

## Molecular Identification of G6PD Chatham (1003 G>A) in North-West Iran

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### Abstract

**Background and objective:** Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency is one of the most common human diseases with approximately 400 million people affected worldwide. G6PD Chatham is caused by 1003 G>A mutation leads to a severe enzymatic deficiency. The aim of the present study is to investigate the frequency rate of the Chatham mutations in the population of the North-West of Iran.

**Material And Method:** In this study, by Rapid Genomic DNA Extraction (RGDE) method, from 90 peripheral blood samples of unrelated male and female patients with genetic deficiency of G6PD, DNA was extracted and after digestion by *Bst*XI enzymes, in order to search for Chatham mutation, they were analyzed by means of PCR-RFLP and sequencing methods.

**Result:** According to the results, Chatham mutation was observed in 10 samples (11.11%).

**Conclusion:** This study showed that G6PD Chatham (1003 G>A) mutation is the second common mutation, after Mediterranean (563C>T), in the population of the North-West of Iran. Further studies are recommended to identify the mutation type of other varieties.

**Keywords:** Glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD); Chatham mutation; PCR-RFLP method; Sequencing

## Introduction

Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD; EC 1.1.1.49) deficiency was initially described in 1956. So far, researchers have conducted various studies on this subject (1). More than 400 G6PD variants have been identified up to date, of which 186 variants are linked to G6PD deficiency by decreasing the activity or stability of G6PD (2). The glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) is an enzyme which participates in first step of pentose phosphate pathway. G6PD converts glucose-6-phosphate to 6-phosphogluconolactone with the concomitant conversion of NADP<sup>+</sup> to NADPH. The main function of NADPH is to keep adequate intracellular concentration of reduced forms of glutathione and other sulphhydryl groups (2, 4).

NADPH enable cells to resist to oxidative damage by preserving and regenerating reduced forms of glutathione and promoting the stability of catalase.

Since the production of NADPH in erythrocytes is only rely on G6PD, so defense against oxidative damage is mainly depend on its activity (4).

The G6PD gene is located on the Xq28 chromosome consist of 13 exons and 12 introns with total length of 18.5 kb. Enzyme is active as a dimer or tetramer, each monomer is composed of 515 amino acid subunits with molecular weight around 59 kDa. G6PD deficiency is the most common inherited disorders in human being, affecting as many as 400 million people worldwide (3).

Although the majority of individuals with this disease may remain clinically asymptomatic, but some of the clinical manifestation including infection-, food- or drug- induced acute hemolytic anemia, newborns jaundice

and chronic non-spherocytic hemolytic anemia (CNSHA) (5, 6).

In Iran, the overall prevalence of G6PD deficiency is about 10 to 14.9% (7, 8).

According to literatures, the most common mutations in Iran are Mediterranean mutation at nt 563 (C→T), Chatham mutation at nt 1003 (G→A) and Cosenza mutation at nt 1376 (G→C), respectively (8). The aim of the present study is to investigate the frequency rate of the Chatham mutation in north-west of Iran.

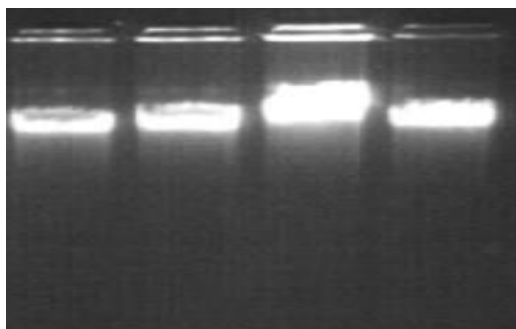
## Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Ardabil University of medical sciences, Ardabil Iran. In this study 90 unrelated patients with G6PD deficiency referred to hospitals in north-west of Iran (Ardabil, Tabriz and Urmia). Written consent was provided for each patient. Qualitative measurement of the enzyme activity was performed using Fluorescent Spot Test and Saba laboratory kit. The basis of this method is the catalytic activity of G6PD enzyme in conversion of G6PD Glucose 6-phosphate to 6-Phosphogluconate and simultaneous revival of NADP to NADPH<sub>2</sub>. The produced NADPH<sub>2</sub> has fluorescent specifications under UV (365nm). The fluorescence intensity in the blood of healthy individuals is positive (strong) and in the blood of patients with G6PD deficiency is low or negative. The genomic DNA was extracted from Peripheral blood leukocytes by Rapid genomic DNA extraction (RGDE method) (9). After completing the extraction protocols, Quality of the extracted DNA products was evaluated in 1% agarose gel electrophoresis (Fig. 1). Afterward, samples from patients with G6PD deficiency were investigated by PCR-RFLP method. Conditions for PCR were as follows: 10 cycles for 30 sec at 95°C, 1 min at 66°C,

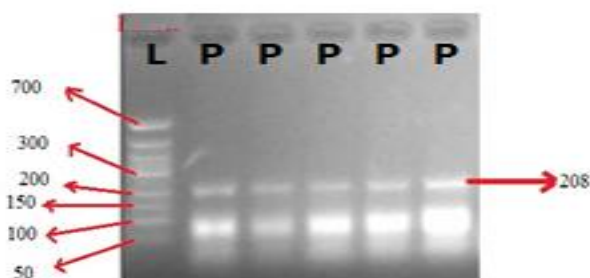
followed by 1 min at 72°C; and 20 cycles at 95°C, 66°C, and 72°C for 1 min (10).

Each samples was visualized by using 1.5-2 % agarose gel electrophoresis to observe the nucleotide Fragment 208 of the ninth exon of G6PD (Fig. 2). Then, the proliferated product was digested by Bstx1 enzyme (Fermentas Co.) and subsequently electrophoresis was done on 3% agarose gel. Digestion reactions includes two steps of digestion and inactivation which were done at a temperature of 37°C for 120 min and at 65°C for 20 min.

For precise evaluation of genetic changes of G6PD (Exon 9), sequencing method was randomly performed on a number of samples. For this purpose, the PCR product was sent to South Korea for sequencing with the help of Zhen Fanavaran Company and the results were analyzed by Chromas software.



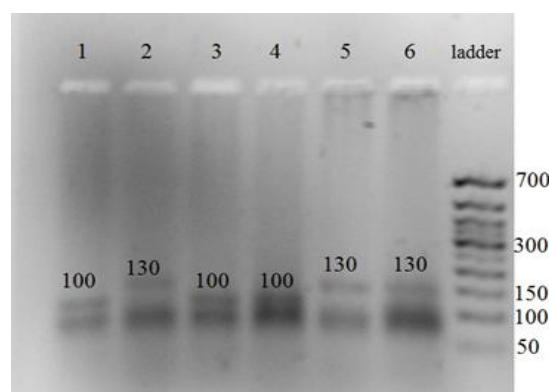
**Figure 1.** Quality of extracted DNA on 1% agarose gel.



**Figure 2.** PCR product of the ninth exon fragment of G6PD on 2% agarose gel (L:50 bp Ladder, P: PCR Product)

### Searching for Chatham mutation in PCR products:

After enzymatic digestion of PCR products by Bstx1 enzyme, normal samples had one cleavage site for the enzyme and showed two fragments (130- 78 bp). On the other hand, samples with Chatham mutation had two cleavage sites for the enzyme and showed three fragments (30, 78, and 10 bp). Fragments 30 and 100 bp indicate the existence of mutation in the studied samples. Figure 3 display an example of enzymatic digestion by Bstx1. According to this figure, the plates 1, 3, and 4 have followed the 100 bp band pattern, indicating that the patients related to these plates are afflicted by Chatham mutation. On the other hand, the plates 2, 5, and 6 have followed the 130 bp band pattern which suggests that the patients related to these plates have no mutation (Fig 3).



**Figure 3.** Restriction digestion analysis of PCR products related to G6PD Chatham mutation with Bstx1. Lanes:2,5,6: No mutant. Lane 1,3,4: G6PD Chatham mutant.

### Nucleotide Sequencing

To confirm and determine the location of Chatham mutation (G1003A) in Exon 9 of G6PD gene by primers (Table. 1). 2 mutated and one wild samples were sent to South Korea for sequencing with the help of Zhen Fanavaran Company. The results of

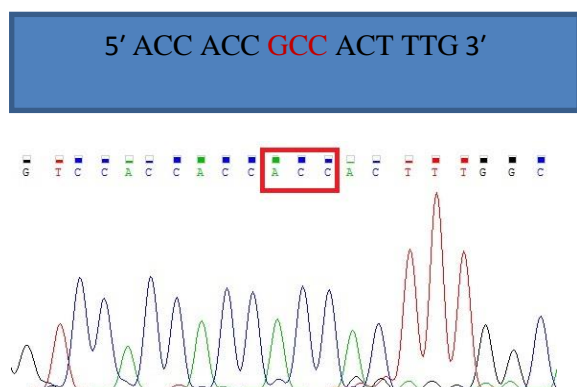
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sequencing were analyzed by Chromas lite version 2.33 software. The exact location of mutation has been presented in [Figure 4](#), [Figure 5](#), and [Figure 6](#).

**Table 1.** Primers used in reactions

Exon	Primer sequence	Type of primer	Length of PCR product (bp)
9	5' CAA GGA GCC CAT TCT CTC CCT 3'	Forward	208
	3' TTC TCC ACA TAG AGG ACG GCT GCC AAA GT 5'	Reverse	

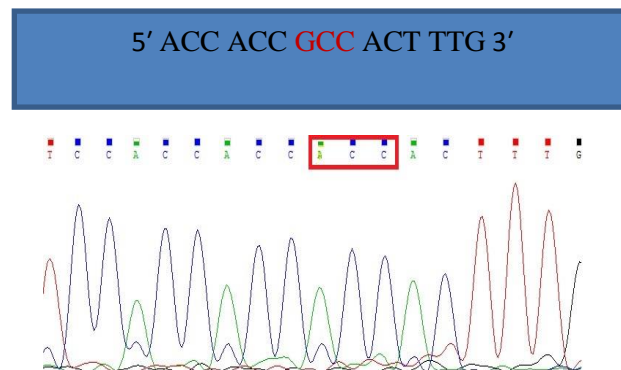
(G 1003A) (Ala 335 → Thr)



**Figure 4.** The mutated sample.

[Figure 4](#) is related to nucleotide sequence of Exon 9 in Subject 19. This figure shows that GCC codon has turned to ACC at the position 1003. In fact, nucleotide transitional mutation of G to A has caused alanine 335 amino acid to be replaced by threonine (Ala 335 Thr).

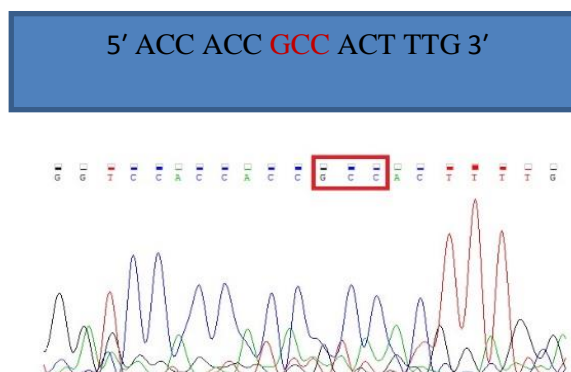
(G 1003A) (Ala 335 → Thr)



**Figure 5.** The mutated sample

[Figure 5](#) is related to nucleotide sequence of Exon 9 in Subject 29. This figure shows that GCC codon has turned to ACC at the position 1003. In fact, nucleotide transitional mutation of G to A has caused alanine 335 amino acid to be replaced by threonine.

5' ACC ACC GCC ACT TTG 3'



**Figure 6.** The wild sample

[Figure 6](#) is related to Exon 9 in Subject 39. According to this figure, GCC codon has not changed at the position 1003. This means that this subject lacks G1003A mutation.

## Result

This study was conducted on 90 individuals with deficient G6PD enzyme activity. Individuals' ages ranged from one month to 21 years. G6PD Chatham mutation (1003 G>A) was observed in 10 (9 males and 1

females) cases, which represents the prevalence rate of 11.11% (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Gender differentiation of patients with Chatham mutation

Female	Male	Total number of samples with Chatham mutation	Total number of patients
1 (1.11%)	9 (10%)	10 (11.11%)	90

It was also found that among these 10 patients with Chatham mutation, 5, 3, and 2 of them were from East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, and Ardabil provinces (Table. 3).

**Table 3.** Geographic differentiation of patients with Chatham mutation

Ardabil	West Azerbaijan	East Azerbaijan	Total number of patients with Chatham mutation
2 (2.2%)	3 (3.3%)	5 (5.5%)	10 (11.11%)

## Discussion

The overall prevalence of G6PD deficiency among the Iranian population was 10%-14.9% (11). The present paper aimed to study the status of Chatham variant in northwest of Iran. Chatham variant of G6PD was firstly observed in a Hindi boy living in London with jaundice symptoms and then occurred in different populations. The highest and the lowest frequency of G6PD Chatham has been reported from north of Iran (27%) and Brazil (0.66%), respectively (12). There are multiple studies conducted on Chatham mutation around world on different ethnic groups. Altay (13) reported the frequency of Chatham mutation to be 2% in 50 patients with G6PD deficiency in Turkey. Al-Alawi (14) found a frequency of 87% for Chatham mutation among 580 men of the Kurds in northern Iraq.

In a molecular study conducted by Carmencita (15) in Philippines, frequency of Chatham mutation was reported to be 9.4%. Tantular (16) carried out a molecular study on 99 patients with G6PD deficiency in 8 different ethnic groups in East Indonesia and found that 17.7% of them were afflicted with type of mutation.

Chatham mutation (1003 G>A) is caused by single-base mutation in Exon 9 of G6PD gene. The proliferated fragment in a healthy person has one recognition site for Bstx1 enzyme cutting, so it generates two fragments of 130 and 78 bp. In a patient, Chatham mutation creates a new cutting site in Fragment 130 bp and, as a result, three fragments of 30, 78, and 100 bp will be generated.

According to the results of the present study, it was found that 10 subjects (11.11%) had a Chatham mutation. Prevalence of Chatham mutation in this study (including 3 province) is less than its prevalence in Mazandaran (27%) and Khorasan (12%) but more than Fars (8.82%), Hormozgan (8.2%), Kermanshah (7.3%), Sistan and Baluchistan (2.17%), Khuzestan (8.66%), Isfahan (8.06%), and Yazd (3.6%) provinces (Table.4). This finding may imply the fact that different ethnic groups living in Iran may receive mutation from various sources.

## Conclusion

The present paper aimed to study the status of Chatham variant in northwest of Iran.

The results showed that 10 (11.11%) out of 90 patients had a Chatham mutation. It should be noted that of the 90 patients participated in this study, 81 patients (92.23%) were male and others were female (7.77%). Also, among the 10 patients with Chatham mutation, 9 ones were male and only one was female.

This data indicates the high prevalence of G6PD deficiency in males and its sex-linked inheritance pattern.

Prevalence of Chatham mutation in the three studied provinces (West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, and Ardabil) of Iran is less than its prevalence in Mazandaran (27%) and Khorasan (12%) but more than Fars (8.82%), Hormozgan (8.2%), Kermanshah (7.3%), Sistan and Baluchistan (2.17%), Khuzestan (8.66%), Isfahan (8.06%), and Yazd (3.6%) provinces. These results show that the prevalence of Chatham mutation in northwest of Iran is much more than southern regions and less than northern parts of Iran [Table.4]. Chatham mutation is the second most common mutation (after Mediterranean mutation) in some provinces of Iran (18). Molecular analysis of G6PD deficiency in this study conducted in North-West of Iran revealed that G6PD Chatham (1003 G>A) mutation is the second common mutation, after Mediterranean (563C>T) (8), in the population of the North-West of Iran. Further studies are recommended to identify the mutation type of other varieties.

**Table 4.** Prevalence of Chatham mutation in northern and southern provinces of Iran

Areas	Province	Prevalence	Ref
Northern provinces	Mazandaran	27%	(17)
	Golestan	26.7%	(12)
	Guilan	9.7%	(19)
	Khorasan	12%	(21)
Northwest provinces	Ardabil	11.11%	
	Tabriz		
	Urmia		
Southern provinces	Sistan and Baluchistan	2.1%	(18,23)
	Hormozgan	8%	(20)
	Khuzestan	8.66%	(22,24)

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