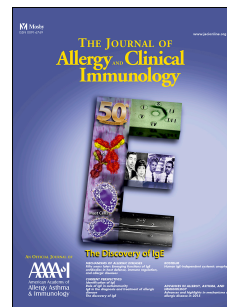


# Accepted Manuscript

Loss of function NFKB1 variants are the most common monogenic cause of CVID in Europeans

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PII: S0091-6749(18)30286-0

DOI: [10.1016/j.jaci.2018.01.039](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2018.01.039)

Reference: YMAI 13302

To appear in: *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*

Received Date: 13 April 2017

Revised Date: 15 December 2017

Accepted Date: 3 January 2018

Please cite this article as: Tuijnenburg P, Lango Allen H, Burns SO, Greene D, Jansen MH, Staples E, Stephens J, Carss KJ, Biasci D, Baxendale H, Thomas M, Chandra A, Kiani-Alikhan S, Longhurst HJ, Seneviratne SL, Oksenhendler E, Simeoni I, de Bree GJ, Tool ATJ, van Leeuwen EMM, Ebberink EHTM, Meijer AB, Tuna S, Whitehorn D, Brown M, Turro E, Thrasher AJ, Smith KGC, Thaventhiran JE, Kuijpers TW, on behalf of the NIHR-BioResource – Rare Diseases Consortium, Loss of function NFKB1 variants are the most common monogenic cause of CVID in Europeans, *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2018.01.039.

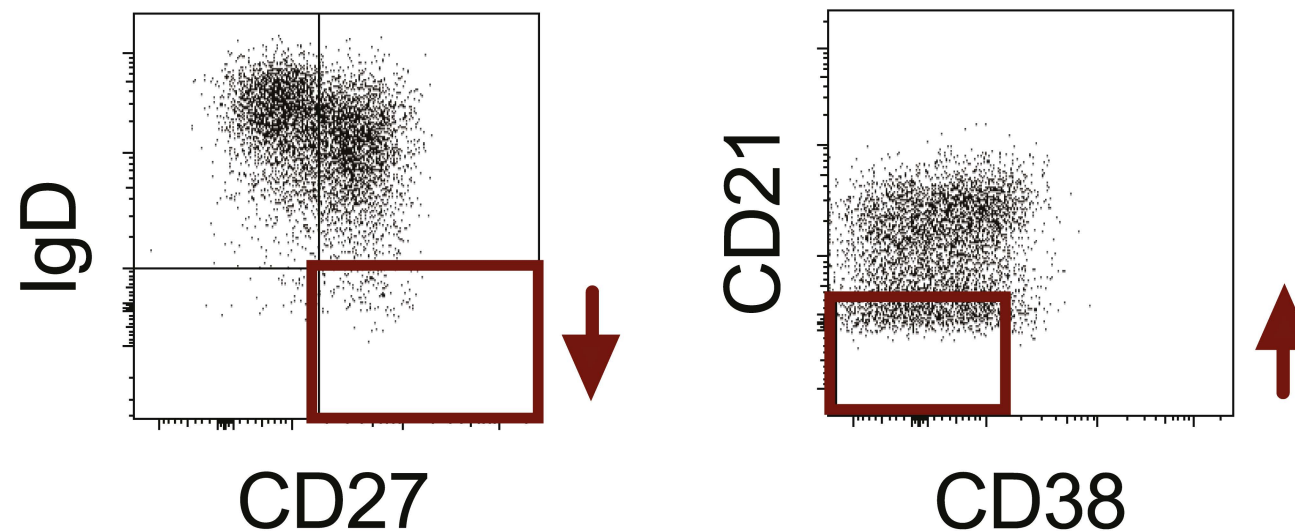
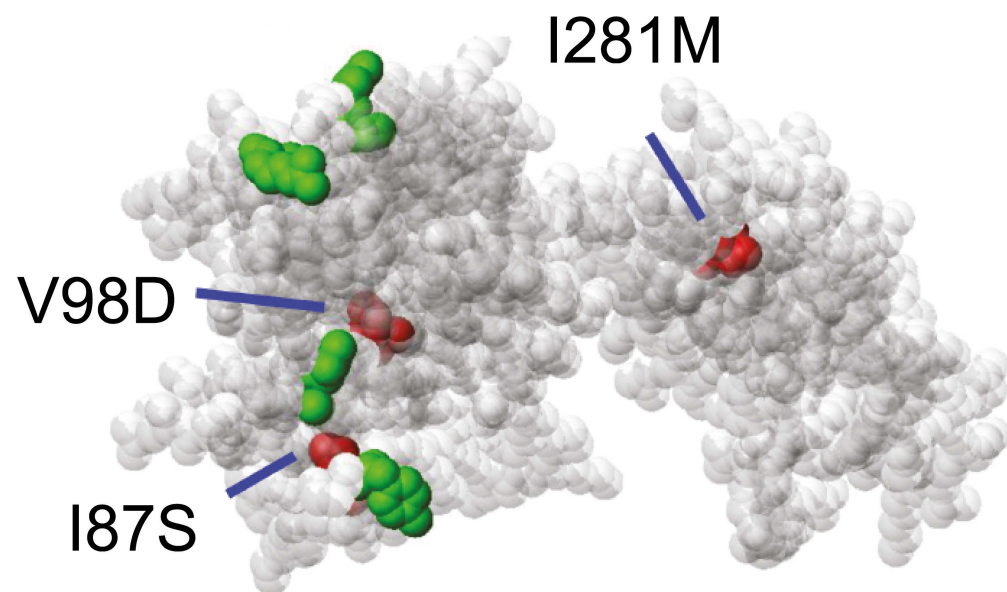
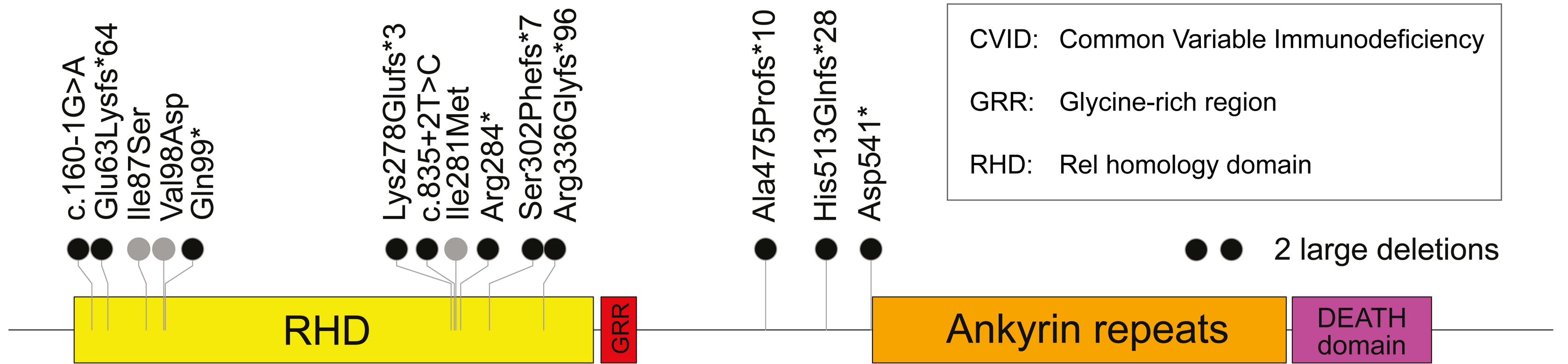
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# Whole Genome Sequencing:

Heterozygous pathogenic *NFKB1* variants in 4% of European CVID cohort ( $n = 390$ )



- Sinopulmonary infections
- Autoimmune disease
- Splenomegaly
- Malignancy

1 **Title page**

## 2 Original Article

3 ***Loss of function NFKB1 variants are the most common monogenic***  
4 ***cause of CVID in Europeans***

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**56 Funding:**

57 This study was supported by The National Institute for Health Research England (grant number  
58 RG65966), and by the Center of Immunodeficiencies Amsterdam (CIDA). JET is supported by an MRC  
59 Clinician Scientist Fellowship (MR/L006197/1). AJT is supported by both the Wellcome Trust  
60 (104807/Z/14/Z) and by the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centre at Great  
61 Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust and University College London. EO receives  
62 personal fees from CSL Behring and MSD.  
63

**64 Conflicts of Interest**

65 The authors do not have any conflicts of interest to declare.  
66

**67 Word count (Introduction → Discussion):**

68 4,344

## 69 Abstract

70 **Background:** The genetic etiology of primary immunodeficiency disease (PID) carries prognostic  
71 information.

72 **Objective:** We conducted a whole-genome sequencing study assessing a large proportion of the NIHR-  
73 BioResource – Rare Disease cohort.

74 **Methods:** In the predominantly European study population of principally sporadic unrelated PID cases  
75 ( $n=846$ ), a novel Bayesian method identified *NFKB1* as one most strongly associated with PID, and the  
76 association was explained by 16 novel heterozygous truncating, missense and gene deletion variants.  
77 This accounted for 4% of common variable immunodeficiency (CVID) cases ( $n=390$ ) in the cohort. Amino-  
78 acid substitutions predicted to be pathogenic were assessed by analysis of structural protein data.  
79 Immunophenotyping, immunoblotting and *ex vivo* stimulation of lymphocytes determined the functional  
80 effects of these variants. Detailed clinical and pedigree information was collected for genotype-  
81 phenotype co-segregation analyses.

82 **Results:** Both sporadic and familial cases demonstrated evidence of the non-infective complications of  
83 CVID, including massive lymphadenopathy (24%), unexplained splenomegaly (48%) and autoimmune  
84 disease (48%), features prior studies correlate with worse clinical prognosis. Although partial penetrance  
85 of clinical symptoms was noted in certain pedigrees, all carriers have a deficiency in B lymphocyte  
86 differentiation. Detailed assessment of B lymphocyte numbers, phenotype and function identifies the  
87 presence of a raised CD21<sup>low</sup> B cell population: combined with identification of the disease-causing  
88 variant, this distinguishes between healthy individuals, asymptomatic carriers and clinically affected  
89 cases.

90 **Conclusion:** We show that heterozygous loss-of-function variants in *NFKB1* are the most common known  
91 monogenic cause of CVID that results in a temporally progressive defect in the formation of  
92 immunoglobulin-producing B cells.

93 **Key Messages:**

- 94 • Pathogenic variants in *NFKB1* are currently the most common known monogenic cause of CVID.
- 95 • There is a clear association with complications such as autoimmunity and malignancy, features
- 96 associated with worse prognosis.
- 97 • These patients can be stratified by *NFKB1* protein level and the B cell phenotype.

98

99 **Capsule Summary:**

100 Whole genome sequencing revealed 16 novel pathogenic truncating, missense and gene deletion

101 variants in *NFKB1*. Most mutations were linked to reduced protein expression, perturbed

102 immunophenotyping and *ex vivo* stimulation assays of patients and relatives.

103

104 **Keywords:**

105 B cells, Common Variable Immunodeficiency, NF- $\kappa$ B1

106 **Abbreviations used:**

107	CADD:	Combined Annotation Dependent Depletion
108	CVID:	Common variable immunodeficiency
109	ExAC:	Exome Aggregation Consortium
110	IKK:	I $\kappa$ B kinase
111	IMDM:	Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's medium
112	InDels:	Insertions/deletions
113	iNKT cells:	Invariant Natural Killer T cells
114	LOF:	Loss-of-function
115	MAF:	Minor allele frequency
116	PBMCs:	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells
117	PID:	Primary immunodeficiency disease
118	PML:	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
119	RHD:	Rel homology domain
120	SNVs:	Single nucleotide variants
121	VEP:	Variant Effect Predictor



## 122 Introduction

123 Common variable immunodeficiency (CVID [MIM 607594]), which occurs in approximately 1:25,000  
124 people<sup>1-3</sup>, is a clinically and genetically heterogeneous disorder characterized by susceptibility to  
125 sinopulmonary infections, hypogammaglobulinemia and poor vaccine responses. CVID is the most  
126 common primary immune deficiency requiring life-long clinical follow up and the clinical course is highly  
127 variable with substantial excess mortality. Affected individuals frequently present with recurrent  
128 respiratory infections as well as immune dysregulatory features. The antibody deficiency is often not as  
129 marked as the agammaglobulinemia seen in the genetically defined conditions leading to B lymphocyte  
130 aplasia<sup>4,5</sup>. Conversely, while patients with B lymphocyte aplasia have a favorable prognosis on adequate  
131 replacement immunoglobulin treatment, the response of CVID patients is highly variable.

132  
133 Past studies focused on familial cases with CVID and used techniques ranging from traditional linkage  
134 analysis to more recent exome sequencing to characterize the genetic etiology. This has revealed that  
135 monogenic gene dysfunction accounts for 10% of cases<sup>4,5</sup>. Several of the variants in these genes have  
136 been characterized as partially penetrant; it remains unclear whether genetic or environmental factors  
137 determine disease onset. Multiple recent studies identified variants in *NFKB1* as a monogenic cause of  
138 CVID and reported on the clinical features of these cases<sup>6-11</sup>.

139  
140 As part of this NIHR-BioResource – Rare Diseases study, we sequenced the genomes of 846 unrelated  
141 individuals with predominantly sporadic primary immunodeficiency (PID) who were recruited from  
142 across the UK and by European collaborators. Application of a recently developed statistical method  
143 BeviMed<sup>12</sup> to the 846 PID cases and over 5,000 control genomes, identified *NFKB1* as the gene with the  
144 highest probability of association with the disease, and with the largest number of cases explained by

145 variants in that gene. Further investigations revealed a series of 16 heterozygous loss-of-function (LOF)  
146 variants in *NFKB1* as the most common genetic cause of CVID.

147  
148 Mutations in genes that affect NF- $\kappa$ B-dependent signaling are associated with a number of  
149 immunodeficiencies<sup>13-26</sup>. NF- $\kappa$ B is a ubiquitous transcription factor member of the Rel proto-oncogene  
150 family. NF- $\kappa$ B regulates the expression of several genes involved in inflammatory and immune responses.  
151 The classical activated form of NF- $\kappa$ B consists of a heterodimer of the p50/p65 protein subunits. The NF-  
152  $\kappa$ B family of transcription factors comprises five related proteins, c-Rel, p65 (RelA), RelB, p50 (NF- $\kappa$ B1)  
153 and p52 (NF- $\kappa$ B2) that interact to form homodimers and heterodimers with distinct gene regulatory  
154 functions<sup>13,27-29</sup>. Each Rel NF- $\kappa$ B protein has a conserved 300-amino-acid N-terminal Rel homology  
155 domain (RHD) that encompasses sequences needed by NF- $\kappa$ B proteins to bind DNA motifs ( $\kappa$ B  
156 elements), to form dimers, to interact with regulatory inhibitor I $\kappa$ B proteins and to enter the nucleus.  
157 The ten different NF- $\kappa$ B dimers identified have distinct transcriptional properties<sup>28</sup>. In most cells, NF- $\kappa$ B  
158 is retained in the cytosol in a latent state through interaction with I $\kappa$ B proteins (such as I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$ , I $\kappa$ B $\beta$  and  
159 I $\kappa$ B $\epsilon$ ), a family of proteins with ankyrin repeats, that mediate I $\kappa$ B interaction with the RHD of NF- $\kappa$ B,  
160 masking the nuclear localization sequence and DNA-binding domains. Signal-dependent activation of an  
161 I $\kappa$ B kinase (IKK) complex comprising catalytic ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) and regulatory (NEMO) subunits, induces the  
162 phosphorylation and degradation of I $\kappa$ B<sup>29</sup>, which permits NF- $\kappa$ B factors to enter the nucleus and regulate  
163 gene expression.

164  
165 We show that variants in *NFKB1* culminate in a progressive humoral immunodeficiency indistinguishable  
166 from CVID, with a highly variable penetrance. We demonstrate the utility of an *in silico* protein  
167 prediction model for validating the predicted disease-causing substitutions, and we report on the clinical  
168 spectrum, immunological phenotype and functional consequences of heterozygous *NFKB1* variants.

## 169 **Methods**

### 170 **Cohort**

171 NIHR-BioResource – Rare Disease (NIHRBR-RD) study was established in the UK to further the clinical  
172 management of patients with rare diseases, by providing a national resource of whole genome sequence  
173 data. All participants provided written informed consent and the study was approved by the East of  
174 England Cambridge South national institutional review board (13/EE/0325). At the time of our analysis,  
175 the NIHRBR-RD study included whole genome sequence data from 8,066 individuals, of which 1,299  
176 were part of the PID cohort. These were predominantly singleton cases, but additional affected and/or  
177 unaffected family members of some of the patients were also sequenced; in total there were 846  
178 unrelated index cases.

179 The PID patients were recruited by specialists in clinical immunology (either trained in pediatrics or  
180 internal medicine) from 26 hospitals in the UK, and a smaller number came from the Netherlands, France  
181 and Italy. The recruitment criteria included: clinical diagnosis of CVID according to the ESID criteria (ESID  
182 Registry – Working Definitions for Clinical Diagnosis of PID, 2014, latest version: April, 25, 2017); extreme  
183 autoimmunity; or recurrent (and/or unusual) infections suggestive of severely defective innate or cell-  
184 mediated immunity. Exclusion of known causes of PID was encouraged, and some of the patients were  
185 screened for one or more PID genes prior to enrollment into the PID cohort. The ethnic make-up of the  
186 study cohort represented that of the general UK population: 82% were European, 6% Asian, 2% African,  
187 and 10% of mixed ethnicity, based on the patients' whole genome data.

188 Given that PID is a heterogeneous disease, with overlap in phenotypes and genetic etiologies across  
189 different diagnostic categories, we decided to perform an unbiased genetic analysis of all of 846  
190 unrelated index cases. Whole genome sequence data was additionally available for 63 affected and 345  
191 unaffected relatives. Within a broad range of phenotypes, CVID is the most common disease category,  
192 comprising 46% of the NIHRBR-RD PID cohort ( $n=390$  index cases, range 0-93 years of age).

193

**194 Sequencing and variant filtering**

195 Whole genome sequencing of paired-end reads was performed by Illumina on their HiSeq X Ten system.  
196 Reads of 100, 125 or 150 base pairs in length were aligned to the GRCh37 genome build using Isaac  
197 aligner, variants across the samples were jointly called with AGG tool, and large deletions were identified  
198 using Canvas and Manta algorithms (all software by Illumina), as described previously<sup>30</sup>. Average read  
199 depth was 35, with 95% of the genome covered by at least 20 reads.

200 Single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and small insertions/deletions (InDels) were filtered based on the  
201 following criteria: passing standard Illumina quality filters in >80% of the genomes sequenced by the  
202 NIHRBR-RD study; having a Variant Effect Predictor (VEP)<sup>31</sup> impact of either MODERATE or HIGH and  
203 having a minor allele frequency (MAF) <0.001 in the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC) dataset, and  
204 MAF <0.01 in the NIHRBR-RD cohort. Large deletions called by both Canvas and Manta algorithms,  
205 passing standard Illumina quality filters, overlapping at least one exon, absent from control datasets<sup>32</sup>,  
206 and having frequency of <0.01 in the NIHRBR-RD genomes were included in the analysis.

207 All variants reported as disease-causing in this study were confirmed by Sanger sequencing using  
208 standard protocols. Large deletions were inspected in IGV plot (Figure E1) and breakpoints were  
209 confirmed by sequencing the PCR products spanning each deletion.

210

**211 Gene and variant pathogenicity estimation**

212 In order to evaluate genes for their association with PID, we applied the BeviMed inference procedure<sup>12</sup>  
213 to the NIHRBR-RD whole genome dataset. BeviMed (<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=BeviMed>)  
214 evaluates the evidence for association between case/control status of unrelated individuals and allele  
215 counts at rare variant sites in a given locus. The method infers the posterior probabilities of association  
216 under dominant and recessive inheritance and, conditional on such an association, the posterior

217 probability of pathogenicity of each considered variant in the locus. BeviMed was applied to rare variants  
218 and large rare deletions in each gene, treating the 846 unrelated PID index cases as ‘cases’ and 5,097  
219 unrelated individuals from the rest of the NIHRBR-RD cohort as ‘controls’. All genes were assigned the  
220 same prior probability of association with the disease of 0.01, regardless of their previously published  
221 associations with an immune deficiency phenotype. Variants which had a VEP impact labelled HIGH were  
222 assigned higher prior probabilities of pathogenicity than variants with a MODERATE impact, as described  
223 previously<sup>12</sup>.

224

#### 225 **Immunophenotyping and B and T cell functional assays**

226 Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated using standard density gradient  
227 centrifugation techniques using Lymphoprep (Nycomed, Oslo, Norway). Absolute numbers of  
228 lymphocytes, T cells, B cells and NK cells were determined with Multitest six-color reagents (BD  
229 Biosciences, San Jose, USA), according to manufacturer’s instructions. For the immunophenotyping of  
230 the PBMCs we refer to the Supplemental Methods of the Online Repository.

231

232 To analyze the *ex vivo* activation of T and B cells, PBMCs were resuspended in PBS at a concentration of  
233  $5-10 \times 10^6$  cells/ml and labeled with  $0.5 \mu\text{M}$  CFSE (Molecular Probes) as described previously<sup>33</sup> and in the  
234 Supplemental Methods of the Online Repository. Proliferation of B and T cells was assessed by  
235 measuring CFSE dilution in combination with the same mAbs used for immunophenotyping. Analysis of  
236 cells was performed using a FACSCanto-II flowcytometer and FlowJo software. Patient samples were  
237 analyzed simultaneously with PBMCs from healthy controls.

238

#### 239 **ELISA**

240 The secretion of immunoglobulins by mature B cells was assessed by testing supernatants for secreted  
241 IgM, IgG and IgA with an in-house ELISA using polyclonal rabbit anti-human IgM, IgG and IgA reagents  
242 and a serum protein calibrator all from Dako (Glostrup, Denmark), as described previously<sup>33</sup>.

243

#### 244 **SDS PAGE and Western Blot analysis**

245 Blood was separated into neutrophils and PBMCs. Neutrophils ( $5 \times 10^6$ ) were used for protein lysates,  
246 separated by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane.

247 Individual proteins were detected with antibodies against NF- $\kappa$ B p50 (mouse monoclonal antibody E-10,  
248 Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Texas, USA), against I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  (rabbit polyclonal antiserum C-21, Santa Cruz  
249 Biotechnology) and against human glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, GAPDH (mouse  
250 monoclonal antibody, Merck Millipore, Darmstadt, Germany).

251 Secondary antibodies were either goat anti-mouse-IgG IRDye 800CW, goat anti-rabbit-IgG IRDye 680CW  
252 or goat anti-mouse-IgG IRDye 680LT (LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln, NE, USA). Relative fluorescence  
253 quantification of bound secondary antibodies was performed on an Odyssey Infrared Imaging system (LI-  
254 COR Biosciences, Nebraska, USA), and normalized to GAPDH.

255

#### 256 **NF- $\kappa$ B1 protein structure**

257 To gain structural information on the NF- $\kappa$ B1 RHD, a previously resolved crystal structure of the p50  
258 homodimer (A43-K353) bound to DNA was used<sup>34</sup>. Ankyrin repeats of NF- $\kappa$ B1 (Q498-D802) were  
259 modelled employing comparative homology modelling (Modeller 9v16) using the Ankyrin repeats crystal  
260 structure of NF- $\kappa$ B2 as template<sup>35,36</sup>. There is no structural information on the region between the 6<sup>th</sup>  
261 and 7<sup>th</sup> Ankyrin repeat (F751-V771)<sup>36</sup> and was therefore omitted in the model. The death domain (G807-  
262 S894) structure has been resolved by Saito and co-workers using NMR (pdb: 2bdf).

263

264 **Statistical analysis of lymphocyte data**

265 Differences between groups with one variable were calculated with a non-paired Student's *t*-test or one-  
266 way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, differences between groups with two or more variables were  
267 calculated with two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test using GraphPad Prism 6. A P-value less  
268 than 0.05 was considered significant.

## 269 **Results**

### 270 **Pathogenic variants in *NFKB1* are the most common monogenic cause of CVID**

271 In an unbiased approach to analysis, we obtained BeviMed posterior probabilities of association with PID  
272 for every individual gene in all 848 unrelated PID patients in the NIHR-BioResource – Rare Disease  
273 (NIHRBR-RD) study. Genes with posterior probabilities greater than 0.05 are shown in Figure 1, showing  
274 that *NFKB1* has the strongest prediction of association with disease status (1.000). All 13 HIGH impact  
275 variants (large deletion, nonsense, frameshift and splice site) in *NFKB1* were observed in cases only,  
276 resulting in the very high posterior probabilities of pathogenicity (mean 0.99) for this class of variants  
277 (Figure 2). On the other hand, MODERATE impact variants (missense substitutions) were observed both  
278 in cases and controls. The majority had near zero probability of pathogenicity, but three substitutions  
279 were observed in the PID cases only, and had posterior probabilities greater than 0.15 (Figure 2),  
280 suggesting their potential involvement in the disease. Genomic variants with a high Combined  
281 Annotation Dependent Depletion (CADD) score were found within both the PID and control cohorts,  
282 suggesting that this commonly used metric of variant deleteriousness cannot reliably distinguish disease-  
283 causing from benign variants in *NFKB1*. All 16 predicted likely pathogenic variants were private to the PID  
284 cohort, and further investigation revealed that all 16 individuals were within the diagnostic criteria of  
285 CVID (Table 1).

286  
287 Assessment of all 390 CVID cases in our cohort for pathogenic variants showed that the next most  
288 commonly implicated genes are *NKFB2* and *BTK*, with three explained cases each (Figure E2).  
289 Importantly, based on the gnomAD dataset of 135,000 predominantly healthy individuals, none of the  
290 *NFKB1* variants reported here are observed in a single gnomAD individual, even though 90% of our CVID  
291 cohort, and all of the *NFKB1*-positive cases, had European ancestry. Therefore, our results suggest that  
292 LOF variants in *NFKB1* are the most commonly identified monogenic cause of CVID in the European



293 population, with 16 out of 390 CVID cases explaining up to 4.1% of our cohort. None of the variants  
294 identified here had been reported in the previously described *NFKB1* cases<sup>6-11</sup>.

295  
296 The *NFKB1* gene encodes the p105 protein that is processed to produce the active DNA-binding p50  
297 subunit<sup>13</sup>. The 16 potentially pathogenic variants we identified were all located in the N-terminal p50  
298 part of the protein (Figure 2). The effects of the three rare substitutions on NF- $\kappa$ B1 structure were less  
299 clear than those of the truncating and gene deletion variants, so we assessed their position in the crystal  
300 structure of the p50 protein. Their location in the inner core of the RHD (Figure 3A) suggested a potential  
301 impact on protein stability, whereas other rare substitutions in the NIHRBR-RD cohort were found in  
302 locations less likely to affect this (Figure 2 and 3A, Figure E3).

303

#### 304 **NF- $\kappa$ B1 LOF as the disease mechanism**

305 Twelve patients with truncating variants (Arg284\*, His513Glnfs\*28, c.160-1G>A and Asp451\*), one  
306 patient with gene deletion (del 103370996-103528207) and three patients with putative protein  
307 destabilizing missense variants (Ile281Met, Val98Asp and Ile87Ser) were investigated for evidence of  
308 reduced protein level. Assessment of the NF- $\kappa$ B1 protein level in PBMCs or neutrophils in 9 index cases  
309 and 7 *NFKB1* variant carrying relatives demonstrated a reduction in all individuals (Figure 3B, Figure E4).  
310 Relative fluorescence quantification of the bands confirmed this and demonstrated a protein level of 38  
311  $\pm$  4.3% (mean  $\pm$  SEM) compared to healthy controls. There was no difference between clinically affected  
312 and clinically unaffected individuals (36  $\pm$  4.4% versus 42  $\pm$  10.1%,  $n=11$  versus  $n=5$ ,  $P=0.50$ ). Our  
313 observations indicate that the pathogenic *NFKB1* variants result in LOF of the NF- $\kappa$ B1 p50 subunit, as  
314 reduction in protein levels was seen in all carriers regardless of their clinical phenotype, and was absent  
315 in family members that were non-carriers.

316

**317 Variable disease manifestations in *NFKB1* LOF individuals**

318 Seven individuals had evidence of familial disease (Table 1), prompting us to investigate genotype-  
319 phenotype co-segregation and disease penetrance in cases for which pedigree information and  
320 additional family members were available (Figure 4, Tables E1-3). The age at which  
321 hypogammaglobulinemia becomes clinically overt is highly variable (Figure E5), as illustrated by pedigree  
322 C in which the grandchildren carrying the c.160-1G>A splice-site variant had IgG subclass deficiency (C:III-  
323 3 and C:III-4), in one case combined with an IgA deficiency (C:III-3). Although not yet overtly  
324 immunodeficient, the clinical course of their fathers (C:II-3 and C:II-5) and grandmother (C:I-2) predicts  
325 this potential outcome, and warrants long-term clinical follow up of these children.

326  
327 We also observed variants in individuals who were clinically asymptomatic. Pedigree A highlights variable  
328 disease penetrance: the healthy mother (A:II-1) carries the same Arg284\* variant as two of her clinically  
329 affected children (A:III-2 and A:III-3). The identification of this nonsense variant prompted clinical  
330 assessment of the extended kindred and demonstrated that her sister (A:II-4) suffered from recurrent  
331 sinopulmonary disease and nasal polyps with serum hypogammaglobulinemia consistent with a CVID  
332 diagnosis. Overall, based on the clinical symptoms observed at the time of this study across six  
333 pedigrees, the penetrance of *NFKB1* variants with respect to the clinical manifestation of CVID is  
334 incomplete (about 60% in our cohort, 11 affected individuals among 18 variant carriers), with varied  
335 expressivity not only of age at disease onset, but of specific disease manifestations even within the same  
336 pedigree.

337  
338 The clinical disease observed among the *NFKB1* variant carriers is characteristic of progressive antibody  
339 deficiency associated with recurrent sinopulmonary infections (100% of clinically affected individuals),  
340 with encapsulated microbes such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Haemophilus influenzae* species

341 (Table E1). The clinical spectrum of *NFKB1* LOF includes massive lymphadenopathy (24%), unexplained  
342 splenomegaly (48%) and autoimmune disease (48%) – either organ-specific and/or hematological of  
343 nature (mainly autoimmune hemolytic anemia and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, Tables E1 and  
344 E2). The percentage of autoimmune complications is based on the presence of autoimmune cytopenias  
345 (autoimmune hemolytic anemia, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura ( $<50-75 \times 10^6/\text{mL}$ ), autoimmune  
346 neutropenia, Evans syndrome), alopecia areata/totalis, vitiligo and Hashimoto thyroiditis among the  
347 clinically affected cases. Granulomatous-lymphocytic interstitial lung disease and splenomegaly were  
348 considered lymphoproliferation. Enteropathy, liver disease, colitis and a mild decrease in platelet count  
349 ( $>100 \times 10^6/\text{mL}$ ) were neither included in those calculations nor scored separately. Histological  
350 assessment of liver disease found in three patients showed no evidence of autoimmune or  
351 granulomatous liver disease, though fibrosis and cirrhosis was observed, in these male patients. Finally,  
352 the number of oncological manifestations, predominantly hematological, was noticeable. There were  
353 two cases with solid tumors (parathyroid adenoma, breast cancer) and four cases with hematological  
354 malignancies (B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma,  
355 peripheral T-cell lymphoma), which add up to 6/21 cases, 28.6%.

356

### 357 **B cell phenotype in *NFKB1* LOF individuals and immune cell activation**

358 Index cases and family members carrying *NFKB1* variants were approached for repeat venipuncture for  
359 further functional assessment. In clinically affected individuals the B cell numbers and phenotype were  
360 indistinguishable from that described for CVID<sup>37</sup> (Figure 5, Figure E6). However, in clinically unaffected  
361 individuals, the absolute B cell count was often normal or raised (Figure 5A). In all individuals with *NFKB1*  
362 LOF variants the numbers of switched memory B cells were reduced (Figure 5B-5D), while a broad range  
363 of non-switched memory B cells was observed. This demonstrates that while the clinical phenotype of  
364 *NFKB1* LOF variants is partially penetrant, all carriers have a deficiency in class-switched memory B cell  
365 generation. The presence of raised numbers of the CD21<sup>low</sup> population described in CVID discriminates

366 between clinically affected and unaffected individuals with *NFKB1* LOF variants (Figure 5E). The B cells  
367 from individuals with *NFKB1* LOF variants demonstrated impaired proliferative responses to anti-  
368 IgM/anti-CD40/IL-21 and CpG/IL-2 (Figure 6A); this corresponded with the inability to generate  
369 plasmablasts (CD38<sup>+</sup>/CD27<sup>++</sup>), most pronounced in the more extreme phenotypes, i.e. clinically affected  
370 cases (Figure 6B, Figure E7B). Similarly, *ex vivo* IgG production was reduced in individuals with LOF  
371 variants, whereas the level of IgM in the supernatants was normal (Figure 6C and 6D, Figure E7C),  
372 compatible with hypogammaglobulinemia.

373

#### 374 **T cell phenotype in *NFKB1* LOF individuals**

375 The T cell phenotype was largely normal in the subset distribution (Figure E8 and E9). Similar to the  
376 knockout mouse model<sup>38</sup>, we found an aberrant number of invariant Natural Killer T (iNKT) cells in the  
377 clinically affected individuals (Figure E8). T cell proliferation was intact upon anti-CD3/anti-CD28 or IL-15  
378 activation (Figure E10). Since iNKT cells have been implicated in diverse immune reactions<sup>39</sup>, this  
379 deficiency may contribute to the residual disease burden in replacement immunoglobulin treated  
380 patients, some of whom had acute or chronic relapsing infection with herpes virus and, in one case, JC-  
381 virus.

## 382 Discussion

383 In our study we show that LOF variants in *NFKB1* are present in 4% of our cohort of CVID cases, being the  
384 most commonly identified genetic cause of CVID. Furthermore, we highlight specific features of these  
385 patients that distinguish them within the diagnostic category of "CVID", which otherwise applies to an  
386 indiscrete phenotype, acquired over time, that is termed 'common' and 'variable'. The majority of the  
387 genetic variants we report here truncate or delete one copy of the gene; together with pedigree co-  
388 segregation analyses, protein expression and the B cell functional data, we conclude that *NFKB1* LOF  
389 variants are causing autosomal dominant haploinsufficiency. This has now been recognized as the  
390 genetic mode of inheritance for at least 17 known PIDs, including that associated with previously  
391 reported variants in *NFKB1*<sup>6,40-42</sup>. In monogenic causes of PID, incomplete penetrance has been more  
392 frequently described in haploinsufficient, relative to dominant-negative, PID disease, having been  
393 reported in more than half of the monogenic autosomal dominant haploinsufficient immunological  
394 conditions described<sup>40</sup>. This may be because dominant-negative gain-of-function mutations cause  
395 disease by expression of an abnormal protein at *any* level while, as seen in this study, haploinsufficiency  
396 is predicted to lead to 50% residual function of the gene product. Incomplete penetrance of a genetic  
397 illness by definition will be associated with substantial variation in the clinical spectrum of disease, and  
398 the spectrum seen in this study is consistent with prior reports; in three pedigrees with 20 individuals<sup>6</sup>,  
399 harboring heterozygous mutant *NFKB1* alleles, the age of onset varied from 2-64 years, with a high  
400 variety of disease severity, including two mutation carriers that were completely healthy at the age of 2  
401 and 43 years.

402  
403 It is important to temper skepticism of partial penetrance of immune genetic lesions with our knowledge  
404 that individual immune genes may have evolved in response to selection pressure for host protection  
405 against specific pathogens<sup>43</sup>. Consequently, within the relatively pathogen-free environment of

406 developed countries, the relevant pathogen for triggering disease may be scarce and reports  
407 documenting partial penetrance of the clinical phenotype will increase. This makes the traditional  
408 approaches of genetics for determining causality difficult. The BeviMed algorithm used in this study  
409 prioritized both the gene *NFKB1* and individual variants within *NFKB1* for contribution to causality; the  
410 power of methods like this will increase with greater data availability. The identification of a number of  
411 rare *NFKB1* variants with high CADD scores both in PID and control datasets highlights the potential for  
412 false attribution of disease causality when the genetics of an individual case is considered outside the  
413 context of relevant control data.

414  
415 Currently healthy family members carrying the same *NFKB1* LOF variant demonstrated similar reductions  
416 in p50 expression and low numbers of switched memory B cells as their relatives suffering from CVID.  
417 The longitudinal research investigation of these individuals could help identify the additional modifiers,  
418 including epigenetic or environmental factors, which influence the clinical penetrance of these genetic  
419 lesions. The similarity of results seen in patients with large heterozygous gene deletions and in those  
420 with more discrete substitutions is consistent with haploinsufficiency as the shared disease mechanism.

421  
422 In patients with mild antibody deficiency it is often difficult to decide when to initiate replacement  
423 immunoglobulin therapy; this may be the case for individuals and their family members identified with  
424 LOF *NFKB1* variants. Two measures seem to correlate well with clinical disease: first, the class-switch  
425 defect and lower IgG and IgA production *ex vivo*. Immunoglobulin class-switching is known to be  
426 regulated by NF- $\kappa$ B. Mutations in the NF- $\kappa$ B essential modulator (NEMO) cause a class-switch defective  
427 hyper-IgM syndrome in humans<sup>20</sup> as well as in the p50 knockout mice<sup>13,44,45</sup>. Haploinsufficiency of NF- $\kappa$ B  
428 may result in defective class-switch recombination due to poor expression of activation-induced cytidine  
429 deaminase (AID), a gene regulated by NF- $\kappa$ B, that, when absent, is also associated with

430 immunodeficiency<sup>46</sup>. Secondly, the ability to measure the CD21<sup>low</sup> B cell population is widespread in  
431 diagnostic immunology laboratories and our study identifies this marker to correlate with NF- $\kappa$ B-disease  
432 activity. Although the function of these cells remain to be fully elucidated<sup>47</sup>, this laboratory test may be  
433 useful for the longitudinal assessment of clinically unaffected individuals identified with LOF *NFKB1*  
434 variants.

435  
436 Apart from suffering from recurrent and severe infections (including viral disease) for which these  
437 patients had been diagnosed with PID in the first place, autoimmunity and unexplained splenomegaly  
438 are very common manifestations in our patient cohort, similar to the other heterozygous *NFKB1* cases  
439 described<sup>6-11</sup>. Although autoimmunity has been subject to variable percentages per cohort study<sup>3,48,49</sup>, it  
440 seems that these complications occur more frequently in *NFKB1*-haploinsufficient patients compared to  
441 unselected CVID cohorts. In contrast to IKAROS defects, but similar to *CTLA4* haploinsufficiency, we  
442 observed that *NFKB1*-haploinsufficiency may also result in chronic and severe viral disease, as noted for  
443 CMV and JC virus infections in three of our patients. In the study of Maffucci *et al.*<sup>11</sup>, one of the *NFKB1*-  
444 affected cases also suffered from *Pneumocystis jirovecii* and progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy  
445 (PML), which is suggestive for JC virus infection. Whether the B cell defect in *NFKB1*-haploinsufficiency is  
446 responsible for these non-bacterial infections is unclear<sup>50,51</sup>. PML is most often discovered in the context  
447 of an immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome, as seen in HIV patients on antiretroviral therapy,  
448 and in multiple sclerosis patients after natalizumab discontinuation<sup>52</sup>. Although the exact contribution of  
449 B cell depletion in PML pathogenesis is unknown, the increased PML risk in rituximab-treated patients<sup>53</sup>  
450 suggests a protective role for B cells.

451  
452 Three individuals in this cohort suffered from liver failure and an additional three of transaminitis.  
453 Although autoimmunity is suspected, a non-hematopoietic origin of liver disease cannot be excluded in

454 the absence of autoantibodies and nodular regenerative disease. Mouse models have suggested a non-  
455 immune role for NF- $\kappa$ B signaling in liver failure<sup>13,54-56</sup>.

456  
457 In the cohort of *NFKB1* patients we identified a number of malignancies. Malignancies in PID patients  
458 have been cited as the second-leading cause of death after infection<sup>57,58</sup>, and murine-models have  
459 demonstrated that haploinsufficiency of NF- $\kappa$ B1 is a risk factor for hematological malignancy<sup>59</sup>. In a large  
460 CVID registry study on 2,212 patients, 9% had malignancies, with one-third being lymphomas, some  
461 presenting prior to their CVID diagnosis<sup>49</sup>. Despite the fact that our cohort is relatively small, we found  
462 oncological manifestations in 29% of our cases (two-third being lymphoma), suggesting that  
463 malignancies in *NFKB1*-haploinsufficiency may occur more often than in unselected CVID patients. In a  
464 study in 176 CVID patients, among the 626 relatives of patients with CVID, no increase in cancer risk was  
465 observed<sup>60</sup>, suggesting that when this does occur, as in this study (three out of seven), it may be due to a  
466 shared genetic lesion. Therefore, in a pedigree with a LOF variant in *NFKB1*, any relatives with cancer  
467 should be suspected of sharing the same pathogenic variant.

468  
469 In conclusion, previous publications<sup>61,62</sup> have suggested that CVID is largely a polygenic disease. Our  
470 results provide further evidence that LOF variants in *NFKB1* are the most common monogenic cause of  
471 disease to date, even in seemingly sporadic cases. In these patients there is a clear association with  
472 complications such as malignancy, autoimmunity and severe non-immune liver disease; this is important  
473 since the excess mortality seen in CVID occurs in this group<sup>48</sup>. The screening for defined pathogenic  
474 *NFKB1* variants accompanied by B cell phenotype assessment, has prognostic management and is  
475 effective in stratifying these patients.



476 **Supplemental Data**

477 Supplemental Data include Supplemental Methods, Figure E1-E10 and Table E1-E3.

478

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483 Siobhan Burns, Anita Chandra, Hayley Clifford, Nichola Cooper, Sophie Davies, John Dempster, Lisa  
484 Devlin, Rainer Doffinger, Elizabeth Drewe, David Edgar, William Egner, Tariq El-Shanawany, Bobby  
485 Gaspar, Rohit Ghurye, Kimberley Gilmour, Sarah Goddard, Pavel Gordins, Sofia Grigoriadou, Scott  
486 Hackett, Rosie Hague, Lorraine Harper, Grant Hayman, Archana Herwadkar, Stephen Hughes, Aarnoud  
487 Huissoon, Stephen Jolles, Julie Jones, Peter Kelleher, Nigel Klein, Taco Kuijpers (PI), Dinakantha  
488 Kumararatne, James Laffan, Hana Lango Allen, Sara Lear, Hilary Longhurst, Lorena Lorenzo, Jesmeen  
489 Maimaris, Ania Manson, Elizabeth McDermott, Hazel Millar, Anoop Mistry, Valerie Morrisson, Sai Murng,  
490 Iman Nasir, Sergey Nejentsev, Sadia Noorani, Eric Oksenhendler, Mark Ponsford, Waseem Qasim, Ellen  
491 Quinn, Isabella Quinti, Alex Richter, Crina Samarghitean, Ravishankar Sargur, Sinisa Savic, Suranjith  
492 Seneviratne, Carrock Sewall, Fiona Shackley, Ilenia Simeoni, Kenneth G.C. Smith (PI), Emily Staples, Hans  
493 Stauss, Cathal Steele, James Thaventhiran, Moira Thomas, Adrian Thrasher (PI), Steve Welch, Lisa  
494 Willcocks, Sarita Workman, Austen Worth, Nigel Yeatman, Patrick Yong.

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496 The members of the NIHR-BioResource – Rare Diseases Management Team are: Sofie Ashford, John  
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498 Christopher Penkett, F Lucy Raymond, Kathleen Stirrups, Marijke Veltman, Tim Young.

499

500 The members of the NIHR-BioResource – Rare Diseases Enrolment and Ethics Team are: Sofie Ashford,  
501 Matthew Brown, Naomi Clements-Brod, John Davis, Eleanor Dewhurst, Marie Erwood, Amy Frary, Rachel  
502 Linger, Jennifer Martin, Sofia Papadia, Karola Rehnstrom.

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504 The members of the NIHR-BioResource – Rare Diseases Bioinformatics Team are: William Astle, Antony  
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507 Meacham, Karyn Megy, Christopher Penkett, Olga Shamardina, Kathleen Stirrups, Catherine Titterton,  
508 Salih Tuna, Ernest Turro, Ping Yu, Julie von Ziegenweldt.

509  
510 The members of the Cambridge Translational GenOmics Laboratory are: Abigail Furnell, Rutendo  
511 Mapeta, Ilenia Simeoni, Simon Staines, Jonathan Stephens, Kathleen Stirrups, Deborah Whitehorn, Paula  
512 Rayner-Matthews, Christopher Watt.

513  
514 **Acknowledgments**

515 We thank the patients and their family members for participation in our study.

516

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675

676

677 **Table 1. Summary of the CVID patients' clinical presentation and their *NFKB1* variants.**

Case	Sporadic / Familial	Infections	Auto- immunity	Malignancy	chr4 position (GRCh37)	Nucleotide change	Type of variant	cDNA(NM_00 3998.3);Amino Acid
A	Familial	●			103504037	C>T	nonsense	c.850C>T;Arg284*
B	Familial	●	●	○	103518717	delCATGC	frameshift	c.1539_1543del;His513Glnfs*28
C	Familial	●	●	●○	103459014	G>A	splice-acceptor	c.160-1G>A;?
D	Familial	●	●		103518801	delGA	nonsense	c.1621_1622del; Asp541*
E	Sporadic	●	●	○	103504030	C>G	missense	c.843C>G;Ile281Met
F	Sporadic	●		●	103488178	T>A	missense	c.293T>A;Val98Asp
G	Sporadic	●			103488145	T>G	missense	c.260T>G;Ile87Ser
H	Familial	●	●		103501798	T>C	splice-donor	c.835+2T>C;?
I	Sporadic	●			103370996- 103528207	-	large deletion	-
J	Familial	●			103517415	delG	frameshift	c.1423del;Ala475Profs*10
K	Sporadic	●	●	●	103436974- 103652655	-	large deletion	-
L	Familial	●	●		103459041	delG	frameshift	c.187del;Glu63Lysfs*64
M	Sporadic	●	●		103501790	insA	frameshift	c.830dup;Lys278Glnfs*3
N	Sporadic	●	●	●	103504086	insT	frameshift	c.904dup;Ser302Phefs*7
O	Sporadic	●			103488180	C>T	nonsense	c.295C>T;Gln99*
P	Sporadic	●	●		103505914	delG	frameshift	c.1005del;Arg336Glyfs*96

678 Closed dots, presence of symptoms in index patient

679 Open dots, presence of symptoms in family member of index patient

680

681 **Figure 1. Overall BeviMed results showing that *NFKB1* has the highest posterior probability of**  
682 **association with disease in the NIHRBR-RD PID cohort.** Genes with variants previously reported to cause  
683 PID are highlighted in red. Genes with posterior probabilities > 0.05 are shown.

684

685 **Figure 2. Plot of rare missense, truncating and gene deletion *NFKB1* variants identified in the NIHRBR-**  
686 **RD genomes of unrelated individuals, and their location relative to *NFKB1* domains.** The tracks from  
687 left to right show: number of unrelated case (red) and control (black) individuals in whom each variant  
688 was observed; the four major *NFKB1* domains; gray bars representing each exon in transcript  
689 ENST00000226574; variant annotation relative to transcript ENST00000226574 and genomic location of  
690 large deletions, with VEP HIGH impact variants and large deletions highlighted in blue; CADD scores of all  
691 nonsense, frameshift, splice and missense variants; ExAC allele frequencies; conditional probability of  
692 variant pathogenicity inferred using BeviMed. Only variants labelled as MODERATE or HIGH impact  
693 relative to the canonical transcript ENST00000226574 are shown. The initial inference that formed part  
694 of the genome-wide analysis included variant chr4:103423325G>A, which was observed in one control  
695 sample. This variant is intronic (LOW impact) relative to ENST00000226574 but is a splice variant (HIGH  
696 impact) relative to the minor transcript ENST00000505458. As variants were filtered based on the  
697 highest impact variant annotation against any Ensembl transcript, this variant was originally included in  
698 the inference. For this plot, the inference was re-run including only missense, truncating and gene  
699 deletion variants relative to the canonical transcript.

700



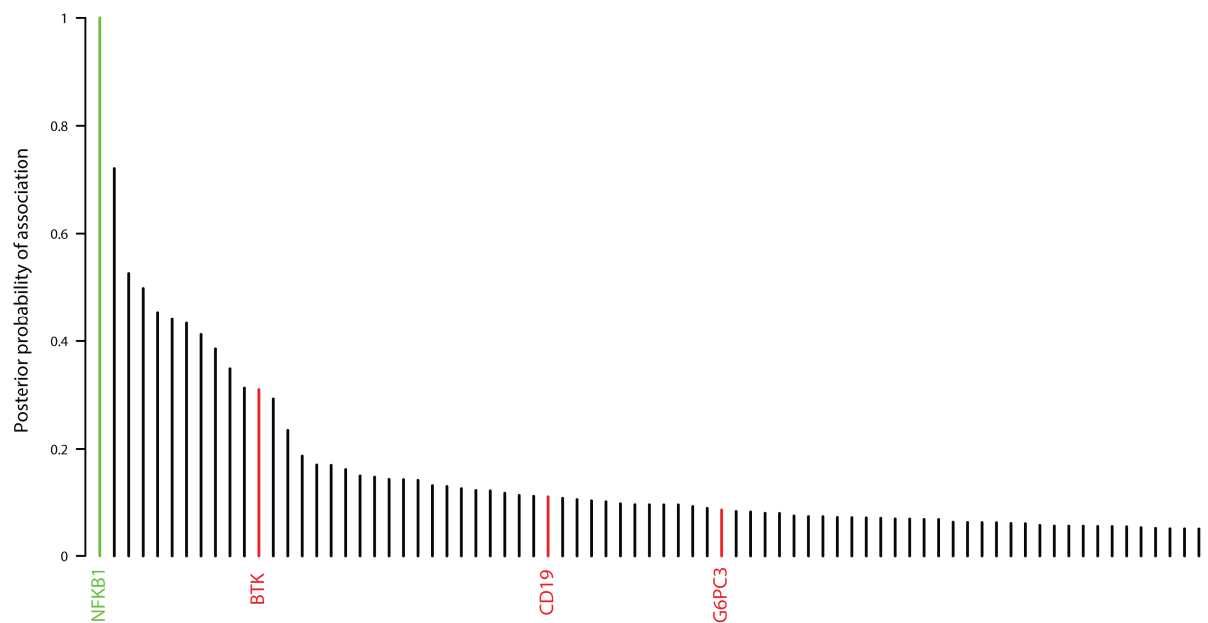
701 **Figure 3. *NFKB1* LOF variants lead to haploinsufficiency of the p50 protein. (A)** Localization of RHD  
702 substitutions with a high CADD score (>20) within the structure of the NF- $\kappa$ B p50 monomer. Shown is a  
703 solid (top panel) and a transparent (bottom panel) sphere representation of the NF- $\kappa$ B p50 monomer.  
704 Perturbed residues indicated in green were observed in a control dataset and are located on the outside  
705 of the structure, while the residues shown in red were perturbed exclusively in the PID cohort and are  
706 buried inside the structure. **(B)** Western blot analysis targeting p50, I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  and GAPDH of *NFKB1* variant  
707 carriers. Left, representative blot of a healthy control and patient B-II:1; Right, summary of 16 *NFKB1*  
708 variant carriers showing haploinsufficiency, expressed as percentage of healthy controls on the same  
709 blot corrected for GAPDH, mean  $\pm$  SEM.

710  
711 **Figure 4. Pedigrees of familial *NFKB1* cases.** Six affected families for which pedigree information and  
712 additional family members were available. Proband/index cases indicated with *P*.

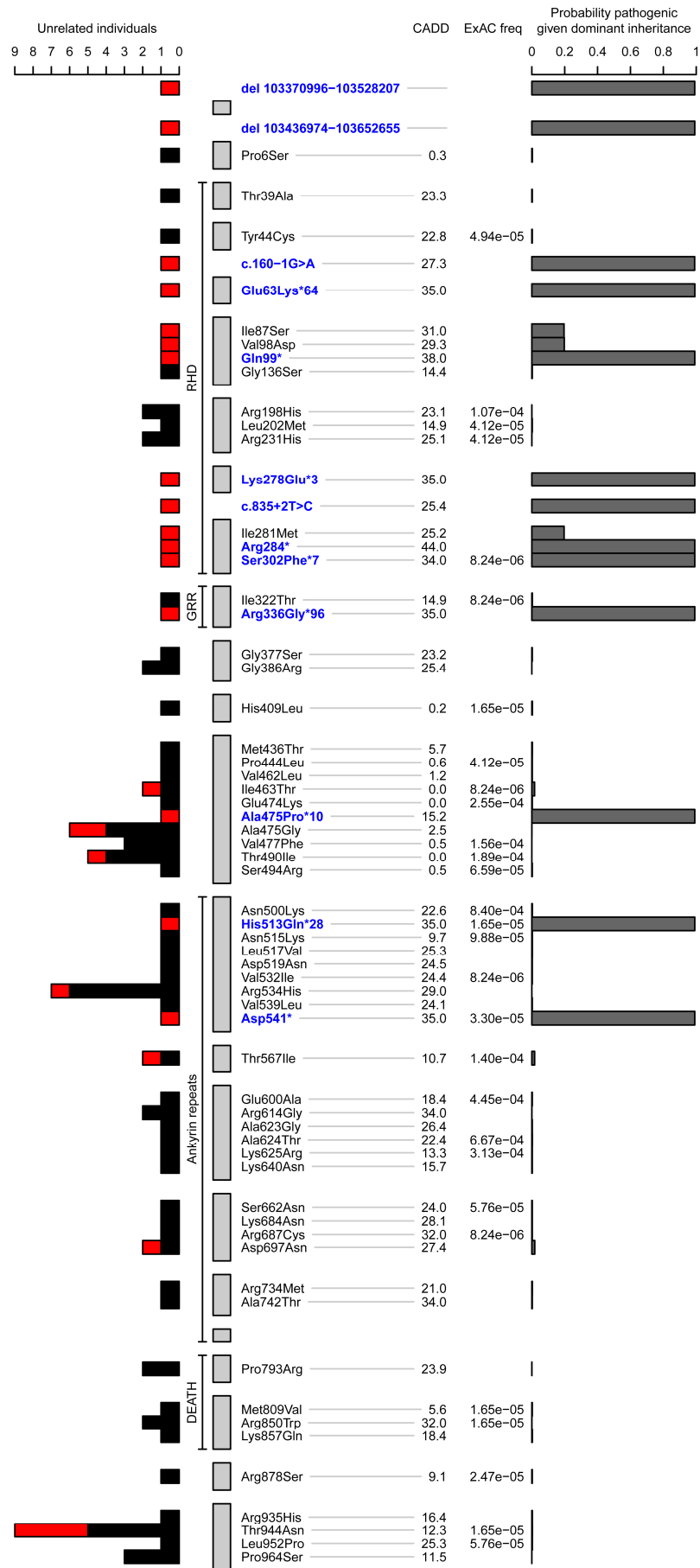
713  
714 **Figure 5. Decreased class-switched memory B cells and increased CD21<sup>low</sup> B cells in *NFKB1* LOF variant**  
715 **carriers. (A)** Absolute numbers of CD19<sup>+</sup> B cells; each dot represents a single individual and their age. In  
716 grey are age-dependent reference values. **(B-E)** Percentages within CD19<sup>+</sup>CD20<sup>+</sup> B lymphocytes of **(B)**  
717 CD27<sup>+</sup>IgD<sup>+</sup> (non-switched memory or marginal-zone B cells) and CD27<sup>+</sup>IgD<sup>-</sup> (switched memory B cells), or  
718 **(C)** CD27<sup>+</sup>IgG<sup>+</sup>, or **(D)** CD27<sup>+</sup>IgA<sup>+</sup>, or **(E)** CD21<sup>low</sup>CD38<sup>low/dim</sup>. (*HD* healthy donor; *CU* clinically unaffected or  
719 *CA* clinically affected individuals with LOF variant in *NFKB1*.) Gating strategy is shown in Figure E6A. Only  
720 individuals with sufficient B cells could be analyzed. P-values were determined by one-way (Figure 5E) or  
721 two-way (Figure 5B) ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test or unpaired Student's t-test (Figure 5C,D), *ns*  
722 not significant, \*\*P $\leq$ 0.01, \*\*\*P $\leq$ 0.001.

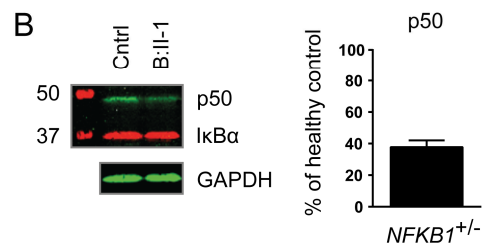
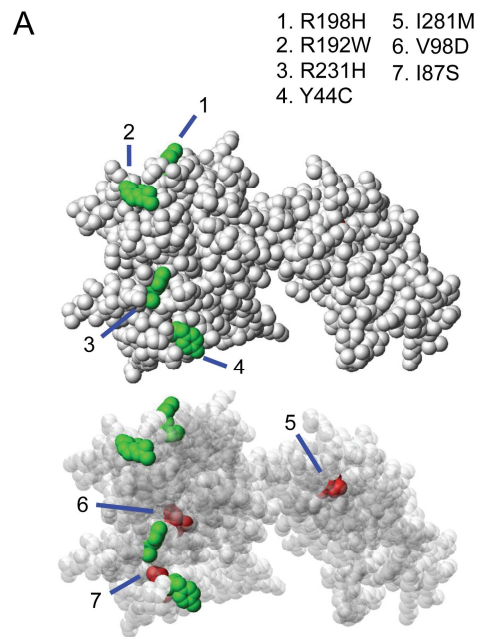
723 **Figure 6. The *ex vivo* class switch recombination defect of individuals carrying *NFKB1* LOF variants is**  
724 **linked to the more extreme phenotype.** 6 day culture of CFSE-labeled lymphocytes normalized for B cell  
725 number unstimulated, CpG/IL-2 (T cell independent activation) or anti-IgM/anti-CD40/IL-21 (T cell  
726 dependent activation). **(A)** Percentage of divided B cells as measured by CFSE dilution **(B)** Percentage of  
727 CD27<sup>++</sup> plasmablasts. Gating strategy is shown in Figure E7A. **(C, D)** IgM and IgG production in  
728 supernatant of 6 day culture. (*HD* healthy donor; *CU* clinically unaffected or *CA* clinically affected  
729 individuals with LOF variant in *NFKB1*.) Only individuals with sufficient B cells could be analyzed. P-values  
730 were determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, *ns* not significant, \*\*P≤0.01,  
731 \*\*\*P≤0.001.

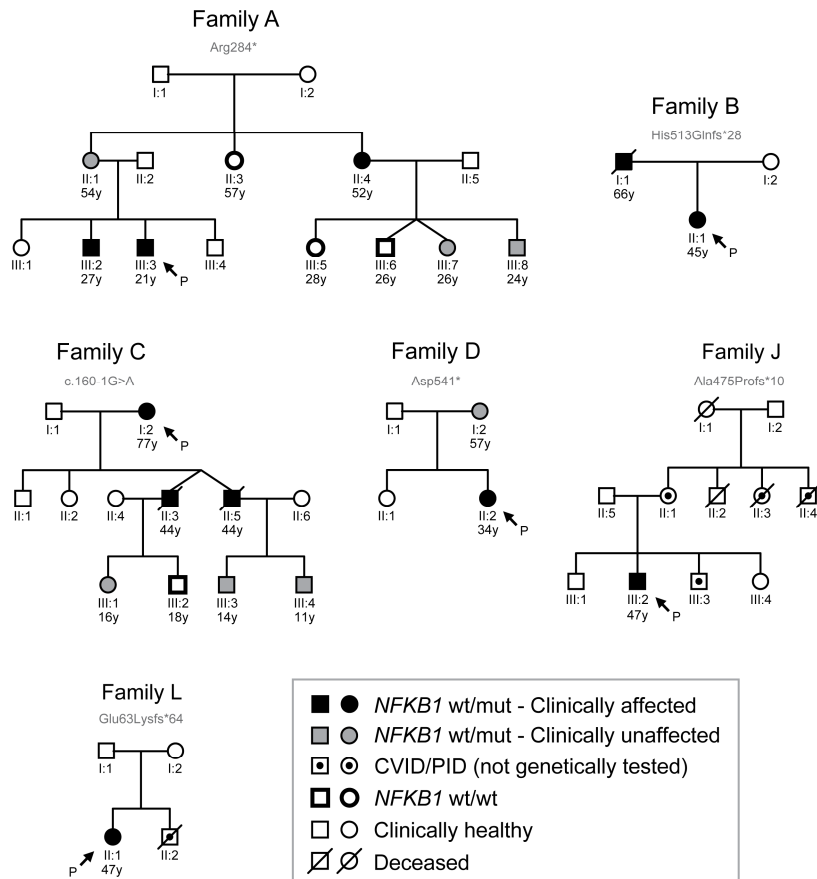
732

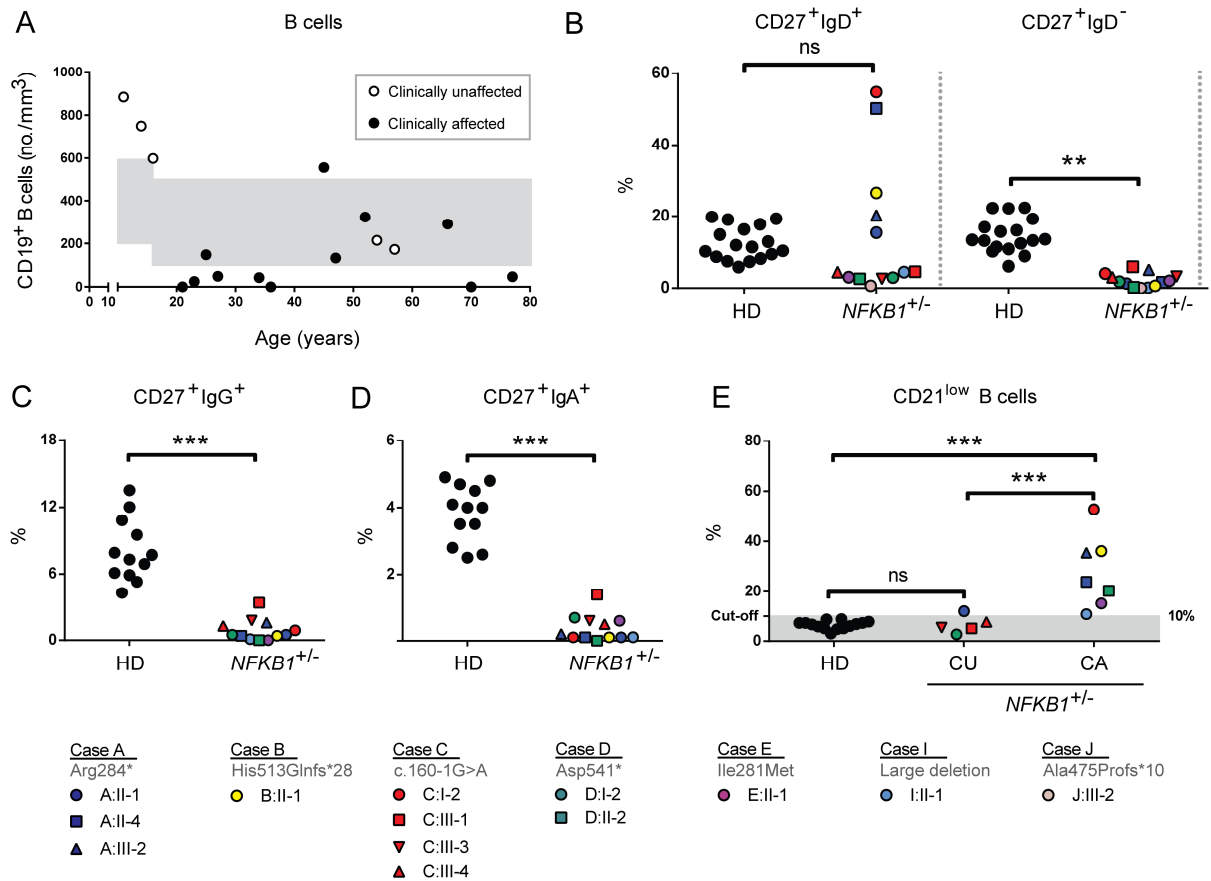


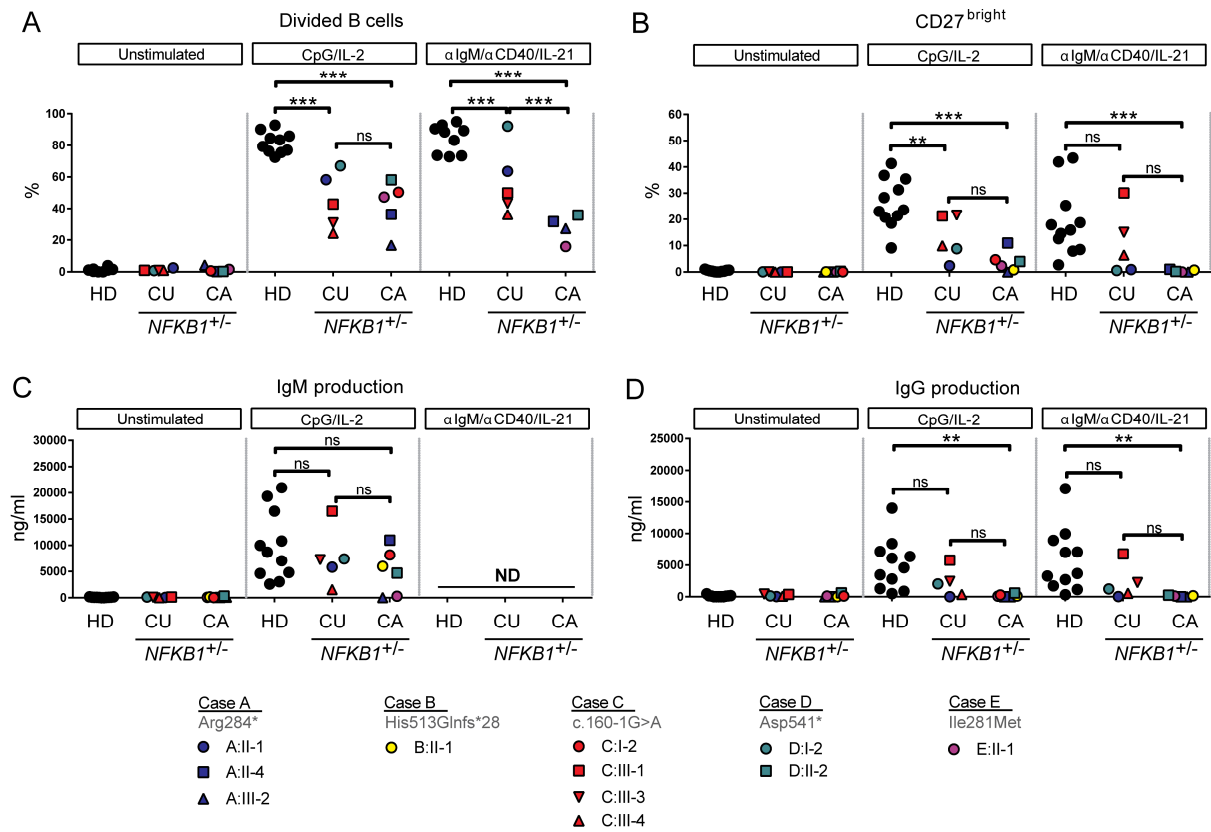
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## Supplemental Methods

### Immunophenotyping

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated using standard density gradient centrifugation techniques using Lymphoprep (Nycomed, Oslo, Norway). Absolute numbers of lymphocytes, T cells, B cells and NK cells were determined with Multitest six-color reagents (BD Biosciences, San Jose, USA), according to manufacturer's instructions. For the immunophenotyping the PBMCs were resuspended in PBS, containing 0.5% (w/v) BSA and 0.01% sodium azide and incubated with saturating concentrations of fluorescently labeled conjugated monoclonal antibodies. Analysis of cells was performed using a FACSCanto-II flowcytometer and FlowJo software. Patient samples were analyzed simultaneously with PBMCs from healthy controls. The following directly conjugated monoclonal antibodies were used: CD4 PE-Cy7 [348809], CD8 PerCP-Cy5.5 [341050], CD20 PerCP-Cy5.5 [332781], CD21 FITC [561372], CD27 APC [337169], CD38 PE-Cy7 [335825], CD45 APC-Cy7 [348815], IgD PE [555779], and TCR $\gamma\delta$  FITC [347903] from BD (San Jose, USA), CD3 Alexa 700 [56-0038-41], CD19 Alexa 700 [56-0199-42] and CD27 APC-eFluor 780 [47-0279-42] from eBioscience (San Diego, USA), CD24 FITC [M1605] and CD27 FITC [M1764] from Sanquin (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), CD45RA (2H4-RD1) PE [6603181], TCR $\alpha\beta$  PE [PN A39499], TCR V $\alpha$ 24 FITC [PM IM1589] and TCR V $\beta$ 11 PE [PN IM2290] from Beckman Coulter (Brea, USA), IgM FITC [F0317] and IgG FITC [F0158] from Dako (Glostrup, Denmark), IgA FITC [130-093-071] from Miltenyi Biotec (Bergisch Gladbach, Germany).

### B and T cell functional assay

To analyze the *ex vivo* activation of T and B cells, PBMCs were resuspended in PBS at a concentration of  $5-10 \times 10^6$  cells/ml and labeled with 0.5  $\mu$ M CFSE (Molecular Probes) in PBS for 10 minutes at 37°C under constant agitation. Cells were washed and subsequently resuspended in Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's medium (IMDM) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (BioWhittaker), antibiotics, and  $3.57 \times 10^{-7}$

<sup>4</sup>%(v/v)  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol (Merck). Labeled PBMCs containing a fixed number of  $2 \times 10^4$  (96-well plate) or  $10 \times 10^4$  B cells (48-well plate) per well in a flat-bottom plate for 6 days at 37°C and stimulated with saturating amounts of anti-IgM mAb (clone MH15; Sanquin), anti-CD40 mAb (clone 14G7; Sanquin) and 20ng/ml IL-21 (Invitrogen), or 1 $\mu$ g/ml CpG oligodeoxynucleotide 2006 (Invivogen) and 100U/ml IL-2 (R&D Systems), or anti-CD3 (clone 1xE) and anti-CD28 (clone 15E8), or IL-15 (R&D Systems). Proliferation of B and T cells was assessed by measuring CFSE dilution in combination with the same mAbs used for immunophenotyping and analyzed using a FACSCanto-II flowcytometer and FlowJo software.

## Supplemental Figure Legends

**Figure E1. IGV plot of large *NFKB1* deletion.** IGV plot of patient I:II-1 showing the large *NFKB1* deletion identified by 50% reduction in the number of reads from the whole genome sequencing data mapping to that region.

**Figure E2. Numbers of CVID patients per gene in which we identified a likely pathogenic variant fully explaining the patient's phenotype.** Assessment of all 390 CVID cases in our cohort identified 31 patients with a monogenic defect in 11 different genes. Variants in *NFKB1* contributed to more than half of all CVID patients with a monogenic diagnosis (16/31, 52%). *NKFB2* and *BTK* were the next most commonly implicated genes, with three explained cases each.

**Figure E3. Protein model of high-impact missense variants in and proximal to the ANK domain.** Residues observed with missense variants containing a high CADD score ( $\geq 20$ ) are highlighted. Most of these are situated on the protein exterior (green) and appear equally in the primary immunodeficiency cohort and non-primary immunodeficiency cohorts (**Figure 2**). A623G (#19) appears to be located more interior, although mutation of an Alanine to Glycine is a moderate substitution. Equally notable are residues of the Ankyrin repeats which previously have been probed as interaction sites upon NF- $\kappa$ B dimerization. While R614 (#7), K684 (#8), L517 (#13) and R687 (#16) could be considered part of these putative interaction sites, variants at these sites are found in non-primary immunodeficiency patients (**Figure 2**).

**Figure E4. Western blot analysis of all tested *NFKB1* variant carriers.** Western blot analysis targeting p50, I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  and GAPDH of *NFKB1* variant carriers. Twelve patients with truncating variants (Arg284\*, His513Glnfs\*28, c.160-1G>A and Asp451\*), one patient with gene deletion (del 103370996-103528207) and three patients with putative protein destabilizing missense variants (Ile281Met, Val98Asp and Ile87Ser) were tested. Relative fluorescence quantification of p50 and GAPDH by Odyssey Infrared Imaging system above and below each western blot. I $\kappa$ B $\alpha$  was not targeted in the Case D western blot.

**Figure E5. Serum IgM, IgG and IgA levels in serum of *NFKB1* LOF variant carrier.** Each dot represents an *NFKB1* LOF variant carrier and their age. In grey age-dependent reference values.

**Figure E6. Gating strategy for Figure 5B-E and additional B cell analyses.** (A) Representative flow cytometry plots of a healthy control, patient A:II-1 (clinically unaffected) and patient A:II-4 (clinically affected). Phenotype of CD19<sup>+</sup>CD20<sup>+</sup> B lymphocytes. Numbers represent percentages in corresponding quadrants. (B) Percentages of CD27<sup>-</sup>IgD<sup>+</sup> (naïve) or CD27<sup>-</sup>IgD<sup>+</sup>CD24<sup>+</sup>CD38<sup>+</sup> (transitional) B cells. (HD healthy donor, *NFKB1*<sup>+/-</sup> individual with *NFKB1* LOF variant.) Only individuals with sufficient B cells could be analyzed. P-values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test (naïve B cells) or Student's t-test (transitional B cells), *ns* not significant, \*\*P≤0.01.

**Figure E7. Gating strategy Figure 6A and 6B and formation of CD38<sup>+</sup> plasmablasts and IgA production.** (A) Representative flow cytometry plots of a healthy control and patient A:II-4 (clinically affected) after a 6 day culture of CFSE-labeled lymphocytes normalized for B cell number unstimulated, CpG/IL-2 (T cell independent activation) and anti-IgM/anti-CD40/IL-21 (T cell dependent activation). B cells gated on CD19<sup>+</sup>CD20<sup>-/+</sup> and subsequently on CD27<sup>++</sup> (left) and CFSE and CD38 (right). Numbers represent percentages in corresponding quadrants. (B) Plasmablast formation measured by proliferation and CD38 upregulation (CFSE<sup>-</sup>CD38<sup>+</sup>). (C) IgA production in the supernatant. (HD healthy donor; CU clinically unaffected or CA clinically affected individuals with LOF variant in *NFKB1*.) Only individuals with sufficient B cells could be analyzed. P-values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, *ns* not significant, \*\*P≤0.01, \*\*\*P≤0.001.

**Figure E8. Additional lymphocyte numbers in individuals with *NFKB1* LOF variants.** Absolute numbers of total lymphocytes (CD45<sup>+</sup>), CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, NK cells (CD3<sup>-</sup>CD16<sup>+</sup>CD56<sup>+</sup>) and invariant natural killer T cells (CD3<sup>+</sup>Vα24<sup>+</sup>Vβ11<sup>+</sup>). Each dot represents a single individual and their age. In grey age-dependent normal values.

**Figure E9. Normal T cell differentiation in individuals with NF-κB1 deficiency.** (A) Representative flow cytometry dot plots of a healthy control and patient E:II-1, defining the differentiation of CD3<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD3<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes with CD27 and CD45RA. (B, C) Summary of subsets of (B) CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and (C) CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells. (HD healthy donor, *NFKB1*<sup>+/-</sup> individual with *NFKB1* LOF variant.) P-values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, *ns* not significant.

**Figure E10. T cells of individuals with *NFKB1* variants (*NFKB1*<sup>+/-</sup>) show normal proliferative capacity.** 6 day culture of CFSE-labeled lymphocytes unstimulated, anti-CD3/anti-CD28 (T cell receptor stimulation) or IL-15. Percentage of CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell specific cell division as measured by CFSE dilution. (HD healthy donor, *NFKB1*<sup>+/-</sup> individual with *NFKB1* LOF variant.) P-values were determined by two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, *ns* not significant.

Table E1. Clinical data of individuals carrying *NFKB1* variants

Case ID	Year of birth	Age at PID diagnosis	Clinical diagnosis	Major symptoms at onset	Infections	Autoimmunity / autoinflammation	Malignancy	Survival
Case A								
A:II-1	1961	-	Healthy	-	-	-	-	-
A:II-4	1963	2015	CVID	Sinusitis 2012 Pneumonia 2015	<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	-	-	-
A:III-2	1989	1992	XLA	-	Frequent sinopulmonary infections	-	-	-
A:III-3	1995	2005	XLA	Pneumonias 2002	EBV-related splenomegaly 2005 JC-virus 2016	- (splenomegaly)	-	-
Case B								
B:I-1	1939	1967	CVID	Appendicitis-abscess 1965 Bacterial meningitis 1967 Pneumonias 1967	<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	AIHA 2005	B-NHL (EBV-negative) 2007	Died 2007: heart attack
B:II-1	1968	2011	CVID	Pneumonias 2010	<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>H. influenzae</i>	Alopecia areata 1988 Vitiligo 1989 Hypothyroiditis 2003	-	-
Case C								
C:I-2	1938	1990	CVID	Sinusitis Pneumonias ICU respiratory failure (1978) Bronchiectasis	<i>S. pneumoniae</i> , <i>H. influenzae</i>	Sister and her children have autoimmune disease (MS, IDDM1 & SLE)	Parathyroid adenoma	-
C:II-3	1972	1988	CVID	Pneumonias Bronchiectasis		IDDM1		Died in 2008: during 2 <sup>nd</sup> OLT (1 <sup>st</sup> OLT 2005)
C:II-5	1972	1985	CVID	OMAs Oral ulcers Sore throats	<i>H. influenzae</i> <i>S. pneumoniae</i> <i>C. albicans</i> <i>A. fumigatus</i>	-	DLBCL (EBV-neg)	Died in 2011: DLBCL
C:III-1	1999	-	Healthy	-	-	-	-	-
C:III-3	2001	-	Healthy	-	-	-	-	-
C:III-4	2004	-	Healthy	-	-	-	-	-
Case D								
D:I-2	1958	-	Healthy	-	-	Thyroid disease	-	-
D:II-2	1981	1999	CVID	ITP and anemia Hypogammaglobulinemia	Pneumonias Sinusitis	ITP Splenomegaly	-	-

				Asthma	<i>E. coli</i> , urinary tract infections	GLILD Periodontitis		
Case E								
E:II-1	1992	1999	ALPS	Bronchiectasis Hypogammaglobulinemia following multiple courses of Rituximab therapy	Chest infections Sinusitis	Autoimmune neutropenia ITP	-	-
Case F								
F:II-1	1946	2000	CVID	Severe pneumonias Bronchiectasis Lung fibrosis Cellulitis R leg	-	Hyperthyroidism	Follicular lymphoma (2005); recurrence (2008)	-
Case G								
G:II-1	1980	2001	CVID	Severe pneumonia Bronchiectasis	COPD lobectomy (2009) <i>M. avium</i>	Mild splenomegaly Chronic diarrhea	-	-
Case H								
H:II-1	1973	1997	CVID	ITP and AIHA Splenomegaly	Pneumonia Sinusitis Invasive CMV	Chronic diarrhea with villous atrophy	-	Died in 2008 CMV
Case I								
I:II-1	1991	2009	CVID	Multi-dermatomal shingles (age 12) Recurrent pneumonia Bronchiectasis Sinusitis	<i>S. pneumoniae</i> <i>H. influenzae</i>	Mild thrombocytopenia	-	-
Case J								
J:III-2	1969	2004	CVID	Recurrent pneumonia Sinusitis, otitis media Recurrent prostatitis	<i>M. catarrhalis</i> <i>H. influenzae</i> <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <i>S. pneumoniae</i> 2011 CMV DNA detected in urine	Diabetes (corticosteroid- induced)	-	-
Case K								
K:II-1	1952	1996	CVID	Recurrent pneumonias, otitis and sinusitis Pneumococcal meningitis	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> <i>H. influenzae</i> <i>S. pneumoniae</i> <i>S. marcescens</i>	AIHA	Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, received CHOP	-
Case L								
L:II-1	1969	1991	CVID	Initially few symptoms – tested for IgG levels when her brother died of bacterial meningitis on		AIHA 1999 (splenectomy)	-	-

				background recurrent respiratory infections and low Ig's. Respiratory infections soon became apparent.				
Case M								
M:II-1	1985	2012	CVID	Respiratory infections, with bronchiectasis and chronic sinusitis. Chronic diarrhea	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (bronchi/sinuses-2012,3,4,5,6), <i>S. aureus</i> 2015,6, RSV 2015, atypical mycobacterium infection 2009, <i>C. difficile</i> - year unknown, plantar warts (HPV), ongoing Herpes Zoster, disseminated 2011 (while on azathioprine)	Evans syndrome 2009 (Rituximab) Autoimmune enteropathy 2010 Vitamin B12 deficiency (suspected pernicious anemia)	-	-
Case N								
N:II-1	1959	2015	CVID	Hypogammaglobulinemia. Generalised lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly Pancytopenia	EBV, CMV Neutropenic sepsis (without positive cultures)	Alopecia totalis	Breast cancer	
Case O								
O:II-1	1978	2001	CVID	Frequent bacterial infections Chronic diarrhea	<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	-	-	-
Case P								
P:II-1	1961	2004	CVID	AIHA (treated with Rituximab 2012). ITP and autoimmune neutropenia. Recurrent sinus and respiratory tract infections	Chronic Norovirus Rhinovirus <i>H. influenzae</i> <i>S. pneumoniae</i>	GLILD. Polyarthritis (RA-like: RF/ANA negative)	-	-

**Note:**

*H. influenzae* strains are non-typeable (= unencapsulated) unless mentioned specifically.

**Abbreviations:**

AIHA: Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia; B-NHL: B non-Hodgkin lymphoma; CVID: Common variable immunodeficiency; DLBCL: Diffuse Large B cell lymphoma; GLILD: Granulomatous-lymphocytic inflammatory lung disease; ITP: immune thrombocytopenia; OLT: Orthopic liver transplantation; XLA: X-linked agammaglobulinemia

Table E2. Symptoms and organ involvement in individuals carrying *NFKB1* variants

Case ID	Year of birth	Lung	Lymph nodes	Spleen	Liver function	Gastro-intestinal tract	Brain
Case A							
A:II-1	1961	-	-	-	-	-	-
A:II-4	1963	-	-	-	-	-	-
A:III-2	1989	-	-	-	-	-	-
A:III-3	1995	-	Enlarged	Splenectomy for splenomegaly, suspected malignancy	Transaminitis	-	-
Case B							
B:I-1	1939	-	-	Splenomegaly	Hepatomegaly	-	-
B:II-1	1968	-	-	-	-	-	-
Case C							
C:I-2	1938	Bronchiectasis Lung fibrosis	-	-	Transaminitis	-	-
C:II-3	1972	Bronchiectasis	Enlarged (cervical and axillary)	Enlarged	Liver fibrosis (1998) without granulomas, no signs of infection or autoimmunity	-	-
C:II-5	1972	Bronchiectasis	-	-	Liver cirrhosis (1996), suspect of hepatitis C virus infection	Duodenal partial villous blunting, no granuloma and absence of colonic plasmacells	Tremor
C:III-1	1999	-	-	-	-	-	-
C:III-3	2001	-	-	-	-	-	-
C:III-4	2004	-	-	-	-	-	-
Case D							
D:I-2	1958	-	-	-	-	-	-
D:II-2	1981	GLILD	-	Splenomegaly	Normal	-	-
Case E							
E:II-1	1992	Bronchiectasis	Enlarged as a child; biopsies unremarkable	Splenomegaly (previous ITP)	Normal	-	-
Case F							
F:II-1	1946	Bronchiectasis, fibrosis	-	-	-	-	-
Case G							
G:II-1	1980	Bronchiectasis, fibrosis	-	-	-	-	-
Case H							



H:II-1	1973	-	-	Splenomegaly	-	Chronic diarrhea with villous atrophy	CMV retinitis
Case I							
I:II-1	1991	Bronchiectasis	Enlarged (mediastinal)	Splenomegaly	Mild elevation transaminases, gamma-GT	-	-
Case J							
J:III-2	1969	Bronchiectasis (2005) Asthma	-	-	Normal	Intermittent diarrhoea and abdominal pain	-
Case K							
K:II-1	1952	Bronchiectasis (2009)	Previous peripheral T cell lymphoma: CD3+CD8+ (2015)	Splenomegaly (previous AIHA)	-	-	-
Case L							
L:II-1	1969	Chronic left lower lobe collapse, COPD (smoker), no bronchiectasis	-	Splenectomy (AIHA)	Normal	-	-
Case M							
M:II-1	1985	Bronchiectasis. No interstitial disease. Nodule top left lung	-	'Mild' splenomegaly on CT only	Normal	Autoimmune enteropathy (2011)	-
Case N							
N:II-1	1959	NAD	Generalised Lymphadenopathy	Large splenomegaly	Normal	-	-
Case O							
O:II-1	1978	NAD	-	-	Normal	-	-
Case P							
P:II-1	1961	GLILD bronchiectasis	-	Splenomegaly (2012), normalized over time	Nodular regenerative hyperplasia of the liver.	Chronic diarrhea: upon biopsies absence of plasmacells (Norovirus-positive).	-

**Abbreviations:**

AIHA: Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia; GLILD: Granulomatous-lymphocytic inflammatory lung disease; ITP: immune thrombocytopenia; NAD: No active disease

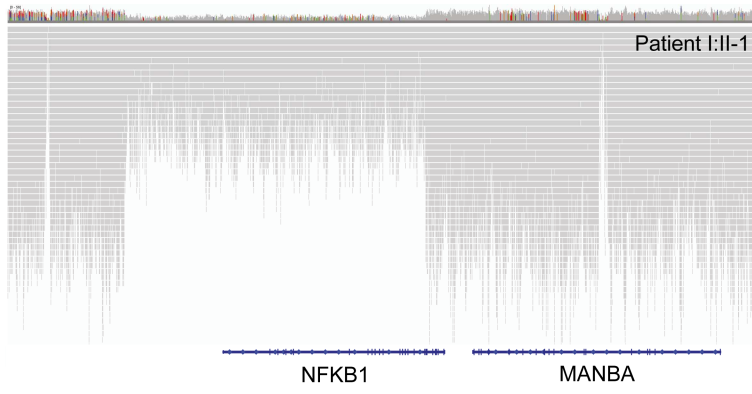
Table E3. Immunological findings in individuals carrying *NFKB1* variants

Case ID	Year of birth	Absolute lymphocyte count	Abs # CD3+ T cells	Abs # CD3/CD4+ T cells	Abs # CD3/CD8+ T cells	Abs # CD16/56+ NK cells	Abs # CD19+ B cells	IgA level (g/L)	IgG level (g/L) - prior to Ig subst.	IgM level (g/L)	ANA, other autoAbs
Case A											
A:II-1	1961	1.427	0.978 (68.5%)	0.624 (43.7%)	0.332 (23.3%)	0.228 (16.0%)	0.215 (15.0%)	0.13	1.5	0.44	ANA neg
A:II-4	1963	3.288	1.974 (60.0%)	1.305 (39.7%)	0.630 (19.2%)	0.981 (29.9%)	0.323 (9.8%)	0.03	12.1 (post IVIG)	0.44	ANA neg
A:III-2	1989	1.630	1.400 (85.9%)	0.403 (24.7%)	0.941 (57.8%)	0.153 (9.4%)	0.074 (4.5%)	<0.04	6.9	0.17	ANA neg
A:III-3	1995	2.527	2.269 (89.8%)	0.735 (29.1%)	1.401 (55.5%)	0.252 (10.0%)	0 (<0.50%)	<0.04	6.2	<0.03	ANA neg
Case B											
B:I-1	1939	1.189	0.820 (69.0%)	0.240 (20.0%)	0.540 (44.0%)	0.060 (5.0%)	0.290 (25.0%)	<0.1	<0.05	0.26	Coomb's pos
B:II-1	1968	1.936	1.551 (80.1%)	1.257 (64.9%)	0.284 (14.7%)	0.077 (4.0%)	0.291 (15.01%)	0.1	1.7	0.36	Anti-TPO pos
Case C											
C:I-2	1938	1.741	1.316 (75.6%)	0.243 (14.0%)	0.943 (54.2%)	0.375 (21.5%)	0.047 (2.7%)	<0.1	2.0	0.6	-
C:II-3	1972	0.950	0.870 (91.6%)	0.450 (47.4%)	0.410 (43.2%)	0.060 (6.3%)	0.020 (2.1%)	<0.1	1.5	0.20	IDDM1
C:II-5	1972	1.150	0.980 (85.2%)	0.650 (56.5%)	0.331 (28.8%)	0.100 (8.7%)	0.042 (3.7%)	<0.1	1.4	0.20	-
C:III-1	1999	2.959	2.027 (68.5%)	1.038 (35.1%)	0.867 (29.3%)	0.306 (10.3%)	0.597 (20.2%)	0.8	10.4	0.7	-
C:III-3	2001	3.458	1.919 (55.5%)	1.156 (33.4%)	0.591 (17.1%)	0.687 (19.9%)	0.749 (21.7%)	0.6	6.4 (low IgG2)	0.2	-
C:III-4	2004	4.054	2.615 (64.5%)	1.565 (38.6%)	0.821 (20.3%)	0.514 (12.7%)	0.883 (21.8%)	1.3	5.7 (low IgG2 and IgG3)	0.7	-
Case D											
D:I-2	1958	2.5	1.373 (54.9%)	0.761 (30.4%)	0.553 (22.1%)	NA	0.173 (6.9%)	2.3	11.0	0.84	-
D:II-2	1981	1.200	0.679 (55.6%)	0.504 (42.0%)	0.140 (11.7%)	NA	0.027 (2.2%)	<0.3	4.9	<0.1	-
Case E											

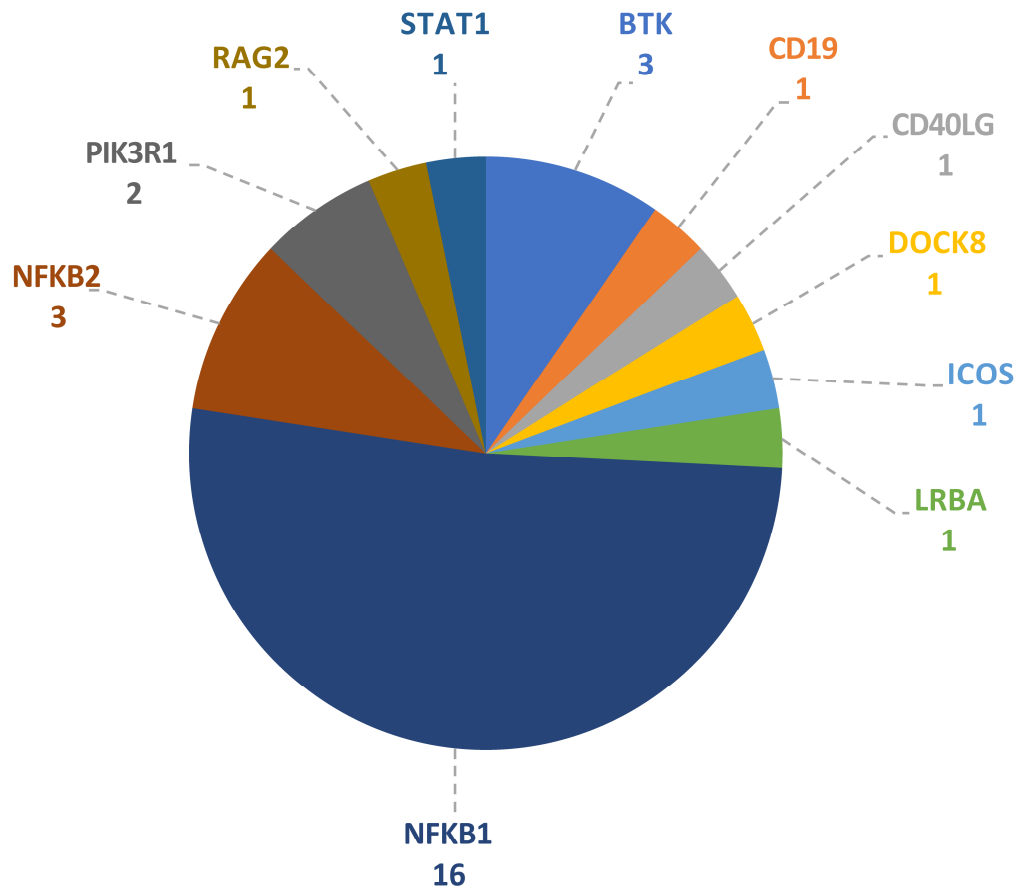
E:II-1	1992	1.046	0.963 (92.1%)	0.709 (67.8%)	0.203 (19.4%)	NA	0.022 (2.1%)	<0.1	3.9	<0.1	-
Case F											
F:II-1	1946	0.619	0.458 (74.0%)	0.174 (28.1%)	0.283 (45.7%)	NA	0	<0.1	<2	<0.1	-
Case G											
G:II-1	1980	1.022	0.684 (66.9%)	0.449 (43.9%)	0.235 (23.0%)	NA	0	<0.1	<3.9	<0.1	-
Case H											
H:II-1	1973	5.458 (splenectomy)	4.857 (89%)	2.129 (39%)	2.620 (48%)	0.262 (4.8%)	0.132 (3%)	0.02	0.1	0.03	Coomb's pos ANA pos
Case I											
I:II-1	1991	1.4	1.102 (78%)	0.717 (51%)	0.349 (25%)	0.166 (12%)	0.122 (7%)	<0.06	0.3	0.09	-
Case J											
J:III-2	1969	1.7	1.336 (78.6%)	0.706 (41.5%)	0.602 (35.4%)	0.019 (1.1%)	0.318 (18.7%)	<0.07	<1.0	0.17	-
Case K											
K:II-1	1952	0.7	0.639 (97%)	0.206 (31%)	0.388 (59%)	0.005 (1%)	0.015 (2%)	0.05	<0.1	<0.1	Coomb's pos
Case L											
L:II-1	1969	1.4	1.129 (77%)	0.687 (47%)	0.405 (28%)	0.249 (17%)	0.080 (5%)	<0.05	10.3 (post SCIG)	<0.05	Coomb's pos
Case M											
M:II-1	1985	1.0	0.902 (90%)	0.621 (62%)	0.223 (22%)	0.055 (5.5%)	0.028 (2.8%)	<0.04	Low pre Ig replacement	0.65	Coomb's pos, ANA neg
Case N											
N:II-1	1959	1.012	0.82 (81%)	0.54 (53%)	0.26 (28%)	0.15 (16%)	0.02 (2%)	<0.07	2.3	0.18	ANA neg
Case O											
O:II-1	1978	1.7	1.39 (82%)	0.97 (57%)	0.40 (24%)	0.06 (3.5%)	0.24 (14%)	0.4	4.6	0.3	ANA neg
Case P											
P:II-1	1961	0.79	0.52 (66%)	0.33 (42%)	0.18 (23%)	0.11 (14%)	0.15 (19%)	<0.1	1.9	0.1	Coomb's pos ANA neg

**Abbreviations:**

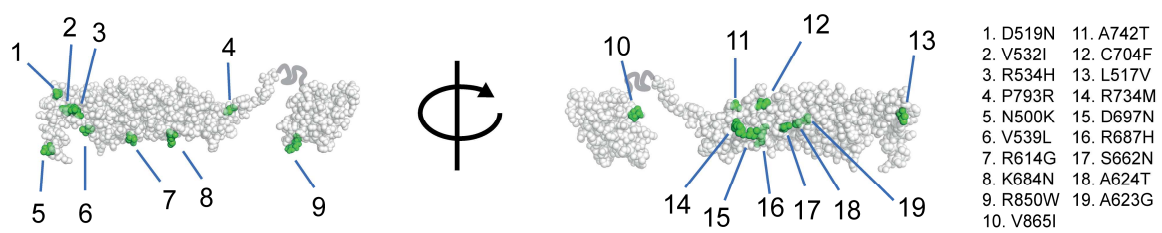
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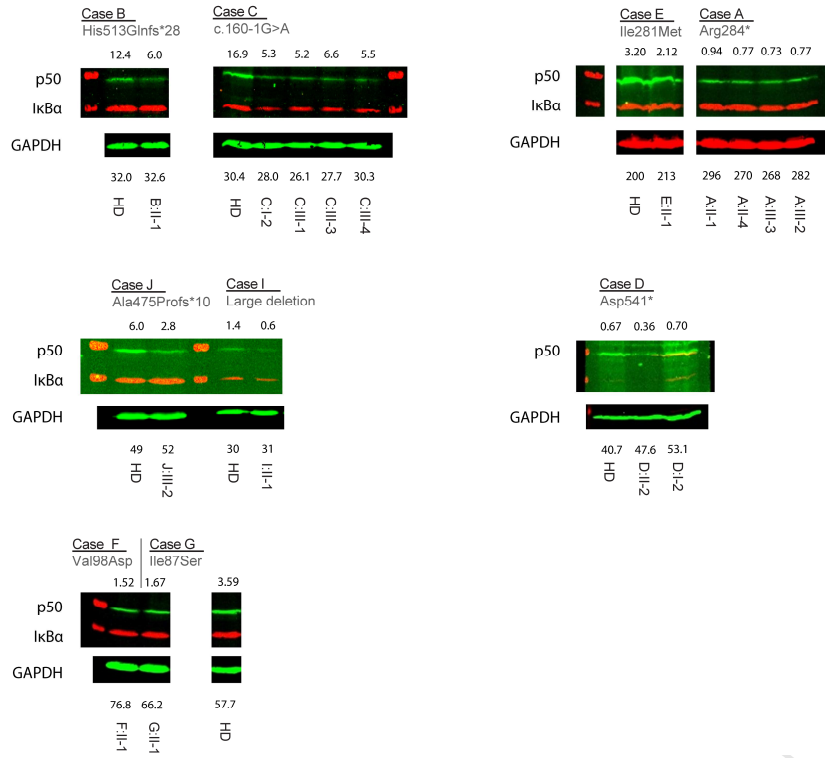
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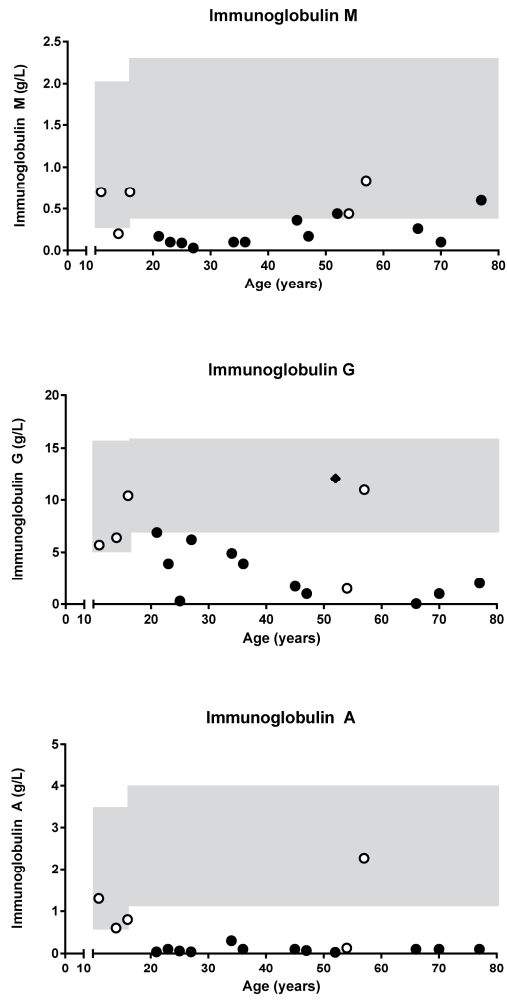
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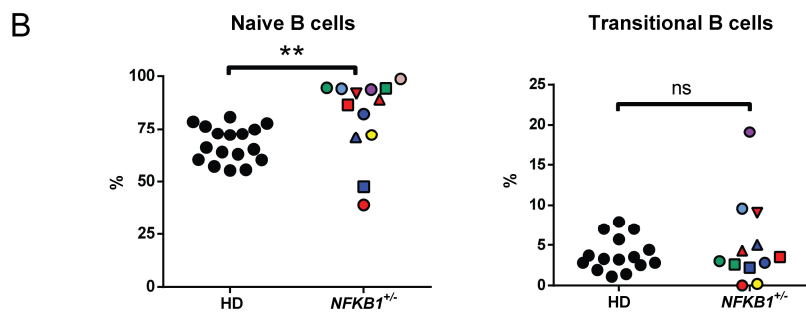
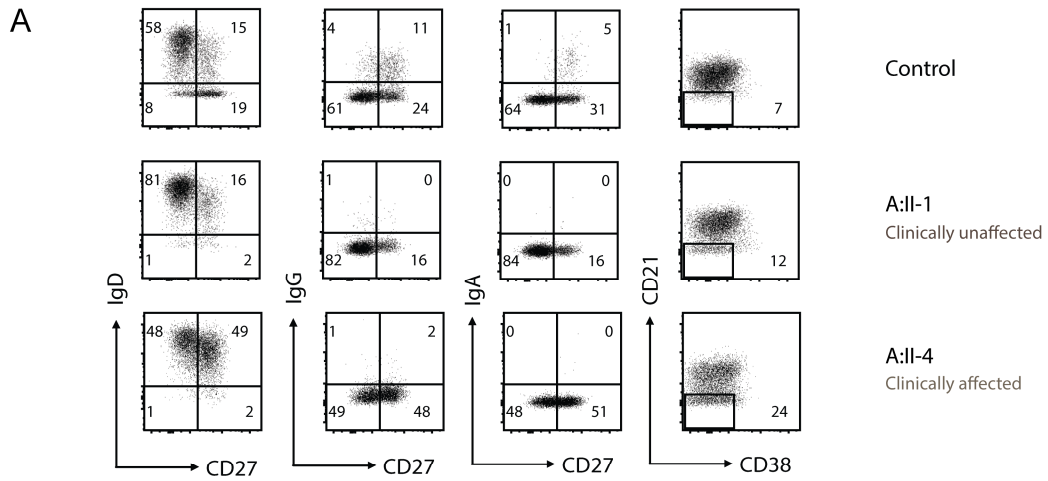


ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



● Clinically affected      ○ Clinically unaffected      ◆ Clinically affected (post IVIG)



Case A

Arg284\*

- A:II-1
- A:II-4
- ▲ A:III-2

Case B

His513Glnfs\*28

- B:II-1

Case C

c.160-1G&gt;A

- C:I-2
- C:III-1
- ▼ C:III-3
- ▲ C:III-4

Case D

Asp541\*

- D:I-2
- D:II-2

Case E

Ile281Met

- E:II-1

Case I

Large deletion

- I:II-1

Case J

Ala475Profs\*10

- J:III-2

ACCEPTED TEL

