GMR Genetics and Molecular Research
Online Journal
ISSN:1676-5680

Short Communication

Mutations in *NPHS2* (podocin) in Mexican children with nephrotic syndrome who respond to standard steroid treatment

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Genet. Mol. Res. 12 (2): 2102-2107 (2013)
Received August 8, 2012
Accepted January 27, 2013
Published June 24, 2013
DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/2013.June.24.1

ABSTRACT. Human nephrotic syndrome has been related to mutations in glomerular proteins. Mutations in the *NPHS2* gene that encodes podocin have been described as responsible for steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome. It has been advised to test for *NPHS2* mutations in parallel or before giving steroid treatment in nephrotic syndrome patients in order to avoid unnecessary therapy. We identified *NPHS2* mutations in Mexican children with nephrotic syndrome. The study included 13 children with nephrotic syndrome and 2 healthy control individuals; 8 patients were steroid-resistant and 5 were steroid-sensitive. We analyzed the 3rd exon of *NPHS2* by DNA sequencing. Podocin heterozygous missense mutations L139R and L142P were found; the former was found in both steroid-sensitive and steroid-

resistant children, while the latter was found in a steroid-resistant child. We conclude that *NPHS2* mutations should be investigated to help decide the course of treatment in nephrotic syndrome patients.

Key words: Podocin; Nephrotic syndrome; Mexican children; Mutation

