are the diseases most frequently associated with LVHT and because of the uncertainty whether the ACTC1 alteration is a polymorphism or a pathogenic mutation. It would also be worthwhile to conduct a neurological examination in family members who did not show LVHT. Were creatine-kinase serum levels normal in all investigated patients?

Overall, this interesting report could benefit from clarification of some inconsistencies. It is also important to discuss the absence of LVHT on echocardiography in patient IV:1. The more details that are provided about patients or families with LVHT, the more likely the cryptogenic pathogenesis of this still enigmatic myocardial abnormality will be clarified.

Josef Finsterer\textsuperscript{a,*} and Sinda Zarrouk-Mahjoub\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a}Krankenanstalt Rudolfstiftung, Vienna, Austria
\textsuperscript{b}Laboratory of Biochemistry, UR “Human Nutrition and Metabolic Disorders” Faculty of Medicine Monastir, Tunisie

*Corresponding author. E-mail address: fitigs1@yahoo.de (J. Finsterer).
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The Genetic Background of Left Ventricular Hypertrabeculation/Noncompaction Remains Vague. Response

El trasfondo genético de la hipertrabeulación/miocardioptía no compactada ventricular izquierda sigue sin estar claro. Respuesta

To the Editor,

We appreciate the comments by Drs Finsterer and Zarrouk-Mahjoub.

These authors seem to question the genetic basis of left ventricular noncompaction (LVNC), contradicting the position of the European Society of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ESC/AHA).\textsuperscript{1–3} Although helpful, functional studies are not routinely performed. Instead, evidence in the literature, cosegregation, consequences in the protein and in silico studies are usually employed (as we did). Mutation carriers may not exhibit the phenotype because of an incomplete penetrance\textsuperscript{2} and diagnostic difficulties, such as different sets of criteria, suboptimal echocardiographic quality and reproducibility,\textsuperscript{3} and unavailable magnetic resonance imaging.

Is LVNC acquired? Can it disappear? These issues are unresolved,\textsuperscript{2,4} and have not been addressed.

In silico studies are not the only data to assess a mutation. Additional information supported the pathogenic effect of ACTC1\textsuperscript{1280T} (third paragraph, page 859). The genetic heterogeneity of LVNC is unquestionable.\textsuperscript{2,3}

The preferred term is LVNC (PubMed) and the ESC considers “hypertrabeculation” to be incorrect.\textsuperscript{5} Even so, the above-mentioned authors prefer LVHT. We use LVNC if the criteria are fulfilled and hypertrabeculation (see the Figure in the paper by Rodríguez-Serrano et al.\textsuperscript{5}) when these criteria cannot be assessed. Accordingly, hypertrabeculation for the heart explant (histologic criteria for LVNC are lacking) should also have been used within the text, but was changed for LVNC because of word count constraints.

Individuals II:4 and III:4 fulfilled the criteria of Chin and Stollberger whereas individual III:6 did not.

The echocardiogram of patient IV:1, thoroughly reviewed, lacked LVNC. There were no histopathologic studies or stored pictures or tissue. Image acquisition limitations at the intensive care unit (small infant heart with an LV assist device) could explain the discrepancy but it is also possible that no discrepancy was actually present, the situation being a cardiomypathy presenting with different phenotypes, namely restrictive cardiomypathy in an infant (which can also be caused by ACTC1 mutations\textsuperscript{5}) and LVNC in adults. Many circumstances may account for this phenomenon (age-dependent expression of modifier genes, additional mutations…).

Finally, neurological signs/symptoms and creatine kinase elevation were ruled out.

María Rodríguez-Serrano,\textsuperscript{a,b} Diana Domingo,\textsuperscript{a,b,c} Begoña Igual,\textsuperscript{d} and Esther Zorio\textsuperscript{a,c,*}

\textsuperscript{a}Servicio de Cardiología, Hospital Universitario y Politécnico La Fe, Valencia, Spain
\textsuperscript{b}Departamento de Medicina, Universidad de Valencia, Valencia, Spain
\textsuperscript{c}Grupo Acreditado en Hemostasis, Trombosis, Arteriosclerosis y Biología Vascular, Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria La Fe, Valencia, Spain
\textsuperscript{d}Unidad de Imagen Cardiaca, ERESA, Valencia, Spain
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