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## Familial Cortical Myoclonus with a Mutation in *NOL3*

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### Abstract

**Objective**—Myoclonus is characterized by sudden, brief involuntary movements and its presence is debilitating. We identified a family suffering from adult-onset, cortical myoclonus without associated seizures. We performed clinical, electrophysiological, and genetic studies to define this phenotype.

**Methods**—A large, four-generation family with history of myoclonus underwent careful questioning, examination, and electrophysiological testing. Thirty-five family members donated blood samples for genetic analysis, which included SNP mapping, microsatellite linkage, targeted massively parallel sequencing, and Sanger sequencing. *In silico* and *in vitro* experiments were performed to investigate functional significance of the mutation.

**Results**—We identified 11 members of a Canadian Mennonite family suffering from adult-onset, slowly progressive, disabling, multifocal myoclonus. Somatosensory evoked potentials indicated a

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cortical origin of the myoclonus. There were no associated seizures. Some severely affected individuals developed signs of progressive cerebellar ataxia of variable severity late in the course of their illness. The phenotype was inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion. We demonstrated linkage to chromosome 16q21-22.1. We then sequenced all coding sequence in the critical region, identifying only a single co-segregating, novel, nonsynonymous mutation, which resides in the gene *NOL3*. Furthermore, this mutation was found to alter post-translational modification of *NOL3* protein *in vitro*.

**Interpretation**—We propose that Familial Cortical Myoclonus (FCM) is a novel movement disorder that may be caused by mutation in *NOL3*. Further investigation of the role of *NOL3* in neuronal physiology may shed light on neuronal membrane hyperexcitability and pathophysiology of myoclonus and related disorders.

## INTRODUCTION

Myoclonus is characterized by sudden, brief involuntary movements<sup>1</sup>. It can be severely debilitating. Myoclonus is thought to arise from spinal, subcortical, or cortical neuronal hyperexcitability, and electrophysiologic examination can readily distinguish amongst these foci of aberrant excitation<sup>1</sup>. However, beyond anatomical localization little is known about the mechanisms of hyperexcitability.

Cortical myoclonus is characterized by focal or multifocal jerks and is commonly induced by movement or somatosensory stimulation<sup>1</sup>. Cortical myoclonus has numerous etiologies including post-hypoxic myoclonus (Lance-Adams syndrome), metabolic abnormalities, as well as CJD and various neurodegenerative disorders<sup>2</sup>. Cortical myoclonus can be dominantly inherited in epileptic disorders such as Familial Adult Myoclonic Epilepsy (FAME)<sup>3</sup> (also known as Familial Cortical Myoclonic Tremor with Epilepsy, amongst other names). No causative mutations for FAME have yet been described, although linkage has been demonstrated to chromosomes 8q23.3-q24.11, 2p11.1-q12.2 and 5p15.31-p15<sup>refs 4-6</sup>. Myoclonus can also be dominantly inherited in Myoclonus-Dystonia Syndrome (MDS, or *DYT11*), usually resulting from mutations in the *SCGE* gene on chromosome 7 (although there is also evidence of linkage to chromosome 18p11)<sup>7</sup>. Notably, in addition to myoclonus MDS patients usually suffer from dystonia and psychiatric comorbidity, and the myoclonus is subcortical, as evidenced by normal somatosensory evoked potentials (SSEPs)<sup>8-11</sup>.

Familial cortical myoclonus without epilepsy or other neurological deficits has not been described. Here we present a large family suffering from autosomal dominant, slowly progressive, multifocal, cortical myoclonus evoked by somatosensory stimuli. The myoclonus is not associated with seizures or other neurological deficits aside from mild cerebellar ataxia late in the course of the illness. The family's phenotype is clinically and electrophysiologically distinct from other familial disorders in which myoclonus is prominent, including FAME and MDS. We used genome-wide SNP genotyping, linkage, Sanger-sequencing, and targeted massively parallel sequencing to demonstrate linkage to chromosome 16q21-22.1 and to identify a mutation in *NOL3*. Furthermore, we showed that the mutation alters post-translational modification of *NOL3* protein *in vitro*. In total, these findings describe a novel Mendelian movement disorder, expand the differential diagnosis for myoclonus, illustrate the power of massively parallel genotyping and sequencing technologies, and provide a compelling candidate gene for investigating mechanisms of neuronal membrane hyperexcitability.

## PATIENTS AND METHODS

### Patient Phenotyping and DNA Preparation

This study was approved by the University of Western Ontario Health Sciences Research Ethics Board, and all family members provided written informed consent prior to undergoing personal interview and complete neurological examination. An individual was identified as affected with myoclonus if there were symptoms of recurrent sudden, involuntary rapid movements of the face, extremities or body, or if myoclonus was observed upon examination. Nine of 11 affected individuals, and 12 unaffected relatives (Supporting Figure S1), underwent somatosensory evoked potential (SSEP) studies, performed by median nerve stimulation at 5.1 Hz as a square wave pulse of 0.2ms duration. An SSEP was determined to be “giant” if the P25-N33 amplitude difference was greater than 8.6 $\mu$ V, as defined by Shibasaki<sup>1</sup>. Ten affected patients and 25 unaffected relatives donated DNA for genetic studies.

### Genome-wide SNP Genotyping Arrays and Linkage Using Microsatellite Markers

DNA samples from 10 affected patients and 2 unaffected family members (marked with asterisks in Figure 2A) were genotyped for 264,422 SNPs using the GeneChip Human Mapping 250K Nsp Array (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA), according to manufacturer's instructions. All samples passed quality control (call rate > 95%, correct sex determination), and genotype calling was performed with Affymetrix software (Supporting Table S1). We performed linkage analysis on 10 affected patients and 25 unaffected family members using microsatellite short tandem repeat markers for the three putative linkage regions (Supporting Table S2) and standard techniques (Supporting Information).

### Massively Parallel Sequencing and Sanger-Sequencing of Additional Coding Sequences

We designed a capture library to target the coding sequence of every RefSeq gene within the critical region, performed library construction and hybrid-selection according to manufacturers' protocols, and performed single-end library sequencing. Average coverage of the target region was 634x (Supporting Table S3A, Supporting Figure S2). All exons and splice junctions of all known or predicted genes that were covered less than 10x (post-duplicate removal) by massively parallel sequencing were subsequently sequenced by bidirectional Sanger-sequencing of PCR amplicons (Supporting Table S4). Full details are described at length in the Supporting Information.

### *In silico* Homology Modelling, *NOL3* Constructs, Cell Lines, Western Blots

*In silico* homology modelling was performed using the structure of the Nod1 CARD domain (PDB structure 2DBD) as the template. Modelling was performed with SWISS-MODEL and analyzed with UCSF Chimera software. The *E21Q* mutation was introduced into a pcDNA3.1 vector containing human *NOL3* cDNA sequence with a C-terminal FLAG tag<sup>12</sup>. HEK293 stable cell lines generation and Western blot analyses of cell lysates were performed using standard techniques, described at length in the Supporting Information.

### SSEP Studies in Mice

Mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine and an electrode headmount was affixed to the skull. Two screws on each side of the brain served as a pair of recording electrodes straddling each hemisphere's somatosensory cortex. A needle electrode was inserted into the gastrocnemius muscle, and the muscle was stimulated with 1msec pulses until a response was observed in the recording electrodes, defining the threshold. The stimulus intensity was then set to 125% of threshold and at least 10 sweeps at this intensity were recorded with an inter-stimulus interval of 10 seconds. Sweeps were averaged, normalized to peak amplitude,

and overlaid onto a single figure (Supporting Figure S4) for comparison. Methods are described in more detail in the Supporting Information.

## RESULTS

### Clinical Presentation

We identified a large Canadian Mennonite family (Supporting Figure S1) with a history of myoclonus. Case Reports are presented in the Supporting Information. In total, eleven family members (7 male, 4 female) exhibited stimulus-evoked, multifocal myoclonus in the face, arms and legs (Table 1). Onset ranged from the second to the seventh decade. Inheritance was autosomal dominant. Myoclonus was triggered by action, sudden movements, and/or by inadvertent somatosensory stimuli, but not by light, noise or startle. Symptoms reportedly were aggravated by fatigue, exertion, sleep deprivation, emotion, and hunger. Five individuals observed that their symptoms were alleviated by a diet of frequent small meals taken throughout the day. Alcohol reportedly had no effect except for one individual in whom myoclonus was ameliorated and in another in whom myoclonus was exacerbated by alcohol. Most (8 of 11) individuals had sustained multiple sudden falls without loss of consciousness that were provoked either by sudden movements or by walking on uneven ground. Patients could not prevent these falls nor could they protect themselves and thus they often sustained severe injuries. Generally, they could get up immediately after and function with normal strength. (Table 1)

Myoclonus became progressively more frequent and widespread over decades and thereby interfered with activities of daily living. Older patients became wheelchair-dependent. Four showed signs of mild cerebellar limb and gait ataxia, late in the course of their illness. There were no signs of cognitive decline, spasticity or dystonia apart from one individual who had several strokes and developed multi-infarct dementia, likely independent of the myoclonus which had been present for many years. Moreover, overt seizures were not observed, nor was there a history of psychiatric illness or treatment with psychotropic medication. Myoclonus was effectively suppressed by clonazepam or valproic acid. (Table 1)

SSEP studies, using median nerve electrical depolarization as the stimulus, and recording electrodes to measure ensuing brain electrical activity, were performed. SSEPs in 9 of 9 affected patients showed giant cortical responses, the *sine qua non* of cortical myoclonus<sup>1,2</sup> (Figure 1A). All 12 unaffected relatives who were tested with SSEPs showed normal cortical evoked responses of low amplitude (Figure 1B). Repeated EEG recordings in several affected family members were always normal with no epileptiform activity; thus, the infrequent falls were unlikely to be caused by seizures.

### Mapping the Disease Locus

To identify the mutation underlying this autosomal dominant disorder, ten affected and two unaffected family members (Figure 2A) were genotyped by genome-wide SNP mapping. Mapping using identity-by-descent (IBD) analysis, a statistical technique for analyzing SNP data to identify chromosomal regions of shared haplotypes, was conducted essentially as described<sup>13</sup>. This approach identified three putative linkage regions (Figure 2B, Supporting Table S2), two of which were ruled out by classic microsatellite linkage analysis. In contrast, there was positive linkage to the third region, an 8 Mb interval on chromosome 16q21-22.1 which was subsequently refined by fine mapping of recombinants to a 5.57 Mb critical region (Figure 2A). The peak pairwise LOD score was 4.54.

## Massively Parallel Sequencing to Identify *NOL3* Mutation

The 5.57 Mb critical region contained 113 candidate genes. To identify putative disease-causing variants, we utilized next-generation sequencing technologies in performing targeted DNA capture of the critical region in one affected patient (IV-2) followed by massively parallel sequencing<sup>14</sup> (Supporting Table S3). Mean coverage over 98.9% of targeted base-pairs (bp) was 634x (Supporting Table S3). A number of GC-rich or highly repetitive exons were absent from the arrays used for targeted DNA capture, or were present on the arrays but sequenced at less than 10x coverage (post-duplicate removal), so we individually Sanger-sequenced all of these exons (Supporting Table S4). Thus, all known or predicted coding sequences (including splice junctions) in the critical region were either bidirectionally Sanger-sequenced or sequenced at mean per-base coverage of 634x (Supporting Table S3). The sensitivity to detect heterozygous variants via massively parallel sequencing approaches 100% at per-base coverage of 20x or greater<sup>15</sup>, so our complementary sequencing approaches are very likely to have identified all coding variants in the critical region.

Seven variants met our quality criteria as putative disease-causing variants (Supporting Table S5), but only one variant co-segregated with affected status, was not present in any genome database or controls, and was predicted to cause an amino acid change. This variant was NM\_001185058.1:c.61G>C in the gene *nucleolar protein 3 (NOL3)*, predicted to cause an *E21Q* missense mutation. This variant is not present in any SNP database or in 1,094 genomes from multiple ethnicities studied in the 1000 Genomes Project, was not detected upon Sanger-sequencing in 252 unrelated Caucasian control subjects, and was absent from an additional 4,246 normal controls analyzed by Sequenom MassArray<sup>16</sup>. Thus, having exhaustively sequenced all coding sequences in the critical region and identified only a single novel, nonsynonymous coding mutation, the *E21Q* mutation, which is extremely rare (absent from more than 10,000 control chromosomes), we conclude that the *NOL3* mutation is likely causative of this family's clinical presentation.

Identifying additional *NOL3* alleles that are associated with FCM or FCM-like phenotypes would support the conclusion that *NOL3* mutation causes FCM. We identified 7 subjects from 5 kindreds suffering from cortical myoclonus that may be familial, but extensive Sanger-sequencing failed to yield any *NOL3* variants (data not shown). However, the clinical phenotypes of the 7 subjects were not identical to the FCM family, and none of the 5 kindreds exhibited parent-to-child transmission characteristic of dominant inheritance. We anticipate that additional families with FCM will come to light upon publication of this article.

## Functional Effects of *NOL3* Mutation

*NOL3* encodes a 208 amino acid protein that is expressed in heart, skeletal muscle, and brain<sup>12,17-19</sup>. The mutated residue, E21, resides in the N-terminal Caspase Activation Recruitment Domain (CARD), a motif that mediates protein-protein binding via electrostatic interactions<sup>20,21</sup> (Figure 3A). Because the 3-dimensional protein structure is not known, we performed *in silico* homology modeling, which predicted that the *E21Q* mutation (which changes an acidic glutamate to a neutral glutamine residue) alters the electrostatic surface potential of the *NOL3* CARD (Figure 3C). In *NOL3* homologs, which can only be identified in higher vertebrates, the CARD sequence is extremely conserved and the E21 residue is 100% conserved (Figure 3B).

To verify the functional consequences of this mutation, we generated HEK293 cell lines with stably-incorporated cDNA transgenes encoding FLAG-tagged wild-type (*WT*) or mutant (*E21Q*) *NOL3*. Upon harvesting protein and immunoblotting, we observed two

distinct bands in *NOL3<sup>E21Q</sup>* cells but only a very faint upper band in *NOL3<sup>WT</sup>* cells (Figure 3D). By densitometry, the higher molecular weight species is ~10-fold enriched in *NOL3<sup>E21Q</sup>* cells (Figure 3E). This was observed for multiple independent stable cell lines, for transiently transfected HEK293 cells, when probing with either anti-FLAG (Figure 3D) or anti-NOL3 antibody, and for the COS7 cell line. In total, these results indicate that the *E21Q* mutation alters post-translational modification of NOL3 protein in cells.

### Absence of Neuronal Hyperexcitability in *NOL3* knockout mice

Since *NOL3* mutation causes a human disorder of neuronal hyperexcitability, we investigated the phenotype of a previously-generated *Nol3* knockout (*Nol3<sup>-/-</sup>*) mouse line<sup>22</sup>. On inspection, *Nol3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice did not exhibit any overt motor phenotype including myoclonus. To investigate cortical excitability, we measured SSEPs in aged (5 months old) *Nol3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice and litter-mate *WT* (*Nol3<sup>+/+</sup>*) controls. SSEPs were recorded with cortical surface electrodes in response to stimulation with brief current pulses delivered via a needle electrode to the hindlimb. Mean SSEP time to peak (WT: 59.4±0.4 msec [n=4]; KO 58.3 ± 0.1 msec [n=3]; p=0.67 t-test) and 10–90% rise time (WT: 41.8±0.1 msec [n=4]; KO: 44.2 ± 0.3 msec [n=3]; p=0.21 t-test) were statistically equivalent between genotypes (Supporting Figure S4). These data indicate normal conduction velocity of signals from the periphery to the cortex, and normal population responses of the somatosensory cortex to peripheral stimulation.

## DISCUSSION

We have described a large family suffering from autosomal dominant, cortical myoclonus. Cortical myoclonus is dominantly inherited in epileptic disorders such as FAME<sup>3</sup>. However, the clinical presentation of FAME is distinctly different from that observed in our family where myoclonus was slowly progressive and became disabling late in the course of the illness, and overt seizures were not observed. Moreover, linkage to all known FAME loci<sup>4–6</sup> was ruled out. The presentation in our family is not consistent with a progressive myoclonic epilepsy syndrome because there were neither seizures nor progressive dementia. The phenotype would be more consistent with the syndrome of progressive myoclonic ataxia defined by infrequent seizures and little or no cognitive dysfunction<sup>23</sup>, although ataxia was mild and occurred late in the illness, and we could not detect even infrequent seizures. Another possible diagnosis is hereditary hyperekplexia, an autosomal dominant disorder characterized by an excessive startle reaction. However, hereditary hyperekplexia is clinically distinct and neurophysiologically characterized by hyperexcitability of brain stem origin: giant SSEP cortical responses are not observed<sup>24</sup>.

The presentation in our family is also distinct from Myoclonus Dystonia Syndrome (MDS), which is, to our knowledge, the sole hereditary essential myoclonus syndrome hitherto described. MDS is characterized by juvenile-onset essential myoclonus, dystonia, and psychiatric comorbidity<sup>8,9</sup>, whereas in this family myoclonus was adult-onset and not accompanied by dystonia or psychiatric comorbidity. Furthermore, in MDS the symptoms are clearly ameliorated by alcohol, which was not the case in this family. Additionally, in MDS the myoclonus is of subcortical origin and is not stimulus-sensitive, and giant SSEPs are never observed<sup>10,11</sup>. Finally, in this family we excluded linkage to known MDS chromosomal regions<sup>7,8</sup>, and we sequenced but found no mutations in the *SCGE* gene<sup>8,9</sup>.

Hence, by exclusion we conclude that this family represents the first report of a novel clinical syndrome characterized by autosomal dominant, adult-onset, cortical myoclonus without associated seizures. We propose for this disorder the term Familial Cortical Myoclonus (FCM).

We used SNP mapping, linkage, and targeted massively parallel sequencing to identify a mutation in *NOL3*. Although to date we have been unable to identify additional FCM kindreds with mutations in *NOL3*, we have presented substantial evidence that *NOL3* is the disease gene underlying FCM. First, we sequenced all known or predicted splice junctions and coding sequence within the critical region at 634x average coverage and detected only a single novel variant, the *E21Q* mutation in *NOL3*, which co-segregated with the phenotype. Second, the *E21Q* mutation was absent in over 10,000 control chromosomes; given the deluge of sequencing data recently deposited in public databases, the absence of the *E21Q* mutation in these databases constitutes additional evidence that it is extremely rare and therefore likely causative of this family's phenotype. Finally, we found bioinformatic and *in vitro* evidence suggesting that the *E21Q* mutation has functional effects on NOL3 protein.

Nevertheless, we do concede the possibility that the *E21Q* variant in *NOL3* is a private variant that is linked to the actual disease mutation but is not itself causative. Some plausible explanations to explain this scenario are the following: (1) the causative mutation resides in coding sequence within the critical region that is currently not known or predicted; (2) the causative mutation resides in non-coding sequence within the critical region, e.g. a UTR or promoter mutation; (3) the causative mutation was not detected due to systematic sequencing error. However remote these possibilities, we are pursuing two parallel lines of investigation in order to definitively demonstrate that *NOL3* is the causative gene underlying FCM. The first is characterization of a knock-in mouse model harboring an *E21Q* missense mutation. The second is identification of independent *NOL3* alleles that cause FCM, or FCM-like phenotypes such as FAME, *SCGE* mutation-negative MDS, and even idiopathic generalized epilepsy. We invite collaborations to study patients suffering from either familial or sporadic undiagnosed cortical myoclonus or a related phenotype.

The molecular mechanism by which *NOL3* mutation may cause FCM remains an open question. One possibility is that the *E21Q* mutation alters NOL3 phosphorylation, because NOL3 has 7 known phospho-residues<sup>25</sup> (Figure 2A), one of which, T149, has been extensively characterized<sup>26</sup> (Figure 2A). T149 is dephosphorylated by the phosphatase calcineurin<sup>27,28</sup>, and it is interesting to speculate whether the diverse neurotoxicities of calcineurin inhibitors, which include seizures, may be related to alterations in phospho-NOL3. Since the mutation occurs in a protein-protein interaction motif and is predicted to alter the electrostatic surface potential (Figure 2C), one plausible hypothesis is that the *E21Q* mutation alters binding of NOL3 to its kinase and/or phosphatase, thereby increasing the level of phospho-NOL3 in cells. However, at this time we cannot rule out other NOL3 post-translational modifications.

The absence of an excitability phenotype in *Nol3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, in concert with the observation that one neurologically normal human control subject harbors a heterozygous deletion spanning *NOL3*<sup>ref</sup><sup>29</sup>, strongly argues against a haploinsufficiency or dominant negative mechanism causing this autosomal dominant disorder. Instead, it seems more plausible that *NOL3* mutation causes FCM by a gain-of-function or neomorphic mechanism, although at this time the exact mechanistic link between NOL3 and neuronal hyperexcitability remains speculative.

In conclusion, we identified a family suffering from a novel movement disorder for which we propose the term Familial Cortical Myoclonus (FCM). FCM is characterized by autosomal dominant, adult-onset, slowly progressive, multifocal, cortical myoclonus. We utilized unbiased, genome-wide approaches to identify a *NOL3* mutation that likely causes FCM. We anticipate that this work will enhance diagnosis and genetic counseling in patients with myoclonus. Furthermore, as has proved the case for many other Mendelian diseases, further investigation to understand the role of *NOL3* in FCM pathophysiology may provide



insight into mechanisms of membrane hyperexcitability relevant to other forms of myoclonus and epilepsy.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

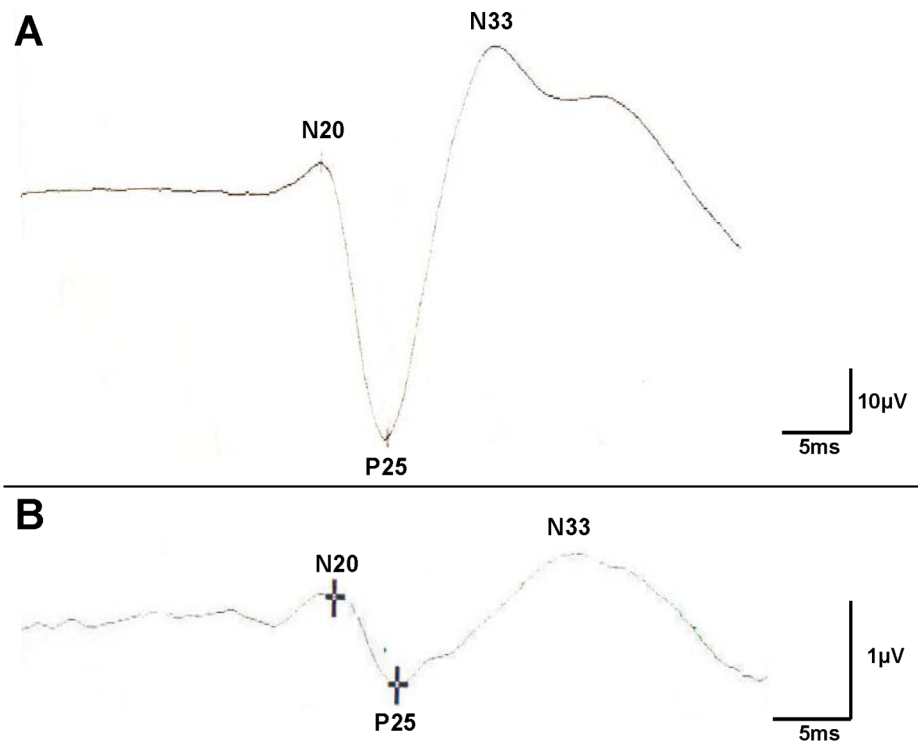
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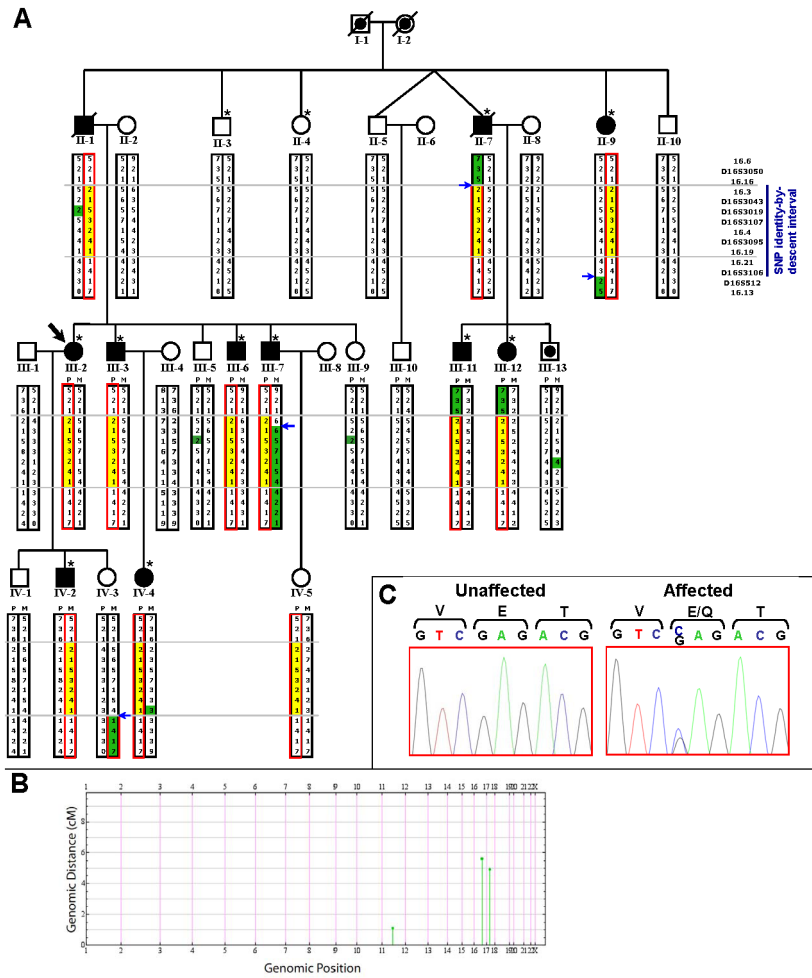
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**Figure 1. Somatosensory-evoked potentials in the FCM family**  
Somatosensory-evoked potential (SSEP) waveforms were measured following electrical stimulation of the median nerve at the wrist in a representative affected (A, patient II-1, 69.4 μV) and unaffected (B, 1.1 μV) family member.

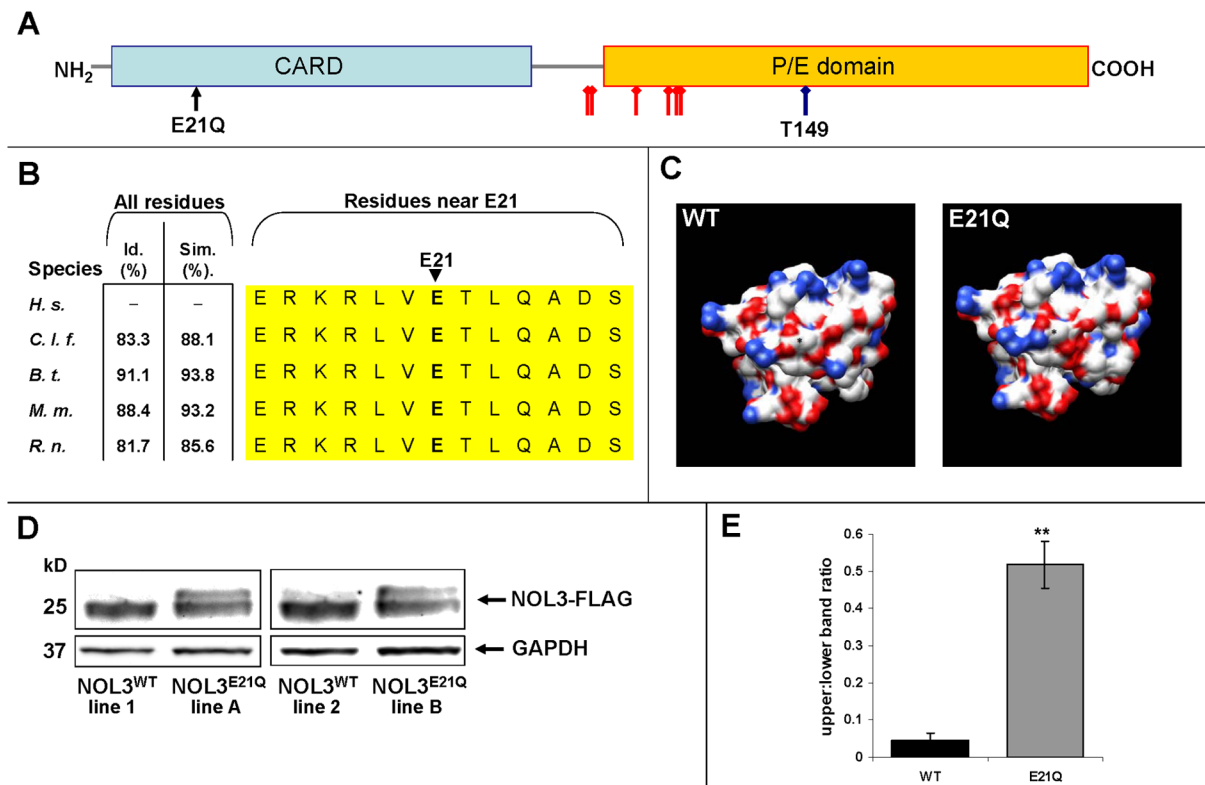


**Figure 2. Pedigree with chromosome 16q21-22.1 haplotypes, and *NOL3* mutation**

**A)** Each microsatellite allele for a given marker is denoted by a different integer value. The red box encloses the mutant haplotype. The yellow box encloses the critical region of the mutant haplotype. Blue arrows denote recombination events. Alleles are highlighted in green if they differ from the remainder of that haplotype, because of either a recombination or non-Mendelian inheritance (II-1 and progeny, III-13, IV-4; likely due to spontaneous repeat contraction/expansion). II-1 and II-7 are now deceased but were examined prior to death. IV-3 was an asymptomatic adult with normal SSEP. The dot (III-13) denotes unknown phenotype; III-13 refused SSEP. IV-5 was an asymptomatic 26-year-old at exam (refused SSEP), and is predicted to be a carrier although incomplete penetrance is possible. Forty-two relatives were omitted to preserve anonymity. Asterisks denote subjects who were genotyped for genome-wide SNP identity-by-descent mapping.

**B)** Genome-wide SNP mapping identified 3 candidate linkage regions (green). IBD block size (cM) is plotted against genomic position. Blocks that were not identical-by-descent have been omitted.

**C)** Sanger-sequencing chromatographs confirmed co-segregation of the NM\_001185058.1:c.61G>C variant, predicted to cause an *E21Q* mutation in *NOL3*.



**Figure 3. *E21Q* mutation in *NOL3* alters post-translational modification of *NOL3* protein**

**A)** *NOL3* protein contains a C-terminal proline(P)/glutamate(E) domain, and an N-terminal Caspase Activation Recruitment Domain (CARD). The CARD mediates protein-protein binding via electrostatic interactions. The *E21Q* mutation converts an acidic residue (E) to a neutral residue (Q). Known phospho-residues are denoted by red diamond-head arrows; T149 is a well-characterized phospho-residue (blue diamond-head arrow).

**B)** *NOL3* is conserved in all known homologues, and the CARD residues near E21 are 100% conserved (yellow). Id. denotes aa identity; Sim., aa similarity; *H. s.*, *Homo sapiens*; *C. l. f.*, *Canis lupus familiaris* (canine); *B. t.*, *Bos taurus* (cattle); *M. m.*, *Mus musculus* (mouse); *R. n.*, *Rattus norvegicus* (rat).

**C)** *In silico* homology modelling of WT and E21Q *NOL3* protein structure predicts that *E21Q* alters the electrostatic surface potential of *NOL3*. Asterisk denotes aa 21; red is negative charge, blue is positive charge.

**D)** *NOL3*<sup>E21Q</sup>-FLAG exhibits altered post-translational modification in HEK293 cells. Shown is representative experiment from four independently-generated stable cell lines probed with anti-FLAG antibody. GAPDH is loading control.

**E)** Quantification of upper:lower ratio of FLAG bands in *NOL3*<sup>WT</sup>-FLAG vs. *NOL3*<sup>E21Q</sup>-FLAG stable cell lines. Shown is mean of three biological replicates; error bars denote standard deviation. The paired two-tailed t-test P-value is 0.0078.

**Table 1**

Clinical characteristics in 11 affected family members.

ID	Age of Onset	Myoclonus							Falls	Speech disturbance	Other	Effective treatment	Median SSEPs P25-N33 (µV)	
		action	touch	motions	insomnia	fatigue, exertion	lack of food	Location						Alcohol effect
II-1	50	+	+	+	+	+	+	UE, LE	none	+	-	mild ataxia	clonazepam	69.4
II-7	50s	+	+	+	+			F,UE,LE	none	+	-	multi-infarct dementia	valproate	not done
II-9	60s	+						UE,LE	none	+	-	action tremor		79.1
III-2	late teens	+	+	+	+	+		F,UE,LE	none	+	+		clonazepam	20.3
III-3	30s	+	+	+	+	+	+	UE,LE	decreased	+	-	mild ataxia	clonazepam, valproate	39.4
III-6	40s	+		+	+	+		F,UE	none	-	-			55.0
III-7	18	+	+	+	+	+	+	UE,LE	increased	+	-	mild ataxia	valproate	42.9
III-11	40	+			+			UE,LE	none	+	-	mild ataxia		refused
III-12	40	+		+	+	+		UE	none	-	-			21.8
IV-2	20	+	+	+	+	+	+	F,UE,LE	none	+	+			giant, data unavailable
IV-4	late 20s	+	+	+	+	+	+	UE,LE	none	-	+			21.2

Abbreviations are: +, presence, -, absence; F, face; UE, upper extremity; LE, lower extremity; FNT, finger nose test.