

1 ***De novo* variants disrupting the HX repeat motif of ATN1 cause a non-progressive**
2 **neurocognitive disorder with recognisable facial features and congenital malformations**

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- 9 **ADDITIONAL FOOTNOTES** \$ # These authors contributed equally to this work.

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Polyglutamine expansions in the transcriptional co-repressor Atrophin-1, encoded by *ATN1*,
3 cause the neurodegenerative condition dentatorubral-pallidoluysian atrophy (DRPLA) *via* a
4 proposed novel toxic gain of function. We present detailed phenotypic information on eight
5 unrelated individuals with *de novo* missense and insertion variants within a conserved 16
6 amino acid ‘HX repeat’ motif of ATN1. Each of the subjects had severe cognitive
7 impairment and hypotonia, a recognisable facial gestalt and variable congenital anomalies.
8 However, they lack the progressive symptoms typical of DRPLA neurodegeneration. To
9 distinguish this subset of affected individuals from the DRPLA diagnosis, we suggest using
10 the term CHEDDA (congenital hypotonia, epilepsy, developmental delay, digit
11 abnormalities) to classify the condition. CHEDDA-related variants alter the particular
12 structural features of the HX repeat motif, suggesting that CHEDDA results from
13 perturbation of the structural and functional integrity of the HX repeat. We found several
14 non-homologous human genes containing similar motifs of eight to ten HX repeat sequences,
15 including *RERE* where disruptive variants in this motif have also been linked to a separate
16 neurocognitive-congenital anomalies condition. These findings suggest that perturbation of
17 the HX motif may explain other Mendelian human conditions.

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1 **REPORT**

2 The combination of unbiased chromosomal analysis (chromosomal microarray) and more
3 recently next generation sequencing approaches (exome and whole genome sequencing:
4 ES/WGS) combined with the use of databases that promote sharing of information on
5 genotype and phenotype is enabling the identification and validation of genetic conditions
6 and improved diagnostic rates for complex congenital conditions¹. Such unbiased genetic
7 approaches can also unveil the complexity of how different types of genetic variation in a
8 particular gene can result in varied and sometimes distinct phenotypic presentations²⁻⁶.

9 *ATNI* (MIM: 607462), located at chromosome 12p13.31, comprises ten exons and has two
10 transcript variants (NM_001007026.1 and NM_001940.3) that differ only in their
11 untranslated exons. *ATNI* encodes the Atrophin-1 protein (ATN1), a member of a class of
12 evolutionarily conserved transcriptional corepressors involved in nuclear signalling⁷. The
13 normal roles of ATN1 are incompletely understood; however, converging evidence supports
14 its role as a nuclear transcriptional regulator important in the control of brain and other organ
15 system development⁸⁻¹⁰. Although *Atn1*^{-/-} mice are neurologically normal⁸, Zhang et al.,⁹
16 demonstrated that knockdown of the atrophin-1-like gene in rat neuronal progenitor cells
17 (NPC) led to significant abnormalities in brain development, which could be largely rescued
18 by co-transfection with a human *ATNI* construct. That study also demonstrated that ATN1 is
19 a direct target of the lysine-specific histone demethylase 1A (LSD1), a protein known to have
20 key developmental roles including controlling embryonic stem cell differentiation, cortical
21 neuronal migration and adult NPC proliferation⁹. *ATNI* transcripts are widely expressed,
22 including in brain, heart, lung, kidney and skeletal muscle: expression is higher in fetal
23 tissues, especially in the brain¹¹. In the human adult brain, *ATNI* is broadly expressed in
24 multiple regions, including the amygdala, corpus callosum, hippocampus, hypothalamus,

1 caudate nucleus, substantia nigra, subthalamic nucleus, and thalamus, consistent with ATN1
2 playing a role in central nervous system development and function¹¹.

3 The only human condition definitively associated with *ATN1* to date is the autosomal
4 dominant neurodegenerative condition dentatorubral-pallidolusian atrophy (DRPLA: MIM
5 #125370)^{12; 13} caused by a polyglutamine expansion in exon 5. DRPLA is characterised by
6 the progressive neurological features of choreoathetosis, myoclonus, epilepsy, ataxia and
7 dementia. Age of onset ranges between infancy to late adulthood, dependent on size of the
8 expansion^{14; 15}. Congenital anomalies are not a feature. The underlying pathogenic
9 mechanism whereby polyglutamine expansion of ATN1 causes DRPLA is incompletely
10 understood: a toxic gain of function effect of the expanded polyglutamine tract causing
11 neurotoxicity rather than simple loss of function is postulated. These toxic effects may
12 include formation of peri and intranuclear inclusions, abnormal protein cleavage or abnormal
13 phosphorylation of ATN1, and downstream suppression of cAMP response element-binding
14 protein (CREB)-dependent transcriptional activation, which is required for neuronal plasticity
15 and survival¹⁶⁻¹⁹.

16 We report here a cohort of eight individuals affected with overlapping severe primarily
17 neurocognitive phenotypes, all of whom harboured *de novo* variants in a specific and highly
18 evolutionarily conserved and invariant 16 amino acid motif, consisting of a histidine-rich 16
19 amino acid motif encoded by exon 7 of *ATN1* (Figure 2). This motif is distal from the Gln-
20 rich region involved in DRPLA, and, the affected individuals lacked the progressive
21 neurodegenerative features characteristic of DRPLA¹⁴.

22 For all affected individuals concerns arose within the first three months of life regarding
23 significant hypotonia, feeding difficulties, seizures, congenital malformations and distinctive
24 facial features and all have severe to profound global developmental delay/ intellectual
25 disability, truncal hypotonia, global motor disability and very limited verbal communication

1 (see **Table 1** for an overview of the clinical data, and **Table S2** for further clinical details).
2 Five have a seizure disorder: for four of these, the seizure disorder could be described as a
3 neonatal or infantile onset developmental encephalopathy. Hearing and visual impairments
4 and functional gastrointestinal disorders were common and frequently severe with four
5 individuals requiring orogastric feeding or total parenteral nutrition. Growth parameters were
6 within the normal range other than suboptimal weight gain in those with more significant
7 feeding difficulties. Individual 8 was born prematurely at 33 weeks and died at 2 months of
8 age due to respiratory distress in the setting of severe multiple congenital anomalies.
9 Congenital structural anomalies were common but variable between individuals: four
10 individuals had cardiac malformations including atrial and ventricular septal defects, and
11 abnormalities of the aorta and superior vena cava, two individuals had palatal clefts, three
12 individuals had congenital renal anomalies and two had an anteriorly placed anus. Common
13 neuroanatomical abnormalities were evident on examination of available MRI in one centre
14 (individuals 2, 5 7 and 8) (**Supplementary Figure 1**). Several individuals have cranio-
15 skeletal abnormalities: in particular two individuals had stenosis of the craniocervical
16 junction which prompted screening for this complication in all individuals. When assessed as
17 a group, a similarity in facial features was apparent (**Figure 1**): a particularly striking feature
18 being sparsity of the lateral forehead hair and low-set posteriorly rotated ears. Characteristic
19 hand and feet features were overlapping toes, camptodactyly, persistent fetal fingertip pads
20 and abnormalities of the palmar creases (**Figure 1**).
21 This clinical cohort was collated by identifying individuals with *de novo ATNI* variants listed
22 in the ClinVar database, as well as *via* contact with individual diagnostic laboratories and
23 networking at Human Genetics conferences. All individuals with a *de novo ATNI* variant
24 were undiagnosed prior to ES or WGS despite clinical genetic assessment and prior genetic
25 screening which in all individuals included chromosomal microarray (further details of prior

1 genetic studies provided in Supplementary **Table S1**). Individual 5 was previously included
2 in a large exome sequencing study²⁰ and Individual 8 was previously described clinically,
3 without a molecular diagnosis²¹. All *ATN1* variants in the clinical cohort were rare, in that
4 they were absent from the 125,748 exomes and 15,708 genomes listed in the gnomAD 2.1
5 database, a database depleted of individuals with severe pediatric disease²², or from the
6 BRAVO database of 62,785 healthy individuals. All missense variants were predicted to be
7 pathogenic by the majority of *in silico* pathogenicity scoring tools (see **Table 2**). No affected
8 individual had another plausible cause for their neurocognitive condition or congenital
9 anomalies after ES/WGS variant filtering and prioritisation (see **Table S2**). Segregation
10 analysis was consistent with the variant being *de novo* for all individuals with no evidence of
11 mosaicism. Details of the methods for sequencing, variant filtering and prioritization are
12 provided in the **Materials and Methods section** of the supplement and **Supplementary**
13 **Table S2**. Genetic studies were approved by local ethics committees and written informed
14 consent was obtained from the participants' legal guardians for molecular genetic analysis
15 and for the publication of clinical and radiological data and photographs, which were
16 obtained as part of standard diagnostic procedures.

17 The histidine-rich motif perturbed in all individuals of our cohort is located in the C-terminal
18 part of *ATN1* (residues 1049-1065). It consists of eight HX repeats, where H is a histidine
19 and X is any amino acid (Figure **Figure 2A,B,C**). The DNA region encoding for this HX
20 repeat motif was covered in the sequencing of all individuals to a depth of at least 20 reads
21 (**Table S2**). A search for the (HX)₈ pattern in the human proteome (using PatternSearch²³)
22 yielded 71 sequences (**Supplementary Data**), 20 of which appeared distinct from *ATN1*'s
23 HX repeat in that the 'X' position only contained histidines or prolines (see *PHLDA1*, **Figure**
24 **2B**). The remaining 51 sequences were isoforms of *ATN1* and its paralogous arginine-
25 glutamic acid dipeptide repeats protein *RERE* (which is also a transcriptional repressor), or

1 isoforms of the paralogous autism susceptibility gene 2 protein (AUTS2, a component of the
2 PRC1-like complex involved in maintaining the transcriptional repressive state of many
3 genes during development), fibrosin (FBRSL1) and fibrosin-like proteins (FBRSL1), or
4 belonged to the ZIP family of zinc transporters (**Figure 2**). Within these 51 sequences, the
5 ‘X’ position showed limited variability, mostly consisting of Gln and Thr (**Figure 2D**).

6 To probe the impact of a pathological variant on the molecular behavior of the ATN1 protein
7 we studied two ATN1-derived polypeptides containing the HX repeat motif in solution by
8 NMR. The peptides 1046-NVTPHHHQHSHIHSHLHLHQD-1067 (ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇) and
9 another bearing the variant His1060Tyr 1046-NVTPHHHQHSHIHSYLHLHQD-1067
10 (ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇^{His1060Tyr}) were commercially synthesized, and dissolved in 500 μ L of 100%
11 D₂O at a concentration of 2.2 mg/mL. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) experiments were
12 performed on a 700 MHz Bruker spectrometer at 25 °C and a pD (the pH for D₂O) between
13 5.51 and 6.4. The NMR data were processed by NMRPipe²⁴ and analyzed with SPARKY.
14 ¹H and ¹³C resonances for the two peptides were analyzed using standard procedures²⁵ based
15 on 2D homonuclear 2D ¹H-¹H TOCSY (with mixing times 10 and 80 ms) and 2D ¹H-¹H
16 ROESY as well as 2D ¹H-¹H NOESY (with mixing times 300 and 500 ms) supported by the
17 natural abundance 2D ¹H-¹³C HSQC (separately tuned for the aliphatic and aromatic regions)
18 experiments. For details, see **Supplemental Data**.

19 For the wild-type ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇ peptide, we found the cross-peaks corresponding to the
20 imidazole H δ 2/C δ 2 and H ϵ 1/C ϵ 1 atoms of all histidines clustered around one position
21 (**Figure 2E**). Moreover, 2D homonuclear ¹H -¹H ROESY and 2D ¹H -¹H spectra showed that
22 the trivial ($|j-i| = 0$) and short range ($|j-i| < 2$) NOE cross-peaks were absent or of only very
23 weak intensity (**Figure 2F**). Both types of experiments indicated that the regularly-spaced
24 occurrence of histidines introduces a spatial and dynamical synchronization of the histidines.

1 This synchronization was lost in ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇^{His1060Tyr}, which displayed dispersed cross-
2 peaks of the side-chain aromatic region and stronger intensity of the NOE cross-peaks.

3 Side-chain imidazole rings of histidines are known to coordinate metal ions^{26; 27}. Zn²⁺ binding
4 was assessed by the stepwise addition of ZnCl₂ stock solution (500 mM in 100% D₂O) to the
5 solution of peptides reaching the peptide:Zn²⁺ molar ratios of 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:4, 1:8, 1:16, 1:32
6 and 1:48 respectively. For each peptide:Zn²⁺ ratio the pD was checked and corrected if
7 required, and the same 1D and 2D NMR spectra as for the free peptides were recorded (see
8 **Supplemental Data**). We found that only the histidines of the His1060Tyr mutant but not of
9 the wild type peptide bound Zn²⁺ at a pD of 5.5, as demonstrated by histidine ¹Hβ_{2,3}/¹³Cβ
10 chemical shift and signal intensity changes upon addition of Zn²⁺ (**Figure 2G,H**). This
11 particular feature was lost upon deprotonation of the histidines at higher pD (**Figure S2A, B**).

12 Thus, under the conditions used, the HX repeat motif created specific and unusual pH-
13 dependent zinc-binding properties for the histidine-rich sequence, which were abolished by
14 the variant.

15 Herein, we describe a recognisable constellation of severe neurocognitive impairment,
16 distinctive facial features and pleiotropic but overlapping congenital anomalies, in eight
17 affected individuals with *de novo* variants in the ‘HX repeat motif’ encoded within exon 7 of
18 *ATN1*. This static (non-progressive) syndromic phenotype is distinct from the
19 neurodegenerative condition of DRPLA, caused by a triplet repeat expansion in exon 5 of
20 *ATN1* which is thought to result in a toxic gain of function. We propose the name CHEDDA
21 (congenital hypotonia, epilepsy, developmental delay, digit abnormalities) to distinguish this
22 previously unreported condition from *ATN1*-related DRPLA. Our clinical observations are
23 consistent with *ATN1* having a role as a key nuclear transcriptional regulator involved in the
24 regulation of organ development, including the brain and heart^{9; 10; 28}, and hint at a critical
25 role of the *ATN1* HX repeat motif in the control of human embryonic development. That the

1 variants cause a simple haploinsufficiency of *ATN1* is unlikely, given the presence of an
2 (albeit very small) number of healthy individuals with heterozygous stop gain, frameshift and
3 canonical splice variants in gnomAD and BRAVO, and the clustering of the variants in
4 CHEDDA within a specific restricted protein motif.

5 The HX repeat motif was only briefly described in 1991 in a purely bioinformatics-based
6 ‘hypothesis’ publication²⁹. The authors reported the presence of (HX)_n repeat motifs (where
7 n is the number of times the motif is repeated) in certain *Drosophila* transcription factors, and
8 suggested that this motif might be used to coordinate zinc binding. Interestingly, the wild-
9 type ATN1 HX repeat sequence showed a strong pH dependency for zinc binding *in vitro*.
10 This feature appears to be linked to the regular spacing of the histidines which introduces a
11 specific synchronization of the histidine side chains. The introduction of the His1060Tyr
12 variant present in an affected individual in the cohort disrupted this synchronization, and
13 allowed zinc binding, as expected for poly-histidine motifs, thus endowing ATN1 with a
14 novel property albeit with unclear molecular consequences. On a molecular level, the ATN1
15 HX repeat motif appears therefore to give rise to specific features that distinguish it from
16 other poly-histidine motifs. The *ATN1* HX repeat may serve as a specific pH-dependent
17 interaction motif for ions and/or proteins or other biomolecules.

18 That disruption in the spacing of the histidines in HX domains will affect critical functioning
19 is supported by our observation that nine of the 19 individuals published with
20 Neurodevelopmental Disorder with or without anomalies of the Brain, Eye and Heart
21 (NEDBEH MIM:#616975:) have *de novo* variants disrupting the HX motif of RERE and that
22 those individuals with variants in the HX motif, as opposed to the rest of the protein, are
23 more likely to have congenital anomalies including septal cardiac, eye and brain anomalies³⁰.
24 We also note that three rare *de novo* variants in the HX domain of AUTS2 are listed in

1 ClinVar as likely pathogenic (SCV000571291.3; SCV000837721.1 and SCV000493076.1)
2 and occurred in individuals with an intellectual disability and congenital anomaly phenotype.

3 A possible link between dysregulation of *ATNI* expression and another congenital syndromic
4 neurocognitive condition, Pallister Killian syndrome (PKS, mosaic tetrasomy 12p MIM: #
5 601803), has also been previously postulated by Kaur et al.,³¹. *ATNI* lies within the PKS
6 critical region on 12p13.31, and dysregulation of *ATNI* expression, amongst other genes, was
7 demonstrated in fibroblasts from affected individuals with PKS. Kaur *et al.*, postulated that
8 *ATNI* overexpression may be a key driver of the phenotype of PKS *via* dysregulation of the
9 key developmental *HOX* genes through the action of the master transcriptional regulator
10 *CREBBP*, although direct evidence was lacking. This speculation is intriguing, given certain
11 similarities in phenotype between individuals in our cohort and individuals affected by PKS,
12 including severe cognitive impairment, hypotonia, distinctive facial features including high
13 forehead and sparse fronto-temporal hair at birth (the latter represents a relatively rare clinical
14 finding), and variable congenital anomalies including high arched or cleft palate,
15 polymicrogyria, limb and genitourinary anomalies and congenital heart defects³². Indeed,
16 PKS was considered as a differential diagnosis in individual 7 of our cohort.

17 The *de novo* variants in the HX motif of *ATN1* reported here account for 1/6100 individuals
18 with a neurological phenotype who had exome sequencing through Baylor Genetics and
19 5/13,640 individuals with neurodevelopmental delay who had exome sequencing through
20 GeneDx, including another affected individual with the variant
21 NM_001007026.1(*ATN1*):c.3178C>T (p.His1060Tyr) (ClinVar accession number
22 SCV000620232.1) whose family did not give consent for inclusion of clinical data. This data
23 suggests a frequency of CHEDDA between $1.6 - 3.7 \times 10^{-4}$ individuals with
24 neurocognitive/neurological disorders. Despite this apparent rarity of CHEDDA, we postulate
25 more affected individuals may have already had a variant detected in this region through

1 diagnostic ES/WGS, but the lack of the progressive neurological phenotype characteristic of
2 DRPLA may have led to the variants being unreported or classified as variants of uncertain
3 clinical significance. This is a similar situation to other clinically distinct conditions our
4 groups have recently described²⁻⁴, and highlights genotype-phenotype complexity and the
5 importance of rigorous evaluation of the possible pathogenicity of unreported variants
6 through international clinical and basic science collaborations^{33;34}. To assist with the
7 dissemination of accessible information about CHEDDA to clinicians and families of
8 affected individuals we have adopted *ATN1* on the Human Disease Gene Webseries.

9 Further work is required to clarify the biological role of the HX repeat motif in the ATN1 and
10 AUTS2 protein families, and to understand how this function may be altered in CHEDDA
11 and potentially linked conditions such as PKS. Such work may lead to the development of
12 targeted therapies: for example, Zhang et al. demonstrated that the clinical LSD1 inhibitor,
13 tranylcyproline, could suppress *ATN1* expression, and suggested that this agent may have
14 potential therapeutic implications for conditions resultant from aberrant *ATN1* expression^{33;}
15 ³⁵. Further studies into the primary gene regulatory functions of ATN1, and how this may be
16 altered in CHEDDA and potentially linked conditions such as PKS, are warranted.

17

18 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

19 The authors declare no competing interests.

20

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12

13 **WEB RESOURCES**

14 The URLs for data presented herein are as follows:

15 BRAVO, <https://bravo.sph.umich.edu/freeze5/hg38/>

16 CADD, <http://cadd.gs.washington.edu>

17 ClinVar, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar/>

18 dbSNP, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/>

19 DECIPHER, <https://decipher.sanger.ac.uk/>

20 Ensembl, <https://www.ensembl.org/index.html>

21 ExAC database, <http://exac.broadinstitute.org>

22 gnomAD database, <http://gnomad.broadinstitute.org>

23 Human Disease Gene Webseries, <http://humandiseasegenes.nl/>

24 Mendelian Inheritance in Man, <http://www.omim.org>

25 PROVEAN, <http://provean.jcvi.org>

1 SPARKY, <https://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/home/sparky>

2 UCSC Genome Browser, <http://genome.ucsc.edu>

3

4 **ACCESSION NUMBERS**

5 ClinVar accession numbers:

6 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3178C>T (p.His1060Tyr): SCV000221666.1;

7 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3177_3178insGACCTG (p.Ser1059_His1060insAspLeu):

8 SCV000619648.1;

9 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3177_3178insAACCTG (p.Ser1059_His1060insAsnLeu):

10 SCV000571353.3

11 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3184C>G (p.His1062Asp):SCV000528073.3

12 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3160C>A (p.His1054Asn):SCV000678263.1

13 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3172C>T (p.His1058Tyr):SCV000678264.1

14 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3188T>G (p.Leu1063Arg): SCV000678265.1

15 NM_001007026.1(ATN1):c.3185A>G (p.His1062Arg): SCV000853264

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17

18

1 **FIGURES**

2 **Figure 1. Clinical images of affected individuals with CHEDDA**

3 A: Facial images of affected individuals 1-7. Common facial features include tall foreheads
4 with bitemporal narrowing, deep set eyes, sparsity of the lateral forehead hair, low-set
5 posteriorly rotated ears, a bulbous, slightly overhanging nasal tip, longer philtrum, prominent
6 columella and thin upper lip.

7 B: Hand and foot images of affected individuals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Common features include
8 abnormalities of the palmar creases, bulbous endings to the fingers and toes and overlapping
9 toes.

10 **Figure 2. *De novo* variants in *ATN1* affect a highly invariant motif and alter the**
11 **subcellular localization**

12 A: Schematic overview of ATN1, with amino acid positions of the Gln-repeat region
13 expanded in DRPLA and the HX repeat motif illustrated.

14 B: Human proteins with their (HX)_n repeat motifs, with $n \geq 8$. Start and end residue numbers
15 are given and histidines are highlighted. For ATN1, residues found mutated in this study are
16 underlined. The variant substitutions present in affected individuals are indicated above the
17 sequence alignment (green). The arrow head marks the region-position of the two-amino acid
18 insertions Asn-Leu (insNL) and Asp-Leu (insDL), observed in two individuals of our cohort.

19 Proteins and database accession numbers are: ATN1: atrophin-1, NP_001007027.1; RERE:
20 arginine-glutamic acid dipeptide repeats protein isoform a, NP_001036146.1; AUTS2: autism
21 susceptibility gene 2 protein, NP_056385.1; FBRSL1: fibrosin-1-like protein, NP_001136113.1; ZIP10: zinc transporter ZIP10 precursor,
22 NP_001120729.1; PHLADA1: pleckstrin homology-like domain family A member 1,
23 NP_031376.3.
24

1 C: 3D structural visualization of the ATN1 HX repeat motif. The 3D structure is not derived
2 experimentally, but only chosen to illustrate the localization of the histidines.

3 D: Amino acid enrichment within the HX regions of the 51 human sequences most similar to
4 the ATN1 HX repeat motif (excluding His-only or His-Pro motifs). Figure was produced with
5 Seq2Logo 2.0³⁶

6 E-F: 2D heteronuclear ¹H - ¹³C HSQC correlation spectra. Peptides were recorded using
7 natural abundance of ¹H and ¹³C in synthesized peptides. ATN1: ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇; ATN1mut:
8 ATN1₁₀₄₆₋₁₀₆₇^{His1060Tyr}. C-D: “1:16” indicates a peptide: Zn²⁺ ion ratio of 1:16. pD
9 corresponds to the pH in D₂O.

10

1 **Table 1. Comparison of clinical features of affected individuals with missense variants**
2 **in the poly HX domain of *ATNI*.**

3 **Abbreviations:** AA: aortic arch; abn: abnormal; AED: antiepileptic drug; Ant anus:
4 anteriorly placed anus; AmA: amino acid; ASD: atrial septal defect; bg: background; bl:
5 bilateral; CC: corpus callosum; C+OSA: central and obstructive sleep apnoea; CVI: cortical
6 visual impairment; CoA: coarctation of the aorta; DDH: developmental disorder of the hips;
7 EE: epileptic encephalopathy; F: female; GDD: global developmental delay; GERD:
8 gastroesophageal reflux disease; G tube: gastrostomy tube; HC: head circumference; inf
9 spasms: infantile spasms; inv: inverted; L: length; LV: left ventricle; MEA: multifocal
10 epileptiform activity; MT: monotherapy (i.e. controlled on monotherapy); M: male; mo:
11 month; mod: moderate; movts: movements; N: normal; NA: not available; ND: not done;
12 NK: not known; NEC: acute necrotising enterocolitis; PC: palmar crease; PROM: premature
13 rupture of membranes; OSA: obstructive sleep apnoea; OME: otitis media with effusions
14 PVL: periventricular leukomalacia; sn: sensorineural; SVC: superior vena cava; TPN: total
15 parenteral nutrition; rUTI: recurrent urinary tract infections; r: recurrent; UL: upper limb; ul:
16 unilateral; USS: ultrasound; VUR: vesicoureteric reflux; VSD: ventriculoseptal defect; W:
17 weight; yr: year.

18 ¹ based on transcript NM_001007026.1

19 ²Protein ID NP_001007027.1

| Case ID | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 (<i>clinical report Mosca et al., 2007</i>) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Current age | 3 yr | 1 year | 5 yr | 7 yr | 9 yr | 4 yr | 5 yr | 2 mo |
| Gender | M | M | F | F | F | F | F | F |
| Ethnicity | Argentinian | Hispanic | Hispanic | Hispanic | Saudi | Mexican | Australian | French |
| Variant cDNA¹ | c.3160C>A | c.3172C>T | c.3177_3178ins AACCTG | c.3177_3178ins GACCTG | c.3178C>T | c.3184C>G | c.3188T>G | c.3185A>G |
| AA change² | p.His1054Asn | p.His1058Tyr | p.Ser1059_His1060insAsnLeu | p.Ser1059_His1060insAspLeu | p.His1060Tyr | p.His1062Asp | p.Leu1063Arg | p.His1062Arg |
| Antenatal findings | Increased nuchal translucency (karyotype N) | Oligohydramnios and partial urinary obstruction | Normal antenatal USS | Normal antenatal USS | No | Ambiguous genitalia and cardiac malformation | Normal antenatal USS. | Normal antenatal USS. Breech. PROM. |
| Gestation | Term | Term | Term | 31 ⁺⁶ weeks | Term | Term | Term | 33 weeks |
| Growth: birth centiles | L:NA W:2.65kg HC: NA | L:>90% W:50% HC: NA | L:NA W:3% HC:15-50% | L:50-75% W:25-50% HC:50% | L:NA W:NA HC:NA | L:50% W:15% HC:50% | L:15% W:3% HC:15-50% | L:50% W:50% HC:75% |
| Growth: Current centiles | L:3% W: 3% HC: 50% | L:85% W:40% HC: 45% | L:25% W:85% HC: 60% | L: 5% W: 3% HC: 85% | L:25% W:2% HC:75% | L:30% W:85% HC:20% | L:3-10% W: 3% HC:25% | NK |
| Infantile hypotonia | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Current neurology | Global hypotonia | Central hypotonia, appendicular spasticity | Global hypotonia | Global hypotonia. Hyperkinetic UL movts | Central hypotonia and appendicular spasticity | Global hypotonia | Global hypotonia | Axial hypotonia and appendicular hypertonia |
| Overt seizure disorder | + Lennox Gestaut onset 1yr | - no clinical seizures | - | + Inf spasms controlled 2 AED | + controlled MT | + intractable neonatal onset EE (mixed types) | + EE onset 7 mo controlled MT | - |
| EEG | MEA with slow spike and wave and periods of voltage attenuation | Bitemporal epileptiform discharges | Focal theta slowing | Hyps arrhythmia + bg slowing | Diffuse slowing | Diffuse slowing | MEA | Not done |
| Level of DD/ID | Severe-profound GDD | GDD | Severe GDD | Profound | Severe | Severe-profound | Severe | Severe |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Visual impairment | + Does not fix or follow Corneal leukoma | + CVI | No | + CVI | No | + CVI | + CVI | + microphthalmia |
| Hearing impairment | + | + bl mod (hearing aides) | + OME (grommets) | - OME (grommets) | - OME (grommets) | + bl sn | + bl mod (hearing aides and grommets) | NK |
| Verbal ability | Non verbal | Coos | Single words | Non-verbal | Non-verbal | Non-verbal | Babble | None |
| Gross motor ability | No head control, cannot roll. | Rolls to side | Walks few steps unsupported | Sits with support | Immobile | Sits with support | Sits with support | None |
| Fine motor ability | | | Holds small objects | Grasps objects | | | Grasps objects | |
| MRI brain | Parenchymal atrophy, Unilateral PVL Left cerebellar hyperintensity | Peri-sylvian polymicrogyria, parenchymal atrophy, thin CC, absent falx cerebri | Normal | Normal | Peri-sylvian polymicrogyria, thin CC, partial absence falx cerebri, parenchymal atrophy | Vermian hypoplasia | Peri-sylvian polymicrogyria, thin CC, absent falx cerebri | Polymicrogyria of the rt Sylvian fissure, vermian hypoplasia, thin CC |
| MRI cervical spine | ND | Craniocervical stenosis | Craniocervical stenosis | ND | ND | Normal | Normal | ND |
| Respiratory system | No OSA | + severe OSA | - | - | + Asthma | + ul choanal stenosis. O+CSA (tracheostomy) | + OSA (CPAP) | ++ respiratory distress |
| Orofacial clefting | - High narrow palate | + Small hard palate cleft | - | - | - | - | - High, narrow palate | + Cleft palate and gingiva |
| GI abnormalities | + Pyloric hypertrophy Dysphagia GERD | + GERD NEC | + Dysphagia constipation | - | + GERD | + Dysphagia GERD. Ant anus | + Dysphagia GERD, constipation | + Ant anus |

| Nutrition | Oral feeding | TPN | Self feeds | Oral feeding | G tube | G tube | Oral feeding | Orogastric feeding |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Congenital heart disease | - | + ASD+ | - | - | + VSD+ASD | + CoA + hypoplasia LV and AA | - | + large foramen ovale, persistence left SVC |
| Genitourinary disease | Right renal agenesis | Cryptorchidism, VUR, ul hydrourteronephrosis rUTI | - | - N USS | + r UTI N USS | - N USS | - N USS | + Left non-dysplastic renal hypoplasia |
| Skeletal system | Joint hypermobility Scoliosis | Hip dysplasia | Short trunk DDH Joint laxity | Mild scoliosis | DDH | Sagittal craniosynostosis . | N | Phalangeal hypoplasia |
| Facial Gestalt | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Hands and feet | Overlapping digits | Overlapping digits | Overlapping digits | Overlapping toes | Abnormal PC | Overlapping toes, single PC, Fetal pads | Overlapping toes, fetal pads, | Overlapping toes, proximally implanted thumbs, single PC |
| Others | | | | | | Inv nipples | Inv nipples | |

Table 2: *De novo* ATNI variants reported in this clinical cohort.

| Case ID | Genomic Location (GRCh37) | Variant cDNA change (NM_001007026.1) | Amino acid change (NP_001007027.1) | Present in gnomAD database? | Segregation | SIFT ³⁷ (score) | PROVEAN ³⁸ (score) | DANN ³⁹ score | CADD ⁴⁰ score | Classification as per ACMG guidelines ⁴¹ |
|---------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | NC_000012.11:g.7048286C>A | c.3160C>A | p.His1054Asn | no | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-6.1) | 0.994 | 29.6 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting (8/8 pathogenic predictions) |
| 2 | NC_000012.11:g.7048298C>T | c.3172C>T | p.His1058Tyrr | no | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-5.26) | 0.992 | 23 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting (6/8 pathogenic predictions) |
| 3 | NC_000012.11:g.7048303-7048304insAACCTG | c.3177_3178insAACCTG | p.Ser1059_His1060insAsnLeu | no | <i>de novo</i> | NA | NA | NA | NA | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PM4: Pathogenic Moderate (in frame variant in <i>ATNI</i> , and is not in a repeat region.) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting: 1 pathogenic prediction from GERP (vs no benign predictions). |
| 4 | NC_000012.11:g.7048303- | c.3177_3178insGACCTG | p.Ser1059_His1060insAspLeu | no | <i>de novo</i> | NA | NA | NA | NA | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|----|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------|------|--|--|
| | 7048304insGACCTG | | | | | | | | | | PM4: Pathogenic Moderate (in frame variant in <i>ATN1</i> , and is not in a repeat region.) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting: 1 pathogenic prediction from GERP (vs no benign predictions). |
| 5 | NC_000012.11:g.7048304C>T | c.3178C>T | p.His1060Ty r | no | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-5.21) | 0.998 | 28.7 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting (8/8 pathogenic predictions) | |
| 6 | NC_000012.11:g.7048310C>G | c.3184C>G | p.His1062As p | no | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-7.86) | 0.992 | 26.2 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting (8/9 pathogenic predictions) | |
| 7 | NC_000012.11:g.7048314T>G | c.3188T>G | p.Leu1063A rg | No | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-5.33) | 0.997 | 29.6 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) | |
| 8 | NC_000012.11:g.7048311A>G | c.3185A>G | p.His1062Ar g | no | <i>de novo</i> | Damaging (0) | Damaging (-6.89) | 0.9938 | 24.1 | Variant of uncertain significance. PM2:Pathogenic Moderate (absent GnomAD despite good coverage) PP3: Pathogenic Supporting (8/8 pathogenic predictions) | |

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Material & Methods

Next generation sequencing and variant filtering and analysis

Pattern Search for (HX)₈ motifs in the human proteome

Detailed NMR analysis

Supplemental Figures

Figure S1: Magnetic resonance images of affected individuals in CHEDDA cohort, where available

Figure S2: Supplemental NMR analysis of the HX repeat motif

Figure S3: Evolutionary conservation of HX repeat motif

Supplemental Tables (provided as separate excel files)

Table S1: Detailed clinical and variant data

Table S2: Data on exome/ genome sequencing and variant analysis