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DELETIONAL DYSTROPHIN GENE MUTATIONS IN MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY IN EGYPT

Thesis submitted by

Maha Atef Mohamed Tawfik

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Balan

SUPERVISORS

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Moustafa Hafez,

Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Mansoura.

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Awadalla,

Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ain Shams.

Prof. Dr. Soheir Said Abu Elella,

Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Menoufiya.

Dr. Ahmed Abdel Salam Settein,

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics "Genetics", Faculty of Medicine, University of Mansoura.

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Abbreviations

DMD Duchenne muscular dystrophy

BMD Becker muscular dystrophy

EMG Electromyography

PCR Polymerase chain reaction

NM Neuromuscular disease

DNA Deoxyribonucleic acid

cDNA Cloned DNA

cM Centi Morgan Kb Kilo base

bP base Pair

RFLPs Restriction fragment length polymorphisms

mRNA Messenger Ribonucleic acid

mM millimole

I.Q. Intelligence quotient

CPK, CK Creatine phosphokinase

P Fisher exact test

del Deletion

Fam Family

YACs Yeast Artificial Chromosomes

Res Residence

N Normal

Sub Subnormal LL Lower limbs

UL Upper limbs

Ms Muscle

HFDRs High frequency deletion regions.

EM Electron microscope

CT Connective tissue

PERT Phenol Enhanced Reassociation Technique.



INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

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Duchenne muscular dystrophy is the most common and severe neuromuscular genetic disease in man (Emery et al., 1988). It has an X-linked recessive mode of inheritance, with an incidence of 1/3,500 male births. Duchenne muscular dystrophy is allelic with Becker muscular dystrophy, a clinically similar but less severe form of myopathy affecting 1/30,000 males (Worton et al., 1988). Duchenne muscular dystrophy is characterized by the inability to produce normal dystrophin, a component of membrane cytoskeleton of myofiber (Hoffman et al., 1989).

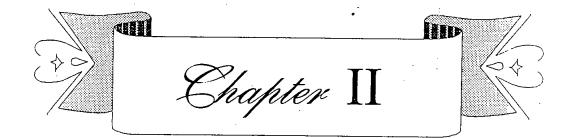
The cloning of Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene led directly to the identification of its protein (Xiuyuan et al., 1990). Because of the large size of the dystrophin gene, the restriction fragment patterns revealed by the cDNA probes are quite complex. So far, the majority of the detectable mutations at this locus are of the deletion type which accounts for about 60% of all mutations (Darras et al., 1988) resulting in the loss of one or more of the 65 exons preferentially clustered in the center of the gene and less frequently near the 5' end (Liechti-Gallatis et al., 1990).

Deletions are not uniformly distributed throughout the gene and deletion rich regions, have been identified. A strong correlation has been observed between the shift in transnational reading frame of a national transcript from such a disrupted gene and the severity of patient's disease, while the size and position of the disruption appear less important (Monaco et al., 1988).

Duplication of part of the Duchenne muscular dystrophy gene has also been revealed in a few patients (Xiuyuan et al., 1990).

Rapid detection of deletion and duplication mutations that cause Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy was achieved in patients and carriers after amplification of small amounts of mRNA from peripheral blood lymphocytes (Roberts et al., 1990). Such deletions are readily identified in patients by the absence of bands from Southern blots (Speer et al., 1989) or by failure of amplification of individual reactions in multiplex polymerase chain reaction (Saiki et al., 1988, Chamberlain et al., 1988). However diagnosis is complicated in carrier women by the presence of the normal chromosome which masks the results from the defective chromosome (Roberts et al., 1990).

The aim of this work is detection of the different types of deletions in the dystrophin gene that may lead to the Duchenne or Becker muscular dystrophy in affected Egyptian patients, this will greatly facilitate the arrangement for a programme of prevention through detection of carriers and prenatal diagnosis in the proband's families.



REVIEW OF LITERATUTRE