CORRESPONDENCE

Familial transthyretin-related amyloid polyneuropathy in a Malaysian patient of ethnic Chinese descent

We read with interest the article by Goh *et al*. in the 2008 December issue.[1] They report a Malaysian patient of ethnic Chinese descent with familial amyloid polyneuropathy (FAP) and a *TTR* mutation. Because the first 20 codons of *TTR* encode a signal peptide, which is cleaved to form a mature transthyretin protein, the numbering system for transthyretin mutations does not include the 20-codon signal peptide (see The Human Gene Mutation Database at the Institute of Medical Genetics in Cardiff, http://www.hgmd.cf.ac.uk; or Data Base on Transthyretin Mutations, http://www.ibmc.up.pt/mjsaraiva/ttrmut.html). Therefore, the transthyretin mutation Goh et al. report should be Ala97Ser, but not Ala117Ser. Although wide spectrum of *TTR* mutations of FAP have been described in Caucasians, there is still limited information in Chinese. Seven unrelated Taiwanese patients of Chinese in origin with FAP had been reported to carry *TTR* Ala97Ser.[2-4]

This report by Goh *et al*. further stresses the possibility that TTR Ala97Ser is a mutation hotspot among Chinese FAP patients.

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