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New Cohort of Patients With CEDNIK Syndrome Expands the Phenotypic and Genotypic Spectra

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Abstract

Objective

To report 6 new patients with cerebral dysgenesis, neuropathy, ichthyosis, and keratoderma (CEDNIK) syndrome.

Methods

Clinical exome or targeted sequencing were performed to elucidate the molecular genetic cause in patients with neurocognitive abnormalities and brain imaging findings.

Results

CEDNIK syndrome is a rare genetic condition caused by biallelic pathogenic loss-of-function variants in synaptosomal-associated protein 29 (*SNAP29*), which encodes a vesicular membrane fusion protein. Clinical manifestations include significant developmental delay/intellectual disability (DD/ID), brain abnormalities, failure to thrive, and skin abnormalities. To date, 19 patients from 10 unrelated families with CEDNIK syndrome have been reported. We report 5 additional patients with homozygous predicted loss-of-function variants in *SNAP29* and one with compound heterozygous variants: a frameshift *SNAP29* variant and a 370 kb deletion on 22q11.2. All patients exhibit DD/ID, ichthyosis and/or palmoplantar keratoderma, and hypotonia. Four of 6 subjects had hypomyelinated white matter on MRI, 2 of 6 had early puberty, and 4 of 6 had strabismus, which were previously rarely reported. Other phenotypes were variably present, including dysmorphic features, feeding difficulties, and recurrent respiratory infections. The cohort includes 2 siblings with a c.2T>C variant who have a relatively milder phenotype, a patient with the most C-terminal variant yet described (c.622G>T), and 3 patients with previously described variants (c.354dupG, c.487dupA).

Conclusions

This cohort of 6 additional patients expands the genotypic and phenotypic spectrum of CEDNIK syndrome, highlighting previously under-recognized features such as hypomyelination, seizures, and early puberty. Owing to reduced penetrance of the skin phenotype, cerebral dysgenesis, and neuropathy, we propose renaming this syndrome *SNAP29*-related disorder.

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Glossary

CMA = chromosomal microarray analysis; **DD** = developmental delay; **ID** = intellectual disability; **NMD** = nonsense-mediated mRNA decay; **OFC** = occipitofrontal circumference; **PMG** = polymicrogyria; **PMLD** = Pelizaeus-Merzbacher-like disorder; **SNAP29** = *synaptosomal-associated protein 29*.

Cerebral dysgenesis, neuropathy, ichthyosis, and keratoderma (CEDNIK) syndrome (MIM# 609528) was first described by Sprecher et al.¹ in 2005, and to date, 19 individuals from 10 unrelated families have been described.^{2–9} This is a rare autosomal recessive disease caused by loss-of-function variants in *synaptosomal-associated protein 29* (*SNAP29*). *SNAP29* is involved in membrane fusion processes including exocytosis, endocytosis, autophagy, and ciliogenesis. In human skin and animal models, loss of *SNAP29* leads to abnormal maturation, spatial organization, and differentiation of epidermal layers, neurons, and muscle fibers.^{1,10–13}

CEDNIK syndrome is characterized by severe neurologic abnormalities leading to global developmental delay, hypotonia, and neuropathy as well as dermatologic abnormalities (ichthyosis and keratoderma). Typical MRI findings are hypoplasia/dysplasia of the corpus callosum and polymicrogyria (PMG). Congenital hypotonia leads to feeding difficulties, failure to thrive, and development of limb spasticity. Individuals with CEDNIK syndrome meet few developmental milestones and often have vision or hearing loss. Most patients have dysmorphic facial features without a recognizable gestalt. Prognosis is poor; the eldest patient was 13 year old at publication, and 4 patients died of pneumonia between ages 5 and 12.^{1,8}

Here, we describe 6 additional patients with CEDNIK syndrome from 5 unrelated families, one of whom is older than any previous patient described. Their genotypes include a novel C-terminal predicted pathogenic variant in *SNAP29* and a variant previously associated with Pelizaeus-Merzbacher-like disorder (PMLD).⁷

Methods

Standard Protocol Approvals, Registrations, and Patient Consents

Written informed consent and authorization for publication was received from patients' guardians. The Washington University in St. Louis Media Authorization for the Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information form was used for all patients except patient 4, who used the Kingston General Hospital Consent for Photography form.

Genetic Testing

Next-generation sequencing was performed at each institution on a clinical basis for evaluation of specific findings (see also Supplementary Material-B). For patients 1 and 4, trio exome sequencing was performed through GeneDx (Gaithersburg, MD). Patient 2 had targeted testing (GeneDx)

for the familial pathogenic variant previously found in his sister. For patient 3, a chromosomal microarray analysis (CMA) was performed at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. An XomeDxSlice (GeneDx) was performed to sequence candidate genes *SNAP29* and *PEX7*. Patient 5 had a CMA, followed by exome sequencing by Genome Diagnostics (Nijmegen, The Netherlands). Patient 6 had exome sequencing by Mendelics (Sao Paulo, Brazil).

Clinical History

Clinical history was obtained from chart review and/or discussion with the patient's parents. Growth and occipitofrontal circumference (OFC) percentiles refer to World Health Organization charts for ≤ 2 years of age and Centers for Disease Control Prevention charts for > 2 years.

Statistics

"N-1" χ^2 test with 2-tailed *p* value (medcalc.org) was used to compare proportions between groups.

Data Availability

Anonymized data will be shared by request from any qualified investigator.

Results

Molecular Results

Table 1 and figure 1A diagram shows the *SNAP29* variants in the 6 patients in this cohort compared with previously reported cases.

Patients 1 and 2 are homozygous for a c.2T>C variant in *SNAP29*. This is predicted to alter the initiation codon with uncertain protein product (p.Met1?) and was previously reported as a compound heterozygous variant in a patient with PMLD.⁷

Patient 3 has a region of homozygosity detected by CMA at chromosome 22q11.2 encompassing 32 OMIM genes. Targeted testing revealed a homozygous frameshift pathogenic variant (c.354dupG; p.Leu119Alafs*15) in *SNAP29*, which was previously associated with CEDNIK syndrome.⁶

Patient 4 has a homozygous c.622G>T; p.Glu208* nonsense variant in the last exon of *SNAP29*. This variant is the most C-terminal yet described. In addition, CMA showed a 1.22 Mb duplication of unclear clinical significance at 8p23.2 containing *CSMD1*, deletions of which have been associated with head and neck cancers.¹⁴

Table 1 *SNAP29* Mutations Described to Date

Ref.	N	Ethnicity	<i>SNAP29</i> variant	Predicted protein change
1	6 sibs	Arab	c.223delG	p.Val75Serfs*28
	1	Arab	c.223delG	p.Val75Serfs*28
2	2 sibs	Kashmiri Pakistani	c.487dupA	p.Ser163Lysfs*6
3	2 sibs	Jordanian	c.223delG	p.Val75Serfs*28
4	1	Jordanian	c.85C>T	p.Arg29*
5	1	Indian	c.253C>T	p.Arg85*
6	1	N/A	c.354dupG	p.Leu119Alafs*15
7	1	Caucasian, Hispanic	c.2T>C, c.354dupG	p.Met1?; p.Leu119Alafs*15
8, 9	3 sibs	Pakistani	c.487dupA	p.Ser163Lysfs*6
	1	Pakistani	c.487dupA	p.Ser163Lysfs*6
16	1	N/A	c.388insGA, Δ22q11.2	p.Thr130Argfs*17
	1	N/A	c.28delCCGTT, Δ22q11.2	p.Pro10Argfs*42
	1	N/A	c.265G>A, Δ22q11.2	p.Glu89Lys
	1	N/A	c.268C>T, Δ22q11.2	p.Arg90Cys
This paper	2 sibs (Pts 1, 2)	Amish, Mennonite	c.2T>C	p.Met1?
	1 (Pt 3)	Hispanic Mexican	c.354dupG	p.Leu119Alafs*15
	1 (Pt 4)	Tibetan, Indian	c.622G>T	p.Glu208*
	1 (Pt 5)	Arab	c.487dupA	p.Ser163Lysfs*6
	1 (Pt 6)	Brazilian	c.354dupG, 370kb deletion	p.Leu119Alafs*15

Notation per Human Genome Structural Variation Consortium 2016 guidelines.

* Indicates stop codon, fs*# indicates frame shift producing # mutated amino acids (including the stop codon), ? indicates unknown product, Δ indicates microdeletion leading to 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. Patients are homozygous for variant listed unless 2 variants listed. Please note that Sprecher et al.¹ refer to c.223delG in their publication as c.220delG as they started numbering after the initiation codon.

Patient 5 has a homozygous, previously described pathogenic frameshift variant in *SNAP29* designated c.487dupA; p.Ser163Lysfs*6. Cell culture experiments suggest that the mutated protein is produced at normal levels with abnormal localization.²

Patient 6's exome sequencing revealed a heterozygous c.354dupG; pLeu119Alafs*15 mutation in *SNAP29* and an approximately 370 kb deletion in 22q11.2 encompassing 4 OMIM genes (*SNAP29*, *PI4KA*, *SERPIND1*, and *LZTR1*). Biallelic *PI4KA* variants in 3 unborn fetuses were associated with PMG, cerebellar hypoplasia, and arthrogyriposis (MIM #616531),¹⁵ but no variants in *PI4KA* were detected in patient 6.

Case Reports

Patient 1

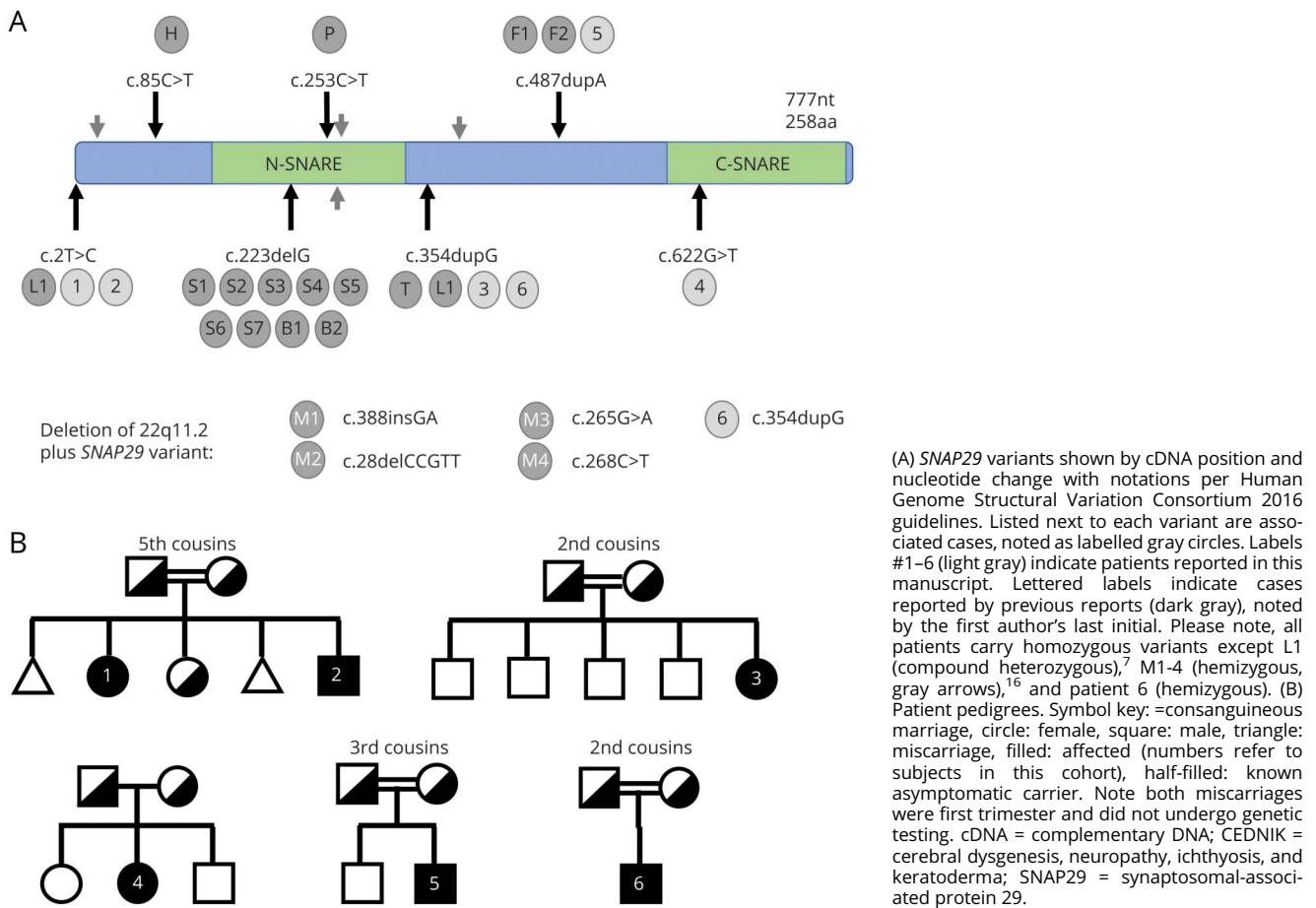
Patient 1 is a 19-year-old woman of mixed Amish and Mennonite heritage whose parents estimate they are fifth cousins (figure 1B). Pregnancy was complicated by maternal malarial

infection, but she was born at full-term without significant complications.

Patient 1 had no significant health problems in her first year of life. She was late to walk (24 months) and talk (2–3 years). She developed seizures at the age of 4; EEG showed multifocal epileptiform discharges. Repeat EEG at the age of 8 showed discharges in the left occipital and bilateral temporal regions. Seizures stopped on antiepileptic medication by the age of 10. She had premature thelarche with breast development at the age of 7, but menstruation began at the age of 9. She lost motor and speech milestones at the age of 12–13. She uses a wheelchair but walks with assistance. She knows few words, and her speech is dysarthric. She is hyperopic and required 3 corrective surgeries for strabismus. She exhibits constipation.

On physical examination at the age of 18, her height, weight, and OFC were <1st, 22nd, and 40th percentile, respectively. She has mild hypotelorism, a round face, and slightly deep-set eyes (figure 2A). Dermatologic findings include mild

Figure 1 Mutation Map of *SNAP29* Variants and CEDNIK Case Report Pedigrees



ichthyosis on her limbs and palmoplantar keratoderma (figure 2B). Examination revealed truncal hypotonia, lower extremity hypertonia/clonus with hamstring tightness, and scoliosis.

Patient 2

Patient 2 is a 13-year-old boy and the youngest sibling of patient 1 (figure 1B). He was delivered at term after an uncomplicated pregnancy and required oxygen supplementation for 2 hours for respiratory distress.

Patient 2 had no significant health problems as an infant. He had a seizure at the age of 3 but did not require antiepileptics and had a normal EEG. His DD is less severe than patient 1's; he sat without support and crawled at 7 mo, walked at 18 mo, and can run, jump, and ride a bike with training wheels. He can trace words, count to 13, and speaks in short sentences with some dysarthria and a significant stutter. He had one surgery for strabismus and wears glasses for hyperopia. His pubertal development has been normal.

On physical examination at the age of 12, patient 2's height, weight, and OFC were normal. His facial features are similar

to his sister's, with more severe dermatological involvement including wide-spread ichthyosis and keratoderma of his soles (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). Examination showed truncal hypotonia, lower extremity hypertonia with tight hamstrings, hyperreflexia, and a dragging wide-based gait.

Patient 3

Patient 3 is a 9-year-old girl of Hispanic Mexican descent whose parents estimate they are second cousins. The proband was the mother's fifth pregnancy; her 4 older brothers are healthy, although one has ADHD (figure 1B).

At birth, patient 3 had difficulty feeding and received a G-tube at the age of 2 for failure to thrive. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy with spastic diplegia. Breast development started at the age of 8 (early normal). She has global DD; at 9 years, she can sit, crawl, walk for 1 minute with assistance, and speaks one 2-word phrase. She has been hospitalized for recurrent pneumonia and bronchiolitis. She received corrective surgery for strabismus. She takes levothyroxine for hypothyroidism, gabapentin for spasticity, and laxatives for constipation.

Figure 2 Representative Facial Features and Skin Findings in Patients With CEDNIK



There was no recognizable gestalt of features among the patients described in this study. Patient 1 (age 18) displays (A) mild hypotelorism and (B) keratoderma of the soles of the feet. Patient 5 (age 6) displays (C) short forehead with bitemporal narrowing, low-set ears, microphthalmia, high-arched palate. Epicanthal folds, strabismus, anteverted nares, a short philtrum with bowed upper lip, micrognathia, a high-arched palate, and (D) generalized ichthyosis, here shown on the back. CEDNIK = cerebral dysgenesis, neuropathy, ichthyosis, and keratoderma.

On physical examination at the age of 7, her height and weight were <1st and 11th percentile, respectively. She is microcephalic with bitemporal narrowing and has thick eyebrows, epicanthal folds, and flaring nares with a bulbous nasal tip. Her skin examination showed diffuse ichthyosis that peels extensively every few days and palmoplantar keratoderma (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). She is nonverbal and exhibits repetitive behaviors, purposeless movements, and roving eye movements. Ophthalmologic examination showed nystagmus and foveal hypoplasia. Neurologic examination showed increased muscle tone in the lower extremities and bilateral sensorineural deafness.

Patient 4

Patient 4 is a 4-year-old girl of Tibetan & Indian descent. Her parents have no known consanguinity. She was the second of 3 pregnancies and delivered at full term; her siblings are healthy (figure 1B).

At 18 months, patient 4 required a G-tube for feeding difficulties and poor weight gain. She has global DD complicated by cortical visual impairment and profound sensorineural deafness. At the age of 4, she can form a pincer grasp but is unable to walk because of profound hypotonia. She does not speak. She had multiple admissions for aspiration pneumonia. She takes omeprazole for gastroesophageal reflux, domperidone for gastrointestinal dysmotility, and salbutamol and fluticasone propionate for asthma.

On physical examination at the age of 3, height, weight, and OFC were 3–10th, 10th, and 50th percentile, respectively. Dysmorphic features include plagiocephaly, right-hand single palmar crease, and thinning hair at the temporal regions. Skin examination showed ichthyosis without keratoderma (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). Ophthalmologic examination showed hyperopia, nystagmus, and strabismus.

Patient 5

Patient 5 is a 7-year-old boy of Arabian descent whose parents are third cousins (figure 1B). He was born at term after an uncomplicated pregnancy and noted to have craniofacial dysmorphism, hypotonia, and nystagmus at birth.

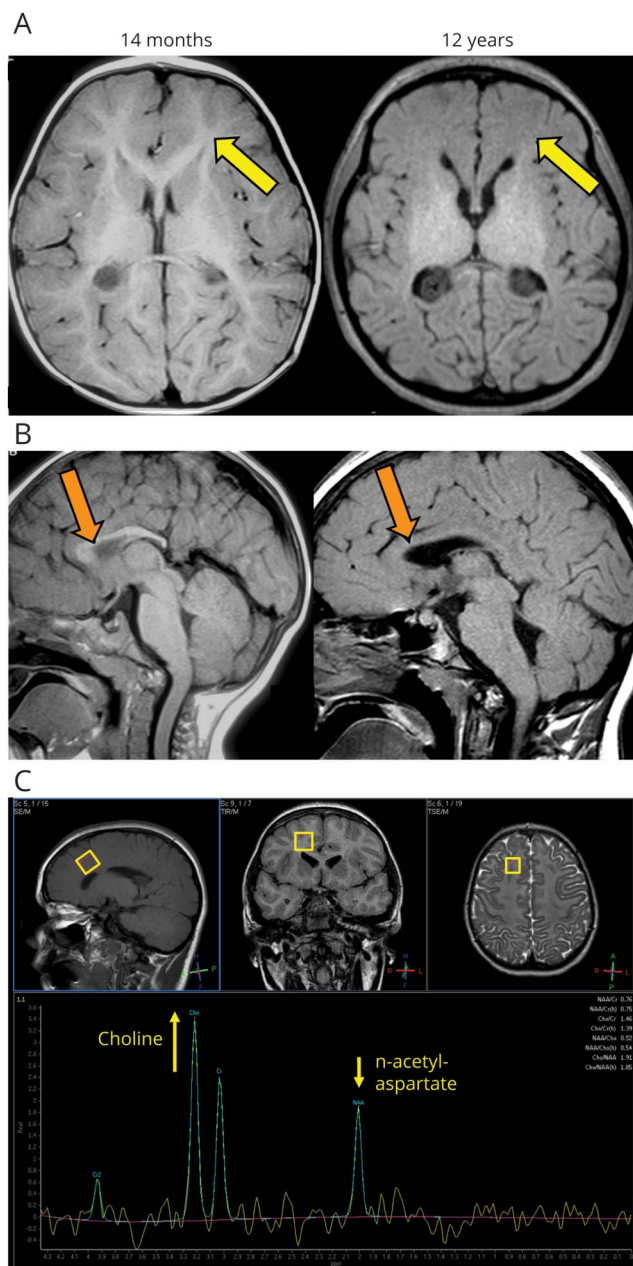
During infancy, patient 5 had feeding difficulties, gastroesophageal reflux, failure to thrive, and recurrent respiratory tract infections leading to multiple hospitalizations. He also had a 1 mm patent foramen ovale that resolved. He developed seizures at 4 months with multifocal epileptiform discharges on EEG, for which he took phenobarbitone until seizures resolved at the age of 2. At 2.5 years old, he was <2nd percentile for OFC and weight (from 12th and 34th at birth). He sat with support at the age of 3 and stood with support at the age of 3.5, but at the age of 7, he no longer stands independently. He holds a spoon but cannot feed himself. His first word was at 2.5 years old, and his vocabulary is restricted to 2 words.

On physical examination at the age of 6.5, height, weight, and OFC were <2nd, 5th, and 2nd percentile, respectively. Patient 5 has microcephaly with a short forehead and bitemporal narrowing, low-set ears, microphthalmia, epicanthal folds, anteverted nares, a short philtrum with bowed upper lip, micrognathia, and a high-arched palate (figure 2C). Examination also showed hypotonia, scoliosis, and generalized ichthyosis without palmoplantar keratoderma (figure 2D). Ophthalmologic examination showed horizontal nystagmus, convergent strabismus, and myopia.

Patient 6

Patient 6 is a 2-year-old Brazilian boy whose parents are second cousins (figure 1B). He was born at term after an uncomplicated

Figure 3 Brain MRI of Patient 1 Shows Corpus Callosus Dysgenesis and Loss of Supratentorial Myelin



(A) T1-weighted MRI showing normal myelination at 14 months but loss of normal T1 hyperintense white matter signal at 12 years consistent with severe hypomyelination (yellow arrows). (B) T1-weighted MRI showing dysgenesis of the corpus callosus with a deficient splenium. Although there is normal myelin in the genu of the corpus callosus at 14 months, it is lost at 12 years (orange arrows). In addition, there is platybasia with resultant kinking of the medulla oblongata. (C) Single voxel proton MR spectroscopy with TE 144 ms at 12 years of age. Top row: T1W, T2 FLAIR, and T2W images show abnormal white matter. Bottom row: spectrum shows elevated choline relative to n-acetylaspartate (NAA) in the right frontal lobe white matter, consistent with the loss of sphingolipid in the myelin and suggestive of myelin breakdown. A normal spectrum should show reversed levels of NAA and choline.¹⁷

pregnancy and was noted to have shortened Achilles tendons. He required a 1-month NICU stay for fever, hypoglycemia, and thrombophilia, possibly related to *SERPIND1*/heparin cofactor II deficiency (see Molecular Results).¹⁶

He eats well but has difficulty gaining weight. He has global DD; at the age of 2, he sits with support but cannot walk and babbles without producing words. He has significant hearing loss and right optic nerve hypoplasia. He takes laxatives for constipation and melatonin for difficulty sleeping.

At the age of 2, height, weight, and OFC were <2nd, 10th, and ~70th percentile, respectively. He has mildly dysmorphic features with synophrys, bushy eyebrows, epicanthal folds, and a broad, depressed nasal bridge. Skin findings include ichthyosis and plantar keratoderma (figure e-1, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). He has truncal hypotonia, poor limb movement, and tight Achilles tendons.

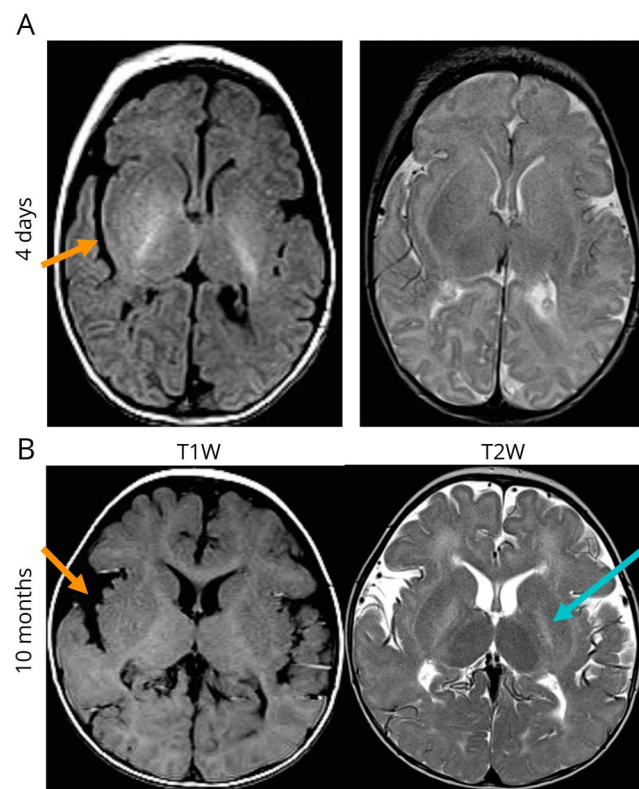
Radiologic Findings

Typical radiographic findings of CEDNIK syndrome are dysgenesis of the corpus callosus and PMG. Corpus callosus dysgenesis was seen in the brain MRIs of all patients except patient 3 (figures 3, e-3, e-4, e-5, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). Patient 3's MRI was read as bilateral PMG, stable from 18 months to 8 years of age (data not shown), and patient 4 has possible PMG at the Sylvian fissures (figure e-4); patient 5's MRIs at 4 days and 10 months of age were initially reported as lissencephaly with PMG and mild cerebellar hypoplasia, although this finding was not clear on reread at another institution (figure 4). However, imaging of patients 1, 2, and 6 did not show evidence of PMG.

The most striking and under-recognized finding in this cohort of patients was white matter T1 hypointensity/T2 hyperintensity consistent with decreased sphingolipid in the myelin sheath, characteristic of white matter disease. Patient 1 had serial MRIs showing fairly normal supratentorial white matter at 14 months of age but a striking lack of supratentorial myelin signal by age 12 years (figure 3, e-2, links.lww.com/NXG/A366). MR spectroscopy showed increased choline relative to n-acetylaspartate, consistent with metabolic breakdown of the myelin sheath.¹⁷ MRIs from patient 2 (age 3, figure e-3), patient 4 (age 2, figure e-4), and patient 6 (7 months, data not shown) also suggest decreased supratentorial myelin content. Although less severe, patient 5 had subtle hypomyelination in the occipital region at 10 months (figure 4). Loss of white matter, especially in the occipital areas, may have led to enlargement of the occipital horns of the lateral ventricles in patients 2 (figure e-3), 5 (figure e-5), and 6 (data not shown).

We also describe several structural abnormalities that were not previously associated with CEDNIK syndrome. Four patients had an abnormal craniocervical junction with narrowing of the foramen magnum, represented by imaging from patient 1 showing platybasia with kinking of the medulla oblongata (figure 3), but also present in patients 2, 4, and 5. Representative imaging from patient 5 (figure 4) shows abnormalities in the Sylvian fissure that were also present in patients 2 and 4, and T2 hyperintensity of the globus pallidi shared with patient 4. T2 hyperintensity of the basal ganglia is often linked to hypoxic, toxic, and/or metabolic insult, but its underlying cause in CEDNIK syndrome is unclear.

Figure 4 Brain MRI of Patient 5 Shows Small Frontal Lobes, Abnormal Sylvian Fissures, and T2 Hyperintensity of the Globus Pallidus



Axial T1W and T2W images at (A) 4 days of life and (B) at 10 month old. Structural findings include small frontal lobes and abnormal Sylvian fissures (orange arrows). Myelination in the newborn period is normal above the tentorium because only the posterior limb of the internal capsule should be myelinated.²² (B) At 10 months, there is subtle hypomyelination in the occipital regions, but some normal myelin is seen in the genu of the corpus callosum. There is high T2W signal in the globus pallidus bilaterally (cyan arrow).

Discussion

We describe 6 additional patients with CEDNIK syndrome and review previously reported phenotypes and genotypes. To date, 10 distinct variants in *SNAP29* are associated with disease in humans (table 1, figure 1A), including 4 heterozygous variants found in the context of 22q11.2 deletion syndrome that were excluded from our phenotypic analysis.¹⁸ Patient 6 was included because his 370 kb deletion affected only 3 OMIM genes other than *SNAP29*, for which no variants were detected; however, we cannot completely exclude contribution of these genes to his neurologic phenotype.

In the 19 patients with homozygous or compound heterozygous *SNAP29* mutations reported earlier,¹⁻⁹ no clear genotype-phenotype correlation emerged (table 2). Compared with previous reports, patients in this report had a higher occurrence of seizures (3/6 vs 7/19) ($p = 0.5741$), strabismus (4/6 vs 2/19) ($p = 0.0060$), early puberty in pubescent patients (2/3 vs 1/2) ($p = 0.7390$), hypomyelination

(4/6 vs 3/16) ($p = 0.0291$), and constipation (3/6 vs 0/19) ($p = 0.0013$) than previously reported (table 2). Although increased reporting of findings such as constipation and strabismus may be associated with changes in diagnosis since earlier publications, other associations expand our understanding of the disease phenotypes caused by *SNAP29* variants.

These patients have widened the genotypic and phenotypic spectrum of CEDNIK syndrome in several ways. First, 2 patients had early puberty, which was only reported in a single previous case of CEDNIK syndrome.⁴ *SNAP29* may play an undiscovered role in sex hormone production because the highest expression of *SNAP29* is in the testes, and the expression in ovary is higher than all brain tissues analyzed.¹⁹ Given that many patients were prepubescent at time of publication, further investigation into the role of *SNAP29* in endocrine regulation is required.

Second, we report a 19-year-old patient who may be the longest-surviving individual diagnosed with CEDNIK syndrome. Patients 1 and 2 are respectively the oldest patient and most neurologically functional patient described so far. We hypothesize that these unique features are because of low-level production of the c.2T>C; p.Met1? variant of *SNAP29*, as transcripts with disrupted initiation codons can be translated using alternate start sites or alternate initiation codon sequences.²⁰ Evidence from one previously reported patient showed mRNA from the c.2T>C allele was detectable in the blood, but Western blotting of fibroblasts did not detect *SNAP29* protein expression.⁷ It is unknown whether low levels of *SNAP29* not detectable by Western blot could be mitigating the phenotypes of patients 1 and 2.

Third, we present a novel nonsense mutation in the final exon, c.622G>T (p.Glu208*), suggesting production of a truncated protein. All previously reported frameshift and nonsense variants are predicted to cause loss of function through nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD). This truncated protein is likely not functional, given the patient's significant disease burden, with corpus callosum and white matter loss, profound hypotonia, blindness, deafness, and dysmorphic features. It is possible that this variant has unique function, for example, interfering with soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptor (SNAP)/SNAP receptor (SNARE) complex formation because of interruption of the C-SNARE domain.

Fourth, brain imaging of these patients identified several abnormalities not previously associated with CEDNIK syndrome. Four of 6 patients had white matter changes consistent with significantly decreased myelin content. Patient 1's loss of myelin between age 14 months and 12 years of age seems radiographically similar to Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease and could represent progressive hypomyelination. Although the c.2T>C variant (carried by patients 1 and 2) was described in a patient with hypomyelinating leukodystrophy diagnosed with PMLD,⁷ the phenotype does not seem to be exclusive to this variant because other patients (patients 4, 6,

Table 2 Clinical Phenotypes Associated With CEDNIK Syndrome

Reference	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8),(9)	Pt 1	Pt 2	Pt 3	Pt 4	Pt 5	Pt 6	Total
Sex	3F, 4M	1F, 1M	2F	1M	1F	1M	1M	1F, 3M	F	M	F	F	M	M	11F, 14M
Age	5-13	11 mo, 4 y	4 y ^c	10 y	20 mo	26 mo	12 y	2.5-12 y	19 y	13 y	9 y	4 y	7 y	2 y	11mo-19y
Consanguinity	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	0/1	0/1	4/4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	22/25 (88%)
Development															
Feeding difficulty	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	17/21 (81%)
GDD	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1 ^a	4/4	Yes	Yes ^a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	25/25 (100%)
Early puberty	N/A	N/A	N/A	1/1	N/A	N/A	0/1	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/5 (60%)
Respiratory infections	3/7 ^d	1/2	1/2	1/1	1/1	0/1	0/1	1/4 ^d	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12/25 (48%)
Neurologic and Brain MRI Findings															
Corpus callosum abnormality	4/4	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	4/4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	21/22 (95%)
Polymicrogyria	4/4	1/2	0/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	4/4	No	No	Yes	No	Yes ^c	No	14/22 (64%)
Hypomyelination	0/4	0/2	0/2	1/1	1/1	0/1	1/1	0/4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	7/22 (32%)
Seizures	0/7	1/2 ^c	0/2	0/1	0/1	1/1	0/1	4/4	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	9/25 (36%)
Microcephaly	7/7	2/2	0/2	0/1	1/1	0/1	0/1	1/4	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	13/25 (52%)
Musculoskeletal															
Truncal hypotonia	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	4/4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	25/25 (100%)
Limb spasticity	0/7	2/2	0/2	1/1	1/1	0/1	1/1 ^a	0/4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	7/13 (54%)
Scoliosis	N/A	0/1	0/2	1/1	1/1 ^a	0/1	0/1	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	0/1	4/13 (31%)
Eye and ear															
Optic atrophy/hypoplasia	7/7	N/A	2/2	1/1	0/1	N/A	1/1 ^a	4/4	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	16/22 (73%)
Roving eye movements	7/7	1/2	0/2	0/1	1/1	0/1	0/1	N/A	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	10/21 (48%)
Nystagmus	N/A	0/2	0/2	0/1	0/1	0/1	1/1	N/A	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	3/14 (21%)
Strabismus	N/A	N/A	0/2	1/1	0/1	0/1	1/1 ^b	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	6/12 (50%)
Hearing loss	3/7 ^a	2/2	0/2	0/1	1/1	0/1	0/1	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	9/21 (43%)
Dermatologic															
Ichthyosis	7/7	2/2 ^a	2/2 ^e	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	0/4	Yes ^a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20/25 (80%)
Keratoderma	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1 ^a	0/1	0/1	0/4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	17/25 (68%)

Continued

Table 2 Clinical Phenotypes Associated With CEDNIK Syndrome (continued)

Reference	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8),(9)	Pt 1	Pt 2	Pt 3	Pt 4	Pt 5	Pt 6	Total
Dysmorphic features															
Dysmorphic face	7/7	2/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	0/4	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ^a	18/25 (72%)
Face shape	Elongated (8) ^{1,2} , round (2) ^{Pt1,Pt2} , short forehead w/bitemporal narrowing (1) ^{Pt5} , brachycephaly/triangular (2) ³ , plagiocephaly (1) ^{Pt3}														
Eyes	Hypertelorism (10) ^{1,5,Pt1,Pt2} , deep-set (3) ^{4,Pt1,Pt2} , downslanting palpebral fissures (9) ¹⁻³ , epicanthal folds (4) ^{6,Pt3,Pt5,Pt6} , microphthalmia (1) ^{Pt5}														
Ears	Large ears (1) ⁴ , low-set ears (2) ^{5,Pt5} , small ears with folded helix (2) ³														
Nose	Flat, broad root (11) ^{1,3,5,Pt6} , large/long (2) ^{2,4} , pointed tip (2) ² , bulbous tip (1) ^{Pt3} , anteverted nares (1) ^{Pt5} , midface hypoplasia (1) ⁶														
Mouth	Small chin (1) ² , short philtrum (1) ^{Pt5} , retrognathia (1) ⁶ , micrognathia + high-arched palate (4) ^{2,3,Pt5} , bifid uvula (1) ⁴														
Ectodermal	Sparse, brittle hair (2) ² , thin hair at temples (1) ^{Pt3} , hirsutism/low hairline (1) ⁴ , synophrys (3) ^{4,5,Pt6} , hypohidrosis (1) ⁴ , enamel hypoplasia (1) ⁵														
Skeletal	Talipes equinovarus (1) ² , knee contractures (1) ² , coxa valga (1) ⁴ , camptodactyly (2) ³ , radial deviation of wrists (2) ³ , clinodactyly (2) ^{4,5}														
Other	Small fontanelles (2) ² , scarring alopecia (1) ² , flat maxilla (1) ³ , colpocephaly (3) ⁸ , inverted nipples (1) ² , single palmar crease (1) ^{Pt3}														

Denominator can be different from 25 based on availability of data.

"N/A" – clinical phenotype not assessed. Otherwise data were explicitly stated or inferred negative if not mentioned. Respiratory infections include recurrent viral illness and pneumonia. Early puberty was not assessed for girls <8 and boys <9 year old. Hypomyelination includes leukodystrophy, white matter T2 hyperintensity, and white matter loss. Spasticity includes hyperreflexivity, hypertonia, and hamstring or Achilles tendon tightness; patients without spasticity were hyporeflexive or flaccid. Spasticity and scoliosis were not assessed for infants <1 year old.

Dysmorphic features listed with (No. of patients affected)^{reference}.

^a Mild or moderate phenotype.

^b Intermittent exotropia.

^c Uncertain.

^d Deaths from pneumonia/respiratory infection.

^e Collodion phenotype.

and 2 previously described cases of CEDNIK syndrome^{4,5}) had imaging evidence consistent with hypomyelination/white matter loss. Thus, there is growing evidence that hypomyelination may be a feature of CEDNIK syndrome, supported by data showing high SNAP29 expression in myelinating glial cells.²¹ Serial imaging in future patients could help determine which SNAP29 variants are associated with this pattern of white matter disease. In addition, abnormal craniocervical junction (C1-C2) anatomy in our patients led to narrowing of the foramen magnum and kinking of the medulla. Although patients with both SNAP29 and TUBA8 variants had loss of the pontomedullary junction,^{8,9} our findings have not been previously described in patients with CEDNIK syndrome and whether they contribute to the disease phenotype is uncertain.

Finally, there are a growing number of patients in the literature with SNAP29 pathogenic variants were not diagnosed with CEDNIK syndrome because of the lack of ichthyosis or keratoderma.⁷⁻⁹ In fact, keratoderma and ichthyosis were described in only 80% and 68% of cases, respectively (table 2). One such patient who was compound heterozygous for c.2T>C and c.354dupG variants in SNAP29 was diagnosed with PMLD.⁷ Although previous homozygous cases of c.2T>C and c.354dupG had skin findings typical of CEDNIK syndrome, this compound heterozygous patient did not, suggesting reduced penetrance of dermatologic disease with SNAP29 loss-of-function. This is supported by *Snap29*-deficient mouse models, suggesting that

genetic or nongenetic modifiers affect skin findings.¹³ The lack of dermatologic findings in these patients can mislead clinicians who may fail to test for SNAP29 variants. Furthermore, only a few of the recently reported patients had PMG or neuropathy typical of CEDNIK syndrome, although neuropathy has not been systematically evaluated. We believe that the skin findings, cerebral dysgenesis, and neuropathy that were initially thought to be cardinal features of this condition are not mandatory to establish a disease diagnosis.

Given incomplete penetrance for ichthyosis, keratoderma, neuropathy, and cerebral dysgenesis phenotypes in patients with SNAP29 pathogenic variants (table 2), we propose the nomenclature SNAP29-related disorder instead of CEDNIK syndrome for all patients with deleterious SNAP29 variants regardless of their phenotypic features.

We report 6 new patients with predicted loss-of-function variants in SNAP29. All patients exhibit DD, ichthyosis and/or palmo-plantar keratoderma, and hypotonia. We highlight previously under-recognized features such as supratentorial hypomyelination, seizures, and early puberty. We also find growing evidence for reduced penetrance for the skin phenotype, cerebral dysgenesis, and neuropathy. Significant phenotypic variability in patients with SNAP29 variants suggests that CEDNIK syndrome should be defined genetically rather than as a specific constellation of neurologic, brain imaging, and skin findings.

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Disclosure

The authors report no disclosures. Go to [Neurology.org/NG](https://www.neurology.org/NG) for full disclosures.

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Andrea Guerin, MD	Queen's University Kingston, Canada	Collected patient data and revised the manuscript for intellectual content
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Marwan S. Shinawi, MD	Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO	Conceptualized and coordinated the study and revised the manuscript for intellectual content

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