

Chromosomal assignment of seven genes on canine chromosomes by fluorescence in situ hybridization

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Abstract. Our group has developed more than 600 DNA markers to build a map of the canine genome. Of these markers, 125 correspond to genes (anchor loci). Here we report the first six autosomal genes assigned to canine chromosomes by fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), using cosmid DNA: adenine phosphoribosyl transferase on Chromosome (Chr) 3; creatine kinase muscle type on Chr 4; pyruvate kinase liver and red blood cell type on Chr 2; and colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor, glucose transporter protein-2, and tumor protein p53 on Chr 5. These assignments are based on the karyotype proposed by Stone and associates (Genome 34, 407, 1991) using high-resolution techniques. In addition, we have assigned the Menkes gene to the X Chr of the dog.

Introduction

We have been conducting a major project for the last five years developing about 600 canine DNA markers. This project, which has received financial support from the American Kennel Club, the Morris Animal Foundation, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, has as its major objective the development of a linked marker approach to canine genetic diseases. The canine DNA markers are of two types; approximately 500 of them are microsatellites, and about 125 are anchor loci. Anchor loci are actual genes previously cloned in other species, for which we have isolated a portion of the canine homolog. Since genes are conserved and microsatellites generally are not, the inclusion of anchor loci markers allows us to begin developing a canine genetic map that can be related to the genetic map of other species. The development of a genetic map for species offers many advantages. For the dog, a major area will be the use of homologous maps in the human and mouse to develop candidate genes for a canine genetic disease.

We have developed 125 canine anchor loci that we plan to map to specific dog chromosomes, using fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) and G-banded karyotypes. Herein we demonstrate the localization of seven genes, six of which are autosomal, the first autosomal genes mapped by in situ hybridization in the dog.

Materials and methods

Anchor loci isolation and probe generation. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primers for each of the anchor loci reported were designed based on conserved regions in homologous genes of other mammalian genomes (Venta et al., manuscript submitted). The PCR product obtained from the canine genome was sequenced and its homology to the human and

mouse investigated to verify the identity of the canine product. These primers were used to screen a canine genomic cosmid library. Sub-libraries that yielded PCR products of an expected size were rescreened by colony hybridization with PCR products oligo-labeled with α -³²P-dCTP as probes. Positive colonies were picked and used as templates in PCR reactions with the appropriate primers to verify the identity of the clone. In some cases, sequencing reactions were carried out to further confirm their identity.

Cosmid DNAs were prepared with a standard alkaline lysis protocol (Sambrook et al. 1989). One microgram of each cosmid was labeled with biotin 14-dATP according to the Bio-Nick Labeling System (Gibco-BLR), to generate 200–500 base pair long fragments.

Chromosome preparation, in situ hybridization, and post-hybridization banding. To obtain chromosome spreads, lymphocyte cultures were synchronized with methotrexate and treated with 5-bromodeoxyuridine for the final 5 h before harvest, as described by Stone et al. (1991). The FISH technique was performed according to Yu and colleagues (1992) with some modifications. Briefly, for each slide, 100–150 ng of biotinylated probe was used in the presence of 75×–100× excess sheared dog genomic DNA and herring testes DNA to suppress background. Signals were detected with fluorescein avidin D (Vector) and one amplification step. Chromosomes were examined with a Leitz Orthoplan fluorescent microscope and photographed with Ektachrome 400 ASA Kodak film. After the signals were recorded, the slides were washed in 4xSSC/0.5% Tween 20 and stained with Wright stain solution in phosphate buffer pH 6.7 to obtain G-bands.

For each cosmid probe, 10–20 metaphases were analyzed. Chromosomes with signals were identified by G-banding and shown to be the same. At least three complete karyotypes were constructed for each probe.

Results

The karyotyping carried out in this study was based on the idiogram proposed by Stone and coworkers (1991). In situ hybridization of cosmid probes gave good signals on distinct chromosomes. The first probe hybridized, as a partial check on the procedure, was the Menkes gene (*MNK*), which hybridized to Xq as expected (Table 1).

A series of six autosomal genes were studied. Their assignments in the dog are presented in Table 1 along with their human and mouse chromosomal assignments and any human diseases caused by defects in these genes.

For the *MNK* cosmid we recorded 11 metaphases (six from a female culture, 5 from a male culture), obtaining signals on 41% of chromatids. We analyzed 27 metaphases from the *APRT* cosmid, obtaining signals in 63% of the chromatids; for *CKMM*, 20 metaphases were analyzed and signals recorded in 68% of chromatids. *CSF1R* gave signals on 82% of chromatids (28 metaphases recorded). *GLUT2* had 24 metaphases analyzed and signals in 95% of the chromatids; for *PKLR*, 22 metaphases were analyzed and signals were found on 92% of the chromatids, and *TP53* had 37 metaphases analyzed and signals on 62% of chromatids. For the

Table 1. Chromosome assignment of anchor loci (genes) in the dog.

Cosmid anchor loci probes	Chromosomal Assignments			Associated diseases
	Dog	Human	Mouse ^a	
MNK (ATPase, CU ⁺⁺ transporting, alpha polypeptide)	X	Xq13.2-q13.3 Verga et al. (1991)	X(Mo)	Menkes disease
APRT (Adenine phosphoribosyl transferase)	3	16 q 24 Fratini et al. (1986)	8 (Aprt)	urolithiasis
CKMM (Creatine kinase muscle type)	4	19q13.3 Nigro et al. (1987)	7(Ckmm)	
CSFIR (Colony stimulating factor 1-receptor)	5	5q33 LeBeau et al. (1986)	18(Csfmr)	c-fms proto-oncogene
GLUT2 (Glucose transporter protein-2)	5	3q26 Fukumoto et al. (1988)	3(Glut-2)	non-insulin-dependent diabetes (?)
PKLR (Pyruvate kinase, liver and RBC type)	2	1q21 Satoh et al. (1988)	3(Pk1r)	pyruvate kinase deficiency hemolytic anemia
TP53 (Tumor protein p53)	5	17p13.1 Isobe et al. (1986)	11(Trp53)	colorectal cancer; Li-Fraumeni syndrome

^aAll references for the mouse loci from Silver, L.M. (1993)

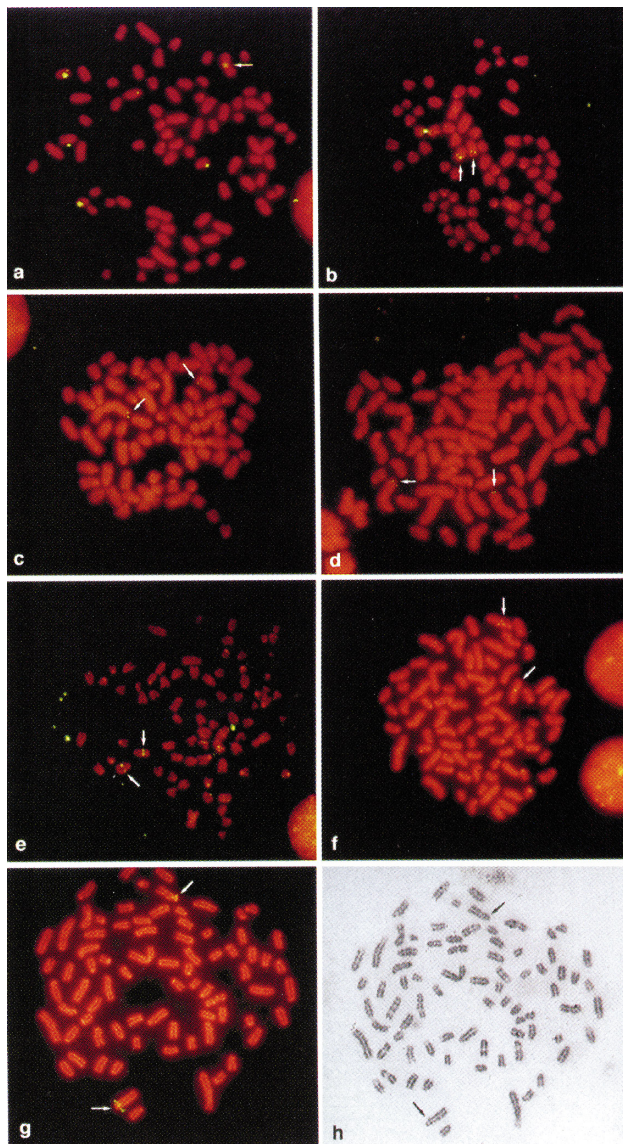


Fig. 1. Metaphases showing distinct fluorescence signals (arrows) on dog chromosomes after hybridization with the following cosmid probes: (a) Menkes on Xq; (b) APRT on Chr 3; (c) CKMM on Chr 4; (d) TP53 on Chr 5; (e) GLUT2 on Chr 5; (f) CSFIR on Chr 5; (g) PKLR on Chr 2; (h) shows the same metaphase as in (g), stained after FISH to identify chromosomes by G-banding.

autosomal genes, at least 50% of chromatids showed signal in all cases.

Figure 1 shows examples of signals obtained from each locus, and an example of a G-banded metaphase stained after carrying out the FISH procedure.

Discussion

These six autosomal genes localized to canine chromosomes are the first autosomal genes to be physically mapped in the dog. We have great confidence in the assignments, based on the idiogram by Stone and associates (1991). There is some discussion of developing an internationally agreed upon karyotype for the dog. We have employed the one developed by Stone and colleagues (1991) since it is the most recent and the best described. In any case, the canine chromosomal assignments of the genes in Table 1 can be easily reassigned if a different idiogram is eventually agreed upon. Another idiogram for the canine chromosomes has been proposed by Selden and coworkers (1975). In the case of the loci studied in this paper, it is possible to assign chromosome numbers based on Selden's idiogram as well: Chr 4 is the same in both idiograms, and Chr 2, 3, and 5 would be 6, 5, and 7 respectively.

It is interesting that three of the six genes are assigned to canine Chr 5. This appears to be simply due to chance. Two of these genes (*GLUT2* and *CSFIR*) are relatively close together, while the third (*TP53*) is distant from the other two. None of these loci are syntenic in the mouse or the human. Inspection of the current human and mouse genome maps indicates that *GLUT2* is not located in a conserved linkage group but that *CSFIR* and *TP53* are in relatively well conserved regions between mouse Chr 18 and human Chr 5q and between mouse Chr 11 and human Chr 17p respectively (Mouse Genome Database 1995).

The canine genome map is in its infancy. Our long-range goal is to put over 600 markers on the canine map. We have developed 500 microsatellite markers and 125 anchor loci markers. Anchor loci are small pieces of actual canine genes, highly conserved in other species, generally the mouse and human (Venta et al., manuscript submitted). It is the cosmids containing six of these anchor loci that we have mapped in this study. Thus, using the anchor loci already developed, we have the potential to map approximately 125 canine genes with the FISH technique.

For mapping the microsatellites, we plan to use a linkage approach, much as with the Centre d'Etudes du Polymorphisme Humain (CEPH) human families. This linkage study will include the anchor loci, which will allow the mapping of the microsatellites on chromosomes relative to the anchor loci.

There is considerable conservation of linkage homology across mammalian species. The mapping of the anchor loci will allow

investigators studying dog genetic diseases to begin developing a better list of candidate genes for specific genetic diseases, based on potential homologs in other species.

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