



ERS TASK FORCE

Primary ciliary dyskinesia: a consensus statement on diagnostic and treatment approaches in children

A. Barbato, T. Frischer, C.E. Kuehni, D. Snijders, I. Azevedo, G. Baktai, L. Bartoloni, E. Eber, A. Escribano, E. Haarman, B. Hesselmar, C. Hogg, M. Jorissen, J. Lucas, K.G. Nielsen, C. O'Callaghan, H. Omran, P. Pohunek, M-P.F. Strippoli and A. Bush

ABSTRACT: Primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD) is associated with abnormal ciliary structure and function, which results in retention of mucus and bacteria in the respiratory tract, leading to chronic oto-sino-pulmonary disease, *situs* abnormalities and abnormal sperm motility.

The diagnosis of PCD requires the presence of the characteristic clinical phenotype and either specific ultrastructural ciliary defects identified by transmission electron microscopy or evidence of abnormal ciliary function.

Although the management of children affected with PCD remains uncertain and evidence is limited, it remains important to follow-up these patients with an adequate and shared care system in order to prevent future lung damage.

This European Respiratory Society consensus statement on the management of children with PCD formulates recommendations regarding diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in order to permit a more accurate approach in these patients. Large well-designed randomised controlled trials, with clear description of patients, are required in order to improve these recommendations on diagnostic and treatment approaches in this disease.

KEYWORDS: Consensus statement, diagnosis, primary ciliary dyskinesia, treatment

AFFILIATIONS

*For affiliations, please see the Acknowledgements section, and

#All of the authors of this article were active task force members.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Barbato
Paediatric Pulmonology Unit
Dept of Paediatrics
Via Giustiniani 3
35128 Padova
Italy
E-mail: barbato@pediatria.unipd.it

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INTRODUCTION

Primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD) is predominantly inherited as an autosomal recessive disorder leading to recurrent and chronic upper and lower respiratory tract infection, and, in 40–50% of cases, mirror-image organ arrangement and other forms of heterotaxy [1]. To date, these disorders of dysmotile cilia have been poorly studied in children; indeed most of the therapeutic strategies used are derived from cystic fibrosis (CF) protocols, underscoring the need for more PCD research. Although unproven, it seems likely that early diagnosis is important for the preservation of pulmonary function, quality of life and life expectancy in this disease, and, therefore, there is a great need for more diagnostic awareness and evidence-based treatment. Ciliary dysfunction is also implicated in a broader spectrum of disease, such as polycystic liver and kidney disease, biliary atresia and central nervous system abnormalities, including retinopathy and hydrocephalus [2].

The present consensus statement originates from a European Respiratory Society Task Force on PCD in children, which is aimed at describing diagnostic and therapeutic practices for paediatric PCD patients in Europe, assessing the number of diagnosed patients, developing a consensus statement, defining research needs and enhancing collaborative research. The Task Force included respiratory physicians skilled in paediatric PCD, ear, nose and throat (ENT) physicians, geneticists and epidemiologists from various European countries. Subgroups prepared preliminary drafts for each section, which were discussed in a plenary meeting in order to achieve consensus. The final version was revised by all of the authors. Hence this article provides the consensus statement of the Task Force members on diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to PCD in children in Europe.

In order to develop the present consensus statement, the following search strategy was utilised. Articles on aetiology, clinics, diagnosis, treatment, complications and follow-up, combined with primary ciliary dyskinesia, immotile cilia syndrome or Kartagener's syndrome, were searched separately. Articles were identified from the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), PubMed, EMBASE, the list of references in relevant publications and the authors' collection of references.

Evidence levels were graded as proposed by the *BMJ Clinical Evidence* Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) Working Group [3]. The GRADE scoring system takes into account the type, quality, consistency and directness of evidence, and the size of the effect; evidence was classified as low, fair, moderate, high

or expert opinion; benefit was described as none, conflicting, small/weak, intermediate or substantial; and strength of recommendation was classified as strong or weak. However, hardly any evidence on PCD diagnostic and treatment approaches exists, and research in children is rare, meaning that evidence levels are seldom higher than moderate, and, in some cases, research is absent. Some statements derive from CF-related studies.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF PCD

The prevalence of PCD is very difficult to estimate accurately. In 1947 and 1949, TORGERSEN [4] published results from a radiological study involving approximately a third of the Norwegian population. It was observed that *situs inversus* had a prevalence of 1:8,000, and that 10% of those with *situs inversus* had bronchiectasis. Estimating the prevalence of *situs inversus* in PCD patients as 50%, TORGERSEN [4] calculated the prevalence of PCD to be 1:40,000. This figure is likely to be an underestimation given the fact that standard chest radiographs are insensitive for detection of bronchiectasis, and that bronchiectasis may not be present, particularly in younger PCD patients. For Sweden, AFZELIUS [5] calculated an average prevalence of 1:22,000 for the years 1976–1990 by comparing the number of children with PCD known to the author with the population figures for those years. Realising the unlikelihood of knowing all cases, AFZELIUS [5] estimated the true prevalence for Sweden to be nearer to 1:10,000. In a long-term study on delayed atomic bomb effects carried out in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (both Japan), 16,566 persons underwent physical examination and chest radiography. In this very specific sample, four patients with PCD (aged 34–86 yrs) were detected, giving an estimate of 1:4,100 [6]. Considering the broad range of clinical severity in PCD and assuming that many milder cases remain undiagnosed, these latter estimates might be nearer to reality than earlier extrapolations. In clinical samples of patients with diffuse bronchiectasis, PCD is naturally more common; it might account for up to 13% of all patients with bronchiectasis, being relatively more common in North African than in European patients [7]. The mean age at diagnosis, in a paediatric case series of COREN *et al.* [8], was 4.4 yrs (6 yrs for those without *situs inversus*), which was higher than that for patients suffering from CF treated in the same clinic (1.3 yrs).

Even fewer data are available on the range of severity of symptoms and functional limitations in various age groups, and on the natural history of this disease and whether it can be influenced by treatment [8–12]. An unsatisfactory picture of long-term outcome was drawn by NOONE *et al.* [9] in a cross-sectional

study during 1994–2002 of 78 subjects with PCD (including 31 children). Bronchiectasis was confirmed in 61% of the children and 98% of the adults and there was a negative association between age and loss of forced expiratory volume in 1 s (FEV₁). The slope of the regression line plotted *versus* age was -0.8 (SD 0.13%), consistent with an annual 0.8% loss of FEV₁. This differs from adult CF patients in the USA, where the mean annual loss of FEV₁ was reported to be ~3.6%. Several studies suggest that age at diagnosis, and, therefore, age at initiation of specific treatment, affects outcome. ELLERMAN and BISGAARD [10] followed 24 patients with PCD for 2–16 yrs and observed lower lung function in those patients entering the cohort as adults compared to children. All patients were treated rigorously with antibiotics and physiotherapy and maintained their lung function over the following years, suggesting that therapy offers considerable benefit. However, the data set was small and heterogeneous, and conclusions therefore questionable. In addition CORKEY *et al.* [11] and HELLINCKX *et al.* [12] described a relatively stable long-term progression of lung function during childhood in children treated with physiotherapy, although adolescents seemed to fare worse. A large proportion of adult patients were chronically infected with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and 13 (27%) out of 47 adult patients had very severe disease, with chronic respiratory failure and an FEV₁ of $\leq 40\%$ of the predicted value. They were all oxygen-dependent and listed for transplantation or had already received a transplant. These divergent results from different studies might be due to different inclusion criteria and patient selection. Large multicentric representative cohort studies are urgently required in order to give a clearer picture of the natural history of this disease.

GENETICS AND INHERITANCE

PCD (MIM 242650) is a genetically heterogeneous disorder, which is predominantly inherited as an autosomal recessive trait [13, 14]. The majority of the genes identified (table 1) to date for autosomal recessive PCD variants (dynein, axonemal, intermediate chain 1 (*DNAI1*) and 2 (*DNAI2*) and heavy chain 5 (*DNAH5*) and 11 (*DNAH11*) and thioredoxin domain containing 3 (*TXNDC3*)) encode outer dynein arm (ODA) components [15–20], whereas only one gene (chromosome 14 open reading frame 104 (*KTU1*)) is required for cytoplasmic pre-assembly of axonemal dyneins [21]. In addition mutations in the two genes, radial spoke head 9 homologue (*RSPH9*) and 4 homologue A (*RSPH4A*), have been reported in PCD patients with abnormalities of the central microtubular pair [22]. In a minority of cases, other inheritance patterns have been recognised [23]. Furthermore, X-linked recessive retinitis pigmentosa, sensory hearing deficits and PCD have been associated with mutations in the retinitis pigmentosa guanosine triphosphatase regulator gene (*RPGR*), essential for photoreceptor maintenance and viability [24–30]. In addition, BUDNY *et al.* [31] described a single family with a novel syndrome that is caused by oral-facial-digital type 1 syndrome gene (*OFD1*) mutations, and characterised by X-linked recessive mental retardation, macrocephaly and PCD.

Genetic analyses may help to assess the carrier status of family members and provide tools for informed reproductive choices, although this is currently possible only for a minority of families. They may also become more important diagnostically since ~35% of PCD patients carry either *DNAH5* or *DNAI1*

mutations (hot spots and founder mutations are worthy of analysis in patients with ODA defects). Further studies are required in order to identify the genes responsible for the remaining PCD patients.

DNAH5

DNAH5 was identified using a homozygosity mapping strategy in one large inbred family with PCD and ODA defects [32]. It is the human orthologue of the *Chlamydomonas* γ -heavy chain gene, the mutants of which are slow-swimming algae with ultrastructural ODA defects [18, 33]. Mutations in human *DNAH5* are regularly associated with ODA defects, random left–right asymmetry and male infertility [18, 34, 35]. The mutational prevalence of *DNAH5* is currently known in a total of 134 PCD families [18, 35]. In 38 (28%) of these 134 PCD families, *DNAH5* mutations were detected; the mutation detection rate was even higher (49%) when only PCD families with documented ODA defects (32 out of 65 PCD families) were considered. Exons 34, 50, 63, 76 and 77 harbour *DNAH5* mutations in 53% of the analysed PCD families, with c.10815delT (see table 1) as founder mutation in the USA [35]. Mutations often resulted in a complete absence of ODAs in respiratory cilia, and rarely in shortened stubby ODA, in most transmission electron microscopy (EM) sections [36]. Respiratory cilia were either immotile or showed some residual flickery movement.

DNAI1

DNAI1 is a human axonemal dynein intermediate chain 1 gene located on chromosome 9p21–p13, and is an orthologue of the *Chlamydomonas* ODA 78-kDa intermediate chain (IC78). Mutations in this gene have been observed in PCD patients [17, 37–40]. This gene was identified based on a candidate gene approach since *Chlamydomonas* algae lacking IC78 lost 70% of their motility and were slow swimming [17, 41]. Combining all *DNAI1* mutational studies, a total of 330 unrelated patients have been analysed to date; 25 (7.5%) patients had *DNAI1* mutations. A total of ~30% of the mutant alleles resided in the mutation cluster (exons 13, 16 and 17), whereas ~60% of the mutant alleles showed the IVS1 + 3insT (see table 1) founder mutation. Respiratory cilia are either immotile or show a severely reduced beating frequency.

DNAH11

Mutations of the *DNAH11* gene encoding the orthologue of the *Chlamydomonas* β -heavy chain were identified in two families with randomisation of left–right body asymmetry, *situs inversus* and respiratory phenotype, whereas EM revealed normal respiratory cilia axonemes without any obvious ultrastructural dynein arm defects [18, 42]. High-speed videomicroscopy revealed a hyperkinetic dyskinetic ciliary beating pattern in the affected members of the second reported family.

TXNDC3

TXNDC3 represents the human orthologue of the sea urchin intermediate chain 1 gene that encodes a component of sperm ODAs [18, 43]. In 47 patients with either functional or ultrastructural ciliary abnormalities, screening of the 18 *TXNDC3* exons revealed recessive sequence variants only in one female child [18]. The child had chronic respiratory disease

TABLE 1 Description of the genes involved in primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD)

Gene	Locus	Defective structure	Exon	Hot spot	Founder mutation	Phenotype
<i>DNAH5</i>	5p15	ODA	79+1	Exons 34, 50, 63, 76, 77	c.10815delT	PCD+KS
<i>DNAI1</i>	9p21-p13	ODA	20	Exons 13, 16, 17	IVS1 + 3insT	PCD+KS
<i>DNAH11</i>	7p15.3-21	Normal	82	Not known	Not known	PCD+KS
<i>TXNDC3</i>	7p14.1	ODA	18	Not known	Not known	KS
<i>DNAI2</i>	17q25.1	ODA	14	Not known	Not known	PCD+KS
<i>KTU</i>	14q21.3	ODA+IDA	3	Not known	Not known	PCD+KS
<i>RPGR</i>	Xp21.1	Variable	~25	Not known	Not known	PCD with retinitis pigmentosa
<i>OFD1</i>	Xp22	Not known	23	Not known	Not known	PCD with mental retardation
<i>RSPH9</i>	6p21	CP	5	Exon 5	c.801_803delGAA	PCD
<i>RSPH4A</i>	6q22	CP	6	Not known	Not known	PCD

DNAH5: dynein, axonemal, heavy chain 5 gene; *DNAI1*: dynein, axonemal, intermediate chain 1 gene; *DNAH11*: dynein, axonemal, heavy chain 11 gene; *TXNDC3*: thioredoxin domain containing 3 (spermatozoa) gene; *DNAI2*: dynein, axonemal, intermediate chain 2 gene; *KTU*: chromosome 14 open reading frame 104 gene; *RPGR*: retinitis pigmentosa guanosine triphosphatase regulator gene; *OFD1*: oral-facial-digital syndrome 1 gene; *RSPH9*: radial spoke head 9 homologue (*Chlamydomonas*) gene; *RSPH4A*: radial spoke head 4 homologue A (*Chlamydomonas*) gene; ODA: outer dynein arm; IDA: inner dynein arm; CP: central pair; c.: cDNA sequence; del: deletion; T: thymidine; IVS: intervening sequence; ins: insertion; G: guanine; A: adenine; KS: Kartagener's syndrome.

and *situs ambiguus*. The ciliary beat frequency appeared normal, and transmission EM revealed that 66% of the respiratory cilia had shortened or absent ODAs. The disease probably resulted from the unusual combination of a nonsense mutation and a common intronic variant found in 1% of control chromosomes.

DNAI2

DNAI2 is the human orthologue of the *Chlamydomonas* intermediate ODA IC69 (also known as IC2) gene [16]. Mutations in this gene have been observed in three families with Kartagener's syndrome, PCD and ODA defects [15]. The involvement of *DNAI2* in PCD/Kartagener's syndrome was identified applying a positional and functional candidate-gene approach. Respiratory cilia were either immotile or showed only flickery residual movement.

KTU

KTU was first identified in a medaka fish mutant, and found to be mutated in two PCD families with both ODA and inner dynein arm (IDA) deficiency [21]. This protein is involved in the pre-assembly of dynein arm complexes in the cytoplasm before intraflagellar transport carries them to the ciliary compartment. Respiratory cilia and sperm tails are immotile.

RSPH4A and RSPH9

Mutations within radial spoke head genes have been identified in a few families affected with PCD with associated central pair abnormalities [22]. Patients had no *situs inversus*. In the patients with *RSPH4A* mutations, the central pair was completely absent. Interestingly, in patients with *RSPH9* mutations, the central pair was only intermittently absent. This defect was not present in all of those affected, making diagnosis of this PCD variant by EM challenging. All of the affected had an aberrant circular beating pattern, highlighting the importance of high-speed videomicroscopy.

CLINICAL ASPECTS OF PCD

Children with PCD often have a clinical history of lower airway disease, manifested in a chronic wet-sounding cough and, occasionally, wheeze or shortness of breath. In addition, virtually all subjects show evidence of chronic upper airway symptoms, such as chronic rhinitis (nasal discharge, episodic facial pain and anosmia). This may be confirmed by physical examination and/or sinus imaging. Ear symptoms (recurrent otitis media and glue ear) are a frequent complication that can require multiple interventions, including repeated courses of antibiotics. Diagnosis of PCD is frequently delayed [8], in part because patients present with symptoms (rhinitis, secretory otitis media, cough and recurrent bronchitis) that are common in healthy children [2]. In table 2, the clinical aspects of PCD are displayed by various age groups. A positive family history of PCD is an indication for performing diagnostics, since this accounted for 10% of cases in one series [8]. Siblings of probands should also have PCD excluded.

General paediatricians must be alert to this condition and take a careful focused history. Although there is no proven evidence that early diagnosis is beneficial, there is at least suggestive evidence in the literature and a consensus amongst those caring for patients with PCD. In one case series, bronchiectasis on diagnosis was only seen in those diagnosed aged >4 yrs [8], and, in another, lung function on diagnosis was worse in those diagnosed as adults [9], suggesting that early diagnosis is beneficial.

PCD as an associated diagnosis

In addition to the above, we recommend that PCD should be at least considered when the following diagnoses are made, particularly if there is a family history of more than one of these conditions or the patient has other features of PCD [57, 58]: 1) complex congenital heart disease, especially with disorders of laterality [59], such as atrial isomerism, transposition of the great vessels, double-outlet right ventricle,

TABLE 2 Antenatal, neonatal, childhood, adolescent and adult presentation of symptoms

Presentation of symptoms	
Antenatal	<p><i>Situs inversus totalis</i> or heterotaxy on antenatal ultrasound scanning; ~25% of individuals with <i>situs inversus totalis</i> have PCD [44]. The prevalence of PCD within the heterotaxic subclass is unknown [45]</p> <p>40–50% of PCD patients present with <i>situs inversus totalis</i> (Kartagener's syndrome in PCD) [9]</p> <p>6% show heterotaxy (<i>situs ambiguus</i>) [46]</p> <p>Mild fetal cerebral ventriculomegaly [47]</p>
Neonatal	<p>>75% of full-term neonates with PCD exhibit neonatal respiratory distress requiring supplemental oxygen for days to weeks [8, 9]</p> <p>Continuous rhinorrhoea from the first day of life [48–50]</p> <p>Mirror-image organ arrangement and other forms of heterotaxy (see Antenatal rows above) [51]</p> <p>Hydrocephalus may occur in some individuals with PCD, and may reflect dysfunctional ependymal cilia [47, 52, 53]</p>
Childhood	<p>Chronic productive or wet-sounding cough, associated or not with recurrent atelectasis or pneumonia</p> <p>Atypical asthma that is nonresponsive to treatment, especially if a wet-sounding cough is present</p> <p>Idiopathic bronchiectasis</p> <p>Daily rhinitis without remission; nasal polyps are rare at this age [51]</p> <p>Severe chronic sinusitis in older children</p> <p>Otitis media with effusion</p> <p>Hearing loss</p>
Adolescence and adult life	<p>Same as for childhood.</p> <p>Bronchiectasis more evident in adulthood (83%) [9]</p> <p>Chronic mucopurulent sputum production is common [8, 9, 54]</p> <p>Digital clubbing may also be found.</p> <p>Pulmonary function tests usually show a progressive obstructive or mixed pattern [8, 9].</p> <p>Nasal polyposis and halitosis</p> <p>Infertility in males (~50%) due to immotility of spermatozoa [55]</p> <p>Ectopic pregnancy and subfertility in females [9, 56]</p>

PCD: primary ciliary dyskinesia

anomalous venous return, interrupted inferior vena cava and bilateral superior vena cava [44]; 2) asplenia (predominant bilateral right-sidedness (right isomerism)) or polysplenia (predominant bilateral left-sidedness (left isomerism)) [60, 61], present in at least 6% of individuals with PCD [62]; 3) polycystic kidney or liver disease [2, 58, 62]; 4) hydrocephalus [2, 58, 62]; 5) biliary atresia [2, 62]; 6) severe oesophageal disease (oesophageal atresia and severe reflux) [59]; 7) retinal degeneration, including retinitis pigmentosa [30]; and 8) oral-facial-digital syndrome type 1 [31].

Recommendations

- 1) Children who are found at any age to have *situs inversus totalis*, or any heterotaxic syndrome, should have PCD excluded by appropriate tests. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.
- 2) Children who are found to have cerebral ventriculomegaly at any age, in the absence of an obvious cause, and, in particular, if there are other features suggestive of PCD, should probably have this diagnosis excluded. Level of evidence: low; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: weak.
- 3). Siblings of probands should have PCD excluded. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.
- 4) Babies with otherwise unexplained neonatal respiratory distress, particularly if there are other features of PCD, should

have this diagnosis excluded. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

5) Children with chronic productive cough, bronchiectasis of unknown cause or severe upper airway disease should be considered for diagnostic testing for PCD after other more common diagnoses have been excluded, particularly if there are other features of PCD. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

6) Males with immotile sperm should be referred for diagnostic testing for PCD. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

7) Females with recurrent ectopic pregnancy should be considered for referral for diagnostic testing, especially if there are other features of PCD. Level of evidence: low; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: weak.

DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

The diagnosis of PCD should be based on the presence of a typical clinical phenotype and appropriate diagnostic testing. PCD is a rare disease, and diagnostic analysis and interpretation are difficult. Diagnosis should, therefore, be confirmed in a specialist centre. The clinical history and clinical observation are pivotal to diagnosis and extreme caution should be exercised in making a diagnosis if the clinical symptoms do not fit. Inflammation and infection can produce secondary ciliary defects, which may result in a misdiagnosis of PCD. If in doubt, repeat brushings should be performed following

treatment of infection and inflammation. New phenotypes of PCD are still being discovered, and this will be aided by further developments in diagnostic testing [42, 63].

Screening tests

Screening tests may precede formal ciliary function analysis, thereby reducing the number of referrals for ciliary analysis. These screening tests may prevent some patients from requiring nasal biopsy/brushing, but do not obviate the need for specialist equipment and personnel.

Nasal nitric oxide measurement

A number of studies have shown that levels of exhaled nitric oxide, and particularly nasal NO, are very low in PCD [9, 51, 64, 65]. A high or normal nasal NO level can help to exclude PCD, particularly in those in whom the history is not classical, but it should be noted that a few patients with PCD may have levels within the normal range [64]. A low measurement is not diagnostic of PCD, with low levels occurring in other conditions, including CF, panbronchiolitis, nasal blockage and nasal polyposis. Confirmation of the diagnosis of PCD will, therefore, always require further diagnostic tests. Efforts are being made to standardise nasal NO measurements in all age groups in order to permit comparison between studies [66].

The saccharin test

The saccharin test permits a gross assessment of mucociliary function and is the only screening test that is widely available outside of specialised respiratory centres. A microtablet of saccharin is placed on the inferior turbinate and the time taken for the subject to taste it is recorded, having previously ensured that they can taste saccharin. This test is difficult to perform and unreliable in children aged <12 yrs. Cases with dyskinetically beating cilia can be missed [67].

Radioaerosol mucociliary clearance tests

Investigation of nasal and pulmonary mucociliary clearance by use of a radioactive tracer has been widely performed over the past 25 yrs [68–71]. However, studies on mucociliary clearance in patients with PCD are sparse [72–76]. Nasal mucociliary clearance can be used as a screening tool for PCD, even in infants. The sensitivity is high, but specificity low, and this method is, therefore, mainly suited for exclusion of PCD [75, 77]. Pulmonary radioaerosol mucociliary clearance (PRMC) was found to be a useful functional test in one study of assessment of mucociliary clearance in the lower airways. PRMC can be used in children from the age of 5 yrs. Both nasal mucociliary clearance and PRMC are supplementary tests in the armamentarium of PCD work-up testing since neither of the tests are diagnostic of PCD.

Recommendations

8) Measurement of nasal NO levels should be used as a screening test for patients aged >5 yrs suspected of having PCD; centres using nasal NO measurements as a screening test for PCD should generate their own normal reference values. Level of evidence: intermediate; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: strong.

9) The saccharin test should not be used in children. Level of evidence: intermediate; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: strong.

10) There is insufficient clinical experience of the use of PRMC in children to recommend its routine use in practice. Level of evidence: intermediate; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: strong.

Diagnostic tests

Diagnosis of PCD requires analysis of ciliate epithelial cells in order to assess function and ultrastructure. Further investigations, *e.g.* following primary cell culture, may aid diagnosis. There is no single gold standard test, and diagnosis should be made in a specialist centre following review of the clinical history and screening test results alongside these specific ciliary tests.

Obtaining a sample of ciliate cells

Nasal brushing

Ciliate epithelium is easily obtained by simple nasal brushing using a bronchoscopic brush. This only takes 2–3 s, and, in pre-school children, rarely requires anaesthesia or sedation. Patients should be free of an acute upper respiratory tract infection for 4–6 weeks. This helps to minimise poorly ciliate samples or secondary dyskinesia, which may complicate the analysis. In some centres curettage of nasal epithelium is used to obtain ciliate tissue.

Bronchoscopic samples

Respiratory epithelial cells may also be obtained from the bronchi using a bronchoscopic brush. In a review on flexible endoscopy of paediatric airways, biopsy by forceps is also reported as a method of collecting samples [78].

Analysis of ciliary function and structure

The Task Force Committee agrees that a combined approach to diagnostic testing of biopsy material is required in order to ensure that diagnostic errors are avoided. The Committee recommends the following key diagnostic techniques: ciliary beat pattern and frequency analysis using video recording; and EM analysis.

Ciliary beat pattern and frequency analysis

Analysis of ciliary beat pattern using a slow-motion-replay videotape recorder and a digital high-speed video camera is recommended as part of the diagnostic testing for PCD. Ciliate samples at 37°C are observed using a 100× objective. A digital high-speed video camera mounted on a conventional microscope permits recording of >500 frames·s⁻¹. These are played back in slow motion, allowing ciliary beat pattern to be assessed. A permanent recording can be made for audit purposes, and beat frequency can also be measured by directly observing the beating cilia in slow motion. In PCD, all of the cilia are seen to be dyskinetic on slow-motion replay. Analysis also permits measurement of ciliary beat frequency. Specific beat patterns have been shown to be related to particular ultrastructural defects [79–81]. This analysis is particularly useful in identifying patients who have ciliary dyskinesia due to an ultrastructural defect for which beat frequency is normal, *e.g.* in those with a central microtubular defect, such as ciliary transposition or central microtubular agenesis [63]. A major advantage is that videos may be stored as a permanent record, permitting reassessment if the clinical picture changes.

Until the 1990s, prior to advances in high-speed video analysis, analysis of ciliary beat frequency without assessment of beat pattern was common. When the beat frequency is low, suspicion of PCD is high. It had been recommended that, if the ciliary beat frequency were above a certain threshold, further tests such as EM were not indicated. However, in the experience of some ciliary diagnostic centres, using ciliary beat frequency readings to reject the diagnosis of PCD results in 10–15% of patients with the disease being missed (data not shown), since they have beat pattern abnormalities despite normal beat frequency.

Electron microscopy

EM is important in the diagnosis of PCD, and is always performed when there is any suspicion of the diagnosis. However, specialist knowledge is required in order to interpret the various ultrastructural defects responsible for PCD [82–85], and it is acknowledged that ultrastructural analysis has limitations. IDA defects, in particular, are difficult to determine since they are less electron dense and less frequent along the ciliary axoneme. In addition, it has been shown that dynein motor protein composition varies along the ciliary length, meaning that ultrastructural defects can be missed using EM, depending upon the site of the ciliary cross-section [34]. Obtention of samples that do not have significant secondary damage can be difficult. This may lead to erroneous reports of new cases of PCD [83]. Various methods to improve analysis of EM images have been suggested [86]. Some patients with PCD may not have an obvious ultrastructural defect [42]; however, normal ciliary ultrastructure should always prompt a full diagnostic review.

Other techniques assisting diagnosis

Cell culture

The use of cell culture to improve diagnostic certainty in PCD has been defined by JORISSEN *et al.* [87]. Cell culture with redifferentiation of the ciliate epithelium is a highly specialised method and its main benefit is based on reduction of the secondary damage seen in the original sample that can mimic PCD. It is mostly used to reduce false positive diagnoses in patients with secondary ciliary dysfunction, and to confirm less common phenotypes, such as ciliary disorientation, ciliary aplasia, central microtubular agenesis and IDA defects. Occasionally, when the original biopsy sample has no observable cilia, culture of the cells permits differentiation into a ciliate phenotype that allows diagnostic testing. Cell culture is likely to play an increasing role in the evaluation of new phenotypes of PCD.

Analysis of dynein protein localisation

Detection and intracellular localisation of DNAH5 by immunofluorescence microscopy (IFM) may also help in the clinical diagnosis of PCD. This method has been developed and is routinely used at the University Hospital Freiburg (Freiburg, Germany) [34, 35, 88]. It has been shown that IFM can be used to identify ODA defects, including regional defects within the ciliary shaft [34, 35]. In a blinded study, IFM confirmed an ODA defect in all PCD patients with an ultrastructural ODA defect documented by transmission EM (n=16) [34]. Four of these patients carried DNAH5 and one DNAIL1 mutations. In control samples (n=10 healthy controls; n=7 disease controls, *i.e.* CF),

DNAH5 localisation was always normal. The usefulness of IFM was confirmed in a later study in which all samples from PCD patients with DNAH5 mutations (n=8) showed abnormal DNAH5 staining using IFM [35]. In five of these eight samples, EM was also performed and confirmed an ODA defect. In addition, the IFM method remains unaltered by secondary ciliary abnormalities [88]. Recent work has also shown that antibody-based techniques can diagnose not only ODA but also IDA abnormalities caused by KTU mutations in PCD [21]. In the future, it may be possible to develop a panel of antibodies directed towards multiple ciliary proteins that may enable screening of a wide variety of respiratory epithelial samples.

Genetic analysis

The genetic basis of PCD is progressively being unravelled. It is complicated by the multiple existing phenotypes and new emerging phenotypes of the disease [83]. Although genetic testing for some cases of PCD is possible, as described above, the Task Force Committee does not recommend it as part of initial diagnostic testing. After a clinical diagnosis has been ascertained, genetic testing may be directed according to the specific PCD variant (*i.e.* DNAH5 and DNAIL1 testing in PCD patients with ODA defects or DNAH11 testing in a special functional defect).

PCD is likely to include a small number of milder phenotypes that may be manifest in subtle or no apparent structural defects and ciliary dysfunction. Identifying these defects and their clinical implications in diagnostic testing is an area for future research.

Recommendations

- 11) Ciliary beat pattern and frequency analysis using video recording and EM analysis as key diagnostic techniques should be used to ensure diagnosis. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.
- 12) Genetic testing can play a role in the more profound evaluation of PCD, but it is not recommended as part of initial diagnostic testing. Genetic testing should be effectuated only in cases in whom mutations are more likely to be found, depending upon the specific PCD variant. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: weak.
- 13) If diagnosis is inconclusive or in doubt or if there is a strong suspicion of a rare PCD phenotype, repeated brush samples should be obtained for further diagnosis. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.
- 14) If diagnosis is inconclusive or in doubt or if there is a strong suspicion of a rare PCD phenotype, culture of ciliary brushings should be considered. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.
- 15) Negative ultrastructural analytical results using EM does not exclude a diagnosis of PCD, and, if there is a strong suspicion, further analyses should be carried out.
- 16) Patients in whom suspicion of PCD remains strong, and who have previously been screened for PCD using beat frequency assessment alone, should have their diagnosis reconsidered.

RESPIRATORY TREATMENT

As with all chronic respiratory diseases, the aim of therapy for PCD is to restore or maintain normal lung function as far as is possible, based on early detection and vigorous treatment of complications. There are no randomised trials of PCD treatment, and, consequently, all treatment recommendations are based on a very low level evidence, or extrapolated from CF guidelines. However, CF has a different pathophysiology, and, therefore, responses to treatments may well be different (e.g. the effectiveness of recombinant human (rh) DNase inhalation in CF and non-CF bronchiectasis differs considerably [89, 90]). Hence it is unsatisfactory to extrapolate from CF to PCD treatment.

Given the current low levels of evidence, the Task Force Committee recommends that the clinician be flexible and ready to trial new therapies if a child is not doing well, but, equally importantly, ready to discontinue therapies that are not working.

Respiratory treatment involves aggressive treatment of upper and lower airway infections and airway clearance by combinations of physiotherapy and physical exercise. As with CF patients, it is likely that the best results will be obtained if treatment is in an experienced centre caring for a sufficient number of patients. There is no evidence to positively state how many patients such a centre needs to oversee, but, by analogy with CF (according to prevalence), ≥ 10 –15 probably need to be under follow-up. However, in parts of Europe, geographical factors may make this impossible.

Antibiotics

Regular (≥ 3 -monthly) culture of sputum or cough swabs should be performed. Airway infection with *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* frequently occur, but *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and nontuberculous mycobacteria have also been reported, usually in adults [9]. There is no evidence to recommend the use of prophylactic oral antibiotics in all patients, although this is used in some centres. However, if repeated courses of oral antibiotics are required, prophylaxis should be considered. High-dose oral antibiotics are recommended at the first sign of worsening respiratory symptoms or deterioration in lung function. Where possible, antibiotics should be chosen on the basis of sputum or cough-swab culture and sensitivity. Occasionally bronchoalveolar lavage may be necessary to obtain adequate specimens in non-sputum-producing children.

There are no data on the role of intravenous antibiotics in PCD. Empirically, if persistent respiratory symptoms do not respond to oral antibiotics, then intravenous therapy is given. A regular programme of 3-monthly intravenous therapies should be considered in patients who are not doing well. However, there are no controlled trials of this approach in PCD. If *P. aeruginosa* is isolated, most clinicians would prescribe an eradication regimen similar to those used in CF, and, for established chronic infection with this organism, long-term nebulised anti-pseudomonal antibiotics are considered, but evidence of efficacy has yet to be gathered in PCD patients [91–93].

Other inhaled medications

There is even less evidence for other therapies. Regular bronchodilator use does not lead to worsening airway

reactivity, but they are not particularly effective [94]. The role of nebulised rhDNase (PulmozymeTM; Genentech, San Francisco, CA, USA) in PCD patients remains unproven. However, anecdotally, some patients show an improvement in respiratory symptoms [95, 96]. Use of nebulised normal or hypertonic saline may theoretically be effective in increasing mucus clearance, but, unlike in CF, there are no randomised controlled trials. N-acetylcysteine has been shown not to be useful [97].

Anti-inflammatory strategies

There is considerable interest in the treatment of airway inflammation in CF, based on the hypothesis that inflammation is important in causing lung damage, but there are few studies on airway inflammation in children with PCD. Examination of spontaneously expectorated sputum reveals a predominantly neutrophilic profile similar to in CF [98]. Anti-inflammatory strategies such as alternate-day prednisolone have been shown to be effective in CF [99], but need to be formally trialled in PCD before they could be recommended. There are no data on which to recommend or avoid inhaled corticosteroids; by analogy with CF [100], they are probably best avoided unless they can be shown to be of definite benefit in an individual patient.

Airway clearance techniques

Airway clearance techniques are prescribed widely in PCD patients, but there is no evidence for the efficacy of any one particular technique. Since cough clearance is intact, it could be speculated that techniques promoting this would be helpful. Physiotherapy varies with age, changing clinical state, and local expertise and resources. Efficacy trials of the various techniques available are urgently required in PCD patients.

The effect of physical exercise on airway clearance in PCD has not been fully investigated but may help sputum clearance. Exercise has been shown to be a better bronchodilator than a β_2 -agonist in PCD [101]. Exercise is encouraged at all ages in order to promote general health and well-being. There are no data regarding whether or not inspiratory muscle training is useful in PCD.

Environmental exposures

Preventive counselling should include the avoidance of active and passive smoking, minimisation of exposure to respiratory pathogens, and minimisation of exposure to indoor and environmental pollutants. Cough suppressant medications must be avoided.

Immunisations

PCD patients should receive all childhood immunisations, as well as pneumococcal and influenza immunisation (the latter on a yearly basis), where these are not part of the normal childhood immunisation programme.

Surgical procedures

Complications of bronchiectasis and chronic lung disease become more prominent with age [9]. The role of lobectomy in advanced bronchiectasis is similar to that in other aetiologies, and can rarely be recommended. Although stabilisation or improvement of lung disease is expected with institution of modern treatment [9, 10], there are reports of

PCD patients going on to lung transplantation, both living related [102] and cadaveric [9, 103, 104]. This underlines the fact that PCD is a serious condition, from which adults die, and that paediatricians are mandated to treat children aggressively to retard later deterioration.

Recommendations

17) Every effort should be made to make the diagnosis of PCD early and start treatment as soon as possible in order to prevent deterioration in lung function, and, in some cases, improve it. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

18) Patients with PCD should be seen for either full or shared care in a centre specialising in the condition. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

19) Airway clearance by combinations of physiotherapy and physical exercise should be encouraged and regularly prescribed in children with PCD. Level of evidence: moderate; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

20) Acute airway infection with *H. influenzae*, *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa* and nontuberculous mycobacteria should be promptly cured with antibiotic treatment of adequate duration. The exact period of treatment varies with the infecting organism. Level of evidence: low; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

21) Long-term use of nebulised anti-pseudomonas antibiotics in patients chronically infected with *P. aeruginosa* should be considered in order to reduce exacerbations. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: weak.

22) Prophylactic oral antibiotics should not be given to all PCD patients, but should be considered if repeated courses of oral antibiotics are required. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: conflicting; strength of recommendation: weak.

23) High-dose oral antibiotics should be prescribed at the first sign of worsening respiratory symptoms or deterioration in lung function. If persistent respiratory symptoms do not respond to oral antibiotics, then intravenous therapy should be given. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

24) PCD patients with true wheezing or asthma should be treated according to asthma and wheezing guidelines. Documentation of reversible airflow obstruction should be performed using age-appropriate techniques. Inhaled bronchodilator therapy should not be given to all patients. Level of evidence: low; benefit: conflicting; strength of recommendation: weak.

25) The use of nebulised rhDNase (PulmozymeTM) should possibly be considered in selected PCD patients. Level of evidence: low; benefit: conflicting; strength of recommendation: weak.

26) The use of nebulised normal or hypertonic saline should possibly be considered in order to increase mucus clearance. Level of evidence: low; benefit: conflicting; strength of recommendation: weak.

27) *N*-acetylcysteine should not be used. Level of evidence: moderate; benefit: none; strength of recommendation: strong.

28) Anti-inflammatory strategies, such as alternate-day prednisolone or inhaled corticosteroids, should not be used. Level of evidence: low; benefit: none; strength of recommendation: strong.

29) All patients with PCD should receive all childhood immunisations, including pneumococcal and influenza immunisation. Level of evidence: low; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

30) Passive and active smoking should be firmly discouraged. Level of evidence: expert opinion; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

31) Reduction of exposure to environmental pollutants should be encouraged. Level of evidence: low; benefit: intermediate; strength of recommendation: weak.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT PROBLEMS IN PCD

ENT symptoms in children, in combination with respiratory symptoms and the underlying bronchiectasis, make the diagnosis of PCD more feasible. In children affected by PCD, the respiratory epithelium in the nasopharynx, middle ear, paranasal sinuses and conducting airways (including the nasal pharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi and bronchioles), which is normally lined with ciliate pseudostratified columnar epithelium, is dysfunctional and, therefore, alters mucociliary clearance. Ear-related problems are frequently seen in children with mucociliary clearance dysfunction, but nasal and paranasal sinus-related symptoms can also be found [49].

More than 85% of the children have chronic and sometimes severe otitis media with effusion. Most of them improve spontaneously by the age of 13 yrs [105]. The accumulation of mucus in the Eustachian tube causes conductive hearing loss that varies over time.

Treatment of acute middle ear infections requires prompt use of antibiotics. Otitis media with effusion is usually managed conservatively, with regular audiological assessment, hearing aids and hearing therapy, since treatment with ventilation tubes (grommets) often results in prolonged and offensive otorrhoea [8, 51, 105, 106].

Nasal secretions in children with PCD are regularly abundant, watery to mucoid, purulent during infections, and transported by gravity or airflow because of the absence of mucociliary clearance [107]. Typically described by the parents as a common but prolonged cold, chronic rhinitis can remain present from the neonatal period [2, 108]. The severity is not correlated to ultrastructural defects.

In PCD, there is underdevelopment of the frontal and sphenoidal sinuses. Nasal polyps may be found in up to 18% of the patients [54, 109].

Clearance of nasal mucus is important, even if there is no role for mucolytic agents [110]. Saline nasal douches, and sometimes anticholinergics, may (anecdotally) be helpful. Recurrent acute or chronic sinusitis is rare, but adequate and prolonged antibiotic treatment is required; sometimes, recurrent infections can require endoscopic sinus surgery [108, 110–112].

Recommendations

32) The use of ventilation tubes (grommets) should be avoided where possible. Level of evidence: low; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

OTHER SYSTEMS

Children affected by PCD are usually seen by respiratory physicians and ENT specialists, even if congenital anatomical heart variations and infertility may be present.

Males with PCD may be infertile due to impaired sperm motility since the flagella of the sperm and cilia often (but not always) have the same ultrastructural and functional defects. The sperm count is typically normal, but sperm are immotile or their motility is severely limited [55, 82]. In some reports, up to 50% of males with PCD are fertile [55]. Some females with PCD exhibit normal fertility, but others show impaired fertility and an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy because of impaired ciliary function in the oviduct [82].

There are several reports of the birth of healthy children following ovular intracytoplasmic sperm injection in the case of male infertility [113–115].

Rarer associations of PCD, such as congenital heart disease, have been described [59]. The management of these associated conditions is unchanged by coexistence with PCD; respiratory problems should be kept in mind when general anaesthesia is required.

Recommendations

33) In patients with (sub-) fertility or congenital cardiac anomalies and recurrent respiratory tract infection, PCD should be considered in the diagnostic work-up. Level of evidence: low; benefit: small; strength of recommendation: weak.

34) Seminal analysis is recommended in males with PCD so that accurate counselling about reproductive capability may be given. Level of evidence: high; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP

By analogy with CF, PCD patients should be managed in specialised centres, in which they have regular access to respiratory paediatricians, audiology, ENT surgeons and respiratory physiotherapists. Some patients need access to clinical psychology and social work services. It is wise to establish links with specialists who are involved on a more occasional basis with PCD patients, *e.g.* speech therapists.

In addition to general paediatric care, each patient should make regular visits to a tertiary centre in order to check growth, lung function (including pulse oximetry) and hearing. Regular sputum or cough-swab cultures should be performed. Chest radiographs are probably relatively insensitive. High-resolution computed tomography of the lungs is used to define the extent of bronchiectasis, and can be used to monitor the progression of the disease. However, there is even less evidence that regular computed tomographic scans affect outcome in PCD than there is for CF, and the potentially high lifetime cumulative radiation exposure should be seriously considered. Imaging of the upper airway is only indicated if it

will help clinical decision making, *e.g.* to determine the need for endoscopic sinus surgery, and is not carried out on a routine basis. The child should have access to more sophisticated investigations, such as exercise and fitness-to-fly testing, as appropriate. The interval between visits is determined by the age and clinical condition of the patients and geographical factors. If the specialist centre is far removed from where the patient lives, a protocolised shared-care system, analogous to CF, may be appropriate.

Virtually all children with PCD should survive into adult life. Therefore, in most countries in Europe, there is a need to organise transition services between paediatric and adult care. There are no data on how best to do this. By analogy with other chronic diseases, the following general principles seem reasonable: 1) transition should be a gradual process, and the idea of transition introduced early; 2) older children, and especially teenagers, should be encouraged to come in for the first part of the consultation without their parents, to encourage independence; 3) there should be flexibility in the timing of transition, but, in most countries, the age of transition will be in the range 16–18 yrs; 4) transition should be to an adult service with expertise in the management of PCD; and 5) the model of a joint clinic, in which the young adult is seen by both paediatrician and adult specialists and their teams prior to full transfer to the adult services, may be helpful.

Recommendations

35) A protocolised shared-care system is recommended in order to ensure close follow-up and prevent eventual lung damage. Level of evidence: fair; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

36) Regular sputum or cough-swab cultures should be performed based on clinic and hospital or local colonisation. Level of evidence: fair; benefit: substantial; strength of recommendation: strong.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The main conclusion of the present Task Force is the urgent need for further research into PCD. Most of the published data relating to PCD are observational and derived from small case series. The natural history of PCD, and how this might be altered by treatments, is virtually unknown. Therefore, most recommendations regarding diagnosis and treatment provided in the present consensus statement are based on low-to-moderate-level evidence. The Task Force Committee has stated that the following research areas are urgent: 1) studies on the natural history of PCD, including long-term outcome in adult life, spectrum and severity of clinical disease, functional limitations and quality of life in patients of different ages, based on large and representative patient samples; 2) further development of diagnostic techniques, in order to permit a sensitive, specific and practicable approach to diagnosis; 3) the setting up of an international database for PCD patients, to permit long-term multicentric observational and interventional studies; 4) high-quality randomised controlled multicentric trials to investigate the effect of different treatments on symptoms, lung function, quality of life and long-term progression of the disease; and 5) studies on genetic mutation and its correlation with certain PCD phenotypes are required

in order to sustain the diagnosis of PCD and to make prenatal counselling possible in these families.

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST

None declared.

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The affiliations of the present authors are as follows. A. Barbato and D. Snijders: Dept of Paediatrics, University of Padua, Padua, Italy. T. Frischer: Dept of Paediatrics, University of Vienna, Vienna; and E. Eber: Respiratory and Allergic Disease Division, Paediatric Dept, Medical University of Graz, Graz (both Austria). C.E. Kuehni and M-P.F. Strippoli: Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Berne, Berne; and L. Bartoloni: Dept of Genetic Medicine and Development, University of Geneva Medical School, Geneva (both Switzerland). I. Azevedo: Dept of Paediatrics, Hospital São João, Porto, Portugal. G. Baktai: Paediatric Institute Svabhegy, Budapest, Hungary. A. Escribano: Paediatric Pneumology Unit, Dept of Paediatrics, Clinic University Hospital, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain. E. Haarman: Dept of Paediatrics and Neonatology, Emma Children's Hospital Academic Medical Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. B. Hesselmar: Dept of Paediatrics, Institute of Clinical Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy of Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden. C. Hogg and A. Bush: Dept of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, Royal Brompton Hospital, London; J. Lucas: Chest Medicine, Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust, Southampton; and C. O'Callaghan: Division of Paediatrics, Dept of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, University of Leicester and Leicester Children's Hospital, Leicester (all UK). M. Jorissen: Ear, Nose and Throat Dept, Head and Neck Surgery, University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven, Belgium. K.G. Nielsen: Paediatric Pulmonary Service and Cystic Fibrosis Centre, Dept of Paediatrics, Clinic I, Juliane Marie Centre, Copenhagen University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark. H. Omran: Dept of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University Hospital Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany. P. Pohunek: Dept of Paediatrics, University Hospital Motol and 2nd School of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

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