

Dysferlinopathies

LGMD2B, Miyoshi & Others

2B Empowered Conference

Matthew P. Wicklund, MD, FAAN
Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics
Penn State Health
May 24, 2015

Outline

- A. Empower you with knowledge about your diagnosis.
- B. Explain why the diagnosis may have been hard for your doctors.
 - 1. Dysferlinopathies, what do they look like?
 - 2. What else looks like dysferlinopathies?
 - 3. How common are dysferlinopathies?
 - 4. How do we diagnose dysferlinopathies?
 - 5. Why remain hooked into your doctor?

Dysferlinopathies, what do they look like?

SPECIAL ARTICLE



Evidence-based guideline summary: Diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle and distal dystrophies

Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the Practice Issues Review Panel of the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine



ABSTRACT

Objective: To review the current evidence and make practice recommendations regarding the diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMDs).

Methods: Systematic review and practice recommendation development using the American Academy of Neurology guideline development process.

Results: Most LGMDs are rare, with estimated prevalences ranging from 0.07 per 100,000 to 0.43 per 100,000. The frequency of some muscular dystrophies varies based on the ethnic background of the population studied. Some LGMD subtypes have distinguishing features, including pattern of muscle involvement, cardiac abnormalities, extramuscular involvement, and muscle biopsy findings. The few published therapeutic trials were not designed to establish clinical efficacy of any treatment.

Principal recommendations: For patients with suspected muscular dystrophy, clinicians should use a clinical approach to guide genetic diagnosis based on clinical phenotype, inheritance pattern, and associated manifestations (Level B). Clinicians should refer newly diagnosed patients with an LGMD subtype and high risk of cardiac complications for cardiology evaluation even if they are asymptomatic from a cardiac standpoint (Level B). In patients with LGMD with a known high risk of respiratory failure, clinicians should obtain periodic pulmonary function testing (Level B). Clinicians should refer patients with muscular dystrophy to a clinic that has access to multiple specialties designed specifically to care for patients with neuromuscular disorders (Level B). Clinicians should not offer patients with LGMD gene therapy, myoblast transplantation, neutralizing antibody to myostatin, or growth hormone outside of a research study designed to determine efficacy and safety of the treatment (Level R). Detailed results and recommendations are available on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org. **Neurology® 2014;83:1453-1463**

Pushpa Narayanaswami,
MBBS, DM, FAAN
Michael Weiss, MD,
FAAN
Duygu Selcen, MD
William David, MD,
PhD
Elizabeth Raynor, MD
Gregory Carter, MD
Matthew Wicklund, MD,
FAAN
Richard J. Barohn, MD,
FAAN
Erik Ensrud, MD
Robert C. Griggs, MD,
FAAN
Gary Gronseth, MD,
FAAN
Anthony A. Amato, MD,
FAAN

Correspondence to
American Academy of Neurology:
guidelines@aan.com

Dysferlinopathy



- **Phenotype** (What are the physical characteristics?)
 - Limb girdle pattern (143/293 cases)
 - Also ***distal myopathies***: (150/293 cases)
 - Miyoshi myopathy (gastrosoleus complex)
 - Distal anterior compartment myopathy (tib ant)
 - Scapuloperoneal or proximodistal pattern
 - Biceps atrophy
 - Bent spine syndrome
 - Carriers may be symptomatic
- Identical genetic mutations may present with different phenotypes
 - Even within the same family

Dysferlinopathy



- Onset – mean 18-32 yrs (range 0-73 yrs)
- Most have:
 - Some ***distal***, calf weakness
 - Calf atrophy common (inability to stand on toes)
 - Asymmetries (side to side differences)
- No scapular winging, dysphagia, dysarthria, contractures or cardiac dysfunction
- PFTs ↓ over decades
 - Rarely symptomatic

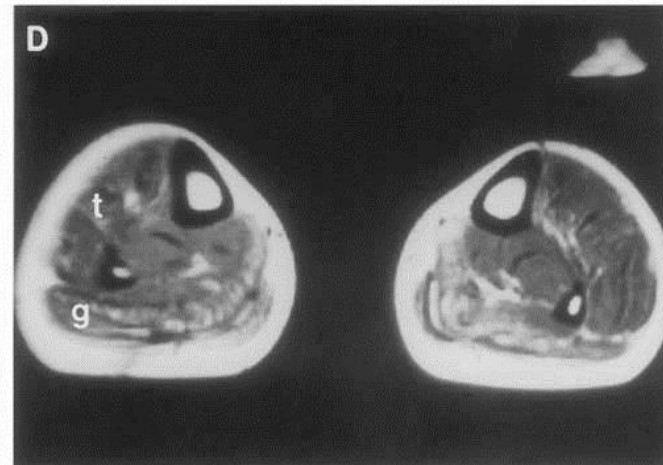
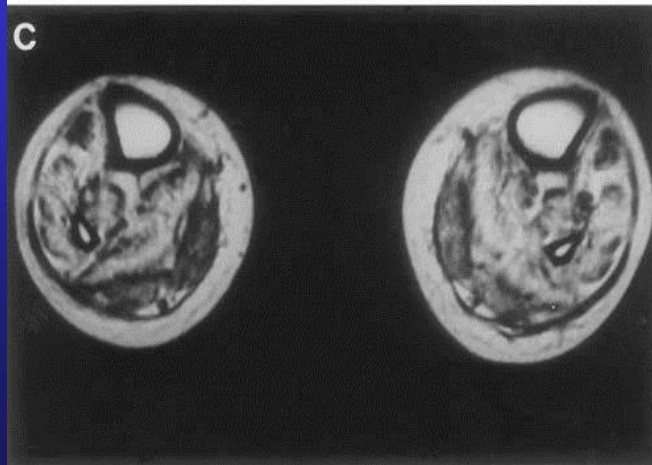
Dysferlinopathy

Anterior tibial

- Anterior tibial
 - 13/76 cases

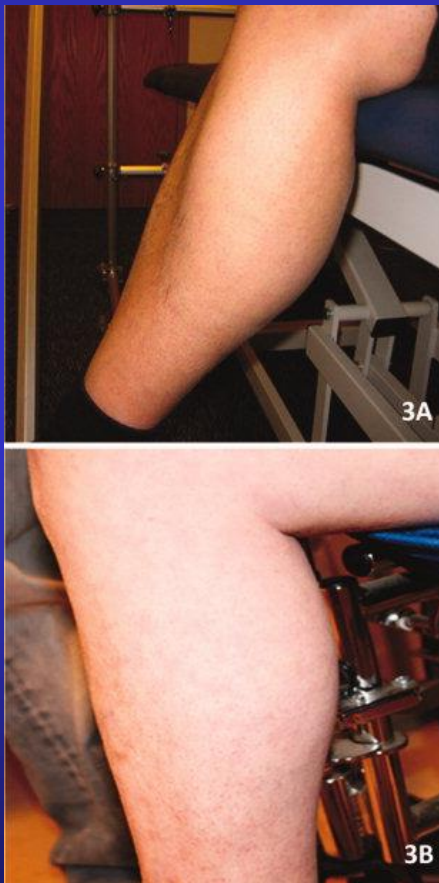


Miyoshi



Dysferlinopathy

**Calf hypertrophy
early in course**



Rosales, X
Muscle Nerve 2010;42:14

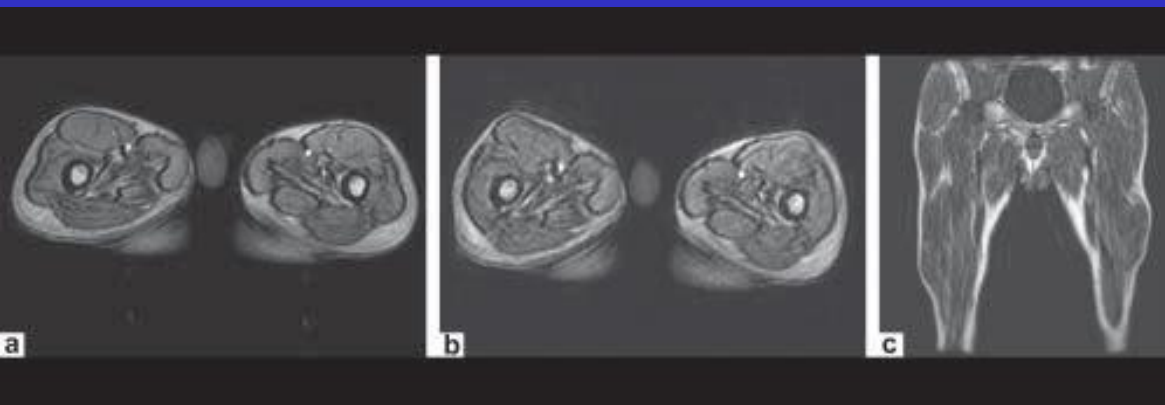
**Prominent deltoids
with biceps atrophy**



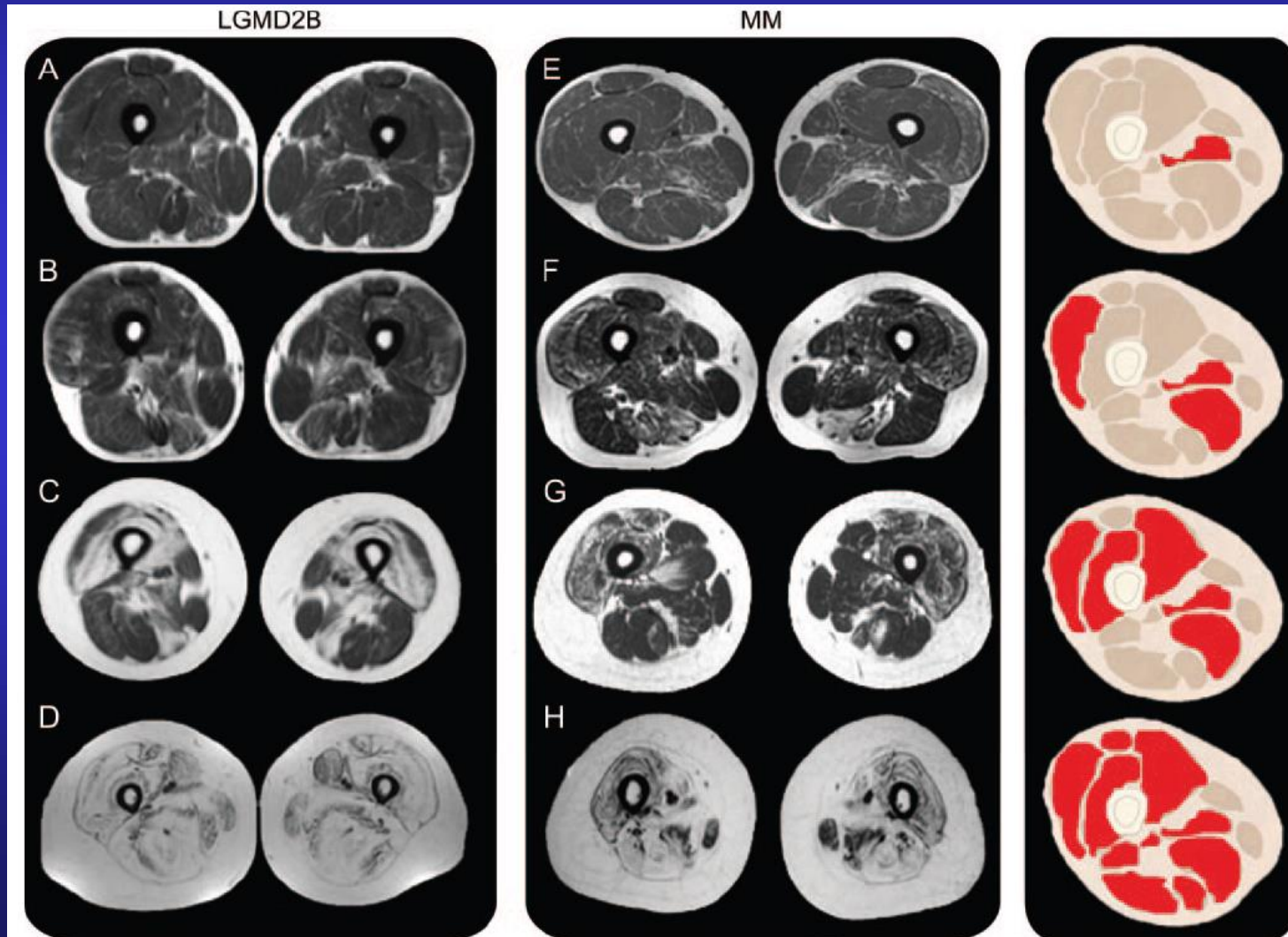
Rosales, X
Muscle Nerve 2010;42:14

Dysferlinopathy

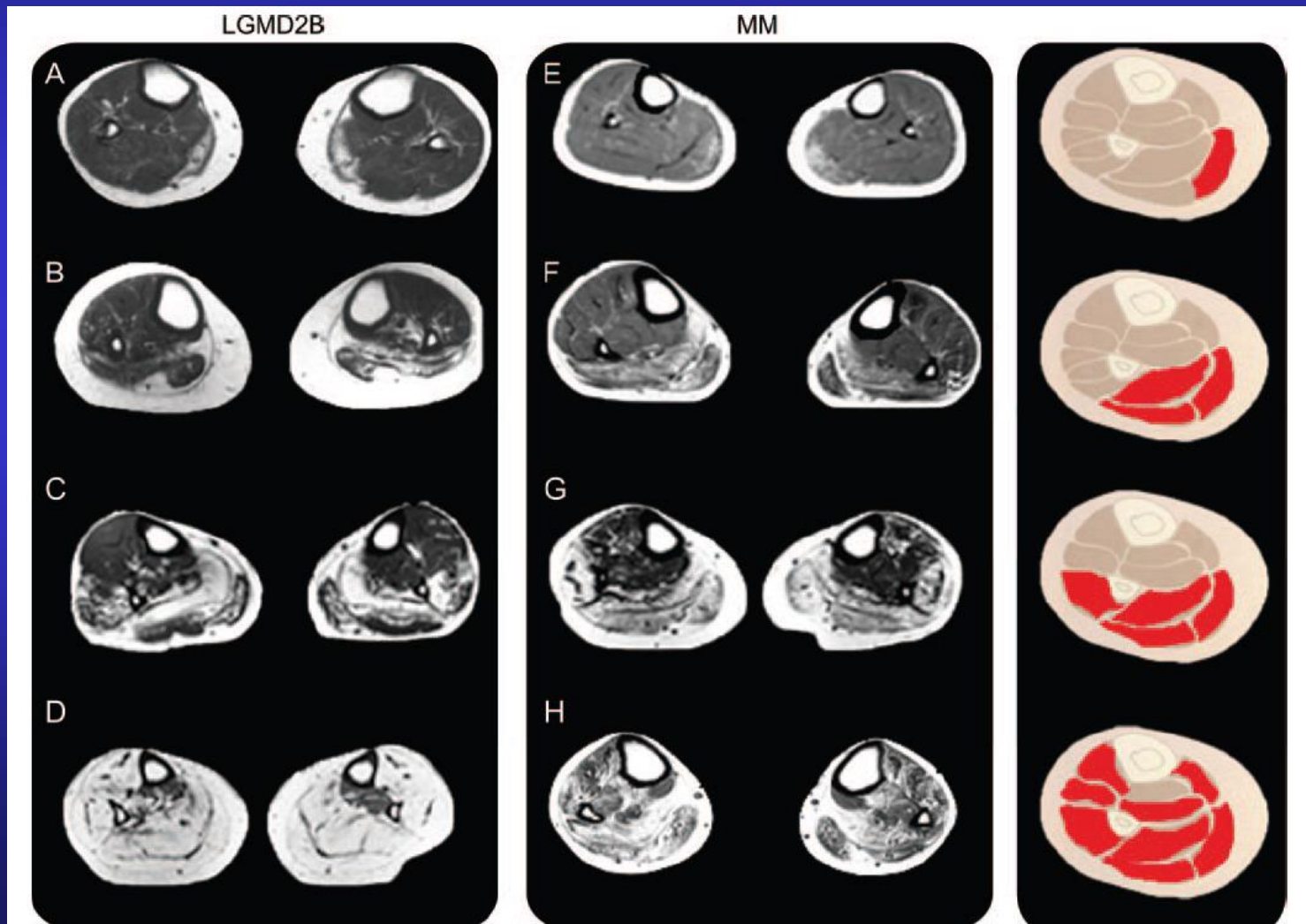
Diamond on
Quadriceps Sign
- 21/33 cases

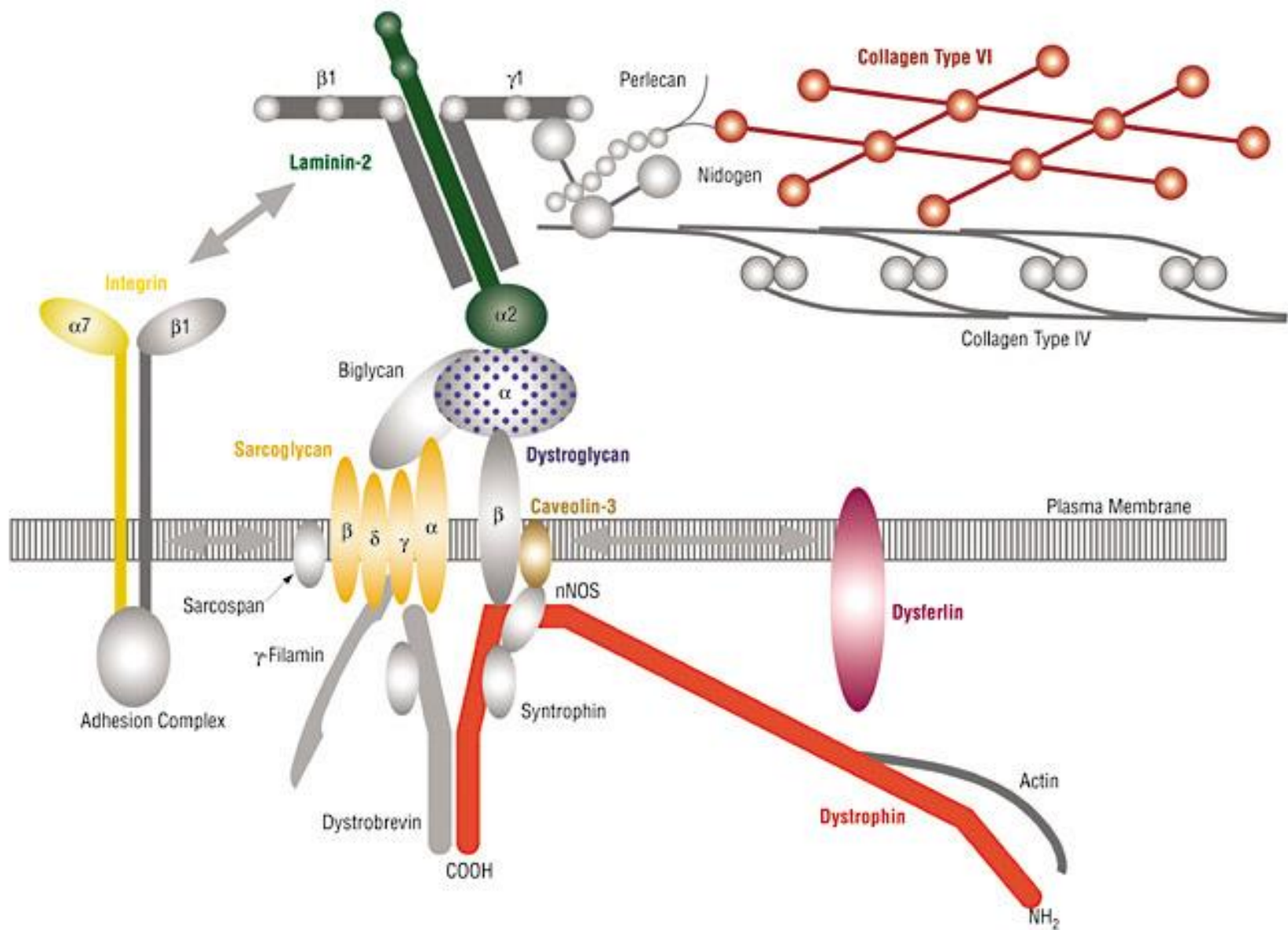


Dysferlinopathy



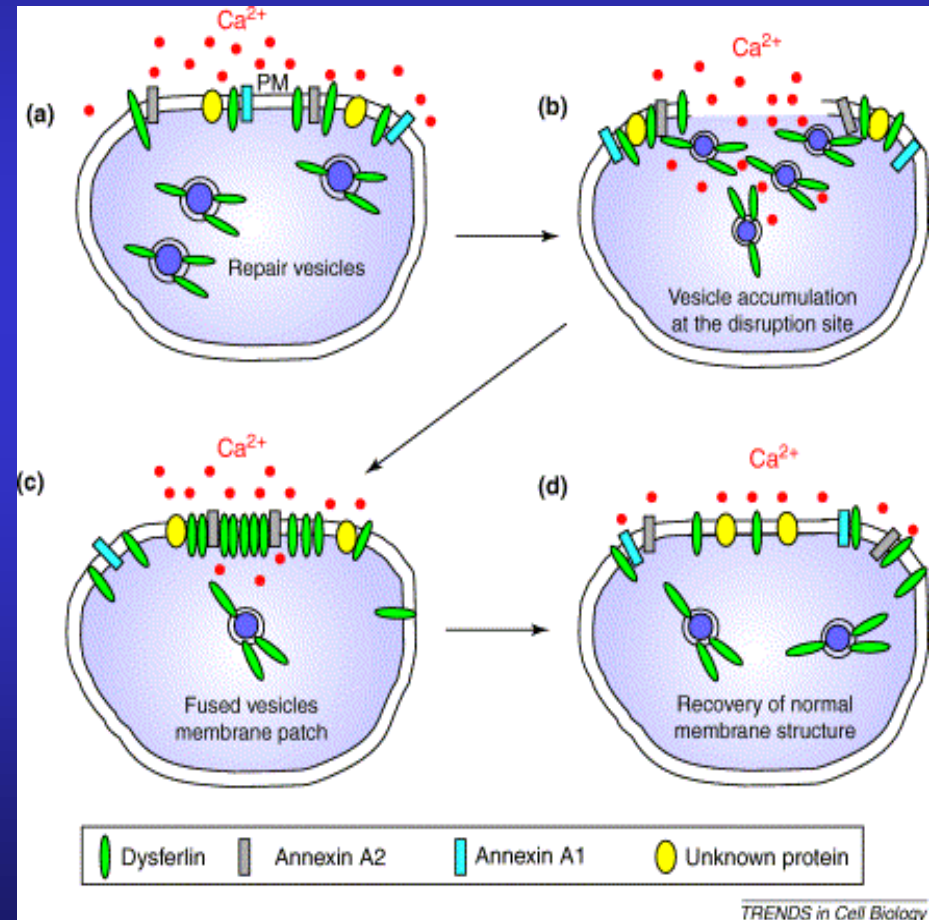
Dysferlinopathy





Dysferlinopathy

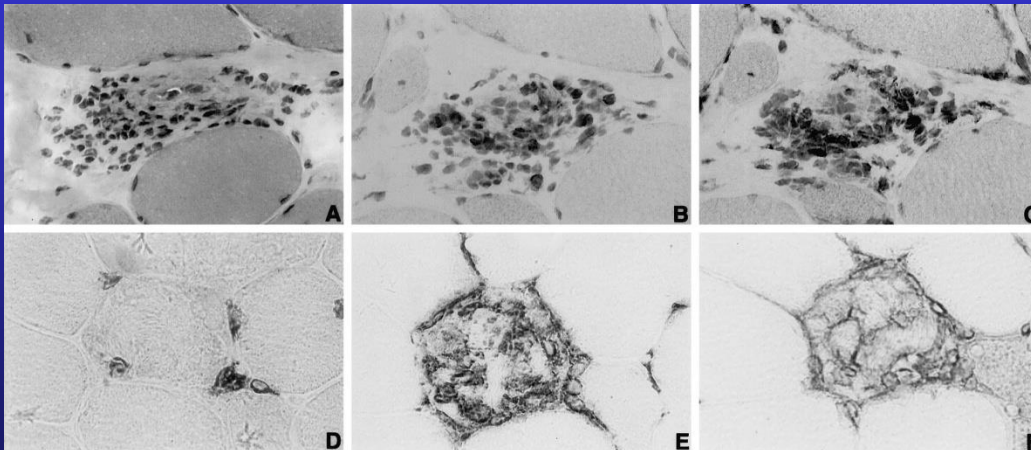
- Mechanism of action
 - Dysferlin-associated membrane repair
 - Mitochondrial health
 - Stabilizes stress-induced Ca^{2+} signaling in the T-tubule membrane
 - Diltiazem \downarrow muscle fiber inflammation & injury



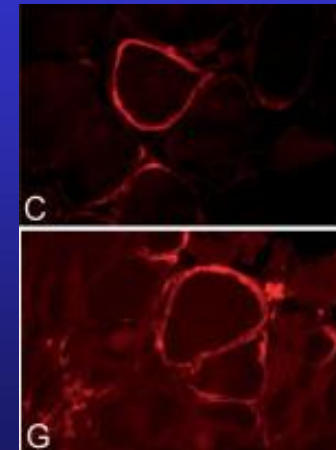
TRENDS in Cell Biology

Dysferlinopathy

- CK may be markedly elevated
 - Mean = 3800 U/L
(generally 1,000-30,000 U/L)
- Biopsies:
 - **Inflammation** (common)
 - Treatment refractory polymyositis
 - Deflazacort not effective
 - Amyloid (20-30%)



Gallardo, E
Neurology 2001;57:2136

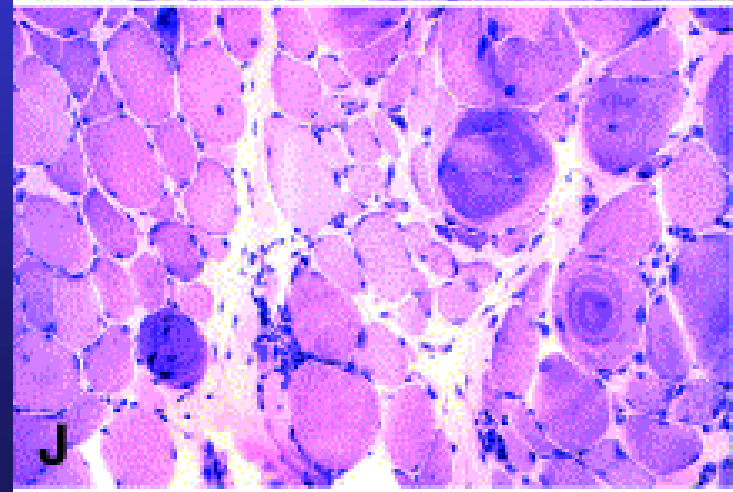
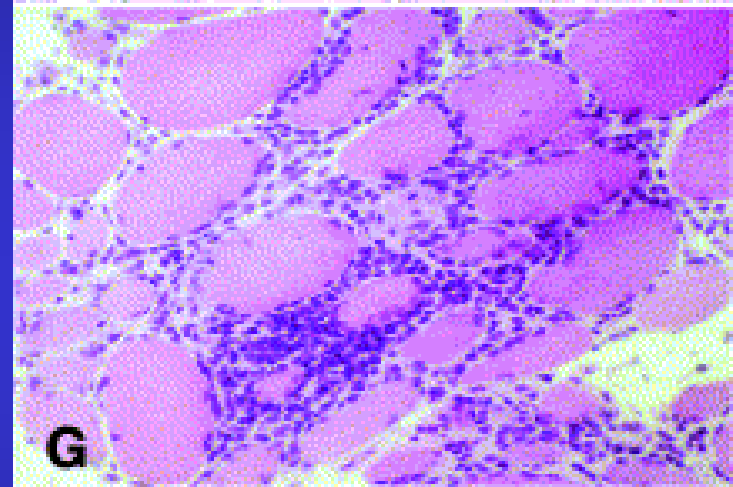
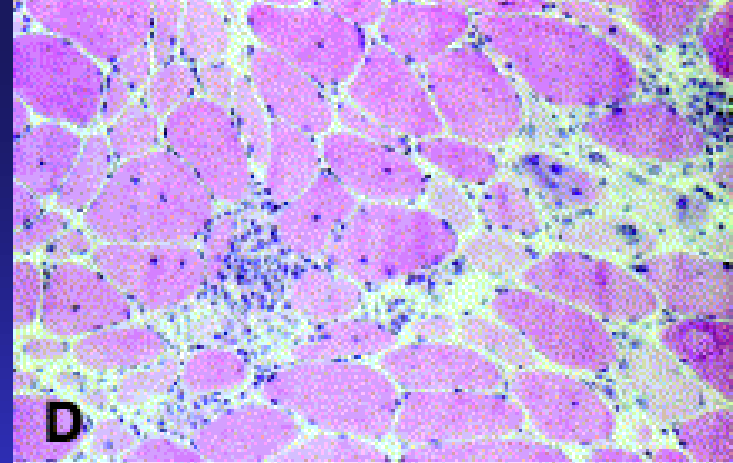


Spuler, S
Ann Neurol 2008;63:323

Dysferlin

Polymyositis

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



Dysferlinopathy

- Immunostaining variable in dysferlinopathies
 - Absent
 - Diminished sarcolemmal
 - Sarcoplasmic accumulation
- Abnormal staining in other muscle disorders also



Dysferlinopathy

- Diagnosis
 - Western blot on muscle or monocytes
- Best to use genetic testing
 - Gene sequencing
 - Next generation gene panel
 - Exome/genome sequencing

What else looks like dysferlinopathies?

SPECIAL ARTICLE



Pushpa Narayanaswami,
MBBS, DM, FAAN
Michael Weiss, MD,
FAAN
Duygu Selcen, MD
William David, MD,
PhD
Elizabeth Raynor, MD
Gregory Carter, MD
Matthew Wicklund, MD,
FAAN
Richard J. Barohn, MD,
FAAN
Erik Ensrud, MD
Robert C. Griggs, MD,
FAAN
Gary Gronseth, MD,
FAAN
Anthony A. Amato, MD,
FAAN

Correspondence to
American Academy of Neurology:
guidelines@aan.com

Evidence-based guideline summary: Diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle and distal dystrophies

Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the Practice Issues Review Panel of the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

ABSTRACT

Objective: To review the current evidence and make practice recommendations regarding the diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMDs).

Methods: Systematic review and practice recommendation development using the American Academy of Neurology guideline development process.

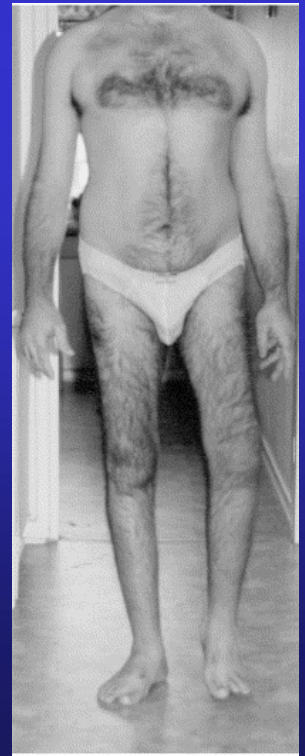
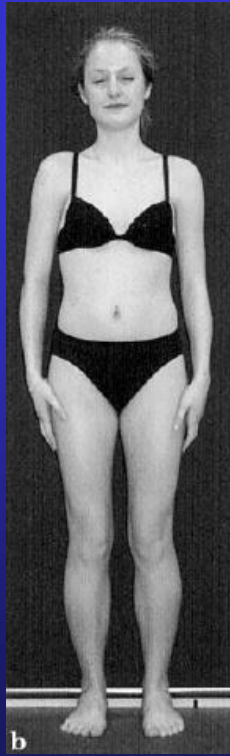
Results: Most LGMDs are rare, with estimated prevalences ranging from 0.07 per 100,000 to 0.43 per 100,000. The frequency of some muscular dystrophies varies based on the ethnic background of the population studied. Some LGMD subtypes have distinguishing features, including pattern of muscle involvement, cardiac abnormalities, extramuscular involvement, and muscle biopsy findings. The few published therapeutic trials were not designed to establish clinical efficacy of any treatment.

Principal recommendations: For patients with suspected muscular dystrophy, clinicians should use a clinical approach to guide genetic diagnosis based on clinical phenotype, inheritance pattern, and associated manifestations (Level B). Clinicians should refer newly diagnosed patients with an LGMD subtype and high risk of cardiac complications for cardiology evaluation even if they are asymptomatic from a cardiac standpoint (Level B). In patients with LGMD with a known high risk of respiratory failure, clinicians should obtain periodic pulmonary function testing (Level B). Clinicians should refer patients with muscular dystrophy to a clinic that has access to multiple specialties designed specifically to care for patients with neuromuscular disorders (Level B). Clinicians should not offer patients with LGMD gene therapy, myoblast transplantation, neutralizing antibody to myostatin, or growth hormone outside of a research study designed to determine efficacy and safety of the treatment (Level R). Detailed results and recommendations are available on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org. **Neurology® 2014;83:1453-1463**

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>LINKAGE</u>	<u>GENE</u>	<u>GENE PRODUCT</u>
LGMD1A	5q22.3-31.3	<i>MYOT</i>	Myotilin
LGMD1B	1q11-21	<i>LMNA</i>	Lamin A/C
LGMD1C	3p25	<i>CAV3</i>	Caveolin-3
LGMD1D	7q36	<i>DNAJB6</i>	Molecular chaperone protein
LGMD1E	2q35	<i>DES</i>	Desmin
LGMD1F	7q32.1-32.2	<i>TNPO3</i>	Transportin 3
LGMD1G	4p21	<i>HNRPDL</i>	RNA-processing protein
LGMD1H	3p23-p25.1		Unknown
LGMD2A	15q15.1-21.1	<i>CAPN3</i>	Calpain-3
LGMD2B	2p13	<i>DYSF</i>	Dysferlin
LGMD2C	13q12	<i>SGCG</i>	γ -sarcoglycan
LGMD2D	17q12-21.33	<i>SGCA</i>	α -sarcoglycan
LGMD2E	4q12	<i>SGCB</i>	β -sarcoglycan
LGMD2F	5q33-34	<i>SGCD</i>	δ -sarcoglycan
LGMD2G	17q11-12	<i>TCAP</i>	Telethonin
LGMD2H	9q31-33	<i>TRIM32</i>	E3-ubiquitin-ligase
LGMD2I	19q13	<i>FKRP</i>	Fukutin Related Protein
LGMD2J	2q31	<i>TTN</i>	Titin
LGMD2K	9q34.1	<i>POMT1</i>	O-mannosyltransferase-1
LGMD2L	11p13-p12	<i>ANO5</i>	Anoctamin 5
LGMD2M	9q31	<i>FCMD</i>	Fukutin
LGMD2N	14q24	<i>POMT2</i>	O-mannosyltransferase-2
LGMD2O	19q13	<i>POMGnT21</i>	O-mannose- β 1,2-N-acetylglucosaminyltransferase-1
LGMD2P	3p21	<i>DAG1</i>	α -dystroglycan
LGMD2Q	8q24	<i>PLEC1</i>	Plectin 1f
LGMD2R	2q35	<i>DES</i>	Desmin
LGMD2S	4q35.1	<i>TRAPPC11</i>	Transport protein particle complex, subunit 11

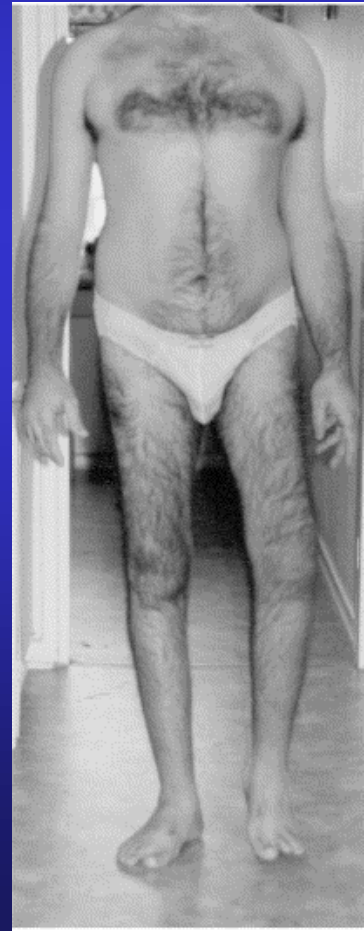
Limb Girdle, Distal, or what?

- 19 autosomal recessive LGMDs
- 8 autosomal dominant LGMDs



Limb Girdle, Distal, or what?

- 19 autosomal recessive LGMDs
- 6 autosomal dominant LGMDs
- 9 distal myopathies



Limb Girdle, Distal, or what?

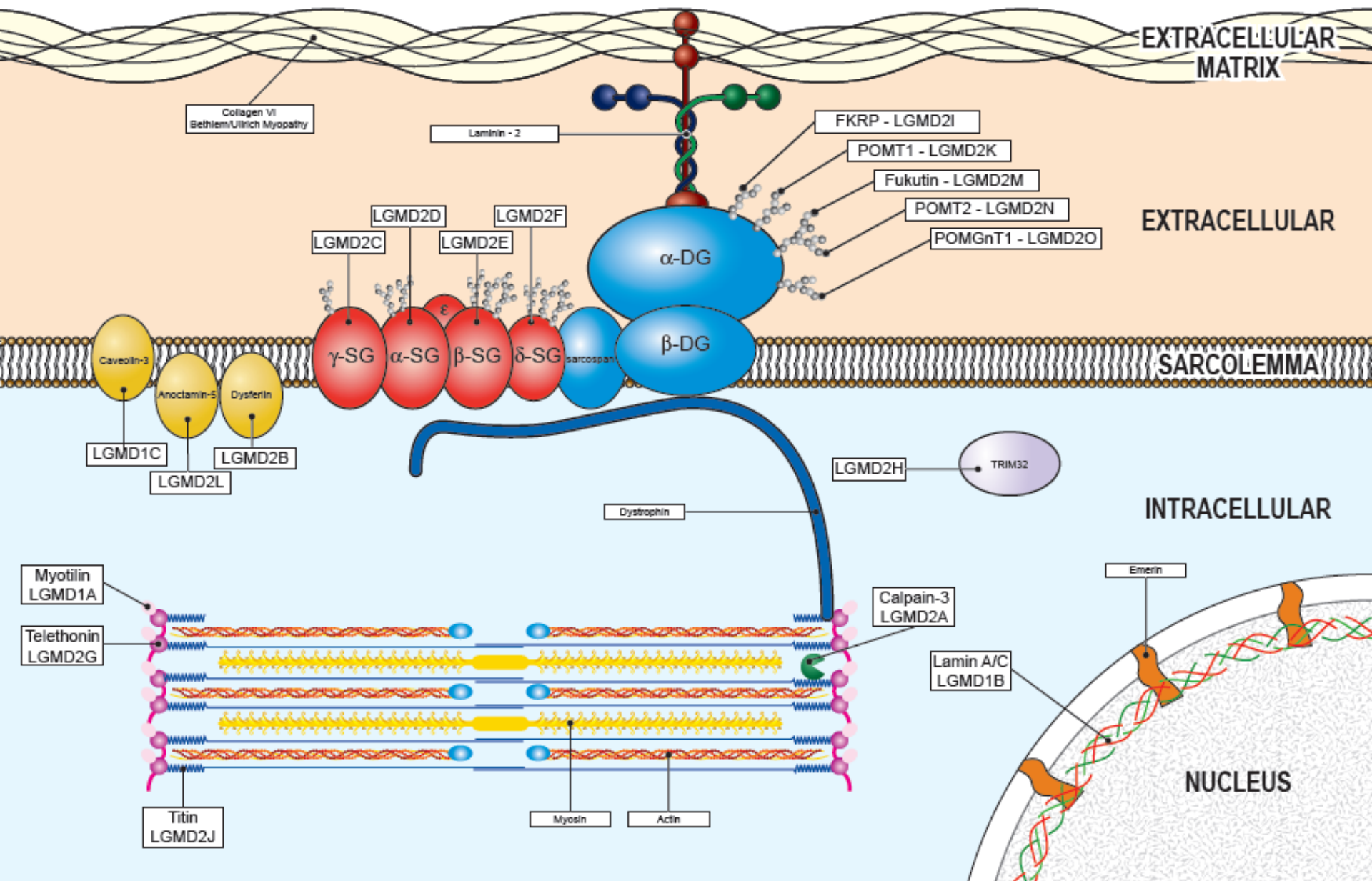
- 19 autosomal recessive LGMDs
- 6 autosomal dominant LGMDs
- 9 distal myopathies
- 6 Emery Dreifuss muscular dystrophies



Limb Girdle, Distal, or what?

- 19 autosomal recessive LGMDs
- 6 autosomal dominant LGMDs
- 9 distal myopathies
- 6 Emery Dreifuss muscular dystrophies
- 7 myofibrillar myopathies

Nearly 50 genes in total



How common are dysferlinopathies?

SPECIAL ARTICLE



Pushpa Narayanaswami,
MBBS, DM, FAAN
Michael Weiss, MD,
FAAN
Duygu Selcen, MD
William David, MD,
PhD
Elizabeth Raynor, MD
Gregory Carter, MD
Matthew Wicklund, MD,
FAAN
Richard J. Barohn, MD,
FAAN
Erik Ensrud, MD
Robert C. Griggs, MD,
FAAN
Gary Gronseth, MD,
FAAN
Anthony A. Amato, MD,
FAAN

Correspondence to
American Academy of Neurology:
guidelines@aan.com

Evidence-based guideline summary: Diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle and distal dystrophies

Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the Practice Issues Review Panel of the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

ABSTRACT

Objective: To review the current evidence and make practice recommendations regarding the diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMDs).

Methods: Systematic review and practice recommendation development using the American Academy of Neurology guideline development process.

Results: Most LGMDs are rare, with estimated prevalences ranging from 0.07 per 100,000 to 0.43 per 100,000. The frequency of some muscular dystrophies varies based on the ethnic background of the population studied. Some LGMD subtypes have distinguishing features, including pattern of muscle involvement, cardiac abnormalities, extramuscular involvement, and muscle biopsy findings. The few published therapeutic trials were not designed to establish clinical efficacy of any treatment.

Principal recommendations: For patients with suspected muscular dystrophy, clinicians should use a clinical approach to guide genetic diagnosis based on clinical phenotype, inheritance pattern, and associated manifestations (Level B). Clinicians should refer newly diagnosed patients with an LGMD subtype and high risk of cardiac complications for cardiology evaluation even if they are asymptomatic from a cardiac standpoint (Level B). In patients with LGMD with a known high risk of respiratory failure, clinicians should obtain periodic pulmonary function testing (Level B). Clinicians should refer patients with muscular dystrophy to a clinic that has access to multiple specialties designed specifically to care for patients with neuromuscular disorders (Level B). Clinicians should not offer patients with LGMD gene therapy, myoblast transplantation, neutralizing antibody to myostatin, or growth hormone outside of a research study designed to determine efficacy and safety of the treatment (Level R). Detailed results and recommendations are available on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org. **Neurology® 2014;83:1453-1463**

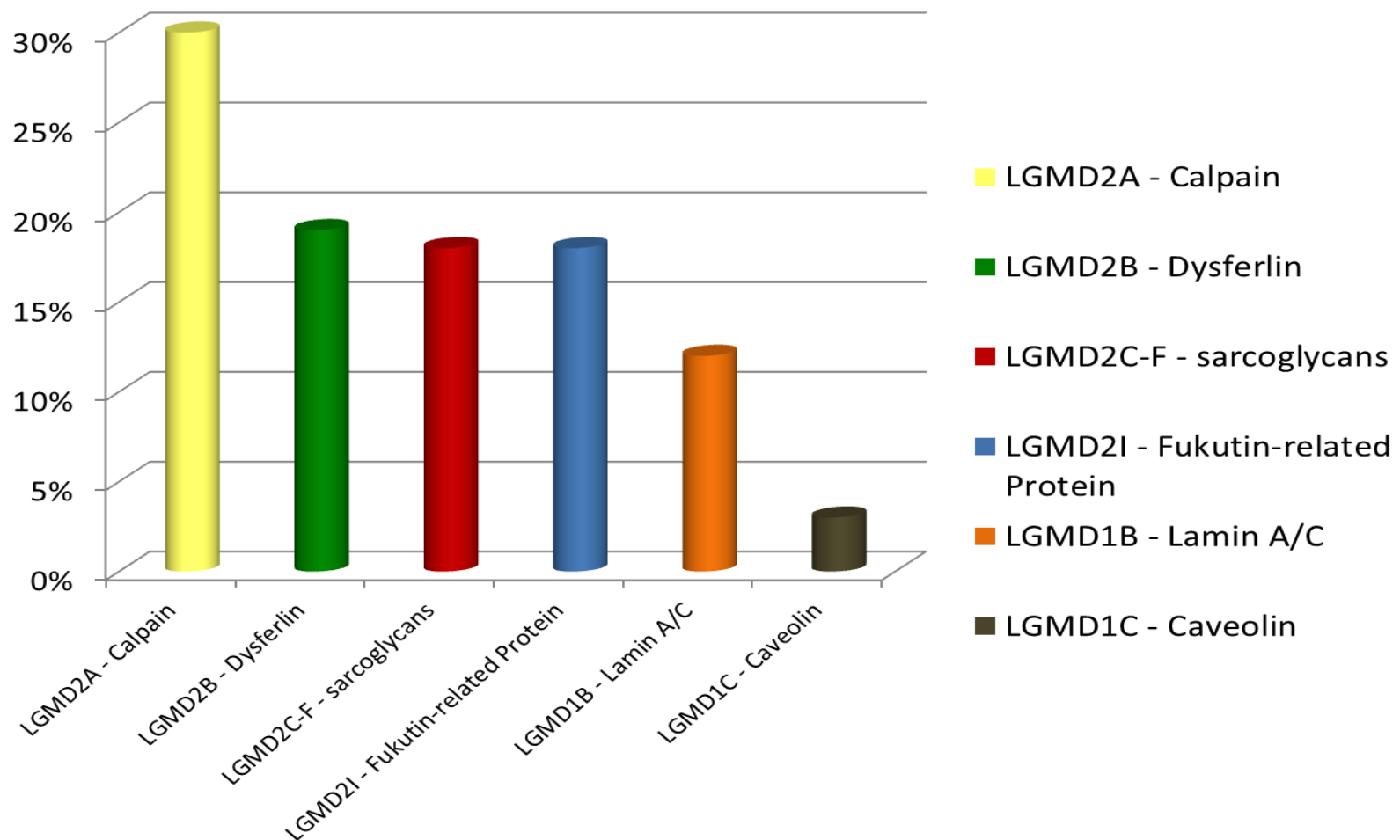
LGMD Regional Variability

- Northern Europe – LGMD 2A, 2I & 2L
- Southern Europe – LGMD 2A
- North Africa – LGMD 2B-F
- Asia – 2B & 2A
- South America – LGMD 2A-F
- North America – LGMD 1B & 2A-F
 - East Coast => LGMD 2A
 - West Coast => LGMD 2B

Relative Prevalence – USA

Dysferlinopathies:

- 10-20% (0.6%–33%) of LGMD/distal myopathies



How do we diagnose dysferlinopathies?

JAIN
FOUNDATION

Diagnostic Strategies

- If clinically FSHD, DM1 or OPMD => genetic testing
- If “limb-girdle” pattern of weakness
 - Use phenotype, PH, FH, CK & EMG => targeted genetic test(s)
 - Jain Foundation web-based “smart” algorithm (ALDA)
- Dystrophin gene testing
 - Including in women
- Pompe disease testing – *free*

Jain Foundation

LGMD Online Patient Diagnostic Tool

Take the Quiz

Free Genetic Sequencing

The Quiz, or questionnaire, on this website was designed to determine whether you may have a type of muscular dystrophy. To help identify individuals who may have one of the diseases studied by the foundations in our [consortium](#), we sponsor genetic sequencing for the diseases listed below. After taking the quiz, we will contact you if your answers suggest that you may have one of the diseases covered by our sequencing program and invite you to participate in our diagnosis program at no cost to you.

Diseases Tested by our Genetic Sequencing

- Limb girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMD1A-F and LGMD2A-Q)
- Nonaka/HIBM, Tibial muscular dystrophy
- Becker muscular dystrophy (BMD)
- Duchene muscular dystrophy (DMD)
- Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)
- Emery-Dreifuss muscular dystrophy (EDMD)
- ISPD
- Pompe
- Bethlem myopathy

Associated Genes

MYOT, LMNA, CAV3, DNAJB6, DES, TNPO3, CAPN3, DYSF, SGCG, SGCA, SGCB, SGCD, TCAP, TRIM32, FKRP, TTN, POMT1, ANO5, FKTN, POMT2, POMGnT1, DAG1, PLEC1, GNE, DMD, FSHD1, FSHD2, EMD, FHL1, SYNE1, SYNE2, ISPD, GAA, COL6A1, COL6A2, COL6A3

start having
ss?

Diagnostic Strategies

- Muscle biopsy?
 - Muscle biopsy with immunostains - \$7,000-\$12,000
 - Or... multiple mutation analyses
 - Commercially available panels (33, 79 & 200+ genes)***
 - Or...
 - Exome sequencing – 3 affected & 3 unaffected family members***
 - Genome sequencing – now raw data available in < 1 week***
 - Cautionary tale...
- “Inverted Diagnosis”

LGMD Genetic Testing

- Jain Foundation in concert with this LGMD consortium now offering same panel of 35 genes to >5,000 LGMD patients registered throughout the USA.
 - An explosion of diagnoses over the upcoming year!
 - Who knows what we'll find???

“Whilst looking down the rabbit hole, all I saw was bunnies. But once my eyes gazed ‘bout the glen, the panoply of species I did see.”

(Old English Fairy Tale)

Why remain hooked into your doctor?

SPECIAL ARTICLE



Pushpa Narayanaswami,
MBBS, DM, FAAN
Michael Weiss, MD,
FAAN
Duygu Selcen, MD
William David, MD,
PhD
Elizabeth Raynor, MD
Gregory Carter, MD
Matthew Wicklund, MD,
FAAN
Richard J. Barohn, MD,
FAAN
Erik Ensrud, MD
Robert C. Griggs, MD,
FAAN
Gary Gronseth, MD,
FAAN
Anthony A. Amato, MD,
FAAN

Correspondence to
American Academy of Neurology:
guidelines@aan.com

Evidence-based guideline summary: Diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle and distal dystrophies

Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the Practice Issues Review Panel of the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

ABSTRACT

Objective: To review the current evidence and make practice recommendations regarding the diagnosis and treatment of limb-girdle muscular dystrophies (LGMDs).

Methods: Systematic review and practice recommendation development using the American Academy of Neurology guideline development process.

Results: Most LGMDs are rare, with estimated prevalences ranging from 0.07 per 100,000 to 0.43 per 100,000. The frequency of some muscular dystrophies varies based on the ethnic background of the population studied. Some LGMD subtypes have distinguishing features, including pattern of muscle involvement, cardiac abnormalities, extramuscular involvement, and muscle biopsy findings. The few published therapeutic trials were not designed to establish clinical efficacy of any treatment.

Principal recommendations: For patients with suspected muscular dystrophy, clinicians should use a clinical approach to guide genetic diagnosis based on clinical phenotype, inheritance pattern, and associated manifestations (Level B). Clinicians should refer newly diagnosed patients with an LGMD subtype and high risk of cardiac complications for cardiology evaluation even if they are asymptomatic from a cardiac standpoint (Level B). In patients with LGMD with a known high risk of respiratory failure, clinicians should obtain periodic pulmonary function testing (Level B). Clinicians should refer patients with muscular dystrophy to a clinic that has access to multiple specialties designed specifically to care for patients with neuromuscular disorders (Level B). Clinicians should not offer patients with LGMD gene therapy, myoblast transplantation, neutralizing antibody to myostatin, or growth hormone outside of a research study designed to determine efficacy and safety of the treatment (Level R). Detailed results and recommendations are available on the Neurology® Web site at Neurology.org. **Neurology® 2014;83:1453-1463**

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacer/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis. Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. **A genetic diagnosis assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems.**

The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacemaker/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis. Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacer/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). **Precise**

identification of the disorder eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on muscle biopsy.

This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis. Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacemaker/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings.

The cost of a muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis.

Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacer/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and

provides a definitive diagnosis. **Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis.**

A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacer/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis. Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. **A genetic diagnosis provides**

patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g., more frequent cardiorespiratory monitoring and prophylactic treatments such as pacer/defibrillator placement for those disorders known to be associated with cardiac involvement). Precise identification of the disorder also eliminates the need for repeated testing for an acquired, treatable disorder such as an inflammatory myopathy, because some dystrophies may have inflammation on some muscle biopsies. This makes diagnosis difficult on the basis of routine biopsy findings. The cost of a repeat muscle biopsy, slide preparation and staining, along with pathologic interpretation costs \$7,000-\$12,000. The cost of genetic testing is now much lower and provides a definitive diagnosis. Although establishing a genetic diagnosis is somewhat costly on the front end, the costs of continued investigation for other causes and monitoring for cardiorespiratory involvement (Cardiology consultation with EKG, echocardiogram and Holter monitor plus Pulmonary consultation along with pulmonary function testing), and the risks and expenses associated with empiric trials of immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”.

Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

“The accurate diagnosis of genetic muscle diseases is important for patients, their families, and for efficient and cost-effective use of medical resources. It assists in defining the long-term prognosis, since some dystrophies are more rapidly progressive, involve the cardiorespiratory systems more frequently, or are associated with other organ system problems. The identification of these dystrophies through genetic testing will not only inform long-term prognosis but will also assist in directing care more efficiently (e.g.,

“Patients can remain engaged in their own care, and in further disease discovery, through regular evaluations with their neuromuscular specialist, and through participation in research trials on natural history and/or treatment.”

expenses associated with empiric trials or immunosuppressants make a strong case for establishing a genetic diagnosis. A genetic diagnosis also provides patients a sense of “closure”. Establishing a genetic diagnosis is crucial for genetic counseling to inform decision making about having children and for screening of offspring. Treatment of cardiomyopathy, arrhythmias, and ventilatory failure prolongs life and improves quality of life in patients with other neuromuscular diseases.”

Recommendations for Future Research

As the category of LGMDs expands with advances in molecular diagnostics and new disorders are identified, there is need for research in the following areas.

1. **Large prospective, long-term, population-based studies** to establish the prevalence of these disorders, identify the ethnic populations among which they are most prevalent, and evaluate their long-term course, including the incidence of cardiorespiratory complications.
2. **Studies of genotype/phenotype correlation** to establish phenotypic patterns based on genotype, and to describe the phenotypes caused by each genotype.
3. **Optimal management of other organ system involvement** (e.g., frequency and types of screening, effective treatments).
4. Well-designed studies of the **effectiveness of exercise programs, physical therapy, and endurance training**.
5. Studies of treatments, including **symptomatic treatments** such as orthotics for contractures (nonsurgical/surgical) on mobility and quality of life, as well as **disease-modifying treatments** such as gene therapy and stem cell therapy.
6. Preliminary data suggest **corticosteroids** may benefit α -dystroglycanopathies but not dysferlinopathies. These results need replication in larger, controlled studies.

Engagement Empowers

- Encourage diagnosis.
- Engulf education about dysferlinopathies.
- Employ knowledge to optimize quality of life.
- Enable through community efforts.
- Endow all with your enthusiasm.
- Embolden research.
- Envision no dysferlinopathies...

mwicklund@hmc.psu.edu

