



**REVIEW ARTICLE**

**A Review on Mowat-Wilson Disorder**

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**ABSTRACT**

Deletions or the heterozygous mutations of *ZEB2* gene leads to genetic disease namely Mowat-Wilson disorder. At chromosome 2q21-q23 a locus was identified, which was firstly described in 1998 by Mowat *et al.*, the cause of Mowat-Wilson disorder was discovered independently by two groups in 2001 as deletion or the mutation of the *ZEB2* gene. With the changes in age, quite difference is seen in facial phenotype. Neurologic findings and behavior were done on basis of Hirschsprung disease, Other oropharyngeal and gastrointestinal findings, Congenital heart disease, Genitourinary, Musculoskeletal, Eye defects, Hearing function, Teeth anomalies, Skin and Other clinical features. Facial gestalt is important heart diseases, corpus callosum agenesis, HSCR (*Hirschsprung disease*) like serious malformations are common despite of its presence. An atypical clinical picture is shown by few patients with mutations occurring rarely. *ZEB2* gene molecular analysis should be done in all cases. On the core of facial phenotype, the differential diagnosis is done which is confirmed by *ZEB2* gene mutational analysis. Goldberg-Shprintzen syndrome is diagnosed by intragenic mutations in a patient possessing short segment HSCR, mental retardation, distinct facial appearance and microcephaly in the *ZEB2* absence. Three patients died of which one patient death was mainly due to seizures and large deletion in neonatal period. Till date the oldest patient of Mowat-Wilson reported is 30 years old. All the Mowat-Wilson disorder cases have been irregular or periodical, caused by the de novo deletions or mutations in the *ZFH1B*. In a sporadic Mowat-Wilson disorder affected patient, families are counseled and reported as with the low recurrence risk.

**KEYWORDS**

Mowat-Wilson Disorder, Hirschsprung Disease (HSCR), *ZEB2* Gene, Goldberg-Shprintzen Syndrome (GOSHS), *ZFH1B* Bilayer

**INTRODUCTION**

**Mowat-Wilson Disorder**

Deletions or the heterozygous mutations of *ZEB2* gene leads to genetic disease namely Mowat-Wilson disorder, which can be characterized by face modifications, varying levels of mental retardation, Hirschsprung disease (*HSCR*) due to

congenital malformations, hypospadias in males due to genital anomalies, epilepsy, congenital disorder i.e complete or partial absence of the corpus callosum (*Agenesis*), congenital heart anomaly and defects in eye. At chromosome 2q21-q23 a locus was identified, which was firstly described in 1998 by Mowat *et al.*<sup>1</sup>

The cause of Mowat-Wilson disorder was discovered independently by two groups in 2001 as deletion or the mutation of the *ZEB2* gene which was known by studying the translocations of two de novo and in various affected

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individuals the intragenic truncating mutations were explained.<sup>2,3</sup>

### **Epidemiology**

The statical number of people affected is unknown due to probability of syndrome still under diagnosis, specifically in patients without Aganglionic Megacolon.<sup>4</sup> 1, 42:1 is the approximate ratio of male: female.<sup>5-10</sup> In various ethnic groups the syndrome is been identified.<sup>6</sup>

### **Clinical Description**

With the changes in age, quite difference is seen in facial phenotype-

Older children: heavier eyebrows with broad and horizontal lining, with middle separation increased widely and medial sparseness.<sup>11,5,6</sup> lengthened and depressed nasal tip, short philtrum appears due to prominent columella, convex nasal profile, elongation of face with more pronounced jaw is been observed.

Adolescents: philtrum covered with over hanged nasal tip, prognathism leading to longing of face, chin becomes chisel-shaped.<sup>11,5,6</sup>

### **Neurologic Findings and Behavior**

#### ***Hirschsprung Disease***

97 of 170 people were diagnosed with hirschsprung disease in 57% of published cases.<sup>5-8,10</sup> Patients without hirschsprung disease not investigated with rectal biopsy, were noted with severe constipation.

In 19 of 73 (26%) people without hirschsprung disease were noted with constipation.<sup>5,6,8</sup> The variations in both *ZEB2* abnormalities and other epigenetic factors was the major cause leading to severity of hirschsprung disease in Mowat-Wilson disorder.<sup>12</sup>

#### ***Other Oropharyngeal and Gastrointestinal Findings***

Secondary to hypotonia, palate which is present gets highly arched.<sup>13</sup> In eight patients other gastrointestinal anomalies like pyloric stenosis were reported.<sup>2,14,13,11,5,6,25</sup> Soft, hard, bilateral and submucous cleft and palate were described by some authors.<sup>1,3,13,11,16,6,15</sup>

### ***Congenital Heart Disease***

In 87 of 167 i.e about in 52% were demonstrated with congenital heart disease of published cases.<sup>5-10</sup> wide range of defects in the heart were observed which includes-

- 16 patients with patent ductus arteriosus
- 12 patients with pulmonary stenosis
- 12 patients with ventricular septal defect
- 8 patients with atrial septal defect
- 6 patients with pulmonary artery sling
- 5 patients with tetralogy of fallot
- 1 patient pulmonary atresia
- 1 patient with peripheral pulmonary artery stenosis
- 1 patient with missing pulmonary artery
- 4 patients with aortic coarctation
- 1 patient with bicuspid aortic valve
- 1 patient with interrupted aortic arch
- 1 patient with mitral prolapsed and
- 1 patient with aortic valve stenosis.<sup>1,17,14,18-22,23,24,5,6,15</sup>

### ***Genitourinary***

81 of 156 patients i.e. 51% were demonstrated with renal/urinogenital anomalies.<sup>5-10</sup>

### ***Musculoskeletal***

Anomalies in musculoskeletal is seen in many patients. Slender building is seen in many individuals. Tapering and slender fingers are described in childhood, fingertip pads get prominent in some, with prominent interphalangeal joints developed in late childhood, adolescence and in the adulthood. Pes planus, long toes and mild calcaneovalgus deformity describe the feet.<sup>13,20,6,25</sup>

### ***Eye Defects***

In association with Mowat-Wilson syndrome, the eye structural anomalies were recently reported which were observed in 7 patients of 170 i.e. 4.1% of published cases.<sup>24,6</sup> in which 3 possessed

microphthalmia, other 3 had retinal/iris/optic disc colobomas, 1 possessing axenfeld anomaly.<sup>5,6,23,24,25,26</sup>

### **Hearing Function**

Otitis media reoccur as episodes, which were described in affected patients. Although children are at risk of loss of hearing by chronic or recurrent otitis, hearing loss was not detected in tested patients.<sup>13,5,25</sup> In language impairment Mowat-Wilson disorder affected children an audiological evaluation is to be performed.<sup>5,25</sup>

### **Teeth Anomalies**

Regarding the dental characteristics of Mowat-Wilson disorder patients confine information is been available. In one affected subject, the following features are reported-

- Teeth gets widely spaced
- Dental crowding
- Teeth malpositioning
- Delaying of tooth eruption.<sup>5,25</sup>

### **Skin**

On the trunk the widespread onset of raindrop depigmentation has been described in 1 Mowat-Wilson affected patient.<sup>13,11</sup> In other two subjects, depigmentation was reported.<sup>3,6</sup> In 8 patients the plantar creases and dermatoglyphic anomalies were described.<sup>27,20</sup> Accessory nipples were found in other three subjects.<sup>5</sup> In 1 individual a preauricular tag was observed.<sup>1</sup>

### **Other Clinical Features**

Asplenia was observed in 1 Mowat-Wilson affected patient.<sup>24</sup> (later onset) autonomic dysregulation was seen in another 1 patient.<sup>3,6</sup> In 5 cases suggestive of epilepsy and repeated vomiting were observed<sup>15</sup>

### **Diagnostic Methods**

In typical patients the diagnosis is done on the basis of clinical phenotype. Facial gestalt is important heart diseases, corpus callosum agenesis, HSCR (*Hirschsprung disease*) like serious malformations are common despite of its presence. Seriousness like usage of seizures and

psychomotor delay are frequent and is constant. An atypical clinical picture is shown by few patients with mutations occurring rarely. *ZEB2* gene molecular analysis should be done in all cases.

For the exudation of translocations or large deletions, the cytogenetic analysis is to be carried. Submicroscopic deletions detection is done by FISH analysis. Mutations are identified by the complete coding sequencing of *ZEB2* gene.<sup>17,13,6</sup> The rearrangements which escaped the conventional methods were detected by the polymerase chain reaction of semi-quantitative fluorescent multiplex.<sup>6</sup> In approximate 100% of affected individuals, 79% were detected by sequence analysis for the mutations, 13% deletion were detected by FISH analysis, Mowat-Wilson disorder caused by chromosomal rearrangements is about 2% and an intermediate-sized deletion is detected in additional 6% by quantitative PCR or MLA (*multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification*).<sup>25</sup>

In patient affected by multiple congenital anomalies and translocation which is apparently balanced which involves 5, 1 and 2, 3 chromosome were detected for cryptic deletion of chromosome 2 for 6 Mb including the *ZEB2* gene by the Mb resolution array-CGH<sup>8</sup>

### **Differential Diagnosis**

Mowat-Wilson disorder facial features are quite characteristic, but it suggest the Goldberg-Shprintzen syndrome (*GOSHS*) by the presence of epilepsy, mental retardation and HSCR (*Hirschsprung disease*).<sup>17</sup> The clinical features of the Goldberg-Schprintzen disorder is similar to that of epilepsy, mental retardation and HSCR (*Hirschsprung disease*), but possess differential facial estalt.<sup>28,29</sup> On the core of facial phenotype, the differential diagnosis is done which is confirmed by *ZEB2* gene mutational analysis. Goldberg-Shprintzen syndrome is diagnosed by intragenic mutations in a patient possessing short segment HSCR (*Hirschsprung disease*), mental retardation, distinct facial appearance and microcephaly in the *ZEB2* absence.<sup>9</sup> *ZEB2* gene was encompassed by deleting the 2q22-q23 region, known by molecular studies.<sup>10</sup>

In syndromic<sup>30</sup> and non-syndromic Hirschsprung disease *ZEB2* mutation analysis can be done, EDNRB or RET genes with no mutations observed.<sup>16,31,32</sup>

### Prognosis

Survival data of few patients affected by Mowat-Wilson syndrome were known to some extent. Three patients died of which one patient death was mainly due to seizures and large deletion in neonatal period<sup>19</sup>, another patient mainly due to aortic valvular stenosis<sup>6</sup> in first month of life both of them died. The third patient died at 3yrs of age by the missense mutation.<sup>6</sup> Till date the oldest patient of Mowat-Wilson reported is 30 years old.<sup>15</sup>

### Genetic Counselling

All the Mowat-Wilson disorder cases have been irregular or periodical, caused by the de novo deletions or mutations in the *ZFH1B*. In a sporadic Mowat-Wilson disorder affected patient, families are counseled and reported as with the low recurrence risk.<sup>13</sup>

### CONCLUSION

In typical patients the diagnosis is done on the basis of clinical phenotype. Facial gestalt is important heart diseases, corpus callosum agenesis, HSCR like serious malformations are common despite of its presence. On the core of facial phenotype, the differential diagnosis is done which is confirmed by *ZEB2* gene mutational analysis. In a sporadic Mowat-Wilson disorder affected patient, families are counselled and reported as with the low recurrence risk. All the Mowat-Wilson disorder cases have been irregular or periodical, known to be caused by the de novo deletions or mutations in the *ZFH1B*.

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