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MPV17-related mitochondrial DNA maintenance defect: New cases and review of clinical, biochemical, and molecular aspects

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Abstract

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) maintenance defects are a group of diseases caused by deficiency of proteins involved in mtDNA synthesis, mitochondrial nucleotide supply, or mitochondrial dynamics. One of the mtDNA maintenance proteins is MPV17, which is a mitochondrial inner membrane protein involved in importing deoxynucleotides into the mitochondria. In 2006, pathogenic variants in *MPV17* were first reported to cause infantile-onset hepatocerebral mtDNA depletion syndrome and Navajo neurohepatopathy. To date, 75 individuals with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect have been reported with 39 different *MPV17* pathogenic variants. In this report, we present an additional 25 affected individuals with nine novel *MPV17* pathogenic variants. We summarize the clinical features of all 100 affected individuals and review the total 48 *MPV17* pathogenic variants. The vast majority of affected individuals presented with an early-onset encephalohepatopathic disease characterized by hepatic and neurological manifestations, failure to thrive, lactic acidemia, and mtDNA depletion detected mainly in liver tissue. Rarely, MPV17 deficiency can cause a late-onset neuromyopathic disease characterized by myopathy and peripheral neuropathy with no or minimal liver involvement. Approximately half of the

MPV17 pathogenic variants are missense. A genotype with biallelic missense variants, in particular homozygous p.R50Q, p.P98L, and p.R41Q, can carry a relatively better prognosis.

KEYWORDS

mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), MPV17, mtDNA depletion, mtDNA maintenance, multiple mtDNA deletions

1 | INTRODUCTION

Over one thousand proteins are needed for the structure and function of normal mitochondria (Calvo, Clauser, & Mootha, 2016). Mitochondria are under dual genome control with mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) encoding a very small fraction of mitochondrial proteins, whereas the vast majority of mitochondrial proteins are encoded by nuclear DNA (nDNA). A human cell can contain several thousand copies of mtDNA distributed within hundreds of mitochondria (Lang, Gray, & Burger, 1999). In contrast to nDNA, which replicates only during cell division, mtDNA synthesis is continuous throughout the cell cycle. Depending on the cell type, a certain copy number of mtDNA is required for the production of adequate mtDNA-encoded proteins. The maintenance of mtDNA depends on a number of nDNA-encoded proteins that function in mtDNA synthesis, maintenance of a balanced mitochondrial nucleotide pool, or mitochondrial dynamics. The mitochondrial nucleotide pool is maintained by a constant supply of nucleotides from mitochondrial salvage pathways and by import of cytosolic nucleotide into the mitochondrial matrix via specific transporters (El-Hattab & Scaglia, 2013; Spinazzola, 2011).

Defects in any of the proteins involved in mtDNA maintenance can result in impaired mtDNA synthesis leading to quantitative (mtDNA depletion) and qualitative (multiple mtDNA deletions) defects in mtDNA. Defective mtDNA results in insufficient synthesis of the mtDNA-encoded mitochondrial proteins, leading to energy deficiency. Therefore, pathogenic variants in genes encoding these proteins cause mtDNA maintenance defects, which are a group of diseases characterized by mtDNA depletion and/or multiple mtDNA deletions in affected organs (El-Hattab, Craigen, & Scaglia, 2017).

One of the mtDNA maintenance proteins is MPV17, which is a mitochondrial inner membrane protein that is believed to be involved in importing deoxynucleotides into the mitochondria. In 2006, pathogenic variants in *MPV17* (MIM# 137960) were first reported to cause a hepatocerebral mtDNA depletion syndrome of infantile onset that is characterized by hepatopathy and liver failure, developmental delay and other neurological manifestations, lactic acidosis, hypoglycemia, and mtDNA depletion in liver tissue (Spinazzola et al., 2006). Shortly after that, the homozygous pathogenic variant p.R50Q in *MPV17* was found in children with infantile Navajo neurohepatopathy (NNH). NNH is an autosomal recessive disease prevalent among Navajo children in the southwestern United States and is characterized by hepatopathy, peripheral neuropathy, corneal anesthesia and scarring, cerebral leukoencephalopathy, failure to thrive, and metabolic acidosis (Karadimas et al., 2006). Because of the considerably phenotypic overlapping and being associated with

defects in the same gene, both the *MPV17*-related heptaocerebral mtDNA depletion syndrome and the infantile NNH are considered to be allelic disorders being part of the same disease. Over the past decade many additional cases were published with the majority presenting with the infantile-onset hepatocerebral (encephalohepatopathic) disease; however, several reports presented individuals with later-onset disease that is associated with mild or no hepatic manifestations; expanding the phenotype associated with *MPV17* pathogenic variants (Choi et al., 2015; Mendelsohn et al., 2014; Uusimaa et al., 2014). Furthermore, multiple mtDNA deletions in liver and muscle tissues have been described in few individuals with *MPV17* pathogenic variants (Blakely et al., 2012; Garone et al., 2012; Piekutowska-Abramczuk et al., 2014). Because both mtDNA depletion and multiple mtDNA deletions can occur in association with MPV17 deficiency, calling this disease as "*MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect" more accurately describes the disease than the classic name of *MPV17*-related mtDNA depletion syndrome, which indicates that MPV17 deficiency is only associated with mtDNA depletion (El-Hattab et al., 2017).

To date, 75 individuals with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect have been reported with 39 different *MPV17* pathogenic variants (Al-Hussaini et al., 2014; Al-Jasmi, Penefsky, & Souid, 2011; AlSaman, Tomoum, Invernizzi, & Zeviani, et al., 2012; Bijarnia-Mahay, Mohan, Goyal, & Verma, 2014; Bitting & Hanson, 2016; Blakely et al., 2012; Choi et al., 2015; El-Hattab et al., 2010; Garone et al., 2012; Kaji et al., 2009; Karadimas et al., 2006; Kim et al., 2016; McKiernan et al., 2016; Mendelsohn et al., 2014; Merkle, Nascene, & McKinney, 2012; Navarro-Sastre et al., 2008; Nogueira et al., 2012; Piekutowska-Abramczuk et al., 2014; Sarkhy, Al-Sunaid, Abdullah, AlFadhel, & Eiyad, 2014; Spinazzola et al., 2006, 2008; Uusimaa et al., 2014; Vilarinho et al., 2014; Wong et al., 2007). In this report, we present additional 25 affected individuals and nine novel *MPV17* pathogenic variants. Herein, we review the clinical, biochemical, and molecular aspects of previously reported and new individuals with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect.

2 | METHODS

Previously reported cases with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect were identified through PubMed search. Baylor Genetics Laboratory databases were reviewed to identify cases with *MPV17*
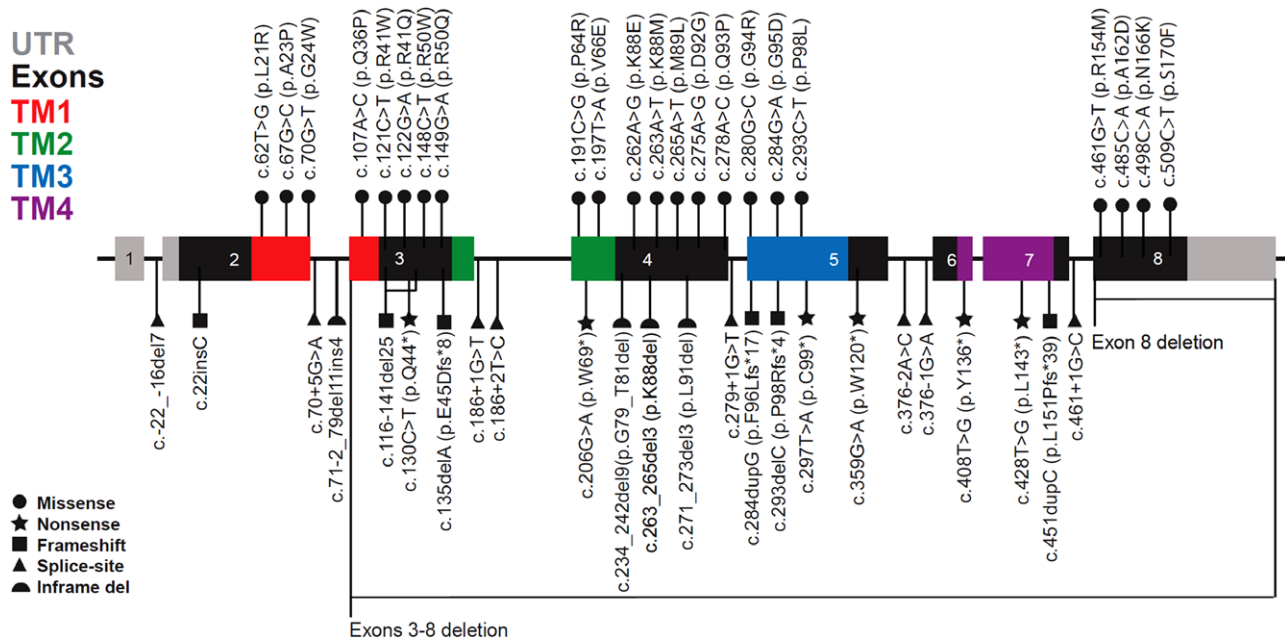
FIGURE 1 The alignment of pathogenic variants on the *MPV17* gene (c.263A>T (p.K88M) and c.265A>T (p.M89L) are in cis and therefore can be called c.263_265delinsTGT (p.K88_M89delinsML))

bilallelic pathogenic variants who have not yet been reported. Then, clinical, biochemical, and molecular data for these new cases were obtained from the treating physicians. The study was conducted according to Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Institutional Review Board (IRB) approved protocols. Clinical data were obtained in a manner conforming with IRB ethical guidelines. The *MPV17* reference sequence used is NM_002437.4. The DNA variant numbering system used is based on cDNA sequence. Nucleotide numbering uses +1 as the A of the ATG translation initiation codon in the reference sequence, with the initiation codon as codon 1.

3 | MPV17 STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

The *MPV17* gene is located on chromosome 2p23-21 and contains eight exons. The MPV17 protein is composed of 176 amino acids and is localized in the inner mitochondrial membrane (Spinazzola et al., 2006). Molecular modeling of MPV17 predicted that this protein contains four transmembrane (TM) hydrophobic regions (TM1 from amino acid 18 to 38, TM2 from 53 to73, TM3 from 94 to 114, and TM4 from 131 to 151) with five hydrophilic regions including three short linker regions connecting the TM spans and C- and N-terminus at the same side of the membrane. Although both C- and N-terminals are located on the same side, it is unknown whether these terminals are facing the matrix side or the intermembrane space side (Wong et al., 2007) (Figures 1 and 2).

The exact function of MPV17 was unknown until a recent study showed that MPV17 loss causes mitochondrial deoxynucleotide insufficiency (Dalla Rosa et al., 2016). In Mpv17 deficient mice, liver mitochondria showed decreased mitochondrial deoxynucleotides and severe mtDNA depletion. Furthermore, elevated levels of replication

intermediates indicated that the shortage of mitochondrial deoxynucleotides in the Mpv17 deficient mouse liver slows mtDNA replication. Study of fibroblasts obtained from individuals with MPV17 deficiency showed similar results with decreased mitochondrial deoxynucleotides and mtDNA depletion. Additionally, the mtDNA loss in these fibroblasts was prevented and rescued by deoxynucleoside supplementation (Dalla Rosa et al., 2016). This study established deoxynucleotide insufficiency in the mitochondria as the cause of mtDNA depletion in MPV17 deficiency (Dalla Rosa et al., 2016). Given that MPV17 localizes in the inner mitochondrial membrane, animal (mice and zebrafish) and yeasts studies showing that Mpv17 forms a channel allowing small molecules to pass (Löllgen & Weiher, 2015), and the finding of mitochondrial nucleotide insufficiency associated with its loss of function (Dalla Rosa et al., 2016) all support that MPV17 functions as an inner mitochondrial membrane channel importing cytosolic nucleotides into the mitochondria.

4 | MPV17 VARIANTS

Molecular results for 73 of the 75 previously reported individuals with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect were available and included 39 different pathogenic variants in the *MPV17* gene. In this report, we present 25 additional affected individuals and nine novel pathogenic variants in *MPV17*. Therefore, the total number of *MPV17* pathogenic variants known to date is 48 (Table 1 and Figure 1). Novel pathogenic variants in this report have been submitted into LOVD (https://databases.lovd.nl/shared/screenings/MPV17). Approximately half of these variants are missense (22 out of 48; 46%). Other types include nonsense (six out of 48; 12%), frameshift (six out of 48; 12%), splice-site (eight out of 48; 17%), inframe deletions (four out of 48; 8%),
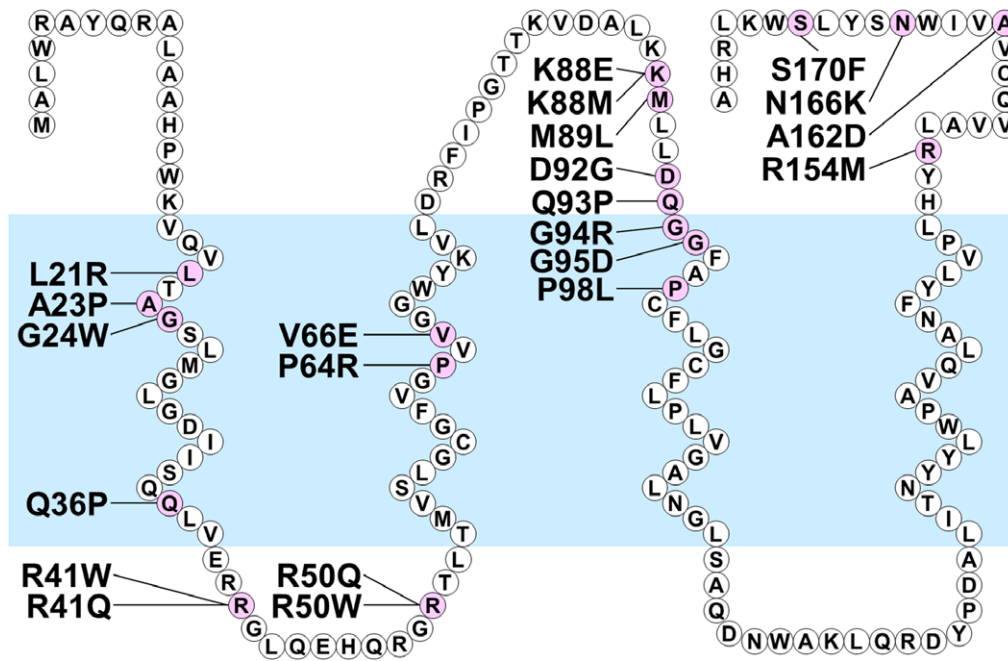
FIGURE 2   The alignment of the missense pathogenic variants on the MPV17 protein

and large exonic deletions (two out of 48; 4%). Aligning the 22 missense pathogenic variants along the protein domains showed some clustering of these variants (eight out of 22; 36%) in a short 11 amino acid segment expanding from amino acid 88 to amino acid 98 and including the distal part of the second linker (connecting TM2 to TM3) and the proximal part of TM3 (Figure 2). The second linker is predicted to harbor a putative protein kinase C phosphorylation site; therefore, this region may play an important role in the protein function (El-Hattab et al., 2010; Wong et al., 2007).

The majority of the *MPV17* pathogenic variants are exclusively occurring in one or a few families. However, the c.149G>A (p.R50Q) has been reported in the homozygous status in several Navajo affected individuals. In addition, the c.278A>C (p.Q93P) variant has been found in the homozygous status in multiple Arab families. Homozygous and heterozygous c.293C>T (p.P98L) variant has been described in several affected individuals of various ethnicities (Table 1 and Supp. Tables S1 and Supp. Table S2).

Furthermore, we listed benign variants and variants of unknown significance in Supp. Table S3, which includes 94 variants.

5 | CLINICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL FEATURES

Including individuals in this report, clinical and biochemical features for 100 individuals with *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect are available. The vast majority of affected individuals (71 out of the 75 previously reported individuals and 25 out of the 25 individuals reported here) presented with an early-onset encephalohepatopathic (hepatocerebral) disease affecting mainly the nervous system and liver (Table 2). Four out of the 75 previously reported individuals presented with a neuromyopathic disease as discussed at the end

of this section. *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathy typically has an early onset during the neonatal period (36 out of 96; 38) or infancy (56 out of 96; 58%). Childhood onset (2–18 years) has been rarely reported (four out of 96; 4%) (Figure 3, Table 2, and Supp. Table S1 and Supp. Table S2).

All individuals with *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathy present with hepatic and neurological manifestations. The universal finding is liver dysfunction that is described in all affected individuals and includes elevated transaminases, jaundice, and hyperbilirubinemia. In the majority of affected individuals (87 out of 96; 91%), liver disease progresses to liver failure typically during infancy or early childhood. Other common hepatic manifestations include cholestasis (70 out of 96; 73%), hepatomegaly (60 out of 96; 63%), and steatosis (49 out of 96; 51%). Neurologically, affected individuals typically demonstrate developmental delay (75 out of 91; 82%) and generalized hypotonia (67 out of 91; 74%). The majority of affected individuals have variable degrees of developmental delay. Some affected individuals present with psychomotor delays during early infancy, whereas others have normal development early in life followed by loss of motor and cognitive abilities later in infancy or early childhood. The neurological manifestations can be overlooked or underestimated in these children with early onset of severe hepatic involvement. Failure to thrive is also common (82 out of 91; 90%). Metabolic derangements occur in the majority of affected individuals and include lactic acidemia (72 out of 91; 79%) and hypoglycemia (55 out of 91; 60%). Hypoglycemia typically presents during the first 6 months of life and can be associated with lethargy, apnea, and/or seizures. Lactic acidosis is a biochemical finding with mild to moderate elevation of lactate (3–9 mmol/l) (El-Hattab, Scaglia, Craigen, & Wong, 2012) (Table 2 and Supp. Tables S1 and S2).

Less common manifestations that occur in less than half of the affected individuals include liver cirrhosis (20 out of 96; 21%), microcephaly (21 out of 91; 23%), motor and sensory peripheral

TABLE 1 Pathogenic variants in *MPV17* in previously reported and individuals described in this report

		Previously reported (n = 73)		This report (n = 25)		Total (n = 98)	
		Hom	Het	Hom	Het	Hom	Het
Missense mutations							
1	c.62T>G (p.L21R)	2	0	1	0	3	0
2	c.67G>C (p.A23P)	0	1	0	0	0	1
3	c.70G>T (p.G24W)	0	1	0	0	0	1
4	c.107A>C (p.Q36P)	1	0	0	0	1	0
5	c.121C>T (p.R41W)	2	0	0	0	2	0
6	c.122G>A (p.R41Q)	2	0	0	0	2	0
7	c.148C>T (p.R50W)	2	1	1	1	3	2
8	c.149G>A (p.R50Q)	11	0	0	0	11	0
9	c.191C>G (p.P64R)	4	1	0	0	4	1
10	c.197T>A (p.V66E)	0	1	0	0	0	1
11	c.262A>G (p.K88E)	1	0	0	0	1	0
12 and 13	c.263_265delinsTGT (p.K88_M89delinsML)[a]	0	1	0	0	0	1
14	**c.275A>G (p.D92G)**	0	0	0	1	0	1
15	c.278A>C (p.Q93P)	9	0	3	0	12	0
16	c.280G>C (p.G94R)	0	2	0	0	0	2
17	**c.284G>A (p.G95D)**	0	0	1	0	1	0
18	c.293C>T (p.P98L)	2	5	0	5	2	10
19	**c.461G>T (p.R154M)**	0	0	0	2	0	2
20	c.485C>A (p.A162D)	0	1	0	0	0	1
21	c.498C>A (p.N166K)	1	0	0	0	1	0
22	c.509C>T (p.S170F)	0	2	0	0	0	2
Nonsense mutations							
23	c.130C>T (p.Q44*)	3	0	0	0	3	0
24	c.206G>A (p.W69*)	2	0	0	0	2	0
25	**c.297T>A (p.C99*)**	0	0	0	1	0	1
26	c.359G>A (p.W120*)	2	0	0	0	2	0
27	c.408T>G (p.Y136*)	0	1	0	0	0	1
28	c.428T>G (p.L143*)	0	1	0	0	0	1
Frameshift mutations							
29	c.22insC	0	1	0	0	0	1
30	c.116-141del25	0	1	0	0	0	1
31	c.135delA (p.E45Dfs*8)	0	1	0	0	0	1
32	**c.284dupG (p.F96Lfs*17)**	0	0	1	3	1	3
33	**c.293delC (p.P98Rfs*4)**	0	0	1		1	0
34	c.451dupC (p.L151Pfs*39)	2	2	2	4	4	6
Splice-site mutations							
35	c.-22_-16del7	0	1	0	0	0	1
36	c.70+5G>A	1	0	0	0	1	0
37	c.186+1G>T	1	0	0	0	1	0
38	c.186+2T>C	1	1	0	2	1	3
39	c.279+1G>T	4	0	2	0	6	0
40	**c.376-2A>C**	0	0	1	0	1	0
41	**c.376-1G>A**	0	0	0	1	0	1
42	c.461+1G>C	1	0	0	0	1	0

(Continues)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

		Previously reported (n = 73)		This report (n = 25)		Total (n = 98)	
		Hom	Het	Hom	Het	Hom	Het
Inframe deletion							
43	**c.71-2_79del11ins4 (p.G24-M27delinsS)**	0	0	0	1	0	1
44	c.234_242del9 (p.G79_T81del)	0	1	0	0	0	1
45	c.263_265del3 (p.K88del)	0	2	0	2	0	4
46	c.271_273del3 (p.L91del)	0	2	0	1	0	3
Large deletion							
47	Exon 8 deletion	1	1	0	0	1	1
48	Exons 3–8 deletion	2	0	0	0	2	0

[a]c.263A>T (p.K88M) and c.265A>T (p.M89L) in cis. Novel pathogenic variants are in bold.

neuropathy (17 out of 91; 19%), and seizures (nine out of 91; 10%). About a third of affected individuals have feeding difficulties (28 out of 91; 31%) and gastrointestinal dysmotility (30 out of 91; 33%) manifesting as gastroesophageal reflux, recurrent vomiting, and diarrhea. Infrequent manifestations occurring in less than 10% of affected individuals are dystonia, ataxia, retinopathy, nystagmus, corneal anesthesia and ulcers, renal tubulopathy, nephrocalcinosis, and hypoparathyroidism. In addition, three affected individuals developed hepatocellular carcinoma between ages 7 and 11 years (El-Hattab et al., 2010; Karadimas et al., 2006; Vilarinho et al., 2014) (Table 2 and Supp. Tables S1 and Supp. Table S2).

Brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was performed in 71 individuals and showed abnormalities in less than half (31 out of 71; 44%). The most common observed MRI abnormality is diffuse white matter abnormalities resembling leukodystrophy or hypomyelination (27 out of 71; 38%). Other infrequent findings include signal abnormalities in brainstem (six out of 71; 8%) and basal ganglia (six out of 71; 8%) (Merkle et al., 2012) (Table 2, Supp. Table S1, and Supp. Table S2).

All affected individuals tested for mtDNA content in liver show mtDNA depletion with mtDNA content ranging from 1% to 40% of tissue- and age-matched controls. The majority of affected individuals tested for mtDNA content in muscle tissue (16 out of 18; 89%) had mtDNA depletion in muscles with mtDNA content ranging from 8% to 80% of tissue- and age-matched controls. However, two individuals reported to have normal mtDNA content in muscle (Piekutowska-Abramczuk et al., 2014; Uusimaa et al., 2014). MtDNA content in muscle tissue of affected individuals is typically higher than that in liver tissue. Interestingly, two children with MPV17-related encephalohepatopathy who died during infancy because of liver failure were found to have both mtDNA depletion and multiple mtDNA deletions in liver tissue (Piekutowska-Abramczuk et al., 2014). No other affected individuals with MPV17-related encephalohepatopathy have been tested for multiple mtDNA deletions, therefore, it is not known how common it is to have multiple mtDNA deletions in association with mtDNA depletion in this disease (Table 2 and Supp. Tables S1 and Supp. Table S2).

MPV17-related encephalohepatopathy typically has a poor prognosis because in the majority of affected individuals, liver disease progresses to liver failure typically during infancy or early childhood. Liver transplantation has been performed for some affected individuals (17 out of 96; 18%). However, the outcome has not been satisfactory with more than half (10 out of 17; 59%) of the transplanted children died during the post-transplantation period because of sepsis, respiratory failure, or multi-organ failure. The majority of affected children did not undergo liver transplantation (79 out of 96; 82%). Among these individuals, 82% (65 out of 79) died because of liver failure. The majority died during infancy (52 out of 65; 80%). Some died during early childhood (1–5 years) (10 out of 65; 15%), adolescence (two out of 65; 3%), and early adulthood (one out of 65; 2%). Only 14 out 79 non-transplanted individuals (18%) are reported alive with the oldest being 25 years old (Table 2 and Supp. Tables S1 and Supp. Table S2).

Another emerging rare phenotype associated with biallelic MPV17 pathogenic variants is a neuromyopathic disease that has been described in four out of 100 (4%) individuals with MPV17-related mtDNA maintenance defect. This disease is of late onset and characterized by myopathy and neuropathy. One individual presented during childhood, two during adolescence, and one during adulthood (Figure 3). All the four individuals had myopathy and peripheral neuropathy. Liver manifestations were absent in two individuals, whereas the other two had milder liver involvement but without liver failure. Development was normal in all affected individuals. One individual had ptosis and ophthalmoplegia. MtDNA was assessed in muscle tissue in two individuals and showed normal mtDNA content with multiple mtDNA deletions (Blakely et al., 2012; Choi et al., 2015; Garone et al., 2012) (Supp. Table S1).

6 | GENOTYPE–PHENOTYPE CORRELATIONS

MPV17-related mtDNA maintenance defect is typically associated with high mortality with 75 out of 100 (75%) reported deceased. No clear genotype–phenotype correlation exists. However, a trend for a better survival can be observed in individuals with biallelic missense pathogenic variants compared with individuals with biallelic null

TABLE 2 Clinical and biochemical features of individuals with *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathic mtDNA maintenance defect

	Previously reported	This report	Total
Number of individuals	71	25	96
Number of families	56	23	79
Male:female	39:31	11:14	50:45
Presentation age	Neonate—18 y	Neonate—8 m	Neonate—18 y
Outcome	Alive 16. Dead 55	Alive 5. Dead 20	Alive 21. Dead 75
Hepatic manifestations			
Liver dysfunction	71/71 (100%)	25/25 (100%)	96/96 (100%)
Liver failure	65/71 (92%)	22/25 (88%)	87/96 (91%)
Cholestasis	46/71 (65%)	24/25 (96%)	70/96 (73%)
Hepatomegaly	38/71 (54%)	22/25 (88%)	60/96 (63%)
Steatosis	37/71 (52%)	12/25 (48%)	49/96 (51%)
Liver cirrhosis	14/71 (20%)	6/25 (24%)	20/96 (21%)
Hepatocellular cancer	3/71 (4%)	0/25 (0%)	3/96 (3%)
Neurologic manifestations			
Developmental delay	54/68 (79%)	21/23 (91%)	75/91 (82%)
Hypotonia	48/68 (71%)	19/23 (83%)	67/91 (74%)
Microcephaly	9/68 (13%)	12/23 (52%)	21/91 (23%)
Peripheral neuropathy	16/68 (24%)	1/23 (4%)	17/91 (19%)
Seizures	6/68 (9%)	3/23 (13%)	9/91 (10%)
Dystonia	2/68 (3%)	2/23 (9%)	4/91 (4%)
Ataxia	3/68 (4%)	0/23 (0%)	3/91 (3%)
Neuroimaging abnormalities			
White matter abnormalities	21/54 (39%)	6/17 (35%)	27/71 (38%)
Brainstem signal abnormalities	5/54 (9%)	1/17 (6%)	6/71 (8%)
Basal ganglia signal abnormalities	3/54 (6%)	3/17 (18%)	6/71 (8%)
Ophthalmologic manifestations			
Retinopathy	6/68 (9%)	1/23 (4%)	7/91 (8%)
Nystagmus	3/68 (4%)	3/23 (13%)	6/91 (7%)
Corneal anesthesia/ulcers	4/68 (6%)	0/23 (0%)	4/91 (4%)
Gastrointestinal manifestations			
Failure to thrive	61/68 (90%)	21/23 (91%)	82/91 (90%)
Gastrointestinal dysmotility	15/68 (22%)	15/23 (65%)	30/91 (33%)
Feeding difficulties	9/68 (13%)	19/23 (83%)	28/91 (31%)
Renal manifestations			
Renal tubulopathy	7/68 (10%)	2/23 (9%)	9/91 (10%)
Nephrocalcinosis	4/68 (6%)	3/23 (13%)	7/91 (8%)
Endocrine manifestations			
Hypoparathyroidism	3/68 (4%)	1/23 (4%)	4/91 (4%)
Metabolic abnormalities			
Lactic acidemia	52/68 (76%)	20/23 (87%)	72/91 (79%)
Hypoglycemia	38/68 (56%)	17/23 (74%)	55/91 (60%)
ETC complexes activity			
Low CI	22/27 (81%)	6/8 (75%)	28/35 (80%)
Low CII	8/27 (30%)	0/8 (0%)	8/35 (23%)
Low CIII	15/27 (56%)	5/8 (63%)	20/35 (57%)
Low CIV	21/27 (78%)	3/8 (38%)	24/35 (69%)
MtDNA content in liver	3%–40% (n = 37)	1%–20% (n = 10)	1%–40% (n = 47)
MtDNA content in muscle	8%–100% (n = 18)	NA	8%–100% (n = 18)
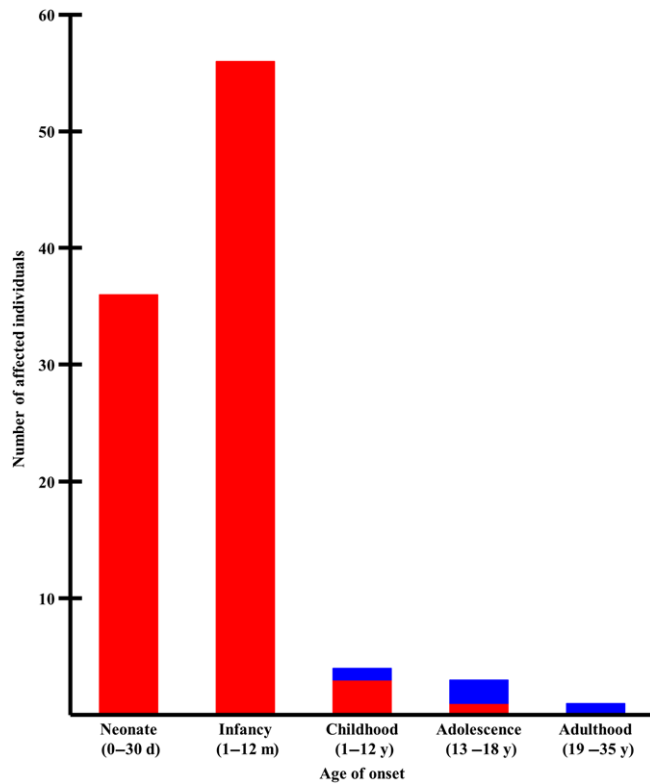
FIGURE 3 Age of onset for *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect. The height of red columns represents the number of affected individuals with *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathy at each age group. The height of blue columns represents the number of affected individuals with *MPV17*-related neuromyopathy

(nonsense, frameshift, deletions, and splice-site) variants or compound heterozygous for missense and null variants. In individuals with null variants 80% (41 out of 51) were reported deceased and the remaining 20% (20 out of 51) alive including only two adults. In comparison, in individuals with biallelic missense pathogenic variants 68% (32 out of 47%) were reported deceased and 32% (15 out of 47) alive including five adults. Therefore, mortality could be slightly lower in association with biallelic missense pathogenic variants. Further evaluation of missense variants suggests that certain variants may carry a lower mortality and longer survival. Homozygous p.R50Q variant has been described in individuals of Navajo ancestry of whom 55% (six out of 11) were reported deceased and 45% (five out of 11) living. In contrast to most cases of this disease where death occurs during infancy, three out of six died during adolescence or early adulthood (Bitting & Hanson, 2016; El-Hattab et al., 2010; Karadimas et al., 2006; Spinazzola et al., 2006). Similarly, homozygous p.P98L and homozygous p.R41Q variants each were reported in two individuals who were adults when reported (Blakely et al., 2012; Choi et al., 2015; Mendelsohn et al., 2014). These observations suggest that a genotype with biallelic missense variants, in particular homozygous p.R50Q, p.P98L, and p.R41Q, can carry a relatively better prognosis. The milder phenotype associated with the homozygous p.R50Q, p.P98L, and p.R41Q missense variants may suggest that amino acid substitutions at these positions result in a protein that preserves some residual function leading to a less severe disease (Table 1 and Supp. Tables S1 and Supp. Table S2).

7 | MANAGEMENT

There has been no curative treatment for this disease for which management remains largely symptomatic. Initially, affected individuals need to have a comprehensive evaluation to assess the degree of involvement of different organs, in particular liver and the nervous system. Hepatic evaluation includes liver function tests, ultrasound examination, alpha fetoprotein measurement, and consultation with a hepatologist. Neurological evaluation includes developmental and cognitive assessment, neurologic consultation and comprehensive neurologic examination, brain MRI, nerve conduction studies if neuropathy is suspected, and electroencephalogram (EEG) if seizures are suspected. In addition, affected individuals need ophthalmologic examination. Lactate and acid–base status should be monitored over time. Measuring blood glucose should be considered to monitor for hypoglycemia, particularly in the first 6 months of life. Management of this disease should involve a multidisciplinary team that aims to provide supportive care and symptomatic treatment for the complications associated with this disorder (El-Hattab et al., 2012, 2017).

Failure to thrive and feeding difficulties may require consultation with a gastroenterologist, nutritional support by an experienced dietitian, and the use of a nasogastric tube or gastrostomy tube feedings. Formulas enriched with medium-chain triglycerides can provide better nutritional support for children with cholestasis than formulas containing mainly long-chain triglycerides. Avoidance of fasting by frequent or continuous feeding can be required to prevent hypoglycemia. In addition, the use of uncooked cornstarch can help in reducing symptomatic hypoglycemia in affected children. The use of cornstarch may also slow the progression of the liver disease (El-Hattab et al., 2017; Parini et al., 2009).

Although liver transplantation remains the only treatment option for liver failure in this disease, liver transplantation in mitochondrial hepatopathies remains controversial, largely because of the multiorgan involvement in mitochondrial diseases (Parikh et al., 2016). Liver transplantation has been performed for ∼20% of affected children; however, the outcome has not been satisfactory with ∼60% of the transplanted children died during the post-transplantation period.

Although no curative therapy is currently available for this severe disease, our better understanding of the disease pathophysiology can open the door to evaluating novel potential therapeutic options. Studying mitochondria from Mpv17 deficient mice liver and fibroblasts obtained from individuals with MPV17 deficiency showed decreased mitochondrial nucleotides and severe mtDNA depletion. Interestingly, nucleoside supplementation to these fibroblasts was able to prevent and rescue the mtDNA loss; therefore, nucleoside supplementation can be a potential therapeutic strategy for *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect (Dalla Rosa et al., 2016).

8 | CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

Including individuals in this report, MPV17 deficiency causing *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect is described in 100 individuals.

The vast majority (96%) presented with early-onset encephalohepatopathic disease and small minority (4%) presented with late-onset neuromyopathic disease. *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathy typically has an early onset during neonatal period or infancy and is characterized by hepatic manifestations (liver dysfunction where the majority progress to failure, cholestasis, hepatomegaly, and steatosis), neurological manifestations (developmental delay and hypotonia), failure to thrive, lactic acidemia, and mtDNA depletion detected mainly in liver tissue. *MPV17*-related encephalohepatopathy typically has a poor prognosis with the majority of affected individuals dying during infancy or early childhood because of liver failure. *MPV17*-related neuromyopathy has later onset during childhood or adulthood and is characterized by myopathy, peripheral neuropathy, and no or minimal liver involvement. It is not fully understood why MPV17 deficiency affects specific organs, particularly liver and nervous system. The high expression of MPV17 in liver and brain (http://www.genecards.org/cgi-bin/carddisp.pl?gene=mpv17) could suggest a particular important function for MPV17 protein in these organs. It is also possible that there could be other proteins with high homology to MPV17 (Iida et al., 2003) that may play a protective role and could be expressed more abundantly in tissues where you do not typically see evidence of disease in MPV17 deficiency.

Approximately half of the *MPV17* pathogenic variants are missense. Other types include nonsense, frameshift, splice-site, inframe deletions, and large exonic deletions. Some clustering of missense pathogenic variants is observed in a short 11 amino acid segment including the distal part of the second linker and the proximal part of TM3 suggesting an important role for this segment. A genotype with biallelic missense variants, in particular homozygous p.R50Q, p.P98L, and p.R41Q, can carry a relatively better prognosis.

There has been no curative treatment for this disease for which management remains largely symptomatic. Liver transplantation has been performed for some affected children; however, the outcome has not been satisfactory with significant number of the transplanted children died during the post-transplantation period. Nucleoside supplementation can be a potential therapeutic strategy for *MPV17*-related mtDNA maintenance defect.

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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