Ganglioglioma with novel molecular features presenting in a child with Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome

Jason W Adams,1 Denise Malicki,2 Michael Levy,3 John Ross Crawford4

DESCRIPTION
A boy with hemizygous SLC16A2 variant (Xq13.2; p.R371C) Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome (AHDS) presented with new-onset seizures. Physical examination revealed normal contour of the cranium and a normal hairline. The face exhibited a long and narrow profile, but individual features were unremarkable in size, shape or position. Neurological examination was notable for central hypotonia and developmental delay. MRI demonstrated a T2-hyperintense, T1-isointense cortical lesion along the left inferior mesial temporal lobe consisting of cystic and solid components, without reduced diffusivity, and multiple solid enhancing nodules on postgadolinium sequences (figure 1). The neuroradiographic differential diagnosis included ganglioglioma, dysembryoplastic neuroepithelial tumour and pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma, with lesser consideration for pilocytic astrocytoma. A stereotactic biopsy of the lesion was performed, and neuropathological evaluation revealed biphasic neoplastic architecture comprising regions of densely compact eosinophilia and other, more microcystic, areas (figure 2A).

Piloid cells and a fibrillar background with focal Rosenthal fibres were visible within the compact eosinophilic areas. Large dysmorphic ganglion cells with vesicular chromat in were interspersed throughout the tumour, in addition to intermixed lymphocytic infiltrates. No significant mitotic activity, necrosis or microvascular proliferation were observed. Immunostaining revealed a mixed population of neoplastic cells, with some neoplastic cells and the fibrillary background immunopositive for glial fibrillar acidic protein and other neoplastic cells with vesicular chromatin. Some neoplastic cells with vesicular chromatin were interspersed through the tumour, in addition to intermixed lymphocytic infiltrates.

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observation more than 2 years postdiagnosis and seizure-free on antiseizure therapy.

AHDS is caused by loss-of-function mutations in X-linked SLC16A2, which encodes a transporter specific for thyroid hormone delivery to the developing brain. Cerebral hypothyroidism is severely detrimental to neurodevelopment, and clinical supplementation with thyroid hormone or its derivative has produced mixed results. AHDS consequently exhibits a profound, heterogeneous clinical presentation featuring craniofacial deformity, intellectual disability and neurological abnormalities including seizures, developmental delay and impaired mobility. We report the first case of a ganglioglioma—and perhaps the first CNS tumour overall—in a paediatric patient with AHDS. Although gangliogliomas preponderantly exhibit BRAF mutations, particularly p.V600E, that activate MAP kinase pathways, these were not observed in our patient’s ganglioglioma, which presented a novel mutation profile. Gangliogliomas are proposed to arise from dysplastic clonal precursors, and thyroid hormone prematurity influences neural stem cells and progenitors. However, whether AHDS pathophysiology influenced emergence of the ganglioglioma in this patient or it arose stochastically is indeterminate and may be worthy of future investigation.

**Learning points**

- Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome (AHDS) is a multisystemic developmental disorder characterised by a heterogeneous clinical presentation that can include craniofacial deformity, severe intellectual disability and neurological abnormalities.
- AHDS results from loss-of-function mutations of SLC16A2, an X-linked gene that encodes a transporter to deliver thyroid hormone to the brain during development.
- We present the first case of a ganglioglioma with novel molecular features in a patient with AHDS that may be worthy of future investigation.

**Contributors**

JWA was responsible for the design and drafting of the case report. DM was responsible for the design and drafting of the case report. ML was responsible for the design and drafting of the case report. JRC was responsible for the design and drafting of the case report.

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**Competing interests**

None declared.

**Patient consent for publication**

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Case reports provide a valuable learning resource for the scientific community and can indicate areas of interest for future research. They should not be used in isolation to guide treatment choices or public health policy.

**REFERENCES**
