

Epidemiology of ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus and the modifier effect of complement C1q on the age of disease onset

Journal:	<i>Amyloid</i>
Manuscript ID	DAMY-2018-0086.R2
Manuscript Type:	Original Article
Date Submitted by the Author:	17-Sep-2018
Complete List of Authors:	Andreou, Savanna; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Clinic A Panagiotou, Elena; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Clinic A Michaelidou, Kyriaki; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology Pirpa, Panayiota; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology Hadjisavvas, Andreas; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology El Salloukh, Adonis; Saint George's Medical School, University of Nicosia Barnes, Daniel; Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge Antoniou, Antonis; Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge Agathangelou, Petros; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Clinic A Papastavrou, Katia; Pantheo Eye Center Christodoulou, Kyroula; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Neurogenetics Tanteles, George; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Clinical Genetics Clinic Kyriakides, Theodoros; Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Clinic A
Keywords:	ATTRV30M, neuropathy, complement c1q, Cyprus, Epidemiology

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

For Peer Review Only

Epidemiology of ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus and the modifier effect of complement C1q on the age of disease onset

Savanna Andreou¹, Elena Panayiotou¹, Kyriaki Michailidou², Panayiota Pirpa², Andreas Hadjisavvas², Adonis El Salloukh³, Daniel Barnes⁴, Antonis Antoniou⁴, Petros Agathangelou¹, Katia Papastavrou⁵, Kyproula Christodoulou⁶, George A. Tanteles⁷ and Theodoros Kyriakides¹

¹Department of Neuropathology/ Neurology Clinic A, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus.

²Department of Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus.

³St. George's Medical School, Nicosia University, Nicosia, Cyprus.

⁴Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

⁵Pantheo Eye Center, Limassol, Cyprus

⁶Neurogenetics Department, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus.

⁷Clinical Genetics Clinic, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Corresponding Author: Dr T.Kyriakides
Senior Consultant Neurologist
Head of Clinic A, Director of Neuropathology Lab
Professor, Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine
Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics
6, International Airport Avenue
P.O Box 23462, 1683 Nicosia, Cyprus
Tel: 0035722358600
Fax: 0035722392786
E-mail: theodore@cing.ac.cy
Web site: www.cing.ac.cy

ABSTRACT

Background: ATTRV30M amyloidosis is a lethal autosomal dominant sensorimotor and autonomic neuropathy caused by amyloid deposition composed of aggregated misfolded TTR monomers with the V30M mutation. The age of onset in patients with ATTRV30M varies in different foci and the mechanism behind it is still unknown.

Methods: The tertiary neurology center following all ATTRV30M patients in Cyprus was used to collect demographic data to estimate; prevalence, incidence, penetrance, anticipation, time from disease onset to diagnosis and transplantation. Ocular, cardiac and leptomeningeal involvement in transplanted patients was explored. Correlation of C1q tagging SNPs with age of disease onset was carried out.

Results: Prevalence and incidence for ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus are 5.4/100,000 and 0.3/100,000 respectively. Mean age of onset is 40.6 years and anticipation is 8.3 years. Penetrance reaches 51% and 75% by the ages of 50 and 80 years respectively. In liver transplanted patients rates of ocular, cardiac and leptomeningeal involvement were estimated to be 60%, 20% and 16% respectively. C1q polymorphisms correlated with age of disease onset.

Conclusion: ATTRV30M neuropathy has a rising prevalence in Cyprus due to improved survival of patients. Late onset complications are becoming a major problem. Complement C1q appears to be a modifier in this disease.

Keywords

Epidemiology; ATTRV30M; neuropathy; complement; C1q; Cyprus

List of Abbreviations: ATTRm: Hereditary transthyretin amyloid protein; ATTRV30M: hereditary transthyretin amyloid protein with V30M mutation; CI: confidence interval; CING: Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics; CMAP: compound muscle action potential; HR: hazard ratio; HWE: Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium; LT: liver transplantation; SNAP: sensory nerve action potential; SNPs: single nucleotide polymorphisms; TFNEs: transient focal neurological episodes; TTR: transthyretin

Introduction

Hereditary transthyretin (ATTRm) amyloidosis may give rise to a peripheral neuropathy where extracellular mutated transthyretin (TTR) is deposited, predominantly in the peripheral nerves, heart and renal tissues [1]. It is an autosomal dominant disorder caused by the substitution of valine by methionine at position 30 [2]. Generally considered to be a progressive and fatal disease with autonomic and sensorimotor symptoms. ATTRV30M neuropathy has an average survival of 10 years after diagnosis and until recently the only available treatment was orthotopic liver transplantation (LT) [3, 4].

The original cases of ATTRV30M neuropathy were recorded in Portugal [1], followed by reports in Sweden and Japan [5, 6] which are large endemic areas with families carrying single genetic mutations [7]. Smaller endemic foci have been reported in Majorca and Cyprus [8, 9]. Recent studies have also reported late onset ATTR V30M amyloidosis cases with distinct clinical phenotype in non-endemic areas [10]. ATTRm neuropathy is highly heterogeneous, both genetically and phenotypically [11] and ATTRV30M is the most common ATTRm neuropathy diagnosed in Portugal, Brazil and Sweden [7]. In France and Japan, around 30 different TTR mutations have been detected [12-14]. An epidemiological study performed in 2003 in the Cypriot population recorded a total of 36 patients from 22 ATTRV30M families. The average age of onset was found to be 48.6 years with the most common initial symptom being neuropathic foot pain. Also, the study reported positive anticipation independent of the transmitting parents' sex.

Penetrance and age of onset are variable among different populations. Epigenetic and genetic factors are believed to contribute to this variability. In search of modifier genes our group has examined the role of the complement pathway, since complement factors have been found to co-precipitate with amyloid in various forms of amyloidotic neuropathy [15]. Certain polymorphic sites in C1q were previously found to correlate with the age of onset in Cypriot patients suggesting that complement C1q may indeed be a modifier [16]. Data from our group suggest that C1q ablation in TTRKO/Met30^{+/+} transgenic mice enhances amyloid deposition, while upregulating apoptosis and oxidative stress [17, 18].

1
2
3 Epidemiology of this disease is evolving; patients are now diagnosed earlier and are
4 offered more treatments. In the current study we report epidemiologic data, 15 years after
5 the initial follow-up of the previous study [9] and we re-evaluate the impact of C1q on
6 the age of onset in a greater cohort.
7
8
9

10 11 12 13 **Materials and Methods**

14 15 **Epidemiological and demographic data**

16 Demographic data were collected on all patients diagnosed at the Cyprus Institute of
17 Neurology and Genetics (CING). The CING is the only tertiary neurology center in
18 Cyprus where all patients with ATTRV30M neuropathy are referred to for molecular
19 diagnosis and clinical management including referral for LT and other treatments. All
20 cases of ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus are strictly familial. The small size of the
21 total population and the closeness of Cypriot families ensure complete ascertainment of
22 symptomatic cases. The data collected for each patient or carrier included current age,
23 sex, place of residence, place of origin, age at onset of symptoms, type of symptoms at
24 presentation, time to diagnosis, duration of illness and age at death. Genetic counselling
25 was also provided. Furthermore, a timeline to transplantation was also constructed based
26 on the patients' files. The census date used for estimating prevalence and incidence of
27 ATTRV30M amyloidosis within the population of Cyprus is 31/12/2016. Patients are
28 defined as carriers of the V30M mutation who are symptomatic, while carriers simply
29 have the mutation but no relevant symptoms. The patients were diagnosed by genetic
30 testing, typical clinical phenotype and a biopsy (either rectal, abdominal fat or peripheral
31 nerve). All transplanted patients and all patients receiving Tafamidis had to have a
32 positive biopsy prior to treatment. In patients who have had liver transplantation (all in
33 the UK) the results were not always available; however in 23 patients the biopsy results
34 were available.
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Neurophysiological assessment

Sensory and sensorimotor axonal neuropathies are defined as length dependent neuropathies involving only sensory or sensory and motor axons respectively, (normal values; sural SNAP>6.0 μ V, CV>44m/s, peroneal EDP CMAP>4mV, CV>42m/s, tibial AHL CMAP> 5mV, CV>41m/s. Mild demyelination was defined as slowing of conduction velocities out of proportion to CMAP values but not fulfilling the diagnostic criteria of chronic demyelinating neuropathy. Normal conduction was defined as a result within the amplitude and conduction velocities of our lab.

Leptomeningeal involvement

Leptomeningeal involvement was diagnosed either from history of transient focal neurological episodes () and/or the presence of microhaemorrhages on T2-gradient echo sequence (GRE) magnetic resonance imaging. TFNEs were defined as transient motor and/or sensory and/or speech disturbances of variable onset and duration. Typically they did not have the instantaneous onset of transient ischemic attacks.

Ocular and cardiac involvement

The following abnormalities were considered as evidence of ocular involvement; keratoconjunctivitis sicca, abnormal conjunctival vessels, anterior chamber amyloid deposits, vitreous amyloid deposits, abnormal shape of the iris and amyloid deposits, presence of intraocular hypertension and lid abnormalities.

The following abnormalities were considered as evidence of cardiac involvement; end-diastolic interventricular thickness of >12mm, reduced longitudinal function with tissue Doppler Imaging (e' , a' and s' < 5cm/second and absolute longitudinal strain < 15%), preserved radial and apical function and sparkling texture.

Candidate gene approach

Signed informed consent from 44 patients and 14 carriers seen in the last 12 months were obtained followed by blood collection. DNA samples from 80 patients (deceased included) and 19 carriers were available to be assessed for 21 C1q tagging SNPs. A corresponding number of age matched controls was also assessed for the same SNPs, in order to assess their minor allele frequencies and establish Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium status. Nineteen (19) SNPs were assessed by a standardized allelic discrimination protocol using real time-PCR for all patients/carriers and the corresponding number of age matched controls. Two SNP assays rs15940 and rs17433222 (no longer industrially produced) were assessed via the conventional PCR/sequencing protocol. Approval from the Cyprus Bioethics Committee was obtained for the study whereby the consent forms and subsequent protocols followed were accepted (Cyprus National Bioethics Committee - EEBK/EII /2015/36)

Statistical analysis

Age specific penetrance was estimated by a modified segregation retrospective likelihood analysis [19, 20] to account for the non-random ascertainment of carriers with respect to their disease phenotype, using the MENDEL software [21]. Anticipation was estimated based on the age of onset in a pool of available offspring-parent pairs and its statistical significance was tested by a paired t-test. The number of potential asymptomatic carriers was estimated from 31 families taking into account that the disease is autosomal dominant exhibiting a 50% probability of inheritance. Statistical significance of the mean age of onset between ATTRV30M patients was evaluated via the two-sample t-test. The p-value threshold, which is used to indicate the statistical significance, was set to values lower than 0.05 ($p < 0.05$).

Concerning SNPs analysis two different statistical tests were performed. In the first test, considering both symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers (19 asymptomatic /80 patients), the age of onset was used as the initial start point for the patients and the age of last healthy observation was used for asymptomatic carriers. The second test was performed in respect to age of onset and included only patients (80 cases). The Cox proportional

1
2
3 hazards model was carried out, where the event was defined as the age of onset. Analyses
4 were performed in R (coxph) using cluster analysis where variance was adjusted to
5 account for ascertainment bias due to the fact that data was only collected from affected
6 families.
7
8
9

10 11 12 13 **Results**

14 15 16 **Number of patients**

17
18 On the 31st of December 2016, 46 living ATTRV30M patients were recorded in Cyprus
19 (24 males and 22 females). Since the late 1980s and until the 31st of December 2016, 82
20 patients were formally diagnosed in Cyprus with ATTRV30M neuropathy. All patients
21 originated from 31 families, 14 families from Kyrenia, 14 from Limassol and 3 from
22 Paphos. All patients were of Greek- Cypriot descent.
23
24
25
26

27
28 Out of the 46 living patents, 36 had been transplanted. Three patients were on TTR
29 stabilizers and three patients had been referred to start a stabilizer. Three patients were
30 participating in a Phase 3 trial of an anti-sense oligonucleotide and one patient was at
31 stage III neuropathy and was receiving supportive treatment.
32
33
34
35

36 37 **Prevalence**

38
39 The prevalence was estimated based on the official population census of 31/12/2016. The
40 total population in the republic of Cyprus on that date was 854,800. 46 living
41 ATTRV30M patients were recorded in Cyprus. Thus, the prevalence of ATTRV30M
42 neuropathy was estimated to be 5.4/100,000. Prevalence at the risk population (over the
43 age of 18) was estimated to be 6.4/100,000.
44
45
46
47

48 49 **Incidence**

50
51 During the period 2003-2016, 31 patients were diagnosed with ATTRV30M amyloidosis
52 in Cyprus. The average annual incidence was estimated as 0.3/100,000 of the total
53 population.
54
55
56
57

Anticipation

The anticipation of ATTRV30M amyloidosis was estimated based on the age of onset of 49 patient pairs of offspring-parents and was derived from a pool of 82 patients.

The mean age of onset in parents was 50.3 years and 40.7 years in offspring (p-value: 9.23×10^{-7} , paired t-test). Thus, positive anticipation was recorded, where the age of onset in the offspring was on average 9.6 years earlier than their respective affected parent. The sex of the transmitting parent did not appear to influence anticipation (p-value: 0.54, two-sample t-test). Also, the anticipation for 23 offspring-parent pairs (where the offspring manifested between 2003 and 2016), was assessed. In this group the offspring were diagnosed 8.3 years earlier than their transmitting parent (p-value: 2.73×10^{-5} , paired t-test).

Estimation of asymptomatic carriers

Potential carriers were identified through their re-visited pedigrees. Of the 259 potential carriers estimated, 215 were over the age of 18. Therefore, the prevalence of asymptomatic carriers was estimated to be 30.3/100,000 and 30/100,000 over the age of 18.

Penetrance

Fig 1a illustrates the estimated penetrance by age. It is obvious that penetrance appears to be age related. At the age of 20 years the risk of developing the disease is 6%, whereas the risk at ages of 50 and 80 increases to 51% and 75% respectively.

Mean age of onset

The mean age of onset (mean \pm SD) of all patients diagnosed in Cyprus until 31/12/2016 was estimated to be 44.5 ± 15 (n=82), in males 43.8 ± 16 (n=40) and 45.2 ± 15 (n=42) in females (no statistical difference recorded, p-value: 0.68, two-sample t-test). The mean age of onset in live patients on 31/12/2016 was 40.6 ± 12 (n=46) (Fig 1b), while in patients

1
2
3 which manifested between 2003 and 2016 it was 41.4 ± 14 (n=29). The mean period from
4 onset to diagnosis in live patients was 18.5 months (n=46).
5
6

7 From the late 1980's until 31/12/2016, 53 ATTRV30M carriers were confirmed (five
8 died asymptomatic). The mean age of live carriers (n=48) was estimated 47.5 ± 15 , which
9 does not differ significantly (p-value: 0.27, two-sample t-test) compared to all
10 ATTRV30M patients (n=82).
11
12
13

14 **Phenotype**

15 Symptoms at onset

16
17
18 The initial presenting symptoms of the 46 living patients are summarized in Table 1. The
19 most commonly reported initial symptoms were “sharp shooting” or “burning” pains
20 (74%) and the most commonly observed sign was dissociated sensory loss (96%).
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

28 Neurophysiological testing at diagnosis

29
30 Nerve conduction studies at diagnosis were performed for 43 patients. Sensorimotor
31 axonal neuropathy was detected in 25 patients (58%), whereas 11 patients (26%) had
32 sensory axonal neuropathy. Only one patient (2.3%) was diagnosed with mild
33 demyelination and six patients (14%) had normal nerve conduction.
34
35
36
37

38 Amyloid deposits at diagnosis

39
40 Biopsy results at diagnosis were available for 23 ATTRV30M patients: 14 patients (61%)
41 were rectal positive, two patients (9%) rectal negative, two sural nerve positive (9%), two
42 abdominal fat positive (9%), one cardiac muscle positive (4%), one patient both rectal
43 and abdominal fat positive (4%) and another one was both urinary bladder and abdominal
44 fat positive (4%). SAP scan results were available for 21 patients: 15 were positive (71%)
45 and 6 were negative (29%).
46
47
48
49
50
51

52 Liver transplantation

53
54
55
56
57

1
2
3 Thirty-six from the 46 living patients underwent orthotopic liver transplantation (LT).
4 The mean period from symptom onset to transplantation was 37.3 months and from
5 diagnosis to transplantation was 18.6 months. Serum albumin levels at transplantation
6 were only available for 31 patients and their estimated average was 40.7g/L (normal 35-
7 50 g/L). All patients were in Stage I neuropathy.
8
9
10
11

12 Leptomeningeal involvement in transplanted patients

13
14
15 Six transplanted patients (17%) displayed leptomeningeal involvement: one subclinical
16 (positive MRI), five had TFNEs (Focal Neurological Episodes). MRI was performed in
17 four patients without a pacemaker; two were normal and two abnormal. CT scans were
18 performed on 10 patients but were found to be normal in all cases.
19
20
21
22

23 Ocular and cardiac involvement in transplanted patients

24
25 Ocular and cardiac involvement was also assessed in transplanted patients. Ocular
26 assessment was carried out on 32 of the patients. Nineteen were found to be positive
27 (59%), while 13 were negative (41%) for ocular involvement.
28
29
30

31
32 Twenty nine transplanted patients have had repeated echocardiography assessments and
33 six were found to have cardiac involvement (21%). None presented with
34 cardiomyopathy.
35
36
37
38
39

40 **Candidate gene approach to assess for disease modifiers-SNPs analysis**

41
42 Eighty patients (44 alive and 36 deceased), 19 carriers– both classified as “cases” and 99
43 controls (wild type TTR) were analyzed. The Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) was
44 calculated for all SNPs in the control population (Supplementary Table 1). SNPs
45 rs186037 and rs294223 did not follow the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE p-value
46 threshold: 0.05) and were thus excluded from further analysis.
47
48
49
50

51
52 Using both asymptomatic and symptomatic carriers (19 asymptomatic/80 patients) and by
53 using age of onset as the time point for the patients and the age of last healthy
54 observation for the asymptomatic carriers we performed Cox proportional hazards
55
56
57

analysis with the event being the age of onset or the age of last healthy observation. We performed the analyses in R (coxph), estimating the cluster robust variance on family to account for the fact that we have data from relatives. The hazard ratio (HR) and confidence interval (CI) can be potentially biased as we do not take into account the non-random ascertainment of the samples in the study. The results below assess the modifying effect of each SNP to the disease. HR was calculated in respect to the major allele (Supplementary Table 2).

In the first statistical test, the most significant modifying effect association came from rs672693 (p-value: 5.87×10^{-3} , HR: 1.63, 95% CI: 1.15-2.30) whereas the two SNPs (rs9434, rs294180) correlated strongly with age of onset while rs665691 and rs12126436 were also moderately associated. Therefore, allele G of rs672693 increases the risk of manifesting ATTRV30M amyloidosis earlier.

In respect to the age of onset when using patients only (80 cases) the most significant modifying effect came from rs665691 (p-value: 1.87×10^{-3} , HR: 1.54, CI: 1.17-2.03) and the others that were significantly associated with it. Thus, earlier age of onset is associated with allele C of rs665691 in the Cypriot patients. The entire squared correlation coefficient table amongst the tested SNPs in the carriers' pool can be found in supplementary table 3.

Discussion

Prevalence in other endemic areas such as Northern Portugal, Northern Sweden and Nagano, Japan is estimated to be 163.1 in 100,000, 104 in 100,000 and 1.29 in 100,000 population respectively [22] Also, the age of onset varies across different endemic areas. The mean age of onset in Portuguese and Japanese ATTRm patients is 33 years [23, 24], while in Swedish patients the mean age of onset is 56 years of age [25]. Disease anticipation has also been reported in most endemic countries such as Portugal, Sweden and Japan [26-29]

The currently estimated prevalence of ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus is 5.4/100,000, compared to the 2003 value of 3.7/100,000 [9]. This increase in prevalence is accounted

1
2
3 for by the increase in the number of living patients. New manifesting carriers are
4 diagnosed and referred for LT earlier and survive longer. Currently, there are 46 living
5 patients compared to the 27 included in the previous study. Also, increased awareness
6 within the families themselves facilitates earlier diagnosis. The average incidence
7 recorded between 2003 and 2016 appears to be lower (0.3/100,000) compared to the
8 1992-2002 average (0.7/100,000). This is may be partly due to a larger pool of
9 undiagnosed patients that were diagnosed during 1992-2002.
10
11
12
13
14

15
16
17 Penetrance of the disease may also impact the incidence assuming a continuous pool of
18 carriers. The biological basis of penetrance is poorly understood and both by genetic and
19 environmental factors are involved. In the current study, we estimated the penetrance of
20 ATTRV30M neuropathy in Cyprus to be 51% and 75% at the ages of 50 and 80 years
21 respectively. In France, 18% and 85% respectively, 69% and 85% in Portugal [30] and
22 11% and 69% in Sweden [28].
23
24
25
26
27

28
29 The mean age of symptom onset was 41.4 ± 14 years compared to 48.6 ± 15 years in the
30 previous survey. Additionally, we confirm that the patients' sex does not influence the
31 age of onset in Cypriot patients [9], as similarly observed in the Swedish population [23].
32 This is in contrast to both the Portuguese and Brazilian populations where the patients'
33 sex does influence the age of onset [26, 31].
34
35
36
37

38
39 Anticipation was found to remain unchanged and may explain the approximately 8 year
40 reduction in the age of onset in the current study, although earlier diagnosis is possible.
41 Mean period from symptom onset to diagnosis was 18.5 months, largely due to patient
42 denial, failure of non-specialists to recognize the disease, as well as the criterion for
43 diagnosis at the CING where the presence of dissociated sensory loss is required.
44
45
46
47

48
49 The phenotype of the patients in both surveys followed the typical pattern of small fiber
50 and autonomic neuropathy. Also, no patients with demyelinating neuropathy were
51 identified (most common ATTRV30M misdiagnosis). It is our current practice to
52 diagnose the presence of ATTRV30M neuropathy when dissociated sensory loss is
53 present on clinical examination. In all patients tissue confirmation of amyloidosis was
54
55
56
57

1
2
3 required. Leptomeningeal involvement was present in about 16% of the post transplanted
4 patients, who also had ocular amyloid disease.
5

6
7 The genetic analysis has found that C1q SNPs rs665691, rs158761, rs172378, rs672693,
8 rs9434 and rs294180 correlate with an earlier age of disease onset. C1q activates the
9 classical complement pathway ultimately producing the potent C5a anaphylatoxin, which
10 in turn activates phagocytic cells and induces clearance of TTR amyloid deposits [32].
11
12

13
14 SNP rs665691 (allele C) was found to be one of the most significant associations.
15 According to dbSNP-NCBI, rs665691 is found among microRNA 6127 (MIR6127),
16 which is located on 1p36.12. Interestingly, this SNP is also found to be significantly
17 associated ($P = 0.0006$) with the risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis in a cohort of 822
18 patients and over 1000 controls [33].
19
20
21
22

23
24 SNP rs672693 (allele G) was also to have a significant modifying effect in the test
25 involving the combined TTRV30M carrier analysis, although it was also found to be
26 significant in the analysis including only patients. SNP rs672693 is located within an
27 intronic region of C1qC chain and may be involved in splicing. Polymorphisms within
28 intronic regions may alter splicing and gene transcription [34].
29
30

31
32 Genetic variants of other complement components have previously been shown to act as
33 modifiers of both the onset and the expression of ATTRm amyloidosis, more specifically
34 the C3F and C4A3 variants were found to be significantly higher in early onset patients
35 [35].
36
37
38
39
40

41 The correlation of C1q polymorphisms and age of onset of ATTRV30M neuropathy may
42 or may not be a causative association. There are some human and animal data that
43 provide evidence consistent with a pathogenic role for complement in amyloid
44 neuropathy. Nerve biopsies of patients with amyloidotic neuropathy show co-
45 precipitation of complement with amyloid [15, 36]. C1q ablation in the ATTRV30M
46 neuropathy mouse model exacerbates amyloid deposition while complement C5a
47 agonists stimulate phagocytosis and reduce amyloid deposits [18, 32]. It is therefore
48 likely the C1q polymorphisms have a causative association with age of onset.
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Furthermore, studies in lupus and rheumatoid arthritis have shown that the expression levels of C1q and other complement components significantly change depending on the polymorphism expressed, thus affecting the overall function of the complement cascade [37, 38].

In the current study an increased prevalence of 5.4/100,000 for ATTRV30M was recorded in Cyprus, mainly accounted for by improved survival due to LT. We have confirmed that the phenotype of the disease remains largely that of the typical length-dependent sensorimotor and autonomic neuropathy. No sporadic cases were recorded. We confirm the presence of positive anticipation of about 8 years and an age specific penetrance different from other endemic foci. Additionally, we have demonstrated a number of C1q tagging SNPs associated with age of onset supporting a modifier role for C1q which need to be replicated in other populations.

Disclosure statement: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

Funding: This work was supported by Telethon Cyprus and Pfizer's GLOBAL Aspire Grants.

References

- [1] Andrade C. A peculiar form of peripheral neuropathy; familial atypical generalized amyloidosis with special involvement of the peripheral nerves. *Brain*. 1952;75:408-27.
- [2] Saraiva MJ, Birken S, Costa PP, et al. Amyloid fibril protein in familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy, Portuguese type. Definition of molecular abnormality in transthyretin (prealbumin). *J Clin Invest*. 1984;74:104-19.
- [3] Conceicao I, De Carvalho M. Clinical variability in type I familial amyloid polyneuropathy (Val30Met): comparison between late- and early-onset cases in Portugal. *Muscle Nerve*. 2007;35:116-8.
- [4] Koike H, Tanaka F, Hashimoto R, et al. Natural history of transthyretin Val30Met familial amyloid polyneuropathy: analysis of late-onset cases from non-endemic areas. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry*. 2012;83:152-8.
- [5] Andersson R. Familial amyloidosis with polyneuropathy. A clinical study based on patients living in northern Sweden. *Acta Med Scand Suppl*. 1976;590:1-64.
- [6] Araki S, Mawatari S, Ohta M, et al. Polyneuritic amyloidosis in a Japanese family. *Arch Neurol*. 1968;18:593-602.

- 1
2
3
4 [7] Plante-Bordeneuve V, Said G. Familial amyloid polyneuropathy. *Lancet Neurol.* 2011;10:1086-97.
5
6
7
8 [8] Reines JB, Vera TR, Martin MU, et al. Epidemiology of transthyretin-associated familial
9 amyloid polyneuropathy in the Majorcan area: Son Llatzer Hospital descriptive study.
10 *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2014;9:29.
11
12 [9] Dardiotis E, Koutsou P, Papanicolaou EZ, et al. Epidemiological, clinical and genetic study
13 of familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy in Cyprus. *Amyloid.* 2009;16:32-7.
14
15 [10] Koike H, Misu K, Ikeda S, et al. Type I (transthyretin Met30) familial amyloid
16 polyneuropathy in Japan: early- vs late-onset form]. *Arch Neurol.* 2002;59:1771-6.
17
18 [11] Reilly MM, Adams D, Booth DR, et al. Transthyretin gene analysis in European patients
19 with suspected familial amyloid polyneuropathy. *Brain.* 1995;118:849-56.
20
21
22 [12] Araki S, Ando Y. Transthyretin-related familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy-Progress in
23 Kumamoto, Japan (1967-2010). *Proc Jpn Acad Ser B Phys Biol Sci.* 2010;86:694-706.
24
25 [13] Plante-Bordeneuve V, Lalu T, Misrahi M, et al. Genotypic-phenotypic variations in a
26 series of 65 patients with familial amyloid polyneuropathy. *Neurology.* 1998;51:708-14.
27
28 [14] Ikeda S, Takei Y, Tokuda T, et al. Clinical and pathological findings of non-Val30Met TTR
29 type familial amyloid polyneuropathy in Japan. *Amyloid.* 2003;1:39-47.
30
31
32 [15] Hafer-Macko CE, Dyck PJ, Koski CL. Complement activation in acquired and hereditary
33 amyloid neuropathy. *Journal of the peripheral nervous system : JPNS.* 2000;5:131-9.
34
35 [16] Dardiotis E, Koutsou P, Zamba-Papanicolaou E, et al. Complement C1Q polymorphisms
36 modulate onset in familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy TTR Val30Met. *J Neurol Sci.*
37 2009;284:158-62.
38
39 [17] Pisalyaput K, Tenner AJ. Complement component C1q inhibits beta-amyloid- and serum
40 amyloid P-induced neurotoxicity via caspase- and calpain-independent mechanisms. *J*
41 *Neurochem.* 2008;104:696-707.
42
43
44 [18] Panayiotou E, Fella E, Papacharalambous R, et al. C1q ablation exacerbates amyloid
45 deposition: A study in a transgenic mouse model of ATTRV30M amyloid neuropathy.
46 *PLoS one.* 2017;12:e0175767.
47
48 [19] Antoniou AC, Sinilnikova OM, Simard J, et al. RAD51 135G-->C modifies breast cancer
49 risk among BRCA2 mutation carriers: results from a combined analysis of 19 studies. *Am*
50 *J Hum Genet.* 2007;81:1186-200.
51
52 [20] Barnes DR, Lee A, Investigators E, et al. Evaluation of association methods for analysing
53 modifiers of disease risk in carriers of high-risk mutations. *Genet Epidemiol.*
54 2012;36:274-91.
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 [21] Lange K, Weeks D, Boehnke M. Programs for Pedigree Analysis: MENDEL, FISHER, and
4 dGENE. *Genet Epidemiol.* 1988;5:471-2.
5
6 [22] Schmidt HH, Waddington-Cruz M, Botteman MF, et al. Estimating the global prevalence
7 of transthyretin familial amyloid polyneuropathy. *Muscle Nerve.* 2018;57:829-837.
8
9 [23] Sousa A, Andersson R, Drugge U, et al. Familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy in Sweden:
10 geographical distribution, age of onset, and prevalence. *Hum Hered.* 1993;43:288-94.
11
12 [24] Ikeda S, Nakazato M, Ando Y, et al. Familial transthyretin-type amyloid polyneuropathy
13 in Japan: clinical and genetic heterogeneity. *Neurology.* 2002;58:1001-7.
14
15 [25] Holmgren G, Costa PM, Andersson C, et al. Geographical distribution of TTR met30
16 carriers in northern Sweden: discrepancy between carrier frequency and prevalence
17 rate. *J Med Genet.* 1994;31:351-4.
18
19 [26] Sousa A, Coelho T, Barros J, et al. Genetic epidemiology of familial amyloidotic
20 polyneuropathy (FAP)-type I in Pova do Varzim and Vila do Conde (north of Portugal).
21 *Am J Med Genet.* 1995;60:512-21.
22
23 [27] Drugge U, Andersson R, Chizari F, et al. Familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy in Sweden:
24 a pedigree analysis. *J Med Genet.* 1993;30:388-92.
25
26 [28] Hellman U, Alarcon F, Lundgren HE, et al. Heterogeneity of penetrance in familial
27 amyloid polyneuropathy, ATTR Val30Met, in the Swedish population. *Amyloid.*
28 2008;15:181-6.
29
30 [29] Yamamoto K, Ikeda S, Hanyu N, et al. A pedigree analysis with minimised ascertainment
31 bias shows anticipation in Met30-transthyretin related familial amyloid polyneuropathy.
32 *J Med Genet.* 1998;35:23-30.
33
34 [30] Plante-Bordeneuve V, Carayol J, Ferreira A, et al. Genetic study of transthyretin amyloid
35 neuropathies: carrier risks among French and Portuguese families. *J Med Genet.*
36 2003;40.
37
38 [31] Bittencourt PL, Couto CA, Clemente C, et al. Phenotypic expression of familial amyloid
39 polyneuropathy in Brazil. *Eur J Neurol.* 2005;12:289-93.
40
41 [32] Fella E, Sokratous K, Papacharalambous R, et al. Pharmacological stimulation of
42 phagocytosis enhances amyloid plaque clearance; evidence from a transgenic mouse
43 model of ATTR neuropathy. *Front Mol Neurosci.* 2017;10.
44
45 [33] Trouw LA, Daha N, Kurreeman FA, et al. Genetic variants in the region of the C1q genes
46 are associated with rheumatoid arthritis. *Clin Exp Immunol.* 2013;173:76-83.
47
48 [34] Jo BS, Choi SS. Introns: The functional benefits of introns in genomes. *Genomics Inform.*
49 2015;13:112-8.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3 [35] Nylander PO, Beckman L, Holmgren G, et al. Association of C3 and C4A complement
4 types with familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy. Hum Hered. 1990;40:272-7.
5
6 [36] Zanusso GL, Moretto G, Bonetti B, et al. Complement neoantigen and vitronectin are
7 components of plaques in amyloid AL neuropathy. Ital J Neurol Sci. 1992;13:493-9.
8
9
10
11 [37] Rafiq S, Frayling TM, Vyse TJ, et al. Assessing association of common variation in the C1Q
12 gene cluster with systemic lupus erythematosus. Clin Exp Immunol. 2010;161:284-9.
13
14 [38] Liphaus BL, Umetsu N, Jesus AA, et al. Molecular characterization of the complement
15 C1q, C2 and C4 genes in Brazilian patients with juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus.
16 Clinics. 2015;70:220-7.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

25 Tables

26
27
28 Table 1: Initial symptoms and signs among Cypriot ATTRV30M patients.
29

30 Initial symptoms	31 Number of Patients	32 %
33 "Sharp shooting" or "burning" pains	34/46	74%
35 Nausea, vomiting, early satiety	16/46	35%
36 Diarrhea	5/46	11%
37 Constipation	19/46	41%
38 Impotence	6/46	13%
39 Bladder disturbances	10/46	22%
40 Sweating abnormalities	0/46	0
41 Musculoskeletal (charcot joint)	1/46	2%
42 Dissociated sensory loss	44/46	96%
43 Orthostatic hypotension	8/46	17%
44 Esophageal reflux	2/46	4%
45 Hydronephrosis	2/46	4%
46 Loss of sensation in the feet	2/46	4%
47 Bilateral median and ulnar neuropathy	1/46	2%
48 Numbness in the feet	1/46	2%
49 Painless burns in the feet	1/46	2%

50 *Note: Some patients presented with more than one symptom at the same time.*
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14 **Figure Legend:**
15

16 **Figure 1. Penetrance and age of disease onset.** (a) The risk of developing the disease is
17 shown to increase along with age. (b) The age of onset for living ATTRV30M patients in
18 5 year intervals is presented here, whereas the mean age of onset was found to be
19 40.6±12 (n=46).
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

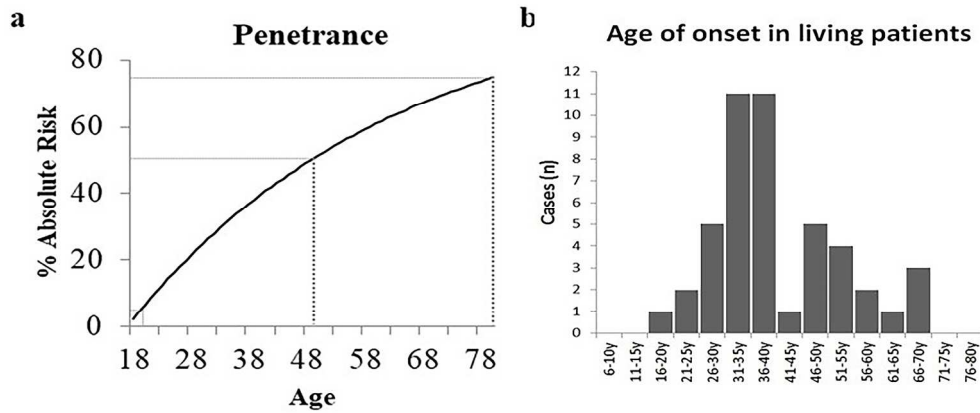


Figure 1. Penetrance and age of disease onset. (a) The risk of developing the disease is shown to increase along with age. (b) The age of onset for living ATTRV30M patients in 5 year intervals is presented here, whereas the mean age of onset was found to be 40.6 ± 12 (n=46).

240x100mm (300 x 300 DPI)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47

Supplementary Table 1: Minor allele frequency of all SNPs tested for cases and controls. Maf – minor allele frequency, Allele 1- minor allele/ allele 2- major allele *SNPs did not follow the Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium and were excluded from analyses.

SNP	Alleles	maf_cases	maf_controls	HWE_p_cases	HWE_p_controls
rs172378	G/A	0.38	0.38	0.86	0.10
rs9434	A/C	0.40	0.35	0.40	0.38
rs12126436	A/G	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.92
rs209698	G/A	0.45	0.40	0.06	0.35
rs12128546	G/T	0.27	0.25	0.31	0.87
rs186037*	G/A	0.20	0.25	0.21	0
rs158761	A/C	0.39	0.38	0.92	0.05
rs665691	G/C	0.38	0.38	0.44	0.06
rs6690827	A/G	0.29	0.28	0.38	0.30
rs12404537	T/C	0.21	0.17	0.02	0.86
rs672693	A/G	0.38	0.33	0.09	0.05
rs294180	A/C	0.41	0.35	0.31	0.25
rs12040131	G/C	0.19	0.16	0.04	0.66
rs7549747	C/T	0.44	0.34	0.75	0.05
rs7549888	T/G	0.46	0.47	0.62	0.35
rs17486657	T/C	0.21	0.29	0.68	0.55
rs294222	C/G	0.34	0.37	0.96	0.35
rs294223*	T/C	0.22	0.30	0.97	0.04
rs17433871	C/T	0.26	0.22	0.46	0.07
rs15940	T/C	0.32	0.22	0.56	0.22
rs17433222	A/G	0.24	0.22	0.09	0.84

Supplementary Table 2: Estimated hazard ratios for earlier age of onset using survival analysis. Statistical analysis 1 includes both patients and asymptomatic carriers. Statistical analysis 2 includes patients only. Estimated SNPs hazard risk ratios. Statistical analysis 1- 99 ATTRV30M carriers (19 non-manifesting carriers /80 cases), Statistical analysis 2- 80 ATTRV30M cases. HR – Hazard Ratio / 95% CI 95% Confidence Interval

SNP	Statistical analysis No.1 (99 ATTRV30M carriers)		Statistical analysis No. 2 (80 ATTRV30M cases)	
	HR (95%CI)	P-value	HR (95%CI)	P-value
rs172378	1.33 (0.95-1.88)	0.10	1.51 (1.15-1.99)	2.81x10 ⁻³
rs9434	1.53 (1.10-2.14)	0.01	1.44 (1.05-1.97)	0.02
rs12126436	1.52 (1.06-2.18)	0.02	1.51 (1.01-2.26)	0.05
rs209698	1.26 (0.96-1.66)	0.10	1.19 (0.89-1.59)	0.24
rs12128546	1.37 (0.95-1.97)	0.09	1.34 (0.94-1.92)	0.11
rs158761	1.28 (0.92-1.79)	0.14	1.53 (1.16-2.00)	2.24x10 ⁻³
rs665691	1.45 (1.07-1.98)	0.02	1.54 (1.17-2.03)	1.87x10⁻³
rs6690827	1.28 (0.90-1.81)	0.16	1.26 (0.89-1.79)	0.19
rs12404537	1.29 (0.86-1.93)	0.22	1.18 (0.76-1.85)	0.46
rs672693	1.63 (1.15-2.30)	5.87x10⁻³	1.54 (1.10-2.16)	0.01
rs294180	1.51 (1.08-2.10)	0.01	1.43 (1.04-1.95)	0.03
rs12040131	1.55 (0.87-2.74)	0.13	1.42 (0.86-2.36)	0.17
rs7549747	1.26 (0.89-1.79)	0.19	1.53 (1.10-2.13)	0.01
rs7549888	1.11 (0.84-1.47)	0.45	1.07 (0.74-1.55)	0.71
rs17486657	0.92 (0.61-1.37)	0.67	0.90 (0.57-1.43)	0.66
rs294222	0.76 (0.53-1.11)	0.15	0.68 (0.48-0.95)	0.03
rs17433871	1.13 (0.78-1.64)	0.51	1.09 (0.79-1.51)	0.58
rs15940	1.34 (0.91-1.96)	0.14	1.25 (0.94-1.65)	0.13
rs17433222	1.23 (0.78-1.94)	0.38	1.31 (0.87-1.97)	0.20

Supplementary Table 3: The squared correlation coefficient between the tested SNPs in the carriers.

SNP	rs172378	rs9434	rs12126436	rs209698	rs12128546	rs158761	rs665691	rs6690827	rs12404537	rs672693	rs294180	rs12040131	rs7549747	rs7549888	rs17486657	rs294222	rs17433871	rs15940	rs17433222
rs172378	1	0.36	0.34	0.38	0.25	0.76	0.81	0.66	0.43	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.40	0.09	0.02	0.28	0.19	0.23	0.40
rs9434	0.36	1	0.29	0.28	0.43	0.32	0.33	0.42	0.44	0.86	0.98	0.36	0.26	0.30	0.01	0.37	0.15	0.58	0.50
rs12126436	0.34	0.29	1	0.38	0.66	0.28	0.30	0.38	0.64	0.29	0.28	0.22	0.07	0.16	0	0.10	0.06	0.23	0.34
rs209698	0.38	0.28	0.38	1	0.53	0.44	0.45	0.19	0.34	0.32	0.28	0.18	0.20	0.06	0.01	0.16	0.07	0.21	0.25
rs12128546	0.25	0.43	0.66	0.53	1	0.23	0.24	0.32	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.20	0.12	0.17	0	0.15	0.10	0.31	0.36
rs158761	0.76	0.32	0.28	0.44	0.23	1	0.92	0.46	0.38	0.39	0.33	0.21	0.29	0.12	0	0.26	0.18	0.16	0.38
rs665691	0.81	0.33	0.30	0.45	0.24	0.92	1	0.50	0.41	0.41	0.34	0.22	0.28	0.13	0	0.26	0.19	0.15	0.38
rs6690827	0.66	0.42	0.38	0.19	0.32	0.46	0.50	1	0.57	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.27	0.18	0.01	0.19	0.31	0.31	0.54
rs12404537	0.43	0.44	0.64	0.34	0.44	0.38	0.41	0.57	1	0.45	0.42	0.50	0.18	0.25	0	0.17	0.17	0.40	0.58
rs672693	0.30	0.86	0.29	0.32	0.46	0.39	0.41	0.35	0.45	1	0.88	0.35	0.21	0.33	0.01	0.32	0.15	0.46	0.54
rs294180	0.36	0.98	0.28	0.28	0.44	0.33	0.34	0.43	0.42	0.88	1	0.34	0.26	0.31	0.01	0.38	0.16	0.56	0.51
rs12040131	0.27	0.36	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.21	0.22	0.36	0.50	0.35	0.34	1	0.41	0.23	0.08	0.19	0.39	0.26	0.62
rs7549747	0.40	0.26	0.07	0.20	0.12	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.18	0.21	0.26	0.41	1	0.03	0.19	0.43	0.29	0.23	0.31
rs7549888	0.09	0.30	0.16	0.06	0.17	0.12	0.13	0.18	0.25	0.33	0.31	0.23	0.03	1	0.35	0.48	0.14	0.13	0.26
rs17486657	0.02	0.01	0	0.01	0	0	0	0.01	0	0.01	0.01	0.08	0.19	0.35	1	0.14	0.05	0	0.03
rs294222	0.28	0.37	0.10	0.16	0.15	0.26	0.26	0.19	0.17	0.32	0.38	0.19	0.43	0.48	0.14	1	0.15	0.23	0.19
rs17433871	0.19	0.15	0.06	0.07	0.10	0.18	0.19	0.31	0.17	0.15	0.16	0.39	0.29	0.14	0.05	0.15	1	0.05	0.27
rs15940	0.23	0.58	0.23	0.21	0.31	0.16	0.15	0.31	0.40	0.46	0.56	0.26	0.23	0.13	0	0.23	0.05	1	0.31
rs17433222	0.40	0.50	0.34	0.25	0.36	0.38	0.38	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.51	0.62	0.31	0.26	0.03	0.19	0.27	0.31	1