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## Jacobsen syndrome: report of a patient with severe eye anomalies, growth hormone deficiency, and hypothyroidism associated with deletion 11(q23q25) and review of 52 cases

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## **Abstract**

We have evaluated a patient with Jacobsen syndrome. The patient presented with growth retardation, hypotonia, trigonocephaly, telecanthus, downward slanting palpebral fissures, bilateral inferior colobomas (of the iris, choroid, and retina), hydrocephalus, central nervous system (CNS) abnormalities, and an endocardial cushion defect, features commonly seen in Jacobsen syndrome. Endocrine evaluation showed growth hormone deficiency and central hypothyroidism. Chromosome analysis showed a 46,XX,del(11)(q23q25) de novo karyotype. Cytogenetically, the deletion appeared to include most of bands 11q23 and q24 and a portion of q25. Using chromosome specific paint probe, a combination of chromosome 11 centromere, telomere, and region specific cosmid probes from 11q14.1-14.3, 11q23.3, and 11q24.1, we have localised the deletion breakpoint to q24.1. Phenotype-karyotype correlation of patients with Jacobsen syndrome and specific deletions of chromosome 11q has enabled us to suggest that the critical region for this syndrome lies in close proximity to cytogenetic band 11q24. Although growth retardation is a consistent finding in 11q deletion syndrome, the presence of hypothalamic-pituitary hormone deficiency has not been reported previously.

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Key words: Jacobsen syndrome; deletion 11(q23q25).

Jacobsen syndrome, also known as 11q-syndrome, is a rare, clinically recognisable condition. The deletion in most cases involves bands distal to 11q23. To date, 52 cases have been reported in which variable segments of 11q were deleted. Of the 52 reported cases with Jacobsen syndrome, the majority are terminal deletions (44/52 = 84.6%) while the remaining were reported to be interstitial deletions. Most of these cases (45 of 52) result from de novo deletions. The remaining cases are the result of familial balanced translocations and ring chromosomes. Fryns et al² suggested that the deletion of sub-

band 11q24.1 is crucial for the full clinical expression of the syndrome.

The published cases have shown a broad spectrum of phenotypic variability. The most consistent phenotypic findings are psychomotor and growth retardation, trigonocephaly, and facial dysmorphism including telecanthus, downward slanting palpebral fissures, and a "carp shaped" mouth. Also reported are ocular anomalies, such as ptosis, strabismus, cataracts, glaucoma, and colobomas. Congenital heart defects occur in half of the patients.<sup>7</sup> In this report, we describe a patient with an apparent de novo interstitial del(11)(q23q25) and severe eye anomalies, hydrocephalus, white and grey matter CNS abnormalities, growth hormone deficiency, and central hypothyroidism, and review the previously published cases of Jacobsen syndrome involving deletion of the long arm of chromosome 11.

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Figure 1 The proband aged 11 months. Note ocular hypertelorism, telecanthus, downward slanting palpebral fissures, colobomas, and short nose.

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## Case report

The proband was the product of the second pregnancy of non-consanguineous parents. Both parents were 26 years of age at the time of conception. The pregnancy was uneventful and delivery was at term. At birth, the proband weighed 2165 g (< 5th centile) and the head circumference was 33 cm (10th centile). Apgar scores were 7 at one minute and 8 at five minutes. Physical features noted at birth were hypotonia, trigonocephaly with bulging forehead, shallow orbits, hypertelorism, downward slanting palpebral fissures, and bilateral inferior colobomas of the irides which extended to the choroid and retina. The upper eyelashes were abundant while the lower eyelashes were sparse. The ears were poorly formed and low set. The eyelids could not be completely closed owing to facial diplegia. Brain stem auditory evoked response indicated moderate bilateral hearing loss. Echocardiogram disclosed an endocardial cushion defect. Ultrasonography of the head showed mild symmetrical ventriculomegaly.

The proband was re-evaluated at 11 months of age. She was severely developmentally

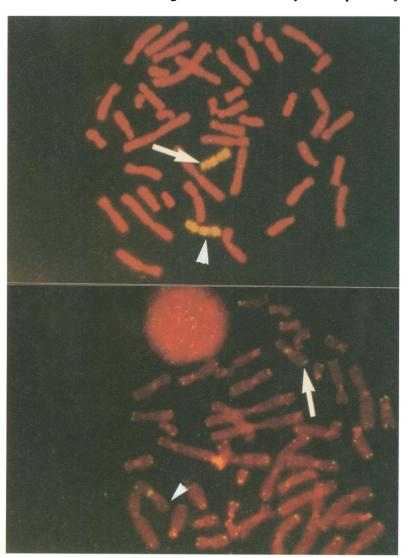


Figure 3 (Top) FISH with chromosome 11 specific paint probe. The deleted chromosome is marked by an arrow and the normal homologue by an arrowhead. (Bottom) FISH with telomere cocktail probe for all human chromosomes and sequential FISH using alpha satellite for 11 and human telomere probe. Arrow denotes the deleted 11 with telomere on the deleted end. Arrowhead denotes the normal chromosome.

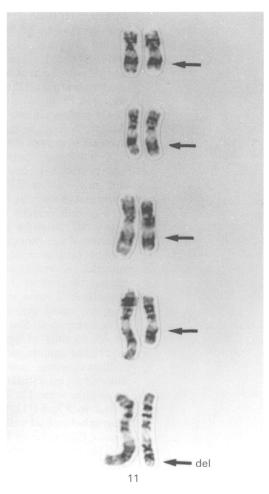


Figure 2 Partial karyotype of chromosomes 11 of the proband. Arrow shows the deleted chromosome.

delayed with marked growth retardation. A significant characteristic noted was the disproportionately large head with bulging anterior fontanelle (fig 1). Facial dysmorphism remained unchanged. She was unable to make meaningful sounds or sit without support.

Computerised tomography (CT) scan of the head showed thickened, abnormal grey matter in addition to the deficiency of white matter and disproportionate progressive ventriculomegaly involving the lateral and third ventricles. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed a small infundibulum and pituitary gland. A neuronal migrational disorder with polymicrogyria or pachygyria was present in the cerebral hemispheres. Because of the severe short stature, an endocrine evaluation was undertaken.

Growth velocity was 4.1 cm/year, well below expected (normal 13-20 cm/year) for age. Her growth velocity was at -9.1 SD units for age. Weight gain was 1.2 kg/year (normal 4 kg/year). T4 was 4.3 µg/dl (normal 7-14), free T4 was 0.76 ng/dl (normal 0.9-1.85), thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) was 1.9 µU/ml (normal 0.5-4.6), reverse T3 was 18 ng/dl (normal 10-50). These values were consistent with central hypothyroidism. A TSH surge test confirmed the diagnosis with a nocturnal TSH rise of only 17% (normal 50-300%). Growth hormone (GH) screening tests produced low values with insulin-like growth factor binding

protein 3 (IGFBP 3) 0.2 mg/l (normal 0.7-2.5) and insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) <10 mg/ml (normal 11-206). Arginine-L-DOPA testing yielded a peak stimulated GH of 9.2 ng/ml (polyclonal radioimmunoassay), consistent with partial GH deficiency. A morning cortisol was 15  $\mu$ g/dl.

Thyroid hormone therapy was begun at a dose of 8.3 µg/kg/day which resulted in an increase in growth velocity to 9.8 cm/year (-2.8 SD units for age) between 16 and 22 months of age (normal 8-15 cm/year). Rate of weight gain did not change. The addition of growth hormone therapy at the age of 22 months led to a growth velocity increase to 10.6 cm/year (+0.2 SD units for age) between 22 and 26 months of age (normal 6-12 cm/year). Rate of weight gain increased to 3.2 kg/year. At 18 months, a ventriculoperitoneal shunt was placed because of the progressive ventriculomegaly. At 2 years, she was able to sit without support, stand with support, and feed herself with finger food. She died of septic meningitis at 26 months of age. Necropsy showed no additional anatomical abnormalities.

Chromosome analysis of the lymphocytes showed an interstitial deletion of the long arm of chromosome 11. The karyotype was designated 46,XX,del(11)(q23q25) de novo (fig 2). (Lymphoblastoid cell line, University of Tennessee Cytogenetics Laboratory No 93-471, A T Tharapel.) Fluorescent in situ hybridisation (FISH) with chromosome 11 specific paint probe did not show evidence of a cryptic translocation (fig 3, top). Region specific cosmid probes cSRL1h6, c11q4b7, and cSRL1c8, hybridising to 11q14.1-q14.3, 11q23.3, and 11q24.1, respectively (probes courtesy of Dr G Evans) showed that the deletion extended from a region distal to band q24.1 (fig 4A-C). Sequential FISH analysis with chromosome 11 specific centromere probe and telomere probe showed the presence of a telomere on the deleted chromosome 11 (fig 3, bottom). These results, in conjunction with the G banded nature of the deleted chromosome, prompted us to interpret the karyotype as an interstitial deletion. However, the possibility of a terminal deletion at 11q24.1 with regeneration of the telomere8 cannot be excluded with certainty.

## **Discussion**

Review of published reports showed that the severity of the observed clinical abnormalities in patients with Jacobsen syndrome are not clearly correlated with the extent of the deletion. Thus, there is no clear phenotype-karyotype correlation in patients with Jacobsen syndrome. The phenotype-karyotype relationship in the present case and of previously reported cases is summarised in tables 1, 2, and 3. 1-7 9-43

Our search identified 52 patients with Jacobsen syndrome of which 47 were the result of de novo 11q deletions. In 28 of the 47 patients, the deletion extended from band 11q23 to qter, while interstitial deletions occurred in eight of the 52 cases. 38-40 42 44-46 However, no clear distinction can be made between the

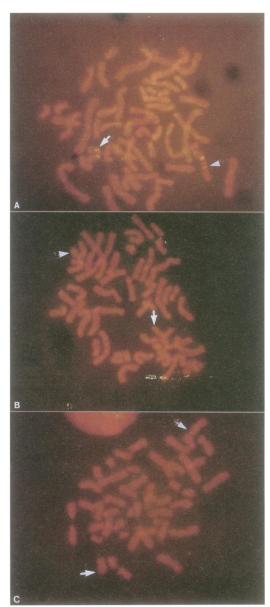


Figure 4 FISH with region specific cosmid probes from the long arm of chromosome 11. (A) Simultaneous FISH with cosmid cSRL1h6 localised to 11q14.1-q14.3 and alpha satellite for chromosome 11. Both homologues of chromosome 11 show the signals indicating that the deletion is distal to 11q14.3. The deleted chromosome is marked by an arrow and the normal homologue is by arrowhead. (B) Cosmid c11q4b7 localised to 11q23.3. Both homologues of chromosome 11 show the signals indicating that the deletion is distal to 11q23.3. Note the location of the signal on the deleted chromosome in comparison to the normal homologue. The deleted chromosome is marked by an arrow and the normal homologue by an arrowhead. (C) Cosmid cSRL1c8 localised to 11q24.1. Only the normal chromosome 11 shows the signals. Absence of signals on the deleted chromosome indicates the breakpoint is at 11q24.1. The deleted chromosome is marked by an arrow and the normal homologue by an arrowhead.

interstitial versus terminal deletions in relation to clinical manifestations, except for a causal relationship between the degree of psychomotor impairment and extent of deletion in a few patients.<sup>47</sup> Attempts to correlate other major clinical manifestations with karyotype were unsuccessful.

It has been suggested that the presence of the 11q- phenotype depended on the loss of genetic material between band 11q24.1 and the terminal end of the long arm of chromo-

Table 1 Reveiw of phenotype-karyotype correlations involving terminal deletions of the long arm of chromosome 11

	Terminal deletions						Ring	
	q21	q22	22 q23		q24		q15-q25	q24-qter
Findings	(n=3)	(n=2)	De novo (n=25)	pat t(11;21) (n=2)	De novo (n=7)	t(8;11) pat t(11;14) (n=2)	(n=2)	(n=1)
Male	1 (mosaic)	1	8 (2 low gr mosaic)	_	3	2	-	_
Female	2	1	17	2	4	_	2	1
Prenatal growth retardation	1/3	1/2	5/25	2	5/7	_	1/2	_
Short stature	1 (2=ID)	-	12/25	2	6/7	_	2/2	-
Psychomotor retardation	1/1ID	1/2	12/25	2	5/7	2	_	+
Trigonocephaly	1/3	2/2	18/25	2	3/7	1/2	_	+
Ventriculomegaly-hydocephalus or anatomical abnormality	1/3	NA	3/25	NA	NA	-	_	NA
CNS white grey matter abnormality	_	NA	1/25	NA	1/7	NA	1/2	NA
Abnormal face; hypertelorism, "carp shaped" mouth; flat nasal bridge; abnormal, low set ears	1/3	2/2	24/25	2	3-3ID/7	1/2	-	+
Congenital heart defect	1/3	2/2	12/25	2	3/7	_	1/2	+
Eye abnormality including ptosis	1/3	2/2	16/25	1/2	5/7 (ptosis)	NA	1/2	_
Documented endocrine abnormality	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	_	1/2	NA
Thrombocytopenia or pancytopenia	_	_	4/25	_	1/7	_	- (1/2	_
					pancytopenia)		nia)	
Neonatal death (stillborn)	2/3 stillborn	-	6/25	1/2	-	-		_
Died before second year	-	-	_	1/2	_	_	_	+
Reference numbers	9-11	12, 13	2, 7, 14-32	1	33-37	2, 3	5, 6	4

NA = not analysed.

Table 2 Review of phenotype-karyotype correlations involving interstitial deletion of the long arm of chromosome 11

	Interstitial deletions						
Findings	(Y;11) de novo (q11.2-q24) FISH (n=1)	q13-q21 (n=1)	q14-q21 (n=1)	q14-q22 (n=1)	q14.1-q22.1 (n=1)	del 11(q13-q21) or del 11(q32-q23) (n=2)	q23-q25 (n=1)
Male	1	1	_	_	_	_	_
Female	_	_	1	1	1	2	1
Prenatal growth retardation	_	_	-	_	_	_	ID
Short stature	+	+	_	+	+	1/2	ID
Psychomotor retardation	+	+	_	+	+	1/2	+
Trigonocephaly	+	_	_	_	_	_	+
Ventriculomegaly-hydrocephalus or anatomical abnormality	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
CNS white/grey matter abnormality	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	+
Abnormal face; hypertelorism; "carp shaped" mouth; flat nasal bridge; abnormal, low set ears	+	+	-	+	+	2/2	+
Congenital heart defect	_	_	_	_	_	1/2	+
Eye abnormality including ptosis	Ptosis	NA	NA	_	NA	1/2	+
Documented endocrine abnormality	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Thrombocytopenia or pancytopenia	Pancytopenia	NA	_	_	_	_	_
Neonatal death (stillborn)	- ' '	_	_	_	_	_	+
Died before second year	NA	NA	<ul><li>(other: Wilms tumour, GU anomalies)</li></ul>	NA	-	-	-
Reference numbers	38	39	40	41	42	26, 39	43

NA = not analysed.

some 11,35 while others suggested that subband 11q24.1 is the critical region for the expression of Jacobsen syndrome. However, cases with interstitial deletions proximal to the suggested critical region have been reported with some features of Jacobsen syndrome. One of the previously published cases had identical breakpoints (11q23q25) to those seen in our patient. Although both our patient and the patient of Sirota et al had trigonocephaly, facial dysmorphism, and endocardial cushion defect, the latter had complex genitourinary

malformations and died at 23 days of age. Endocrine and ophthalmological abnormalities were not assessed. Our FISH studies with region specific cosmid probes and review of all the true deletion cases with Jacobsen syndrome enabled us to delineate the smallest region of overlap to include band 11q24 (fig 5), with trigonocephaly, abnormal facies, eye anomalies, and congenital heart disease as the most commonly seen features. On the distal portion of 11q, no candidate gene has yet been identified for Jacobsen syndrome. However, the neu-

ID = insufficient data.

<sup>+ =</sup> present.

<sup>- =</sup> absent.

ID = insufficient data.

<sup>+ =</sup> present. - = absent.

Table 3 Summary of phenotype-karyotype correlations of the 51 previously published cases and the present case. All results given	as No ('	%)
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	Previous cases	Present case (VH)		
Findings	Terminal deletion (n=44)	Interstitial deletion (n=8)	q23.3-q25 (n=1)	
Male	14 (30)	2 (25)	0	
Female	30 (70)	6 (75)	1	
Prenatal growth retardation	15 (35)	_ ` `	+	
Short stature	23 (51)	5 (60)	+	
Psychomotor retardation	24 (53)	6 (75)	+	
Trigonocephaly	28 (65)	2 (25)	+	
Ventriculomegaly-hydrocephalus or anatomical abnormality	4 (9)	_ ` `	+	
CNS white/grey matter abnormality	3 (7)	1 (13)	+	
Abnormal face; hypertelorism, "carp shaped" mouth; flat nasal bridge; abnormal, low set ears	35 (80)	7 (90)	+	
Congenital heart defect	22 (50)	2 (25)	+	
Eye abnormality including ptosis	26 (60)	3 (38)	+	
Documented endocrine abnormality	1 (2)	_	+	
Thrombocytopenia or pancytopenia	6 (13)	1 (13)	_	
Neonatal death (stillborn)	9 (20)	1 (13)	_	
Died before second year	2 (5)	_ ` `	_	

ral cell adhesion molecule (NCAM) that is localised to 11q23 might play a role in eye development and myelin formation.<sup>48</sup>

Many possible explanations have been suggested for the apparent lack of phenotypekaryotype correlation in Jacobsen syndrome patients. These explanations range from undetected mosaicism to redundant gene loci.

In five of the 52 cases, chromosome mosaicism was observed in peripheral blood.

Table 4 Eye anomalies in partial monosomy 11q

Defect	Present case	Previously reported cases (29/52)
Eyelid ptosis	+	19/29
Eyelid coloboma	+	1/29
Iris coloboma	+	7/29
Chorioretinal coloboma	+	1/29
Cyclopia	_	1/29
Peter's anomaly	_	1/29
Glaucoma	-	1/29
Cataract	_	1/29
Strabismus	+	4/29

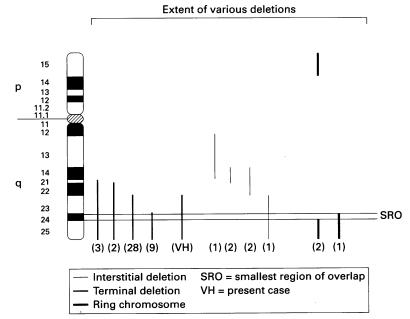


Figure 5 Schematic representation of various deletions reported in Jacobsen syndrome and the delineation of minimal overlapping region common to all these deletions. The numbers in parentheses under the vertical bars indicate the number of cases. VH represents the present case

Two of these patients displayed a very low percentage of normal cells. 31 46 Two other patients had low grade mosaicism attributed to the unstable ring chromosome.<sup>5</sup> One stillborn male infant had 50% normal cells in addition to the 11q-cell line.9 It was suggested that the deficient part of 11q might contain redundant gene loci. 10 Based upon the "gene dosage compensation" theory of Ohno, 49 it was suggested that genes on the deficient part of the chromosome are compensated by homologous DNA sequences on apparently non-homologous chromosomes. It was also assumed that the degree of abnormalities of partial monosomy 11q is significantly influenced by the overall genetic makeup of the person. 43 Some of the cases of partial monosomy 11q have mild phenotypic abnormalities. This was not expected on the basis of phenotype-karyotype relationships known from other chromosome deletion syndromes.<sup>10</sup> The published cases show a wide range of phenotypic variability which could be related either to differences in the size of the deleted region at the molecular level, the different ages of the patients (stillborn to 21 years), or a non-homogeneous criterion of classification.

CT scans in eight of 51 reported cases showed abnormal CNS white matter in four and ventriculomegaly in the remaining four. Ocular findings in our patient were unusually complex compared to previously reported cases (table 4). Most of the patients with 11q deletion syndrome had short stature, but none of them had documented growth hormone deficiency, or central or primary hypothyroidism.50 However, Valente et al described a girl with ring 11 chromosome who had primary hypothyroidism but no growth hormone deficiency. The hypothalamic pituitary hormone deficiencies in our patient may be secondary to the presentation of progressive ventriculomegaly/hydrocephalus, may result from abnormalities of hypothalamic grey matter, or may be an undetected finding in other children with Jacobsen syndrome. Developmental progress in our patient improved with hormone therapy, perhaps only related to the passage of time, but possibly also related to improved muscle tone resulting from hormone Jacobsen syndrome 777

> It is interesting that a folate sensitive fragile site FRA11B has been localised to 11q23.3,<sup>51</sup> which is also the critical region for Jacobsen syndrome. 30 47 52 Voullaire et al 30 reported a case in which the proband's mother and brother showed folate sensitive fragility at 11q23.3. It has been reported that fragile sites may cause chromosome breakage in vivo<sup>53</sup> <sup>54</sup> and evidence has been accumulated that over half of the breakpoints during human chromosome evolution have occurred at close proximity to fragile sites,55 thus implicating fragile sites in chromosome breakage. Recent studies have documented that breakage at FRA11B might be a factor contributing to 11q terminal deletions.47 56 Most of the folate fragile sites are shown to be associated with trinucleotide repeat expansions and changes in regional methylation. 57-59 Numerous human genes have been identified with trinucleotide repeats located at the 5' untranslated regions. 60 One such human gene is CBL2, a proto-oncogene, which is also localised to chromosome 11q23.3. Recent reports have localised FRA11B to the trinucleotide repeat of CBL2 proto-oncogene and have shown an association with 11q deletion typically seen in Jacobsen syndrome.<sup>52</sup> Interestingly, band 11q23 has also been shown to be involved in structural rearrangements in acute monocytic leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia rearrangements.61 There has been documented evidence that chromosome rearrangements or deletions are key secondary events leading to tumour progression. Even though the CBL2 protooncogene with its trinucleotide repeat is not implicated in either of these malignancies, it is possible that FRA11B, colocalised to CBL2 trinucleotide repeat, might increase the incidence of chromosome deletions, thus indirectly influencing the tumour progression.

> There has been an apparent abnormal sex ratio deviating towards females in patients with Jacobsen syndrome. Approximately 70% of the patients with 11q deletion were female (37/52), including the present case. In order to explain the preponderance of female patients with Jacobsen syndrome, it is hypothesised that the expression of 11q terminal deletion is somehow determined by the sex chromosome complement and that it contributes to a differential survival depending on the sex of the patient.16

> In the majority of reported cases with Jacobsen syndrome, phenotype-karyotype correlations were not successful because of the limited precision in identification of the breakpoints and because of lack of marker studies. Molecular delineation of these deletions may ultimately aid in clarification of the phenotypekaryotype correlations.

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