescently labeled STR markers were amplified on a thermal cycler according to the manufacturer's protocol (model 9700; ABI). The amplicons were pooled according to their dye label and allele size lengths and electrophoresed on the DNA analyzer. GeneScan software (ABI) was used to score repeats and genotypings were performed by the Genotyper software (ABI).

### Statistical Analysis

When multiple linked loci are considered, although it is not possible to identify haplotypes at the individual level based on genotype data of a sample of unrelated individuals, it is possible to estimate statistically the frequencies of various possible haplotypes possessed by the individuals in the sample. There are various methods of estimating haplo-

type frequencies in a sample of individuals based on genotype data.<sup>16,17</sup> In this study, maximum-likelihood estimates of haplotype frequencies were estimated from the genotype data at the five SNP loci, by using HAPLOPOP software, that uses the EM algorithm.<sup>18</sup>

### RESULTS

In the set of patients with PCG included in this study, 8% had an affected sibling, whereas the remaining were sporadic. In all cases, parents were genotyped. An observed nucleotide variant in a patient was scored as a mutation only when (1) it segregated with the disease phenotype, (2) it was absent in all normal control subjects, and (3) there was a significant difference in the minor allele frequencies between the patients and control subjects. In addition, the wild-type residue was conserved across different species.

Mutations in *CYP1B1* accounted for 44.93% (62/138) of all cases of PCG. The R368H mutation was the most common, accounting for 48.38% of mutations. Further details are provided in Table 1. Seventeen pathogenic mutations in *CYP1B1* were observed, of which nine were novel.<sup>10,15,19,20</sup> These novel mutations included three frameshift mutations resulting from a 23-bp deletion (g.3905del23bp) and a stop codon due to an insertion of adenine (A) at 30 bp (g.3835) in exon II and a 2-bp deletion (g.7900-7901delCG) in exon III. Five novel missense mutations—A115P, M132R, Q144P, P193L, and S239R—were noted in exon II and one (G466D) in exon III, whose residue is a part of the signature sequence (NH<sub>2</sub>-FXXGXXX-CXG-COOH) and is present in all heme-binding cytochromes. The spectrum of *CYP1B1* mutations is larger in the Indian population,<sup>10</sup> than among Saudi Arabians,<sup>3</sup> Slovakian Roms,<sup>2</sup> and Brazilians.<sup>11</sup> Marked phenotypic heterogeneity in clinical severity had been observed for these mutations in our earlier studies.<sup>10,15,19</sup>

Table 2 provides the estimated frequency distributions of haplotypes among patients with PCG, classified by the presence or absence of *CYP1B1* mutations, and among unaffected control subjects. These frequency distributions are significantly different ( $\chi^2 = 64.86$ , 8 *df*;  $P < 0.00001$ ; infrequent

TABLE 2. Estimated Haplotype Frequencies and Their Standard Deviations among Indian Patients with PCG and Controls

Haplotype	Patients with PCG					
	With <i>CYP1B1</i> Mutations (n = 62)		Without <i>CYP1B1</i> Mutations (n = 76)		Controls (n = 132)	
	%	SD	%	SD	%	SD
C-G-G-T-A	61.67	6.17	21.86	4.74	17.72	3.32
C-G-C-C-A	13.33	4.31	29.32	5.22	23.88	3.71
C-G-C-C-G	4.84	2.72	6.72	2.87	14.32	3.05
G-T-G-T-A	5.27	2.83	8.40	3.18	0.80	2.36
G-T-C-C-A	14.89	4.52	31.86	5.34	42.48	4.30
G-T-C-C-G	0		1.84	1.54	0	
C-G-G-T-G	0		0		0.80	2.36

haplotypes were pooled to avoid vagaries of small sample sizes). The haplotype frequency distributions among patients with PCG with *CYP1B1* mutations (*CYP1B1*(+) subgroup) and normal subjects were unimodal, whereas in patients without *CYP1B1* mutations (*CYP1B1*(-) subgroup) it was bimodal. Further, the modal haplotypes were different for the *CYP1B1*(+) subgroup (C-G-G-T-A) and control subjects (G-T-C-C-A). However, the haplotype frequency distributions of the *CYP1B1*(-) subgroup and control subjects were strikingly similar (Table 2).

There were many striking differences in frequencies of some haplotypes among the three groups. The C-G-G-T-A haplotype occurred with a high frequency (61.6%) in the *CYP1B1*(+) patient subgroup, which is roughly four times higher than that in the control subjects (17.8%;  $P_{\text{exact}}$ , the probability for the Fisher exact test < 0.00001) and three times higher than in the *CYP1B1*(-) patient subgroup (21.8%;  $P_{\text{exact}}$  < 0.00001). The difference in frequencies of this haplotype between the *CYP1B1*(-) subgroup and control subjects is not statistically significant ( $P_{\text{exact}}$  = 0.058). The G-T-C-C-A, which was the modal haplotype (42.3%) among the normal control subjects, showed a decline in frequency (31.9%) in the *CYP1B1*(-) subgroup of patients, and a further decline (14.9%) in the *CYP1B1*(+) subgroup. These decreases were statistically significant (both  $P_{\text{exact}}$  < 0.001). The frequency of the C-G-C-C-A haplotype among normal subjects and the *CYP1B1*(-) patient subgroup is virtually the same, but is significantly lower ( $P_{\text{exact}}$  < 0.00001) in the *CYP1B1*(+) subgroup.

Table 3 gives the distribution of prevalent *CYP1B1* mutations on the background of the four major haplotypes in patients with PCG worldwide. (Complete lists of prevalent and minor *CYP1B1*-associated PCG mutations on the background of these haplotypes are provided in Supplementary Table S2 at <http://www.iovs.org/cgi/content/full/47/1/43/DC1>.) As is evident from the table, most of the common mutations are clustered on the background of the C-G-G-T-A haplotype. It is striking that specific mutations are generally present on specific haplotype backgrounds, irrespective of geographical location. For example, a major proportion of the R368H mutation that is predominant in India occurs on the C-G-G-T-A background, and it is this same background on which this mutation is also found in diverse geographical areas such as Saudi Arabia<sup>5</sup> and Brazil.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, the E387K mutation, which is the only mutation present among the Slovakian Roms<sup>2</sup> appears on the G-T-C-C-A background and is also found on this same background in United States<sup>13</sup> and Brazil.<sup>11</sup> Similar features also apply to other mutations, such as 4340delG and R390C. However, it is interesting that although the *CYP1B1*-associated PCG mutation E387K occurs predominantly on the G-T-C-C-A haplotype in many regions of the world, this haplotype is more strongly associated with the *CYP1B1*(-) patient subgroup in India and also occurs in high frequency among normal individuals (Table 2). It may also be noted that unlike in other populations, a relatively minor proportion of R368H, M132R, and E229K mutations occur on multiple haplotype backgrounds among Indian patients with PCG (Table 3). Because it is unlikely that a specific haplotype background favors the recurrence of a specific mutation, this feature is most likely due to founder effects.

## DISCUSSION

We sought to reconstruct this extreme clustering of *CYP1B1* mutations on haplotype backgrounds in patients with PCG worldwide from an evolutionary perspective. The haplotype that is present among the chimpanzee is G-T-G-C-A ([http://www.ensembl.org/pan\\_troglodytes/geneview?gene=ENSPTRG00000011843](http://www.ensembl.org/pan_troglodytes/geneview?gene=ENSPTRG00000011843)).

TABLE 3. Distribution of Prevalent *CYP1B1*-Associated PCG Mutations across Different Populations on Various Haplotype Backgrounds

Haplotype	Algeria (n = 31) <sup>21*</sup>	Morocco (n = 32) <sup>22</sup>	Roma (n = 40) <sup>2</sup>	Portugal (n = 31) <sup>21*</sup>	S. Arabia (n = 62) <sup>3</sup>	India (n = 138) (Present study)	Japan (n = 65) <sup>12,§</sup>	USA (n = 21) <sup>13</sup>	Ecuador (n = 15) <sup>23</sup>	Brazil (n = 52) <sup>11</sup>
C-G-G-T-A	4340delG	4340delG† G61E			G61E† R368H R469W SNF268del	R368H†‡ G61E R469W		SNF268del 8037-8046dup	G61E   4340delG	4340delG† R368H 8037-8046dup P437L‡
C-G-C-C-A						M132R‡ C280X R368H‡ R390C	C280X		R390C	
C-G-C-C-G				8182delG	L77P	L77P M132R‡				8182delG
G-T-C-C-A			E387K†			E229K‡ P437L‡		E387K		E387K
G-T-G-T-A						E229K‡				

\* These patients are part of a French PCG series whose parents had their origin in Algeria and Portugal.

† The most prevalent mutation.

‡ Same mutation is present on multiple haplotype backgrounds.

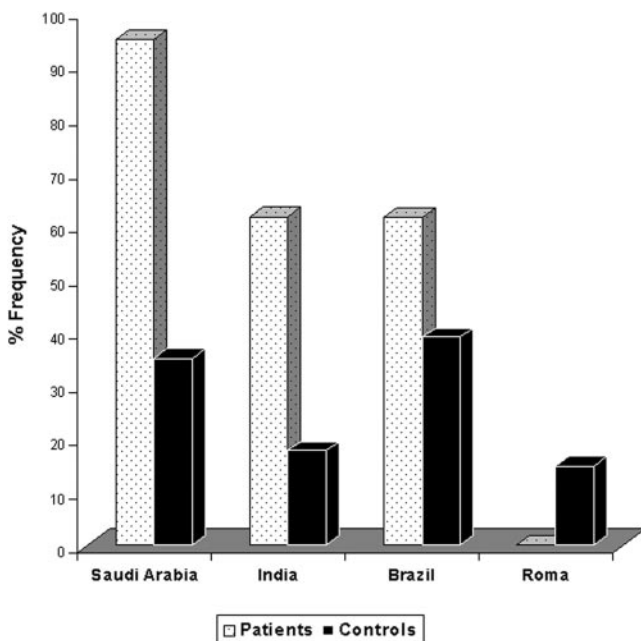
§ This study was based on the first 4 SNPs only.

|| Exist in compound heterozygous form.

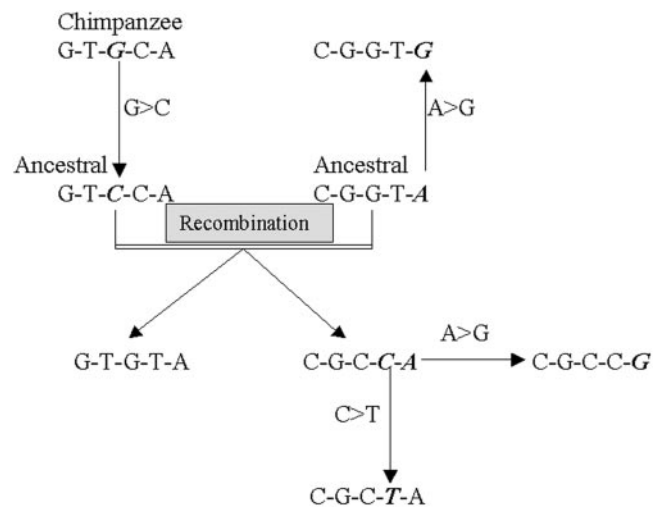
This haplotype has not been found among humans. However, the common haplotype G-T-C-C-A (Table 2) among normal humans is only one mutational step away from the chimpanzee haplotype. This haplotype is obviously an ancient human haplotype. It is unclear whether there is polymorphism in chimpanzees. However, another human haplotype C-G-G-T-A is also common, and the spectrum of *CYP1B1* mutations among patients with PCG is also the highest on this haplotype background (Table 3). Although this haplotype is absent among the Roma patients with PCG,<sup>2</sup> it is present in significantly higher frequencies among the patients with PCG of Saudi Arabia,<sup>3</sup> India, and Brazil<sup>11</sup> than in their normal control subjects (Fig. 1). This haplotype can, therefore, be considered an ancient haplotype.

To ascertain whether the ages of the haplotypes C-G-G-T-A and G-T-C-C-A are of similar magnitudes, we screened 20 individuals belonging to each of these two haplotypes with respect to eight STR loci on chromosome 2 (the complete genotype data of the patients and control subjects at these eight loci are presented in Supplementary Table S3 at <http://www.iovs.org/cgi/content/full/47/1/43/DC1>). The variance in the number of repeats pooled across the eight loci was approximately four in both subsets of individuals, indicating that the ages of these two haplotypes are similar. It is obvious that many of the other haplotypes are recombination derivatives. For example, the two haplotypes C-G-C-C-A (Tables 2, 3) and G-T-G-T-A (Table 3) are best explained as recombination products of the ancestral haplotypes G-T-C-C-A and C-G-G-T-A. Based on considerations of parsimony, we have inferred the evolutionary relationships among the various observed haplotypes associated with the common *CYP1B1* mutations in patients with PCG (Fig. 2). Data from other geographical regions will be helpful to refine this scenario.

It is clear from Figure 2, that while the two ancestral haplotypes are found among both patients and control subjects (Table 2), the more ancient PCG-related *CYP1B1* mutations occurred on the C-G-G-T-A background, whereas the more recent mutations occurred on the G-T-C-C-A background (since the larger fraction of mutations occur on the C-G-G-T-A background). We, however, note that this inference may be some-



**FIGURE 1.** Frequency distributions of the C-G-G-T-A haplotype in patients with PCG and normal control subjects across different populations.



**FIGURE 2.** Parsimonious scenario of evolution of various haplotypes in patients with PCG associated with *CYP1B1* and normal control subjects. Single-nucleotide changes are marked beside the arrows leading from one haplotype to another.

what speculative, but it is not possible to test this speculation until more extensive data become available from wider geographical regions.

The strong association of specific haplotypes with some predominant *CYP1B1* mutations underlying PCG and the observed geographical clustering, probably due to founder effects, may be useful for predictive testing. It is unlikely that the causal mutations have arisen multiple times during evolution. The fact that the same mutation is found in multiple geographical regions is probably because of human population movements. For example, the E387K mutation that is highly prevalent among Roma patients with PCG<sup>2</sup> is found in low frequency among patients in the United States<sup>13</sup> and Brazil.<sup>11</sup> This mutation was probably carried by Roma migrants to the United States and Brazil—a speculation that is bolstered by its association with the same haplotype (G-T-C-C-A) in all three countries. Similarly, it is known that there have been ancient population movements from the Arabian Peninsula to India.<sup>24</sup> Immigrants to India have possibly carried the G61E mutation, which is highly frequent in Saudi Arabia. This mutation is found in both countries on the same haplotype (C-G-G-T-A) background. Unfortunately, the reconstruction of the history of ancient population movements is very incomplete to permit a complete explanation of the observed geographical distribution of the PCG-related *CYP1B1* mutations based on historical gene flow. Identification of mutations in PCG not due to *CYP1B1* and estimates of their frequencies are required from different geographical regions to generate a clearer and broader picture of the haplotypic and geographical clustering of mutations associated with PCG and their evolution.

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