DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome

DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome is a disorder of the immune system. The condition is characterized by recurrent infections that are severe and can be life-threatening. The infections can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi. Skin infections cause rashes, blisters, accumulations of pus (abscesses), open sores, and scaling. People with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome also tend to have frequent bouts of pneumonia and other respiratory tract infections. Other immune system-related problems in people with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome include an inflammatory skin disorder called eczema, food or environmental allergies, and asthma.

DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome is characterized by abnormally high levels of an immune system protein called immunoglobulin E (IgE) in the blood; the levels can be more than 10 times higher than normal for no known reason. IgE normally triggers an immune response against foreign invaders in the body, particularly parasitic worms, and plays a role in allergies. It is unclear why people with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome have such high levels of this protein. People with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome also have highly elevated numbers of certain white blood cells called eosinophils (hypereosinophilia). Eosinophils aid in the immune response and are involved in allergic reactions.

Some people with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome have neurological problems, such as paralysis that affects the face or one side of the body (hemiplegia). Blockage of blood flow in the brain or abnormal bleeding in the brain, both of which can lead to stroke, can also occur in DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome.

People with DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome have a greater-than-average risk of developing cancer, particularly cancers of the blood or skin.

DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome is also commonly called autosomal recessive hyper-IgE syndrome. However, researchers have identified several conditions that feature elevated levels of IgE and that follow an autosomal recessive pattern of inheritance. Each of these conditions has its own set of additional signs and symptoms and a different genetic cause. Some doctors consider these conditions forms of hyper-IgE syndrome, while others consider them independent disorders.

Frequency

DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome is a rare disorder whose prevalence is unknown.

Causes

DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome is caused by mutations in the DOCK8 gene. The protein produced from this gene plays a critical role in the survival and function
of several types of immune system cells. One of the functions of the DOCK8 protein is to help maintain the structure and integrity of immune cells called T cells and NK cells, which recognize and attack foreign invaders, particularly as these cells travel to sites of infection within the body. In addition, the DOCK8 protein is involved in chemical signaling pathways that stimulate other immune cells called B cells to mature and produce antibodies, which are specialized proteins that attach to foreign particles and germs, marking them for destruction.

*DOCK8* gene mutations result in the production of little or no functional DOCK8 protein. Shortage of this protein impairs normal immune cell development and function. It is thought that T cells and NK cells lacking DOCK8 protein are abnormal and die too easily, particularly when moving through the layers of skin. A shortage of these immune cells impairs the immune response to foreign invaders, accounting for the severe skin infections common in DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome. A lack of DOCK8 protein also impairs B cell maturation and the production of antibodies. Impairment of this type of immune response leads to recurrent respiratory tract infections in people with this disorder. It is unclear how *DOCK8* gene mutations are involved in other features of DOCK8 immunodeficiency syndrome, such as the elevation of IgE levels, and neurological problems.

**Inheritance Pattern**

This condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene in each cell have mutations. The parents of an individual with an autosomal recessive condition each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but they typically do not show signs and symptoms of the condition.

**Other Names for This Condition**

- AR-HIES
- autosomal recessive HIES
- autosomal recessive hyper-IgE syndrome
- CID due to DOCK8 deficiency
- combined immunodeficiency due to DOCK8 deficiency
- DOCK8 deficiency
- hyper IgE recurrent infection syndrome, autosomal recessive
- hyper immunoglobulin E syndrome, autosomal recessive
- hyper immunoglobulin E recurrent infection syndrome, autosomal recessive
- hyper immunoglobulin E syndrome type 2
- non-skeletal hyper-IgE syndrome
Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

• What is genetic testing?
  /primer/testing/genetictesting

• Genetic Testing Registry: Hyperimmunoglobulin E recurrent infection syndrome, autosomal recessive

Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov

• ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22DOCK8+immunodeficiency+syndrome%22+OR+%22DOCK8+deficiency%22+OR+%22autosomal+recessive+hyper-IgE+syndrome%22

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

• MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndrome
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001311.htm

• Merck Manual Professional Version: Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndrome
  https://www.merckmanuals.com/professional/immunology-allergic-disorders/immunodeficiency-disorders/hyper-ige-syndrome

• PID UK: Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndromes Treatment and Immunizations
  http://www.piduk.org/specificpidconditions/welldefinedsyndromes/hyperigesyndromes/treatmentandimmunisation

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

• Encyclopedia: Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndrome
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001311.htm

• Health Topic: Immune System and Disorders
  https://medlineplus.gov/immunesystemanddisorders.html

• Health Topic: Lung Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/lungdiseases.html

• Health Topic: Pneumonia
  https://medlineplus.gov/pneumonia.html

• Health Topic: Skin Infections
  https://medlineplus.gov/skininfections.html
Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Autosomal recessive hyper IgE syndrome

Additional NIH Resources

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: DOCK8 Deficiency
  https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/dock8-deficiency
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases

Educational Resources

- MalaCards: hyper-ige recurrent infection syndrome, autosomal recessive
  https://www.malacards.org/card/hyper_ige_recurrent_infection_syndrome_autosomal_recessive
- Orphanet: Combined immunodeficiency due to DOCK8 deficiency
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=217390

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- Immune Deficiency Foundation
  https://primaryimmune.org/about-primary-immunodeficiencies/specific-disease-types/hyper-ige-syndrome/
- International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies
  https://ipopi.org/
- Jeffrey Modell Foundation
  http://www.info4pi.org/
- National Organization for Rare Disorders
  https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/autosomal-recessive-hyper-ige-syndrome/
- PID UK: Hyperimmunoglobulin E Syndromes
  http://www.piduk.org/specificpidconditions/welldefinedsyndromes/hyperigesyndromes
- Resource List from the University of Kansas Medical Center: Immune Deficiency Conditions
  http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/immune.html
Sources for This Summary


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Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
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National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services