Familial pityriasis rubra pilaris

Familial pityriasis rubra pilaris is a rare genetic condition that affects the skin. The name of the condition reflects its major features: The term "pityriasis" refers to scaling; "rubra" means redness; and "pilaris" suggests the involvement of hair follicles in this disorder. Affected individuals have a salmon-colored skin rash covered in fine scales. This rash occurs in patches all over the body, with distinct areas of unaffected skin between the patches. Affected individuals also develop bumps called follicular keratoses that occur around hair follicles. The skin on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet often becomes thick, hard, and callused, a condition known as palmoplantar keratoderma.

Researchers have distinguished six types of pityriasis rubra pilaris based on the features of the disorder and the age at which signs and symptoms appear. The familial form is usually considered part of type V, which is also known as the atypical juvenile type. People with familial pityriasis rubra pilaris typically have skin abnormalities from birth or early childhood, and these skin problems persist throughout life.

Frequency

Familial pityriasis rubra pilaris is a rare condition. Its incidence is unknown, although the familial form appears to be the least common type of pityriasis rubra pilaris.

Causes

In most cases of pityriasis rubra pilaris, the cause of the condition is unknown. However, mutations in the CARD14 gene have been found to cause the familial form of the disorder in a few affected families. The CARD14 gene provides instructions for making a protein that turns on (activates) a group of interacting proteins known as nuclear factor-kappa-B (NF-κB). NF-κB regulates the activity of multiple genes, including genes that control the body's immune responses and inflammatory reactions. It also protects cells from certain signals that would otherwise cause them to self-destruct (undergo apoptosis).

The CARD14 protein is found in many of the body's tissues, but it is particularly abundant in the skin. NF-κB signaling appears to play an important role in regulating inflammation in the skin. Mutations in the CARD14 gene lead to overactivation of NF-κB signaling, which triggers an abnormal inflammatory response. Researchers are working to determine how these changes lead to the specific features of familial pityriasis rubra pilaris.
Inheritance Pattern

Familial pityriasis rubra pilaris usually has an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern, which means one copy of the altered gene in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder. Affected individuals usually inherit the condition from one affected parent. However, the condition is said to have incomplete penetrance because not everyone who inherits the altered gene from a parent develops the condition's characteristic skin abnormalities.

The other types of pityriasis rubra pilaris are sporadic, which means they occur in people with no history of the disorder in their family.

Other Names for This Condition

- familial PRP

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

- What is genetic testing?
  /primer/testing/genetictesting
- Genetic Testing Registry: Pityriasis rubra pilaris

Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov

- ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22familial+pityriasis+rubra+pilaris%22+OR+%22Pityriasis+Rubra+Pilaris%22

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

- Encyclopedia: Pityriasis Rubra Pilaris
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001471.htm
- Encyclopedia: Pityriasis Rubra Pilaris - Close-Up (image)
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/imagepages/2566.htm
- Health Topic: Skin Conditions
  https://medlineplus.gov/skinconditions.html

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Pityriasis rubra pilaris
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/7401/pityriasis-rubra-pilaris
Educational Resources

• British Association of Dermatologists

• MalaCards: familial pityriasis rubra pilaris
  https://www.malacards.org/card/familial_pityriasis_rubra_pilaris

• Orphanet: Pityriasis rubra pilaris
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2897

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

• Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types (FIRST)
  http://www.firstskinfoundation.org/

• National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
  https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/pityriasis-rubra-pilaris/

• Resource List from the University of Kansas Medical Center: Skin / Dermatological Conditions
  http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/derm.html

Scientific Articles on PubMed

• PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28pityriasis+rubra+pilaris%5BTIAB%5D%29+AND+%28familial%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+OR+%28%28pityriasis+rubra+pilaris%5BTIAB%5D%29+AND+%28juvenile%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

• PITYRIASIS RUBRA PILARIS
  http://omim.org/entry/173200

Sources for This Summary

  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3397268/


  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17489979

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7726588

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20677542

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:

Reviewed: March 2013
Published: March 31, 2020

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services