

# Frequency Of The Common G985A Mutation In The Medium-chain Acyl-coa Dehydrogenase Gene In Turkish Population

## Orta zincirli açıl coa dehidrojenaz geninde yaygın olan G985A mutasyonunun Türk popülasyonundaki taşıyıcı sıklığı

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#### Özet

**Amaç:** Orta zincirli açıl-CoA dehidrojenaz (MCAD) orta zincirli yağ asitlerinin beta oksidasyonu için elzem olan bir tetramerik flavoproteindir. MCAD eksikliği mitokondrial beta oksidasyon defektinin en sık bilinen nedenidir. Fatal olabilmekle beraber geniş bir klinik spektrumu vardır. Bu çalışmanın amacı MCAD genindeki G985A mutasyon taşıyıcısı sıklığını Türk popülasyonunda tesbit etmektir. **Gereç ve Yöntemler:** 1400 sağlıklı bireyden DNA örneği analiz edilmiştir. Mutasyon tesbiti polimeraz zincir reaksiyonu sonrası G985A mutasyonu taşıyan PCR ürününün NcoI restriksiyon bölgesine sahip olması ve kesim sonrası %8'lik poliakrilamid jelle görüntülenmesi suretiyle yapılmıştır. **Bulgular:** G985A heterozigot mutasyonu Türk popülasyonunda 1400 kişide 3 kişide tesbit edildi.

**Sonuç:** G985A taşıyıcılığının düşük olması MCAD eksikliğinin insidansının Türk toplumunda G985A taşıyıcılığı diğer popülasyonlara göre düşüktür. Bu çalışma Türk toplumunda akraba evliliğinin Avrupa ülkelerine göre sık olması ve hastalığın birikim göstermesi nedeniyle Türk toplumunda MCAD eksikliğinden farklı mutasyonların sorumlu olabileceğini önermektedir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Grup Popülasyonu; Nokta Mutasyonu; Orta zincirli açıl-CoA dehidrojenaz; Sıklık; Türkiye.

#### Abstract

**Purpose:** Medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) is a tetrameric flavoprotein essential for the beta-oxidation of medium chain fatty acids. MCAD deficiency is the most commonly recognized defect of mitochondrial b-oxidation. It is potentially fatal, but shows a wide clinical spectrum. The aim of the present study was to investigate the frequency of the G985A mutation carrier in the medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene in Turkish population.

**Material and Methods:** We analyzed 1400 DNA samples. Mutation detection was performed with the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), in which a NcoI restriction site was created in the presence of a G985A mutation in the PCR product, followed by the digestion, and 8% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

**Results:** We detected a G985 carrier frequency of 3 in 1400 Turkish population.

**Conclusion:** The incidence of MCAD deficiency is lower in our population than other populations. The present study suggest that different MCAD mutations responsible for Turkish Population' MCAD phenotype, because the disorder shows a strong founder effect and consanguinity very common in our population than other European countries

**Key Words:** Frequency; Grup Population; Medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase; Point Mutation; Turkey.

### Introduction

Fatty acid oxidation in mitochondria is an essential source of cellular energy. Medium chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) deficiency (Mc Kusick 201450) is the most common defect of mitochondrial -oxidation in humans (1,2) and is particularly common in populations of northern European origin (3). It is a potentially fatal, autosomal recessively inherited defect, which most often presents in the first years of life.

The clinical manifestations of MCAD deficiency are diverse, but usually they include fasting induced non-ketotic hypoglycemia with lethargy which may develop into coma (2,4,5).

Between 20 and 25% of patients die suddenly at first presentation of the disease (5,6) and all deaths have been in previously undiagnosed patients. Although affected patients, who remain without symptoms for years have also been reported (6-9).

The human MCAD gene consists of 12 exons that span more than 44 kb encoding a precursor protein of 421 amino acids (10,11).

Due to various clinical spectrum of the disease, much effort has been directed towards elucidating the molecular cell pathology in MCAD deficiency. More than 20 different disease-associated missense variations in the MCAD gene have been reported (9,12-15).

In particular the molecular defect of the mutant protein (K304E) resulting from the prevalent G985A mutation has been investigated (15-19). Several studies have shown that about 80% of clinically ascertained cases are homozygous for an A to G transition at position 985, resulting in a lysine to glutamate substitution(20-22) and a further 18% have this mutation in one of the two defective alleles (23). Tanaka et al. (3) found a heterozygotes frequency of 1 in 216 in Turkey.

Brackett and co-workers (24) have stated that compound-heterozygosity with the G985A mutation and one of the non-G985A mutations, A583, gives rise to a particularly severe presentation of the disease.

MCAD deficiency is a disorder with significant morbidity and mortality, so in the present study we have investigated carrier frequency of the G985A mutation in the medium-

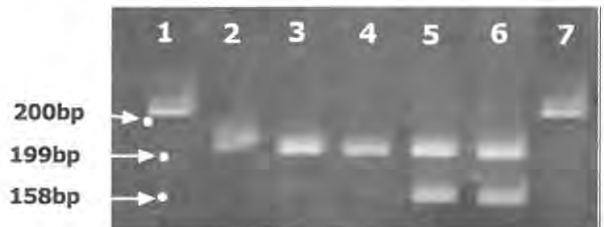
chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene in Turkish population.

### Materials And Methods

This study was approved by Erciyes University Ethics Committee. All patients gave informed consent. Blood samples obtained were used to investigate genetic polymorphism of this study only. We used proteinase-K method for DNA isolations (25). The DNA samples were collected from unselected healthy newborns, who were admitted to paediatric departments clinical genetics or other departments to our university hospital from different city in Middle Anatolia in Turkey. The primers used for the detection of the G985A mutation were synthesized according to Gregersen et al.(26): a base mismatch was introduced into one of the primers so that a NcoI restriction site was created in the presence of a G985A mutation in the PCR product. A part of the PCR product was used for overnight digestion with the NcoI restriction endonuclease. Mutation analysis was performed on a 8% polyacrylamide gel, and the bands were visualized by ethidium bromide staining (Figure 1) (27).

### Results

MCAD deficiency is inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. G985A is reportedly found in 90% of all retrospectively identified MCAD deficient patients' alleles; 81% of all MCAD deficient patients are homozygous, and 18% of MCAD deficient patients are compound heterozygous for G985A (20-23). G985A has been shown that is rather common in some European countries (Great Britain 1 in 6,000, Switzerland 1 in 10,000). In Caucasoid populations, one mutation, the 985A>G transition, causing the amino acid substitution K329E, accounts for about 90% of all mutant MCAD alleles. Caucasians of Northern European decent exhibit the highest frequency of MCAD deficient genotypes. The carrier frequency of G985A mutation among this group is estimated to be 1:40-100 and the homozygote frequency is 1:6.500-20.000 (28).



**Figure1.** PCR Products (199bp) were digested with the restriction enzyme NcoI and separated on 8% polyacrylamide gel. Lane1, 7 size marker (200bp ladder); Lane2,3,4 normal individuals; Lane5,6, heterozygous control.

## Discussion

Pollitt and Leonard (22) reported the findings of a prospective clinical study of MCAD deficiency in the UK. Between 1994 and 1996 there were 62 reported cases in 54 families, giving a minimum incidence of 4.5 in 100,000. In 46 cases, diagnosis followed an acute illness: 39 after a single episode, 6 after a second, and 1 after his third episode at the age of 12 years. The authors commented that the mortality and morbidity associated with MCAD deficiency remained high. Most patients have their first acute manifestation after the age of 3 months; this, the authors argued, supported the case for the introduction of a national neonatal screening program in the UK. Andersen et al. (23) determined the frequency of MCAD deficiency to be 1 in 15,001 in the U.S. population. De Vries et al. (29) detected a G985A carrier frequency of 1 in 55 in The Netherlands. Also other a lot of studies found the carrier frequency of the mutation are between the 40 to 276 in different populations (20,30,31). MCAD carrier frequency detected heterozygotes frequency of 1 in 216 in Turkey (3).

We present the carrier frequency of G985A mutation in the Turkish population. We analyzed 1400 DNA samples. We found 3 G985A heterozygotes but no homozygotes. It means that the heterozygotes frequency of the G985A mutation is 1/466 in Turkish population.

Lower frequency of G985A carriers (1/466) suggests that the incidence of MCAD deficiency is lower in our population than we expected or may be our population have a different mutation type related to MCAD deficiency. Although the present study suggest that Turkish Population' MCAD phenotype, may contribute with different MCAD mutations, because the disorder shows a strong founder effect and consanguinity very common in our population than other European countries and estimates of incidence based on mutation testing suggest the defect remains underdiagnosed.

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