The SHOX gene provides instructions for making a protein that regulates the activity of other genes. On the basis of this role, the SHOX protein is called a transcription factor. The SHOX gene is part of a large family of homeobox genes, which act during early embryonic development to control the formation of many body structures. Specifically, the SHOX gene is essential for the development of the skeleton. It plays a particularly important role in the growth and maturation of bones in the arms and legs.

One copy of the SHOX gene is located on each of the sex chromosomes (the X and Y chromosomes) in an area called the pseudoautosomal region. Although many genes are unique to either the X or Y chromosome, genes in the pseudoautosomal region are present on both chromosomes. As a result, both females (who have two X chromosomes) and males (who have one X and one Y chromosome) have two functional copies of the SHOX gene in each cell.

Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes

Langer mesomelic dysplasia

Langer mesomelic dysplasia results from genetic changes involving both copies of the SHOX gene in each cell. Deletions of this gene are the most common change responsible for this condition. Mutations in the SHOX gene can also cause the condition, as can deletions of nearby genetic material that normally helps regulate the gene's activity. These changes greatly reduce or eliminate the amount of SHOX protein that is produced. A lack of this protein disrupts normal bone development and growth starting before birth. The resulting skeletal abnormalities include very short stature, extreme shortening of the long bones in the arms and legs (mesomelia), and an abnormality of the wrist and forearm bones known as Madelung deformity.

Léri-Weill dyschondrosteosis

Léri-Weill dyschondrosteosis results from genetic changes involving one copy of the SHOX gene in each cell. Most commonly, this skeletal disorder is caused by a deletion of the SHOX gene. Other genetic changes that can cause the disorder include mutations in the SHOX gene or deletions of nearby genetic material that normally helps regulate the gene's activity. These changes reduce the amount of SHOX protein that is produced. A shortage of this protein disrupts normal bone development and growth starting before birth. The resulting skeletal abnormalities are similar to those of Langer mesomeric dysplasia, although they tend to be less severe.
Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome

Turner syndrome

Turner syndrome occurs when one normal X chromosome is present in a female’s cells and the other sex chromosome is missing or structurally altered. Because the SHOX gene is located on the sex chromosomes, most women with Turner syndrome have only one copy of the gene in each cell instead of the usual two copies. Loss of one copy of this gene reduces the amount of SHOX protein that is produced. A shortage of this protein likely contributes to the short stature and skeletal abnormalities (such as unusual rotation of the wrist and elbow joints) often seen in females with this condition.

Other disorders

Deletions of the entire SHOX gene or mutations within or near the gene have been identified in some people with short stature. This short stature is usually described as idiopathic, which means it is not associated with the characteristic features of a disease or syndrome. However, some people with short stature and changes in the SHOX gene have been found to have subtle skeletal abnormalities.

Chromosomal Location

Cytogenetic Location: Xp22.33 and Yp11.2, which is the short (p) arm of the X chromosome at position 22.33 and the short (p) arm of the Y chromosome at position 11.2

Molecular Location: base pairs 624,344 to 659,411 on chromosomes X and Y (Homo sapiens Updated Annotation Release 109.20190607, GRCh38.p13) (NCBI)
Other Names for This Gene

- GCFX
- growth control factor, X-linked
- PHOG
- pseudoautosomal homeobox-containing osteogenic gene
- SHOX_HUMAN
- SS

Additional Information & Resources

Clinical Information from GeneReviews
- SHOX Deficiency Disorders
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1215

Scientific Articles on PubMed
- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28SHOX%5BTIAB%5D %29+OR+%28short+stature+homeobox%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+%28Genes%5BMH%5D%29+OR+%28Genetic+Phenomena%5BMH%5D %29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last +1080+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM
- SHORT STATURE HOMEBOX
  http://omim.org/entry/312865
- SHORT STATURE HOMEBOX, Y-LINKED
  http://omim.org/entry/400020
- SHORT STATURE, IDIOPATHIC, X-LINKED
  http://omim.org/entry/300582

Research Resources
- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology
  http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/GC_SHOX.html
- ClinVar
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar?term=SHOX%5Bgene%5D
- HGNC Gene Symbol Report
- Monarch Initiative
  https://monarchinitiative.org/gene/NCBIGene:6473
• NCBI Gene
• UniProt
https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/O15266

Sources for This Summary
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