

International Nosology of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue, Berlin, 1986

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INTRODUCTION

The heritable disorders of connective tissue have proven to be very heterogeneous and problems have arisen concerning syndromic boundaries, nomenclature, and classification. In an attempt to resolve these dilemmas, a group of experts participated in a Workshop held during the 7th International Congress of Human Genetics, Berlin, in September, 1986. The program for this Workshop had been drawn up at a planning meeting held in 1985 at the Ciba Foundation, London (Beighton, Hollister, Pope, Pyeritz).

At the Workshop, overviews were given of the uses and limitations of nosology (McKusick), diagnostic criteria (Pyeritz), and practical issues in biochemical and molecular diagnosis (Hollister). Invited speakers then gave brief comments on the current

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status of the nosology of specific categories of inherited connective tissue disorders and made recommendations for possible modification.

The Workshop was followed by two closed committee meetings at which the participants attempted to reach agreement on syndromic definition and a standardized nomenclature. The final proposals, with brief comment where relevant, form the subject of this communication.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. This "Berlin Nosology" is not intended to intrude upon or cut across the existing Paris Nomenclature for constitutional disorders of the skeleton [Maroteaux et al., 1986]. Inevitably, there is some overlap, but wherever possible this has been avoided.

2. In some conditions current problems revolve around diagnostic criteria or syndromic boundaries, while in others nomenclature and classification are the main issues. For these reasons, the style of presentation in this article is not necessarily uniform.

3. Some heritable connective tissue disorders can be subclassified on a clinical basis or through biomolecular abnormalities; in others the basic defect is still unknown. The nosology represents a synthesis of these factors, based on current knowledge, and future modification is foreseen. The Committee plans to meet at regular intervals for updating.

4. A number of conditions, including heteroglycanoses, overlap syndromes and tight joint syndromes were also discussed at the Workshop and Committees. There was general consensus that disorders in these categories were outside the scope of this document.

5. Key references are provided for each disorder. The catalogue of inherited disorders "Mendelian Inheritance in Man" [McKusick, 1986] and the classical monograph "Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue" [McKusick, 1972] are additional rich sources of references and information. Other relevant reviews have been published by Byers [1983], Maroteaux et al. [1986], and Pope and Nicholls [1987].

6. Where relevant the numbers allocated to entities in "Mendelian Inheritance in Man" [McKusick, 1986] have been cited in the titles of the disorders mentioned in this nosology.

7. A need for a register of researchers, projects, and affected persons was recognized and a subcommittee has been established under the chairmanship of Dr. Reed Pyeritz. A report on conclusions and proposals is appended.

1. MARFAN SYNDROME (15470)

Diagnostic manifestations (Listed in approximate order of decreasing specificity. Major manifestations indicated by an asterisk)

Skeletal

anterior chest deformity, especially asymmetric pectus excavatum/carinatum

dolichostenomelia not due to scoliosis

arachnodactyly

vertebral column deformity

scoliosis

thoracic lordosis or reduced thoracic kyphosis

tall stature, especially compared to unaffected 1° relatives

high, narrowly arched palate and dental crowding

protrusio acetabulae

abnormal appendicular joint mobility
 congenital flexion contractures
 hypermobility

Ocular

*ectopia lentis
 flat cornea
 elongated globe
 retinal detachment
 myopia

Cardiovascular

*dilatation of the ascending aorta
 *aortic dissection
 aortic regurgitation
 mitral regurgitation due to mitral valve prolapse
 calcification of the mitral annulus
 mitral valve prolapse
 abdominal aortic aneurysm
 dysrhythmia
 endocarditis

Pulmonary

spontaneous pneumothorax
 apical bleb

Skin and integument

striae distensae
 inguinal hernia
 other hernia (umbilical, diaphragmatic, incisional)

Central nervous system

*dural ectasia
 lumbosacral meningocele
 dilated cisterna magna
 learning disability (verbal-performance discrepancy)
 hyperactivity with or without attention deficit disorder

Genetics

Autosomal dominant inheritance
 25-30% of cases are sporadic; paternal age effect

Requirements for diagnosis

In the absence of an unequivocally affected 1° relative:

Involvement of the skeleton and at least 2 other systems; at least one major manifestation

In the presence of at least one unequivocally affected 1° relative:

Involvement of at least 2 systems; at least one major manifestation preferred, but this will depend somewhat on the family's phenotype

Urine amino acid analysis in the absence of pyridoxine supplementation confirms absence of homocystinuria

Conditions most often considered in differential diagnosis

homocystinuria
 familial or isolated mitral valve prolapse syndrome
 familial or isolated annuloaortic ectasia (Erdheim disease)

congenital contractural arachnodactyly
Stickler syndrome

Comments

The syndromic status of congenital contractural arachnodactyly is uncertain; most patients so diagnosed likely have the Marfan syndrome.
The Marfanoid hypermobility syndrome is not a distinct entity.

2. STICKLER SYNDROME (10830)

Alternative designation: Hereditary arthropthalmopathy.

Excludes: Marshall and Wagner syndromes, which are apparently different entities.

Weissenbacher-Zweymüller syndrome, which is a severe early form of the Stickler syndrome in some families. This eponym should be discarded.

Manifestations

Stickler syndrome is a common pleiotropic autosomal dominant syndrome with the following variable manifestations:

Myopia and retinal detachment, rarely congenital cataracts

Arthropathy, mild, with skeletal manifestations sometimes called mild spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia

Deafness

Physique, normal or "Marfanoid habitus," with joint hypermobility

Short midface

Cleft palate

Cardiac defects, rare

The condition is an "iceberg trait" in many families; severely affected probands may have mildly affected relatives with minor stigmata. The condition should be suspected in all cases of apparently isolated congenital cleft palate, of Pierre Robin anomaly, all Kniest-like cases in infancy, and autosomal dominant myopia with retinal detachment. Recent tight linkages between the Stickler syndrome and the COL2A1 locus in one large pedigree suggests that the basic defect is in the primary structure of alpha 1(II) procollagen. Genetic heterogeneity must be investigated before using DNA probes for COL2A1 in diagnosis.

3. EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME (EDS)

Redundant synonym "cutis hyperelastica"

Excludes "cutis laxa" and "familial joint hypermobility syndrome"

Type

EDS I	Gravis type	AD	(13000)
EDS II	Mitis type	AD	(13001)
EDS III	Hypermobility type	AD	(13002)
EDS IV	Vascular	Heterogeneous	
	IV-A Acrogeric type	AD	(13005)
	IV-B Acrogeric type	AR	(22535)
	IV-C Ecchymotic type	AD	(13005)
	IV-D Others	AD	(AR?) ¹
	(All forms have defect of type III collagen)		

¹The existence of these subtypes is unproven.

EDS V	X-linked type	XL	(30520)
EDS VI	Ocular-scoliotic type	AR	(22540)
	VI-A Decreased lysyl hydroxylase activity		
	(VI-B Normal lysyl hydroxylase activity ?) ¹		
EDS VII	Arthrochalasia multiplex congenita	Heterogeneous	
	VII-A Structural defect of pro- α 1(1)	AD	(13006)
	VII-B Structural defect of pro- α 2(1)	AD	(13006)
	(VII-C Procollagen N-Proteinase deficiency ?) ¹	AR	(22541)
EDS VIII	Periodontitis type	AD	(13008)
EDS IX	Vacant (formerly occipital horn syndrome, or X-linked cutis laxa, now recategorized as a disorder of copper transport)		(30415)
EDS X	Fibronectin abnormality	AR	(22531)
EDS XI	Vacant (formerly familial joint instability, now recategorized with the familial articular hypermobility syndromes)		(14790)

Cardinal manifestations

	Skin—hyperextensible with soft, velvety, doughy texture
	Dystrophic scarring
	Easy bruising
	Joint hypermobility
	Connective tissue fragility
EDS I	Cardinal manifestations in severe degree
EDS II	Cardinal manifestations in mild degree
EDS III	Marked articular hypermobility
	Moderate dermal hyperextensibility
	Minimal scarring
EDS IV	Variable stigmata
	Severe bruising, hyperpigmentation and/or scarring
	Thin skin with prominent venous plexus
	Vascular rupture
	Colonic perforation
	Characteristic facial appearance
EDS V	Cardinal manifestations in moderate degree
	X-linked inheritance
EDS VI	Cardinal manifestations in severe degree
	Eye involvement (microcornea, scleral perforation, retinal detachment)
	Scoliosis
EDS VII	Cardinal manifestations with marked articular hypermobility
	Short stature
	Micrognathia
EDS VIII	Cardinal manifestations in moderate degree
	Aggressive periodontitis, gingival recession, early tooth loss
EDS X	Cardinal manifestations but skin texture normal
	Petechiae
	Striae distensae
	Platelet aggregation defect corrected by fibronectin

4. FAMILIAL ARTICULAR HYPERMOBILITY SYNDROME (14790)

Excludes:

- EDS group of disorders, notably EDS III (Hypermobility type) and VII (Arthrochalasia multiplex congenita)
- Skeletal dysplasias with joint hypermobility, notably the Larsen syndrome

Cardinal manifestations

- Generalized articular hypermobility, with or without subluxation or dislocations
- No skin involvement

- 4-1 *Familial articular hypermobility*, uncomplicated type AD/AR
- 4-2 *Familial articular hypermobility*, dislocating type (formerly EDS AD
XI, familial joint instability syndrome)
(The basic defect in these disorders is unknown.)

5. SKELETAL DYSPLASIAS WITH PREDOMINANT JOINT LAXITY

- 5-1 **Larsen Syndrome** Mild form: AD (15025)
Severe form: AR (24560)

Cardinal manifestations:

- Joint laxity, especially at the knees
- Flattened nasal bridge
- Short stature
- Broad terminal phalanges

Radiographic changes:

- Supernumerary ossification centres
in the carpus and calcaneus

- 5-2 **Desbuquois Syndrome** AR (heterogeneous?)

Cardinal manifestations:

- Joint laxity
- Short stature
- Prominent eyes
- Broad terminal phalanges
- Supernumerary phalanges

Radiographic characteristics:

- Supernumerary carpal ossification centres
- Prominent lesser trochanter of femur

- 5-3 **Spondyloepimetaphyseal Dysplasia With Joint Laxity (SEMDJL)** AR (27164)

Clinical manifestations:

- Gross joint laxity with progressive spinal mal-alignment and multiple dislocations
- Dwarfism
- Characteristic facial appearance
- Variable cardiac defects and palatal clefts

Radiographic changes:

- Skeletal dysplasia with changes in the vertebrae, epiphyses, and metaphyses
- Skeletal dysplasia with changes in the vertebrae, epiphyses, and metaphyses

6. CUTIS LAXA

Excludes:

- Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (syn. cutis hyperelastica)

Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (syn. cutis hyperelastica)
 Cutis laxa with joint mobility and developmental delay
 Occipital horn syndrome (formerly EDS IX, X-linked cutis laxa)

Cardinal manifestations:

Loose skin folds
 Characteristic "mournful" face with beaked nose and long upper lip
 Variable systemic involvement (pulmonary emphysema, diverticula of the gut, hernia)
 Joints not hypermobile
 Skin not fragile

- 6-1 *Cutis laxa, benign form* AD (12370)
 6-2 *Cutis laxa, severe form* AR (21910)

7. PSEUDOXANTHOMA ELASTICUM

Cardinal changes:

Skin—yellow infiltrated lesions, maximal in the flexures
 Eyes—angioid streaks, retinal hemorrhage
 Cardiovascular—calcification of the media of medium-sized arteries, with progressive occlusion and occasional rupture

7-1 *Pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE)*—AD form (probably heterogeneous) (17785)

7-2 *Pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE)*—AR form (probably heterogeneous) (26480)

Elastic fibres are characteristically fragmented and calcified in skin biopsy specimens but the basic defect is unknown.

8. EPIDERMOLYSIS BULLOSA (EB)

Epidermolysis bullosa is the descriptive term used for the mechano-bullous genodermatoses. The 26 subtypes are characterized by traumatically induced blistering of the skin, while the nails and mucous membranes are variably affected.

EB is traditionally divided into three major subgroups depending on the presence or absence of scarring of the skin and on the ultrastructural changes. These are:

Simplex (nonscarring)

Atrophicans (nonscarring with skin atrophy)

Dystrophica (scarring)

The *dystrophica* subgroups are inherited connective tissue disorders; some of these conditions are associated with absence or abnormality of type VII collagen. The *atrophicans* forms, with basement membrane defects, may turn out to be disorders of connective tissue, but at present their status is uncertain. In the *simplex* forms, the defect is in the epidermis, and they cannot, therefore, be regarded as connective tissue disorders. The 8 dystrophic subtypes are listed below. In accordance with conventional terminology, eponyms have been retained.

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 8-1 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Cockayne-Touraine | AD (13180) |
| 8-2 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Pasini | AD (13175) |
| 8-3 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Pretibial type | AD (13185) |
| 8-4 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Hallopeau Siemens (localized and mutilans forms) | AR (22660) |
| 8-5 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica Inversa | AR (22645) |
| 8-6 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Winship | AR |
| 8-7 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Dystrophica, Fine | AR |
| 8-8 | Epidermolysis Bullosa Progressiva | AR (22650) |

9. HERITABLE DISORDERS OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE SECONDARY TO METABOLIC DEFECTS

- 9-1 Alcaptonuria (Homogentisic acid oxidase deficiency) AR (20350)
 9-2 Homocystinuria AR
 Pyridoxine responsive form (23620)
 Pyridoxine unresponsive form (23625)

10. DISORDERS OF COPPER TRANSPORT

- 10-1 **Occipital Horn Syndrome** (formerly EDS IX, X-linked cutis laxa) XL (30415)

Diagnostic clinical criteria:

- Skin lax and mildly hyperextensible
- Hypermobile digits
- Bony protuberances of the occiput (evident as bony nubbins in the first decade)
- Limitation of extension of the elbows and knees due to bone modeling defects
- Carpal bone coalescences
- Short clavicles
- Bladder diverticulae
- Osteomalacia
- Chronic diarrhea (variable)
- Postural hypotension (occasional)

Diagnostic biochemical criteria:

- Moderate decrease in serum copper and ceruloplasmin levels
- Excess copper and increased ^{64}Cu accumulation (attached to metallothionein) in cultured fibroblasts

- 10-2 **Menkes Syndrome** XL (30940)

(Classical and mild forms)

Diagnostic clinical criteria:

(Classical and mild forms)

Diagnostic clinical criteria:

- Lax skin
- Hypermobile joints
- Severe brain dysfunction
- Vascular rupture
- Abnormal hair

Diagnostic biochemical criteria:

- Decreased serum copper and ceruloplasmin levels
- Excess copper and increased ^{64}Cu accumulation (attached to metallothionein) in cultured fibroblastic cells

11. OSTEOGENESIS IMPERFECTA

Information concerning biochemical and molecular defects in OI is accumulating rapidly but a nosology based on a synthesis of these factors, together with clinical and genealogical data is not yet possible. The current classification of OI on a basis of clinical and radiological changes is given below.

- OI type I Osseous fragility (variable from minimal through AD (16620)
 moderately severe), distinctly blue sclerae (at all (heterogeneous)
 ages), presenile hearing loss

OI type II	Lethal perinatal OI. Extremely severe osseous fragility, stillbirth or neonatal death		
	Sub-group A) Radiographs show broad, crumpled long bones and broad ribs with continuous beading	AD	(16621)
	Sub-group B) Radiographs show broad, crumpled long bones, ribs show discontinuous beading or are not beaded	AR?	(25940)
	Sub-group C) Radiographs show thin, fractured long bones and thin, beaded ribs	AR?	(25940)
OI type III	Moderately severe to severe osseous fragility, normal sclerae (sometimes blue in infancy), variable but severe deformity of long bones and spine, stunted stature. Generally nonlethal in the newborn infant	AR	(25942)
OI type IV	Osseous fragility with normal sclerae (blue in infancy), variable deformity of long bones and spine	AD	(16622)
Note:	i. The value of opalescent dentin (DI) for subclassification is uncertain.		
	ii. In families with OI-I, linkage has been demonstrated with the pro- α 1(1) (COL1A1) and pro- α 2(1) (COL1A2) collagen gene loci. In a few families with OI-IV, linkage with pro- α 2(1) (COL1A2) has been recorded.		

12. MISCELLANEOUS INHERITED CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISORDERS

12-1	<i>Cutis laxa with joint hypermobility and developmental delay</i> excludes Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, classical cutis laxa, and X-linked cutis laxa (now occipital horn syndrome)	AR	(21920)
12-2	<i>Wrinkly skin syndrome</i> Diagnostic criteria: Joint laxity Low birth weight Wrinkled skin over hands and feet	AR	(27825)
12-3	<i>Dermatofibrosis lenticularis disseminata</i> with osteopoikilosis (Buschke-Ollendorff syndrome)	AD	(16670)
12-4	<i>Familial cutaneous collagenoma</i>	AD/AR	(11525)
12-5	<i>Keloid formation</i>	AD?	(14810)
12-6	<i>Elastosis perforans serpiginosa</i>	AD?	(13010)
12-7	<i>Reactive perforating collagenosis</i>	AR?	(21670)

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5. SKELETAL DYSPLASIAS WITH PREDOMINANT JOINT LAXITY

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9. HERITABLE DISORDERS OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE SECONDARY TO METABOLIC DEFECTS

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10. DISORDERS OF COPPER TRANSPORT

10.1 *Occipital Horn Syndrome*

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