Retinal arterial macroaneurysm with supravalvular pulmonic stenosis

Retinal arterial macroaneurysm with supravalvular pulmonic stenosis (RAMSVPS) is a disorder that affects blood vessels in the eyes and heart. The condition generally becomes apparent in infancy or childhood.

RAMSVPS damages the arteries in the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye (the retina). These arteries gradually develop multiple small bulges called beading. Eventually, larger bulges in the blood vessel walls (macroaneurysms) occur. These macroaneurysms can tear (rupture), leading to bleeding that can spread into other areas of the eye and cause vision loss.

People with RAMSVPS also have a heart condition called supravalvular pulmonic stenosis. Pulmonic stenosis is a narrowing that affects the pulmonic valve between the heart and the lungs. The term "supravalvular" means that the narrowing occurs just above the valve, in a blood vessel called the pulmonary artery. Supravalvular pulmonic stenosis impairs blood flow into the lungs, where blood normally picks up oxygen for distribution to cells and tissues throughout the body. As a result, less oxygen is carried through the bloodstream, leading to signs and symptoms that include shortness of breath; a rapid heartbeat; fatigue; and swelling in the face, feet, or abdomen.

Frequency

RAMSVPS is a rare disorder. Only a small number of affected individuals and families, all from Saudi Arabia, have been described in the medical literature.

Causes

RAMSVPS is caused by a mutation in the IGFBP7 gene. This gene provides instructions for making a protein called insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 7 (IGFBP7). The IGFBP7 protein is active in the lining of blood vessels (the vascular endothelium). It is thought to help stop a pathway called BRAF signaling, which is involved in directing cell growth.

The IGFBP7 gene mutation that causes RAMSVPS results in an abnormally short IGFBP7 protein that does not function properly. Without normally functioning IGFBP7 protein to control BRAF signaling, this signaling is increased. It is unknown how this increase is related to the specific blood vessel abnormalities that occur in RAMSVPS, or why these abnormalities are confined to the eyes and the pulmonary artery. Researchers suggest that differences in normal levels of IGFBP7 protein in various parts of the body or the presence of other proteins with a similar function in different tissues may account for the specific signs and symptoms of this disorder.
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

• familial retinal arterial macroaneurysm
• FRAM
• RAMSVPS

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

• What is genetic testing? /primer/testing/genetictesting
• Genetic Testing Registry: Retinal arterial macroaneurysm with supravalvular pulmonic stenosis

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

• Calgary Retina Consultants: Retinal Arterial Macroaneurysm
  https://www.calgaryretina.ca/retinal-conditions/retinal-arterial-macroaneurysm/
• MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Fluorescein Angiography
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003846.htm
• University of Rochester Medical Center: Pulmonary Stenosis
  https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentTypeID=90&ContentID=P01815

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

• Encyclopedia: Fluorescein Angiography
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003846.htm
• Encyclopedia: Pulmonary Valve Stenosis
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001096.htm
• Health Topic: Retinal Disorders
  https://medlineplus.gov/retinaldisorders.html
Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Retinal arterial macroaneurysm with supravalvular pulmonic stenosis

Educational Resources

- MalaCards: retinal arterial macroaneurysm with supravalvular pulmonic stenosis
  https://www.malacards.org/card/retinal_arterial_macraneurysm_with_supravalvular_pulmonic_stenosis

- Orphanet: Familial retinal arterial macroaneurysm
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=284247

- Orphanet: Supravalvular pulmonary stenosis
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=3192

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- American Heart Association
  https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects

- Foundation Fighting Blindness
  https://www.fightingblindness.org/

- Retina International
  http://www.retina-international.org/

Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28retinal+arterial+macroaneurysm%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22+AND+English+AND+human+AND+3600+days

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- RETINAL ARTERIAL MACROANEURYSM WITH SUPRAVALVULAR PULMONIC STENOSIS
  http://omim.org/entry/614224
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21835307
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3155176/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12441727

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19542015
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Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:

Reviewed: August 2015
Published: July 16, 2019

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