

Sequencing the *GRHL3* Coding Region Reveals Rare Truncating Mutations and a Common Susceptibility Variant for Nonsyndromic Cleft Palate

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Nonsyndromic cleft lip with/without cleft palate (nsCL/P) and nonsyndromic cleft palate only (nsCPO) are the most frequent subphenotypes of orofacial clefts. A common syndromic form of orofacial clefting is Van der Woude syndrome (VWS) where individuals have CL/P or CPO, often but not always associated with lower lip pits. Recently, ~5% of VWS-affected individuals were identified with mutations in the grainy head-like 3 gene (*GRHL3*). To investigate *GRHL3* in nonsyndromic clefting, we sequenced its coding region in 576 Europeans with nsCL/P and 96 with nsCPO. Most strikingly, nsCPO-affected individuals had a higher minor allele frequency for rs41268753 (0.099) than control subjects (0.049; $p = 1.24 \times 10^{-2}$). This association was replicated in nsCPO/control cohorts from Latvia, Yemen, and the UK ($p_{\text{combined}} = 2.63 \times 10^{-5}$; $OR_{\text{allelic}} = 2.46$ [95% CI 1.6–3.7]) and reached genome-wide significance in combination with imputed data from a GWAS in nsCPO triads ($p = 2.73 \times 10^{-9}$). Notably, rs41268753 is not associated with nsCL/P ($p = 0.45$). rs41268753 encodes the highly conserved p.Thr454Met (c.1361C>T) (GERP = 5.3), which prediction programs denote as deleterious, has a CADD score of 29.6, and increases protein binding capacity in silico. Sequencing also revealed four novel truncating *GRHL3* mutations including two that were de novo in four families, where all nine individuals harboring mutations had nsCPO. This is important for genetic counseling: given that VWS is rare compared to nsCPO, our data suggest that dominant *GRHL3* mutations are more likely to cause nonsyndromic than syndromic CPO. Thus, with rare dominant mutations and a common risk variant in the coding region, we have identified an important contribution for *GRHL3* in nsCPO.

Orofacial clefts are among the most common congenital malformations in humans.¹ The two common distinct cleft phenotypes are cleft lip with or without cleft palate (CL/P) and cleft palate only (CPO).² These two phenotypes most often occur without additional clinical features and are described as nonsyndromic clefts (i.e., nsCL/P and nsCPO) that present with a multifactorial etiology including contributions from both diverse genetic and environmental factors.² Based on previous epidemiological observations and also genetic findings, nsCL/P and nsCPO are considered to have only very limited overlap in terms of their genetic etiology. This is further supported by findings from genome-wide association studies (GWASs) that have identified 15 risk loci for nsCL/P^{3–9} although no genome-wide significant findings have been described for nsCPO.¹⁰ The only risk locus for which there

is evidence of an overlapping effect for both phenotypes is a region on 9q21, which had been initially identified in a linkage study of nonsyndromic clefting families.^{11,12} Subsequent fine mapping identified two SNPs around *FOXE1* (MIM: 602617) that potentially accounted for linkage to both nsCL/P and nsCPO, with the larger effect sizes in nsCL/P.¹³ This finding was independently confirmed,¹⁴ although association with nsCPO did not reach genome-wide significance.

CL/P and CPO can also occur in the context of complex malformation syndromes. One of the most common of these is Van der Woude syndrome (VWS [MIM: 119300]). Mutations in the interferon regulatory factor 6 (*IRF6*) gene (MIM: 607199) account for ~70% of individuals with VWS, and recently grainy head-like 3 (*GRHL3* [MIM: 608317]) mutations were identified in a further ~5%.¹⁵

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Individuals with VWS have either a CL/P or a CPO, with pits of the lower lip being the sole additional symptom distinguishing individuals from those with nonsyndromic clefts. Lip pits seen in VWS-affected individuals have an incomplete penetrance or can be subtle and sometimes difficult to recognize, especially after surgical treatment. Thus, individuals with an *IRF6* or *GRHL3* mutation might sometimes be considered to have a nonsyndromic cleft. Consequently, several studies have screened individuals with apparently nonsyndromic clefting for *IRF6* mutations to investigate their prevalence.^{16,17} These studies showed that the majority of individuals carrying *IRF6* mutations but classified as nonsyndromic turned out to have lip pits when a posteriori reviewed, i.e., they were misdiagnosed VWS.¹⁷ Only a minority (0.24%–0.44% of the families) remained truly nonsyndromic from a clinical perspective. No such studies have yet been presented for *GRHL3*. Of note, among individuals with *GRHL3* mutations, CPO is more frequent, while both CL/P and lip pits are less frequent compared to individuals with *IRF6* mutations.¹⁵ Therefore, we speculated that individuals harboring *GRHL3* mutations would be even more likely to “mimic” nonsyndromic clefts.

Based on this hypothesis, we evaluated a large sample of individuals with nonsyndromic clefts for mutations in *GRHL3*. Of note, recent calculations on genic intolerance toward mutations in data from the Exome Aggregation Consortium (ExAC)¹⁸ reveals that *GRHL3* is extremely intolerant toward loss-of-function mutations ($pLI = 1$) and also shows some degree of intolerance toward missense mutations. The *GRHL3* coding region was Sanger sequenced in a total of 672 unrelated individuals with clefting of Central European origin with either nsCL/P (576 individuals) or nsCPO (96 individuals). This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bonn. Informed consent was obtained from all participants or their legal representatives, which also applies to all further samples used throughout this study. For these, study approval was obtained from the respective institutional review boards.

Sequencing was performed at Macrogen using 13 amplicons that targeted all 18 exons and UTRs of the four known transcripts of *GRHL3* (Table S1). Data analysis was performed with the SeqMan pro software provided by DNASTAR. Rare variants with minor allele frequencies (MAF) < 1% were subsequently confirmed in-house using BigDye v3.1 kit and an ABI 3130XL Capillary Sequencer.

Sequencing revealed 30 variants in total, 18 of which were rare in our sample (Table S2). Twelve variants were more frequent (MAF \geq 1%; Table S3) and already assigned rs numbers. For all of the more common variants, MAFs were comparable between individuals with clefts and European control subjects in public databases (ExAC, 1000 Genomes,¹⁹ Exome Variant Server [EVS], and Genome of the Netherlands [GoNL];²⁰ Web Resources, Table S3). However, when dividing the cleft cohort according to cleft phenotype (nsCL/P or nsCPO), one of the variants, rs41268753, was observed to have a significantly higher

MAF of 0.099 in individuals with nsCPO compared to control subjects. The highest MAF for this variant among the four control cohorts was reported in the GoNL dataset (genotype distribution 0/41/457, MAF = 0.041, Armitage trend test for association with rs41268753: $p = 5.79 \times 10^{-4}$). Given the population-specific occurrence of rare and low-frequency variants and to rule out population stratification,²¹ we genotyped rs41268753 in an additional 267 controls of Central European origin, using a KASP assay on demand (LGC; Table 1). In this dataset, the MAF for rs41268753 was 0.049 and therefore slightly higher than indicated in the public databases, although the association remained significant ($p = 0.0124$, Table 1).

In order to replicate our finding, we evaluated three independent nsCPO case-control cohorts for association of rs41268753 (Table 1). These included (1) 47 individuals with nsCPO and 187 control subjects from Yemen, (2) 94 individuals with nsCPO and 177 control subjects of European ethnicity recruited in the London area, and (3) 51 individuals with nsCPO and 94 control subjects from Latvia. In each of the samples, an association was found ($p < 0.1$), and the combination of the initial sample with the replication samples by fixed effects meta analysis²² resulted in a p_{combined} of 2.63×10^{-5} with an OR_{allelic} of 2.5 (95% CI 1.6–3.7, Table 1). To further evaluate this finding, we imputed GWAS data from nsCPO triads of European origin¹⁰ that we had downloaded from dbGaP upon approved data access. Imputation was performed using IMPUTE2,²³ and analysis of imputed data was performed according to the FBATdosage method.²⁴ The imputed data ($p = 1.18 \times 10^{-4}$) confirmed our previous observation gained in the genotyped samples for rs41268753. Combining the genotyped datasets with the imputation by the Z score method²⁴ led to a genome-wide significant association signal for rs41268753 in nsCPO ($p = 2.73 \times 10^{-9}$).

Next, we evaluated rs41268753 in individuals with a submucous palatal cleft, which is considered a mild subphenotype of CPO. Of note, dominant *GRHL3* mutations have previously been described in individuals with submucous palatal clefts,¹⁵ and one individual harboring a truncating *GRHL3* mutation in the present study had a submucous cleft palate. We genotyped 116 Central European individuals with nonsyndromic submucous palatal clefts using PCR followed by direct genotyping, but we did not find a significant association when compared to the 267 Central European control subjects ($p = 0.94$). Given the statistical power to detect an association of the effect size found in the nsCPO sample (0.87, calculated according to Jackson et al.²⁵), we conclude that, although rare *GRHL3* variants can lead to a submucous palatal cleft, rs41268753 does not significantly contribute to this subphenotype of CPO.

The newly identified susceptibility variant, rs41268753, is present in all four known isoforms of *GRHL3* and encodes the p.Thr454Met (c.1361C>T) missense alteration (GenBank: NP_937817.3), located between the DNA binding and the dimerization domain of GRHL3.¹⁵ Analysis of rs41268753 via the Variant Effect Predictor generated

Table 1. Single Marker Association Results of rs41268753 in Different Replication Cohorts and Combined Analysis

Sample	Case Subjects		Control Subjects		Test Statistics	p Value	Allelic RR (95%CI)	Genotyping Method	Sample Description
	Genotype Distribution	MAF	Genotype Distribution	MAF					
Central Europeans	0/19/77	0.099	1/24/242	0.049	6.26	1.24×10^{-2}	2.15 (1.16–3.97)	KASP assay on demand	case subjects: Mangold et al.; ³⁷ control subjects: Birnbaum et al. ⁴
Yemen	0/6/41	0.064	0/10/177	0.027	3.25	7.16×10^{-2}	2.48 (0.88–7.01)	KASP assay on demand	Aldhore et al. ³⁸
Latvia	0/10/41	0.098	0/3/91	0.016	10.92	9.53×10^{-4}	6.70 (1.80–24.95)	TaqMan genotyping	Nikopensius et al. ³⁹
Europeans from London	1/11/82	0.069	1/10/166	0.034	3.098	7.84×10^{-2}	2.12 (0.95–4.74)	Sanger sequencing	case subjects; ^a control subjects: Apostolidou et al. ⁴⁰
Combined	-	-	-	-	-	2.63×10^{-5}	2.46 (1.62–3.74)		
Combination with European trios (dbGaP) ^b	-	-	-	-	-	2.73×10^{-9}		GWAS	Beaty et al. ¹⁰

Abbreviations are as follows: MAF, minor allele frequency; RR, relative risk; CI, confidence interval.

^aThe patient cohort consisted of 136 individuals with nonsyndromic CPO (including 94 European individuals), who were clinically evaluated and treated at the North Thames Regional Cleft Centre based at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London.

^bThe datasets used for the analyses described in this manuscript were obtained from dbGaP: phs000094.v1.p1. Genotypes were imputed using IMPUTE2 and analyzed using the FBATdosage method in which the mean of transmitted allele dosages is compared to the mean of non-transmitted allele dosages. The mean of transmitted allele dosages estimates the allele frequency in affected children (for rs41268753; 0.093) whereas the mean of non-transmitted allele dosages estimates the frequency in non-transmitted parental alleles (rs41268753: 0.036). For rs41268753, this reveals $p = 1.18 \times 10^{-4}$ in the European nsCPO trios.

strong evidence for deleteriousness (“probably damaging” by PolyPhen-2 and “deleterious” by SIFT, MutationTaster, Provean, and Condel). Moreover, the variant occurs at a highly conserved nucleotide position (GERP score 5.27) and the CADD score is reported to be 29.6. In the absence of any experimental structures of the GRHL3 protein, we attempted to use Swiss-Model²⁶ for protein structure homology modeling. However, available templates included only the first hundreds of amino acids, making modeling at position 454 impossible. We next aimed at assessing the functional impact of the p.Thr454Met variant for (1) secondary structure and (2) protein stability via PSIPRED Protein Sequence Analysis Workbench²⁷ and I-Mutant 2.0,²⁸ respectively. Although these results did not show a measurable effect of the p.Thr454Met variant on protein stability, we did observe a more “disorganized” state and an increased protein binding capacity^{27,29} for the corresponding part of the GRHL3 protein (Figures 1 and S1, Table S4). This strongly suggests a functional effect implicating rs41268753 as a causative variant at the GRHL3 locus.

Given the evidence implicating a functional role for rs41268753 in nsCPO, we then evaluated its possible role in nsCL/P, using both the sequencing data generated in the present study and imputed data from our large in-house study that was comprised of 399 individuals with nsCL/P and 1,318 control subjects.³ In our sequencing study, the rs41268753 major (non-risk) allele was overrepresented in the nsCL/P group, when compared to the 267 Central European control subjects ($p = 6.31 \times 10^{-2}$), and similar results were obtained in the genome-wide imputed nsCL/P data showing no association ($p = 0.45$). These find-

ings indicate that rs41268753 does not confer an effect in individuals with nsCL/P and is therefore the first risk locus that uniquely contributes to nsCPO.

We hypothesized that common variant(s) located in the regulatory region up- or downstream of GRHL3 might also contribute to either nsCL/P or nsCPO. This would parallel the situation described for IRF6, where the promoter variant rs642961 upstream of IRF6 affects binding of the transcription factor AP2alpha and increases risk for nsCL/P.⁹ We therefore analyzed the imputed data from both genome-wide datasets on nsCL/P³ and nsCPO¹⁰ for the GRHL3 coding region (GenBank: NM_198174.2; chr1: 24,645,812–24,690,970) up to ± 200 kb. All variants with SNP info scores > 0.4 and a MAF $> 1\%$ were extracted and plotted with LocusZoom,³⁰ which resulted in 1,401 variants for nsCL/P and 1,379 variants for nsCPO (Figure S2). In nsCL/P, the lowest p value observed was $p = 0.0024$ for rs4648988, located in the adjacent NIPAL3 gene. This association did not withstand correction for multiple testing, suggesting that common variants at the GRHL3 locus do not contribute to nsCL/P etiology. For nsCPO, the coding variant rs41268753 described above provided the strongest association, followed by a second variant, rs113965554, that is in high linkage disequilibrium ($r^2 > 0.8$, Figure S2). The latter is located within an intron of the adjacent STPG1 gene (MIM: 615826), which could indicate a regulatory effect. Notably, neither rs41268753 nor rs113965554 were present on any of the genome-wide arrays used for nsCPO genotyping so far, potentially explaining why the locus had not been detected up to now. However, the comprehensive annotation

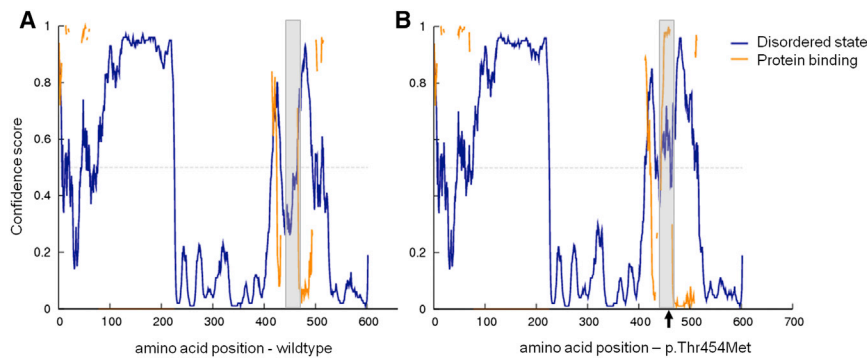


Figure 1. Analysis of the Effect of rs41268753 on the Disorganized Protein State for GRHL3

Using DISOPRED3,²⁶ the intrinsic disorder profile for GRHL3 was generated for the wild-type variant (A) and the variant version p.Thr454Met (B). Protein-binding sites are also indicated within disordered regions. The black line indicates the variant position around which a set of 19 consecutive amino acids (positions 443 to 461) are newly annotated as “disordered” or “disordered protein binding,” suggesting an increase of binding capacity for that region.

software RegulomeDB v.1.1³¹ annotated rs113965554 with a score of 6, thus not indicating a regulatory effect. Collectively, our data do not support an association of regulatory common variants at the *GRHL3* locus with nsCPO.

Apart from the common variants, our sequencing approach in 672 Central European individuals with nonsyndromic clefting identified 18 rare variants with allele frequencies below 1% (Table S2), six of them not listed in dbSNP142. Among these six variants were four novel (unlisted in EVS, 1000 Genomes, ExAC, or GoNL) truncating *GRHL3* mutations in four index individuals from unrelated families, of which two occurred de novo (Table 2, Figure S3). Three of these novel variants were splice site mutations occurring in three unrelated individuals with nsCPO (Table S2). For variant c.840+1G>T (p.?) (family BN-042), analysis of parental DNA revealed de novo occurrence in the index individual. Variant c.738C>T (family BN-248) is a synonymous variant (p.Gly246=) creating a cryptic splice site as suggested in silico by the splice site prediction NNSPLICE v.0.9.³² It occurred de novo in the mother and was transmitted to her daughter, and both were affected with nsCPO (Figure S3). Transcript analysis in blood confirmed the biological effect of the predicted splice site mutation (data not shown). In both families with de novo mutations, paternity was confirmed using a set of 16 microsatellites (PowerPlex 16 HS, Promega). In family BN-813, we identified c.1285+2delT (p.), which is predicted to affect a splice donor site and was present in three affected individuals, i.e., two half-sisters and their mother (Figure 2). In a fourth family (BN-912), a frameshift mutation (c.916dupC [p.Arg306Profs*11]) was identified in two affected brothers and their affected mother, whereas the unaffected brother did not carry this variant. In addition, a missense mutation (c.937C>T [p.Arg313Trp], Table S2) classified as “probably damaging” (PolyPhen-2) and “deleterious” (SIFT) was identified in an individual with no affected relatives. This variant was not listed in any of the queried databases, but segregation analysis detected the variant also in the unaffected mother and sibling. Therefore, although it is not clear whether this variant can be causal but with reduced penetrance, this is similar to findings reported for VWS in three of the eight families described by Peyrard and colleagues.¹⁵ In index individual BN-136, a variant (c.17+93G>A [p.?) was identified, which

is an intronic variant in two *GRHL3* isoforms and located in the UTR of one further isoform (GenBank: NM_001195010.1). This and the fact that this variant is also present in the unaffected mother suggests that it is not causative.

In contrast to the mutations described in VWS-affected individuals, which are distributed over *GRHL3*, all probably pathogenic (i.e., truncating) mutations and the missense mutation of yet unknown significance identified in our individuals with nonsyndromic clefting were located within the *GRHL3* DNA binding domain. Further investigation will be required to determine whether or not this reflects a genuine genotype-phenotype correlation.

Because a posteriori reviews of individuals harboring *IRF6* mutations in previous studies of individuals with apparently nonsyndromic clefting have revealed unreported lip pits (and thus misdiagnosed VWS-affected families),¹⁷ we personally re-visited all affected members of the four families with truncating mutations. According to the initial clinical data available at time of recruitment, eight of the nine individuals harboring mutations had an isolated cleft palate, and one (BN-813-II-5) was reported to be unaffected (Figure 2). Initial reports on affected oral structures were confirmed where four individuals had a cleft soft palate and four had a cleft hard and soft palate. None of these individuals showed the typical lip pits seen with VWS or even minor forms, which we also confirmed in available pre-operative photographs, and lip pits in relatives were denied. Notably, upon revisiting, family member BN-813-II-5 (initially reported to be unaffected) was found to have a broad uvula and nasal speech strongly suggestive of a sub-mucous palatal cleft. Interestingly, her daughters (who were half-sisters BN-813-III-7 and BN-813-III-8), showed slightly asymmetrical lower lips with elevations on the left side when opening their mouths (Figure 2). Without a molecular diagnosis, this very subtle symptom would not have indicated VWS. However, these elevations might represent very subtle forms of lower lip pits or transverse sulci, which also have been described in VWS-affected subjects,³³ so a posteriori this might be called a “transitional” phenotype. Therefore, the combination of thorough clinical and genetic assessment revealed potentially important findings with implications

Table 2. Overview of *GRHL3* Truncating Mutations in Individuals with nsCPO

Genomic Position (hg19)	cDNA Change	Location	Protein Amino Acid Change	Functional Effect	Status
24.664.177	c.738C>T	exon 6	p.Gly246fs*10	introduces alternative splice donor site ^a	de novo
24.664.280	c.840+1G>T	intron 6	p.?	splice donor site mutation	de novo
24.664.557	c.916dupC	exon 7	p.Arg306Profs*11	frameshift	complete co-segregation
24.669.264	c.1285+2delT	intron 10	p.?	splice donor site mutation	complete co-segregation

None of the truncating variants was observed in any of the following databases: European population of 1000 Genomes phase 3, European variant server (European Americans), Non-Finnish Europeans of the Exome Aggregation consortium, or Genome of the Netherlands. Positions given for GenBank: NM_198174.2, NP_937817.3. Pedigree information can be found in Figure S3.

^aEffect at RNA level confirmed by cDNA sequencing.

for counseling and diagnostics. Obviously *GRHL3* mutations are more implicated in “nonsyndromic” forms of clefting than *IRF6*.

Another aspect concerns the family structure, where three of the four families with truncating mutations had two or three affected individuals in consecutive generations. In general, recurrence risks for nsCPO in first-degree relatives are quite low (above 0.03),³⁴ so multiply-affected families remain quite rare for nsCPO. In this study, 27 of the 96 sequenced nsCPO index individuals have one or more affected relative(s) (defined as a first-, second-, or third-degree relative), which is higher than in the average population and therefore represents an ascertainment bias. Our data allow for a preliminary assumption of the frequency of truncating *GRHL3* mutations among nsCPO-affected individuals where the a priori (i.e., without knowledge of family history) chance to identify a *GRHL3* mutation in individuals with nsCPO can be estimated as 0.017 (calculated by adding the estimated chance that an individual with an nsCPO is sporadic and has a *GRHL3* mutation of $0.97 \times (1: 69)$, to the estimated chance that an individual with an nsCPO has a positive family history and a *GRHL3* mutation of $0.03 \times (3: 27)$). This is lower than the reported frequency of causative *GRHL3* mutations in VWS of around 0.05.¹⁵ However, nsCPO has a frequency of around one in 2,400,² whereas VWS has been estimated to account for roughly one in 30,000 to one in 100,000 in the European and Asian populations (see GeneReviews in Web Resources). Based on these estimates, in the general population one in 141,000 people has a *GRHL3* mutation with an apparent nonsyndromic CPO, and only one in 600,000 to one in 2,000,000 has a *GRHL3*-related VWS-CPO, i.e., individuals with *GRHL3* mutations with an apparent nonsyndromic CPO should outnumber *GRHL3*-related VWS-CPO-affected subjects by around 4 to 14. Thus, *GRHL3* mutations, initially identified from study of a syndrome, might in fact more often lead to an isolated, nonsyndromic cleft. Similar observations have also been made for other genes, for example for *CEP290* (MIM: 610142), initially identified as a gene underlying a form of Joubert syndrome, which is associated in all patients with congenital amaurosis, and was later identified

as a frequent cause of isolated Leber congenital amaurosis.³⁶

As a result of our sequencing study, we report here on an autosomal dominantly inherited form of clefting in individuals with nsCPO, which has important implications for genetic counseling. For individuals with an nsCPO, and especially in those with a positive family history, the option of *GRHL3* mutation screening should be discussed when affected individuals ask for cleft risks in their offspring. Of note, the four families identified with truncating mutations in this study have up to three affected family members. It is quite conceivable that in these families some descendants will have lip pits and/or a CL/P, changing the clinical diagnosis for the family from “truly nonsyndromic” to “VWS.” Unless proven otherwise, individuals with *GRHL3* mutations, regardless of whether apparently “nonsyndromic” or not, should be counseled for a considerably higher cleft recurrence risk with the potential for other VWS symptoms such as lip pits in their offspring. In other words, individuals with *GRHL3* mutations and nsCPO will potentially have a higher recurrence risk for a cleft lip and lip pits in their offspring. The risk figures based on the VWS-affected families reported by Peyrard et al.¹⁵ are from a very limited number of observations, and our observations suggest that the true risks might be lower. It is also not known whether these risk estimates even apply to the “nonsyndromic” cleft individual with a *GRHL3* mutation. It will therefore be very valuable to perform further sequencing studies on individuals with nonsyndromic clefting, especially multiplex families, taking great care to carefully phenotype individuals with a *GRHL3* mutation.

In summary, we identified both rare dominant mutations and a common risk variant in the coding region of *GRHL3* as causative in individuals with nsCPO. At a more general level, our results demonstrate that a proportion of nsCPOs will represent a variety of monogenic syndromic forms, but with reduced penetrance of accompanying symptoms. This hypothesis is supported by the observation that GWASs and other genetic studies on nsCPO have so far lacked any convincing association findings, despite reasonable sample sizes, in particular when compared to nsCL/P. Systematic sequencing approaches

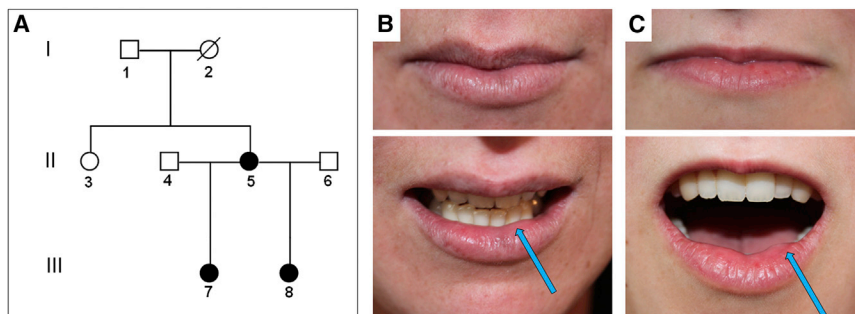


Figure 2. A *GRHL3* Mutation in a Family with Three Individuals Affected by CPO, Two of Them with Asymmetrical Lower Lips, which Might Represent a Subtle VWS Symptom

(A) In BN-813-III-7 we identified c.1285+2delT, predicted to affect a splice donor site. This variant was also identified in the half-sister (BN-813-III-8) and in the mother (BN-813-II-5), but was not present in the half-sister's father (BN-813-II-6). No DNA from BN-813-I-1 or BN-813-I-2 was available for analysis. Both half-sisters had a complete cleft of the hard and soft palate.

Of note, the mother was initially reported as unaffected, but at clinical re-examination was found to have a broad uvula and had nasal speech that was strongly suggestive of a submucous cleft palate. None of the three affected individuals showed the VWS typical lip pits. (B and C) Both half-sisters BN-813-III-7 (B) and BN-813-III-8 (C) showed slightly asymmetrical lower lips with elevations on the left side when opening their mouths. Given their molecular diagnosis, these elevations might a posteriori be interpreted as a very subtle form of either lower lip pits or transverse sulci of the lips, symptoms occasionally described in VWS.

such as exome or genome sequencing are likely to play an important role in the delineation of further monogenic causes of nsCPO.

Accession Numbers

Four novel truncating pathogenic mutations have been deposited with the accession numbers ClinVar: SCV000258550, SCV000258551, SCV000258552, and SCV000258553. Two variants with no confirmed pathogenic effect have been deposited in dbSNP: ss1961068732 and ss1961068733. Accession numbers are listed in Table S2.

Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include three figures, four tables, and Supplemental Acknowledgments and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2016.02.013>.

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Web Resources

The URLs for data presented herein are as follows:

1000 Genomes (accessed 9/12/15), <http://browser.1000genomes.org>
 Berkeley Drosophila Genome Project NNSplice 0.9, http://www.fruitfly.org/seq_tools/splice.html
 dbGaP, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gap>
 ExAC Browser (accessed 9/12/15), <http://exac.broadinstitute.org/>
 GeneReviews, Schutte et al. (1993). IRF6-Related Disorders, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1407/>
 GoNL (Genomes of the Netherlands) (accessed 9/12/15), <http://www.nlgenome.nl/search/>
 NHLBI Exome Sequencing Project (ESP) Exome Variant Server (accessed 9/12/15), <http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS/>
 OMIM, <http://www.omim.org/>
 PolyPhen-2, <http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph2/>
 PSIPRED, <http://bioinf.cs.ucl.ac.uk/psipred/>
 RefSeq, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/RefSeq>
 RegulomeDB, <http://RegulomeDB.org/>
 SIFT, <http://sift.bii.a-star.edu.sg/>
 SWISS-MODEL, <http://swissmodel.expasy.org/>
 UCSC Human Genome Browser, <http://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgGateway>
 Variant Effect Predictor, http://useast.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Tools/VEP

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