



Pediatric Cohort With Long QT Syndrome – *KCNH2* Mutation Carriers Present Late Onset But Severe Symptoms –

Junichi Ozawa, MD; Seiko Ohno, MD, PhD; Takashi Hisamatsu, MD, PhD;
Hideki Itoh, MD, PhD; Takeru Makiyama, MD, PhD; Hiroshi Suzuki, MD, PhD;
Akihiko Saitoh, MD, PhD; Minoru Horie, MD, PhD

Background: In children with long QT syndrome (LQTS), risk factors for cardiac events have been reported, but age-, gender- and genotype-related differences in prognosis remain unknown in Asian countries.

Methods and Results: The study examined clinical prognosis at age between 1 and 20 years in 496 LQTS patients who were genotyped as either of LQT1–3 (male, n=206). Heterozygous mutations were observed in 3 major responsible genes: *KCNQ1* in 271, *KCNH2* in 192, and *SCN5A* in 33 patients. LQTS-associated events were classified into 3 categories: (1) syncope (n=133); (2) repetitive torsade de pointes (TdP, n=3); and (3) cardiopulmonary arrest (CPA, n=4). The risk of cardiac events was significantly lower in LQT1 girls than boys ≤12 years (HR, 0.55), whereas LQT2 female patients ≥13 years had the higher risk of cardiac events than male patients (HR, 4.60). Patients in the repetitive TdP or CPA group included 1 LQT1 female patient, 1 LQT2 male patient, and 5 LQT2 female patients. All LQT2 patients in these groups had TdP repeatedly immediately after the antecedent event. In addition, all 5 female LQT2 patients in these groups had the event after or near puberty.

Conclusions: Female LQT2 children might have repeated TdP shortly after prior events, especially after puberty. (*Circ J* 2016; **80**: 696–702)

Key Words: Child; Genetics; Long QT syndrome; Sex hormone; Torsade de pointes

Long QT syndrome (LQTS) is an inherited heart disease associated with increased propensity to syncope, torsade de pointes (TdP), and sudden arrhythmic death.¹ It is an important cause of sudden cardiac death in children without structural heart disease.² Syncope in LQTS is due to TdP, and death is usually due to ventricular fibrillation.³ Hundreds of mutations have been identified in >10 LQTS-susceptibility genes and approximately 75% of clinically diagnosed patients with LQTS are successfully genotyped. Most of them are found to carry a mutation in either one of 3 major genes: *KCNQ1* (LQT1), *KCNH2* (LQT2), or *SCN5A* (LQT3).^{4–6}

prevalence of *SCN5A* and *KCNH2* (S5-loop-S6 missense) mutations.^{10–13} Risk factors for cardiac events in children from birth to 20 years have been reported: LQT1 boy ≤15 years, LQT2 girl ≥16 years, corrected QT interval (QTc) prolongation >500ms, and history of prior syncope.^{14–17} Age-, gender- and genotype-related differences in prognosis, however, remain unknown in Asian countries, although the presence of country-specific hot spots in LQTS mutations has been reported.¹⁸ In addition, differences in clinical course shortly after the prior event remain unknown. Therefore, the present study focused on patients with symptomatic LQTS who were identified as mutation carriers in any of the 3 major genes responsible for LQTS in children (from 1 to 20 years), and analyzed their distribution and severity of disease.

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Risk stratification depends on genotype, mutation type, and mutation location. Specifically, patients with cytoplasmic-loop (C-loop) missense *KCNQ1* and S5-loop-S6 missense *KCNH2* mutations have a greater risk for cardiac events.^{7–9} In neonates and infants, several previous studies have reported genetic background underlying fatal arrhythmias and indicated high

Methods

Subjects

The study consisted of 496 LQTS patients (283 probands and 213 family members) who were genetically confirmed as either

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Department of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Medicine (J.O., S.O., T.H., H.I., M.H.), Center for Epidemiologic Research in Asia (S.O., T.H.), Department of Public Health (T.H.), Shiga University of Medical Science, Otsu; Department of Pediatrics, Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Niigata (J.O., H.S., A.S.); and Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto (T.M.), Japan

Mailing address: Minoru Horie, MD, PhD, Department of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Medicine, Shiga University of Medical Science, Seta-Tsukinowa, Otsu 520-2192, Japan. E-mail: horie@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

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Table 1. Subject Clinical Characteristics vs. Genotype and Gender

	<i>KCNQ1</i> mutation carrier (n=271)		<i>KCNH2</i> mutation carrier (n=192)		<i>SCN5A</i> mutation carrier (n=33)	
	Male (n=104)	Female (n=167)	Male (n=81)	Female (n=111)	Male (n=21)	Female (n=12)
Mean follow-up (years)	10 (7–15)	14 (9–20)**	15 (10–20)	16 (12–20)	14 (12–20)	13 (11–20)
ECG data (without β-blocker)						
ECG recorded at ≤ 12 years	n=52	n=47	n=24	n=24	n=8	n=4
Age at ECG (years)	8 (6.2–10.7)	7 (7–10)	9 (7.2–11)	7.5 (6–9.7)	11 (7.5–12)	8.5 (6–11.7)
RR (ms)	840 (730–979)	821 (769–893)	833 (713–985)	783 (687–910)	799 (777–951)	751 (543–1,160)
QTc (ms)	470 (452–493)†††	475 (460–488)	496 (454–533)	472 (448–494)	463 (416–499)	438 (389–495)
QTc >500ms	12 (23)	8 (17)	11 (45)	5 (20)	2 (25)	1 (25)
ECG recorded at ≥ 13 years	n=46	n=103	n=50	n=77	n=12	n=7
Age at ECG (years)	30.5 (15–45)	36 (17–42)	29 (16–52.2)	30 (17–40.5)	32 (14–43)	47 (16–58)
RR (ms)	959 (880–1,057)††	967 (866–1,090)††	1,005 (905–1,152)*,††	921 (823–1,044)††	1,000 (843–1,091)†	1,100 (846–1,170)
QTc (ms)	448 (419–464)	463 (444–484)***	476 (443–500)	503 (469–526)**,†††	422 (377–484)	483 (427–495)
QTc >500ms	4 (8)	18 (17)	16 (28)	45 (51)**	2 (15)	2 (25)
Cardiac events						
Total	30 (28)	45 (26)	16 (19)	43 (38)**	2 (9.5)	4 (33)
Syncope	30 (28)	44 (26)	15 (18)	38 (34)*	2 (9.5)	4 (33)
Repetitive TdP	0	0	0	3 (2)	0	0
CPA	0	1 (0.5)	1 (1)	2 (1)	0	0

Data given as median (IQR) or n (%). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ for comparison of male and female in the same genotype and age group. † $P < 0.05$, †† $P < 0.01$, ††† $P < 0.001$ for comparison of the groups ≤ 12 and ≥ 13 years in the same genotype and gender group. CPA, cardiopulmonary arrest; ECG, electrocardiogram; QTc, corrected QT interval; TdP, torsade de pointes.

LQT1, LQT2, or LQT3. All but 1 Vietnamese boy were Japanese. They were referred to 2 institutes for genetic testing: Shiga University of Medical Science or Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine between 1996 and December 2013. The study protocol was approved by the institutional review boards. Patients with compound or homozygous mutations were excluded from the study. We also excluded those with mutations in other LQTS-related genes. On enrollment, complete history was obtained retrospectively from birth to age of study entry. If someone was enrolled after reaching 20 years, we used only the clinical history from birth to 20 years. Patients who had received β -blockers before cardiac events were excluded during the analysis of the natural progress of the disease. No female patient was pregnant or in the postpartum phase when they had the first cardiac event. Thus, we assessed age- and genotype-related severity of LQTS children from 1 to 20 years.

LQTS-related events were classified into 3 categories: (1) syncope (transient and complete loss of consciousness); (2) repetitive TdP (documented within 24h from the first syncope); and (3) cardiopulmonary arrest (CPA). The CPA group consisted of patients with aborted cardiac arrest requiring external defibrillation as part of resuscitation. In order to measure QTc (with Bazett correction¹⁹), 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECG) recorded at the enrolled age were used for asymptomatic patients. If asymptomatic patients were aged >20 years when enrolled, the first recorded ECG were used. For symptomatic patients, ECG recorded at onset were used. If there was no ECG available at onset, the ECG first recorded after onset was used. In patients with CPA, the ECG recorded before the cardiac event or ≥ 1 month after was used in order

to avoid the influence of resuscitation.

Genetic Analysis

Screening for mutations was routinely performed for *KCNQ1*, *KCNH2*, *SCN5A*, *KCNE1*, *KCNE2*, and *KCNJ2* using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and denatured high-performance liquid chromatography (WAVE system; Transgenomic Omaha, NE, USA). For aberrant PCR products, subsequent direct DNA sequencing was conducted using a DNA sequencer (ABI 3130 DNA Sequencer, Perkin Elmer, Foster City, CA, USA). Genetic mutations were characterized by their location and coding effects on the amino acid sequence. We divided coding effects into 2 categories: (1) missense or (2) non-missense (putative splice sites, in-frame insertions/deletions, nonsense, and frameshift mutations). The C-loop region of *KCNQ1* was defined as the coding sequence involving amino acid residues 171–195 (S2–S3) and 242–262 (S4–S5), and the S5-loop-S6 region of *KCNH2* was defined as the amino acid region ranging from residue 552 to 657.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 22.0 (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). Data are given as mean \pm SD for continuous variables and number (percentage) for categorical variables. Differences in characteristics were evaluated using unpaired Student's t-test, Mann-Whitney U-test, or chi-squared test, as appropriate. Then, we analyzed patients with *KCNQ1* and *KCNH2* because of the limited number of the patients with *SCN5A*. We used the Kaplan-Meier method to estimate the distribution of time to first cardiac event before β -blocker therapy

Table 2. Age at Symptom Onset vs. Genotype

	Total			Male			Female		
	n (%)		Onset age (years), median (IQR)	n (%)		Onset age (years), median (IQR)	n (%)		Onset age (years), median (IQR)
	Symptomatic/Total	CPA or repetitive TdP		Symptomatic/Total	CPA or repetitive TdP		Symptomatic/Total	CPA or repetitive TdP	
<i>KCNQ1</i>	75/271 (27)	1 (0.3)	10 (7–11)	30/104 (28)	0 (0)	7 (6–10)	45/167 (26)	1 (0.5)	10 (8–13)**
Missense									
C-loop	11/41 (26)		9 (7–13)	6/15 (40)		7 (5.7–9.7)	5/26 (19)		11 (9.5–14)
Non-C-loop	44/169 (26)		9 (7–11)	16/62 (25)		7 (6–10)	28/107 (26)		10 (7.2–11.7)
Non-missense	20/61 (32)		10 (7–14.5)	8/27 (29)		10 (5.2–10.7)	12/34 (35)		13 (7.7–16)
<i>KCNH2</i>	59/192 (30)	6 (3) [†]	13 (9–15) ^{†††}	16/81 (19)	1 (1.2)	10 (7.2–12.7) [†]	43/111 (38)**	5 (4.5) [†]	14 (12–16)** ^{††}
Missense									
S5-loop-S6	19/46 (41)		12 (8–15)	6/21 (28)		10.5 (6.7–15.5)	13/25 (52)		13 (9–15)
Non-S5-loop-S6	17/67 (25)		13 (11–16)	4/26 (15)		10.5 (6.2–12.5)	13/41 (31)		14 (12–17)
Non-missense	23/79 (29)		14 (8.5–16)	6/34 (17)		9 (6.5–11.5)	17/45 (37)		15 (13–18)**
<i>SCN5A</i>	6/33 (18)	0 (0)	14 (9.7–16.2)	2/21 (9)	0 (0)	16, 17	4/12 (33)	0 (0)	11.5 (7.2–15)
Missense	5/25 (20)		12 (8.5–16.5)	1/15 (6)		17	4/10 (40)		11.5 (7.2–15)
Non-missense	1/8 (12)		16	1/6 (16)		16	0/2 (0)		–
Total	140/496 (28)	7 (1.4)	10.5 (7–14)	48/206 (23)	1 (0.4)	9 (6–11)	92/290 (31)*	6 (2)	12 (9–15)**

*P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 for the comparison of male and female in the same genotype. †P<0.05, ††P<0.01, †††P<0.001 for the comparison of *KCNQ1* and *KCNH2* mutation carrier. C-loop, cytoplasmic loop. Other abbreviations as in Table 1.

based on genotype-gender subsets (categorized as male with *KCNQ1* mutation, female with *KCNQ1* mutation, male with *KCNH2* mutation, and female with *KCNH2* mutation), using the log-rank test to compare differences between subsets. Cox proportional hazards models, allowing for separate baseline hazard function for each genotype, were used to assess the association of gender (female vs. male) with first cardiac event within each genotype and age group, adjusted for QTc.

The risk of cardiac events may be related to sex hormone factors.¹ Puberty begins with the elevation of sex hormones, especially estrogen in girls. The mean age of puberty onset is 12.5±0.9 years in boys and 10.0±1.4 years in girls.²⁰ In addition, menarche begins at the mean age of 12.4±1.0 years,²¹ after that time girls have higher estrogen to progesterone ratio around ovulation. Therefore, we conducted separate Cox models for 2 age groups: age 1–12 years and age 13–20 years. One year of age was used as the time origin in the analysis of mutation carriers age 1–12 years, whereas for the mutation carriers aged 13–20 years, 13 years of age was considered as the time origin. Differences were accepted as statistically significant for 2-tailed P<0.05.

Results

Clinical Characteristics

Table 1 lists clinical characteristics according to genotype and gender. LQT1 or LQT2 patients had no gender-related difference in QTc in the 1–12-year age group (LQT1, P=0.73; LQT2, P=0.11). In contrast, in the ≥13-year age group, girls

had significantly longer QTc than boys both in the LQT1 (male, 445±38 ms; female, 471±43 ms; P<0.001) and the LQT2 groups (male, 478±63 ms; female, 505±51 ms; P=0.002). Compared for age in gender-genotype, QTc was shorter in LQT1 male patients ≥13 years than in those ≤12 years (445±38 ms vs. 475±36 ms, P<0.001), and the QTc was longer in LQT2 girls ≥13 years than in those ≤12 years (505±51 ms vs. 474±35 ms, P<0.001), although there were no age-dependent differences in LQT1 girls (P=0.47) or LQT2 boys (P=0.23). LQT3 patients had no gender-related or age-dependent difference in QTc.

In LQT2 patients, female subjects were more likely to have cardiac events between 1 and 20 years than male subjects (male, 16/81, 19%; female, 43/111, 38%; P=0.005), although there was no significant gender-related difference in the events rate in the LQT1 and LQT3 patients (LQT1, P=0.74; LQT3, P=0.16).

Age at first symptom onset and the respective number of genotyped patients are summarized in **Table 2**. A total of 140 patients (28%) had cardiac events between 1 and 20 years of age, and the mutation distribution was as follows: *KCNQ1* mutations, n=75; *KCNH2* mutations, n=59; and *SCN5A* mutations, n=6. LQT2 patients were more likely to have CPA or repetitive TdP than LQT1 patients (LQT1, 1/271, 0.3%; LQT2, 6/192, 3%; P=0.022). There was no significant difference in QTc between the CPA (515±55 ms), repetitive TdP (554±84 ms), and syncope (491±54 ms) groups (P=0.22), and the QTc in syncope group patients was longer than in asymptomatic patients (470±45 ms, P<0.001; **Table 3**).

All mutations were heterozygous and were classified into missense or non-missense. With regard to *KCNQ1* mutations,

Table 3. Subject Characteristics vs. Clinical Symptom

	CPA (n=4)	TdP (n=3)	Syncope (n=102)	Asymptomatic (n=345)
ECG data (without β -blocker)				
RR (ms)	690, 869, 967, 1,304	882, 1,132, 1,176	920 (800–1,037)	920 (800–1,024)
QTc (ms)	464, 472, 557, 566	473, 549, 640*	480 (461–518)***	466 (446–493)
QTc >500 ms	2 (50)	2 (66)	39 (38)*	74 (21)
Onset age (years)	8, 12, 13, 15	9, 14, 15	11.0 \pm 4.6	–

Data given as n (%), mean \pm SD or median (IQR). *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 compared with the asymptomatic group. Abbreviations as in Table 1.

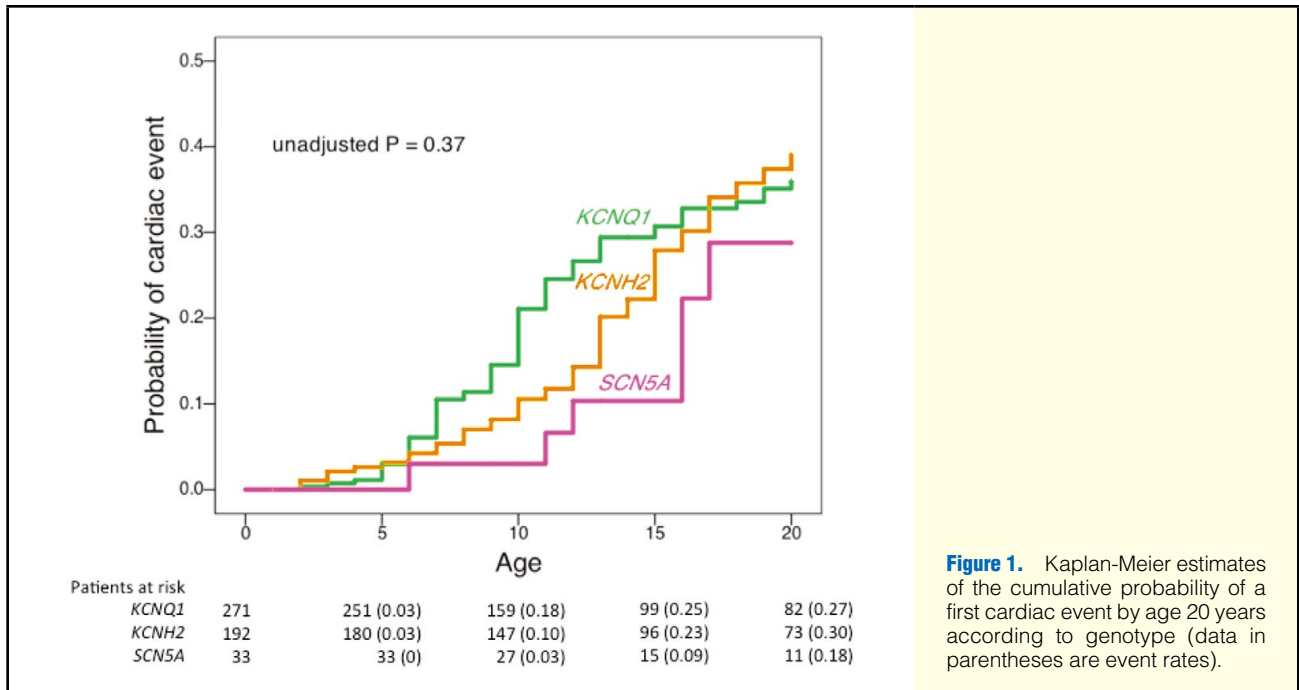


Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier estimates of the cumulative probability of a first cardiac event by age 20 years according to genotype (data in parentheses are event rates).

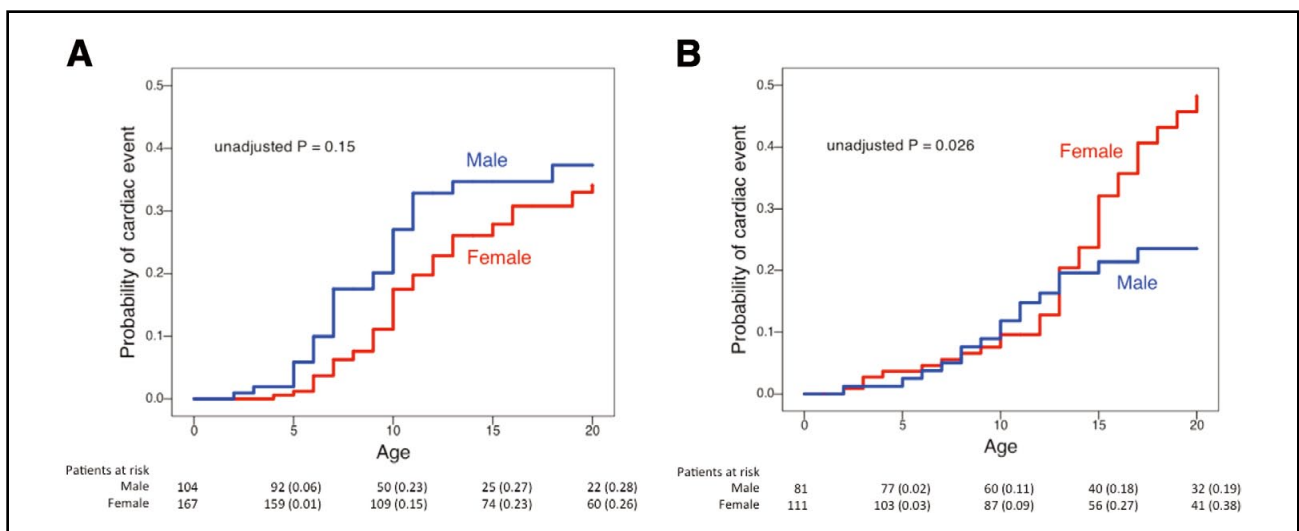


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier estimates of the cumulative probability of a first cardiac event by age 20 years according to gender in (A) LQT1 (*KCNQ1*) and (B) LQT2 (*KCNH2*) mutation carriers (data in parentheses are event rates).

	LQTS mutation carriers age 1–12 years			LQTS mutation carriers age 13–20 years without prior events		
	HR	95% CI	P-value	HR	95% CI	P-value
Female vs. Male						
<i>KCNQ1</i>	0.55	0.33–0.93	0.024	1.65	0.36–7.54	0.53
<i>KCNH2</i>	0.71	0.32–1.55	0.39	4.60	1.62–13.07	0.004
QTc (10-ms increase)	1.002	0.998–1.007	0.24	1.012	1.008–1.016	<0.001

The Cox analysis involved 86 first cardiac events from 1 to 12 years in 463 *KCNQ1* or *KCNH2* mutation carriers, and 48 first cardiac events from 13 to 20 years in 263 *KCNQ1* or *KCNH2* mutation carriers without cardiac events before age 13. LQTS, long QT syndrome; QTc, corrected QT interval.

ID no.	Gender	Age at event (years)	Gene/Mutation	RR (ms)	QTc (ms)	TdP [†]
CPA						
1	F	12	<i>KCNQ1</i> S277L	967	464	(–)
2	M	8	<i>KCNH2</i> K897fs+49X	690	566	(+)
3	F	13	<i>KCNH2</i> A561V	869	472	(+)
4	F	15	<i>KCNH2</i> K638del	1,304	557	(+)
Repetitive TdP						
1	F	9	<i>KCNH2</i> S871fs+31X	1,176	473	(+)
2	F	14	<i>KCNH2</i> F640del	882	640	(+)
3	F	15	<i>KCNH2</i> L908fs+30X	1,132	549	(+)

[†]Documented within 24 h from the first cardiac event. F, female; M, male. Other abbreviations as in Table 1.

there were 11 missense in the C-loop, 57 missense in the non-C-loop, and 7 non-missense. Among *KCNH2* mutations, there were 19 missense in the S5-loop-S6, 17 missense in the non-S5-loop-S6, and 23 non-missense. There were 5 missense and 1 non-missense mutations in *SCN5A* (Table 2).

Genotype and Age at First Cardiac Event

As shown in Table 2, mean onset age in the *KCNH2* group was significantly higher (12.5 ± 4.7 years) than in the *KCNQ1* group (9.7 ± 3.8 years, $P < 0.001$), and this propensity was similar in both boys (*KCNQ1*, 8.1 ± 3.3 years; *KCNH2*, 9.8 ± 3.9 years; $P = 0.028$) and girls (*KCNQ1*, 10.7 ± 3.8 years; *KCNH2*, 13.2 ± 4.7 years; $P = 0.002$). Boys became symptomatic at a significantly younger age than girls in the *KCNQ1* ($P = 0.003$) and *KCNH2* ($P = 0.005$) groups. There were no significant differences in mean patient age according to type and location of mutation in *KCNQ1* and *KCNH2*, respectively. Furthermore, the same pattern was observed in both boys and girls.

Age at onset was not significantly different between the CPA (12.0 ± 3.0 years), repetitive TdP (12.7 ± 3.3 years), and syncope (11.0 ± 4.6 years) groups ($P = 0.73$; Table 3).

When comparing by genotype, the cumulative probability of a first cardiac event by age 20 years was 27% in LQT1, 30% in LQT2 and 18% in LQT3 (Figure 1).

Given that the number of *KCNQ1* and of *KCNH2* mutation carriers was relatively large, we examined the gender difference in these 2 groups (Figure 2). Figure 2A shows cumulative probability of a first cardiac event in patients with *KCNQ1* mutation. On Cox regression analysis, LQT1 girls ≤ 12 years had significantly lower risk for cardiac events than boys (HR, 0.55; 95% CI: 0.33–0.93; $P = 0.024$), whereas there was no significant gender difference in risk in LQT1 patients ≥ 13 years (HR, 1.65; 95% CI: 0.36–7.54; $P = 0.53$; Table 4).

Figure 2B shows cumulative probability of a first cardiac event in LQT2 patients. The Kaplan-Meier curve clearly shows an exponential increase in symptomatic female patients after puberty, resulting in a cross-over of the 2 curves. Furthermore, LQT2 girls ≥ 13 years had a significant increase in the risk compared with boys of the same age range (HR, 4.60; 95% CI: 1.62–13.07; $P = 0.004$; Table 4), although there was no significant gender difference in those ≤ 12 years (HR, 0.71; 95% CI: 0.32–1.55; $P = 0.39$).

CPA and Repetitive TdP

Table 5 summarizes the genetic background in 7 children with CPA or repetitive TdP. Interestingly, their mutations were either in the channel-pore region or frameshift/nonsense in the C-terminus. There were 6 patients with LQT2 (5 girls) and only 1 with LQT1 (12-year-old girl). All these 6 female patients with severe cardiac events had onset after or near puberty. The only male patient was an 8-year-old boy with CPA (CPA case 2) who had hypokalemia (< 3.0 mEq/L) due to severe diarrhea at the cardiac event.

Discussion

In the present study, we found that the phenotype in LQT2 was more severe than in LQT1 (Table 2), although the overall event rates were similar (Figure 1). We also showed that female LQT2 patients had TdP repeatedly within a short term after prior events, especially after puberty. In a study on 1,520 patients with LQTS before the age of 40 years, documented TdP was reportedly more common among female than male patients, particularly among LQT2 mutation carriers.²² The previous study, however, did not mention whether the TdP occurred repeatedly immediately after the event or not in

LQT2 patients. The present study first reported that repetitive TdP or fatal events were more common in LQT2. If a patient were suspected of LQT2 based on ECG findings (QT prolongation, notched, or bifid T waves), he/she would have repetitive events after the first TdP attack. In such a condition, genetic testing would be of clinical importance because the genotype (eg, mutations in the channel-pore region) appears to influence disease severity.

Female LQT2 patients have their first cardiac event at a higher rate after the onset of adolescence.^{17,23} Consistent with previous data, the present study noted a significantly prolonged QTc and increased risk of first cardiac event after puberty in LQT2 female patients, although there was no significant age-related difference in LQT2 male patients. Therefore, sex hormones may contribute to QT interval shortening or prolongation and the occurrence of cardiac events. In addition, hormonal state varies with the menstrual cycle in female patients after puberty.

In the menstrual cycle, longer QT interval is observed during the follicular phase than during the luteal phase.²⁴ Although electrophysiological experiments using a guinea pig model showed that estrogen prolongs the action potential duration (APD) through the inhibition of I_{Kr} ,²⁵ the effect of estrogen on QT interval in humans remains controversial.²⁶ Progesterone shortens APD, which is mainly attributable to the enhancement of I_{Ks} under basal conditions and the inhibition of I_{CaL} under cAMP stimulation, and a computer simulation model using a 50% I_{Kr} block indicated a protective effect of progesterone against arrhythmia.²⁷ Furthermore, another study in an LQT2 rabbit model showed the proarrhythmic effect of estradiol and the anti-arrhythmic effect of progesterone.²⁸

With regard to the 6 LQT2 patients in the CPA or repetitive TdP groups, all had TdP repeatedly shortly after the first cardiac event; moreover 4 of 6 were post-puberty girls. In the menstrual cycle, there are a number of days in which the estrogen:progesterone ratio is high, around ovulation.²⁶ Although we were not able to check their menstrual phase, we suspected that LQT2 girls might have TdP repeatedly in the high estrogen:progesterone ratio phase. In contrast, an 8-year-old boy and a 9-year-old girl (Table 2) also had short-term TdP recurrence. Although the estrogen level might have begun to elevate in the 9-year-old girl, there may be other factors affecting the vulnerability to arrhythmias in LQT2 children.

In the CPA and repetitive TdP group, 1 patient had a missense mutation in the S5-loop-S6 region, 2 had a deletion mutation in the S5-loop-S6 region, and 3 had a frameshift/nonsense mutation in the C-terminus region. In line with the present findings, LQT2 patients with S5-loop-S6 missense mutations have been shown to have a high risk for cardiac events.⁸ In the *KCNH2* C-terminus regions, nonsense mutations were also reportedly more malignant than missense mutations.⁸

In the present LQT1 male cohort, the Kaplan-Meier curve shows that cardiac events obviously decreased after puberty (Figure 2A). Testosterone has been shown to shorten APD mainly through the enhancement of I_{Ks} , in part due to I_{CaL} suppression at higher concentrations.²⁹ An adult cross-sectional study showed that the QTc interval was significantly shorter at high testosterone levels.³⁰ Consistent with the previous report,¹⁷ increased testosterone may contribute to reduce the risk of cardiac event in male patients with *KCNQ1* mutation.

One of the limitations of the present study was that, because we analyzed 3 major LQTS genotypes, the contribution of other minor LQTS-related mutations to cardiac events could not be entirely excluded. In addition, patient data were collected at only 2 institutes, therefore there might be a bias in

patient entry and genetic background, and hence a larger collaborative study is needed.

Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, we report for the first time that female LQT2 patients are likely to have TdP recurrence shortly after antecedent cardiac events, especially after puberty. Therefore, short-term recurrence of TdP is expected and these patients should be followed more closely. These findings will help in selecting an appropriate preventive strategy based on the age of onset and genotype.

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Disclosures

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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