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Review article

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A review on AKT1 and PTEN gene of proteus syndrome

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ABSTRACT

Proteus syndrome is a very complex and rare to find in the world. It consists of asymmetric and disproportionate overgrowth in bones and skins. There are very few cases that have been come in light all over the world. The responsible genes for the proteus syndrome were AKT1 gene and PTEN. AKT1 is causing of proliferation, growth in cell cycle and PTEN is tumour suppressor gene in which the change causes the growth in cells. Proteus syndrome is a mutation occurs in chromosomes and it is a disorder not a disease. The major breaks of pathway are commonly found and eventually lead to the clinical approaches as their effect.

Keywords: AKT1, PTEN, mTOR, PI3K, PIP.

INTRODUCTION

Proteus syndrome was firstly found in a man who belonged to England and was known by the name 'Joseph Carey Merrick'. He was also known as the 'Elephant Man'. Joseph Merrick had disproportionate overgrowth on his face and limbs. His left arm was normal but right limb was affected with overgrowth (1). Basically, his body was seen very strange. He could not able to do his work properly and even he could not able to speak properly. His one eye was also half covered with overgrowth tissues. He was suffering many difficulties due to this syndrome. Proteus syndrome is basically a disorder. It is not a disease. It is very rare to be found. It is found less

than 1 man over 1 million. Proteus syndrome is named after a Greek Sea-God 'Proteus' who could take any form (2). Cohen and Hayden were first who described the disorder in 1979 (3) but 'Proteus syndrome' term was coined by Wiedemann *et al.* in 1983. Proteus Syndrome also known as 'Wiedemann Syndrome' (4). Proteus syndrome starts in human when mutation occurs in chromosome 10 and 16. It is characterized by asymmetrical and disproportionate overgrowth of skin and bones. Many of the cases have been reported of this disorder but these are few hundred in number.

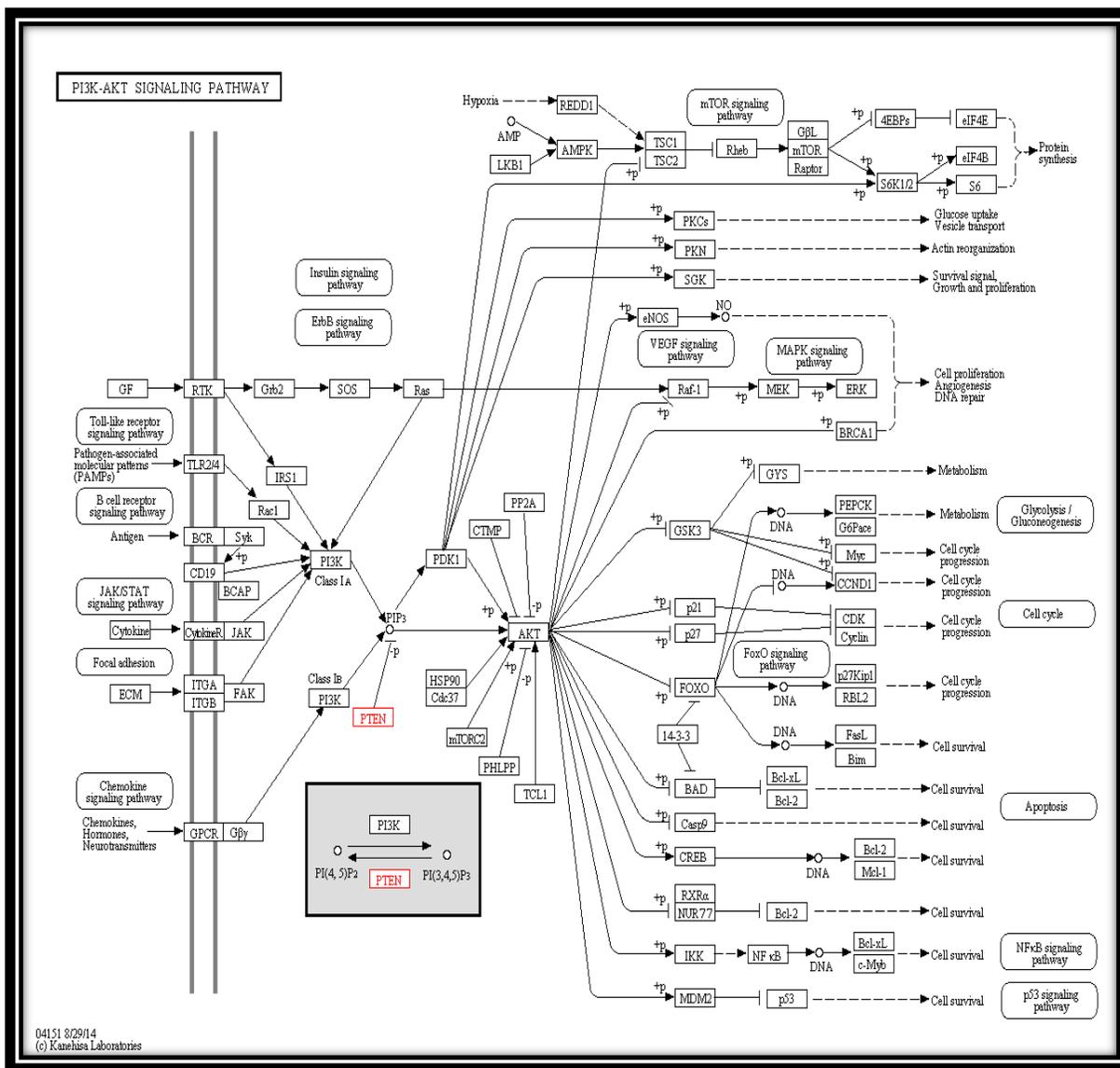


Fig 1: PI3K-AKT Signaling Pathway

PI3K-AKT Signaling Pathway and mTOR pathway are those pathways which are intracellular pathways. These are very important in cell cycle. The PI 3'-OH kinase (PI3K) family comprises 3 classes of proteins that phosphorylate PI, PI-4-phosphate (PI-4-P), or PI-4,5-bisphosphate (PI-4,5-P₂ or PIP₂) on position 3' (5). PI3Ks generate PI-3,4,5-trisphosphate (PIP₃) from PIP₂ and PIP₃ acts as a second messenger by binding to and activating pleckstrin homology (PH) domain-containing proteins. The activation of Akt by PIP₃ production triggers signaling through a multitude of Akt phosphorylation targets that control cell survival, growth, proliferation, and other cellular

processes (6). The net effect of Akt activation is activation of mTORC1, which is responsible for the up-regulation of protein synthesis in cells (7). PTEN plays a role in the regulation of PI3 kinase signaling, which is involved in the control of apoptosis and cell cycle progression (8). PTEN plays role in the pathways as a tumour suppressor when it is inactivated due to some reasons its can cause the tumor. PTEN is frequently inactivated by mutation with loss of heterozygosity (LOH). Initial studies have shown that the expression of PTEN induces a marked decrease of proliferation because of cell cycle arrest in G1 phase (9,10). The discovery of *PTEN* as

a tumor suppressor gene and the breakthrough finding that it functions as a PIP₃ Phosphatase have put the PI3K-Akt pathway on the map of important

cancer pathways (11-13). In this pathway PTEN works as a natural inhibitor.

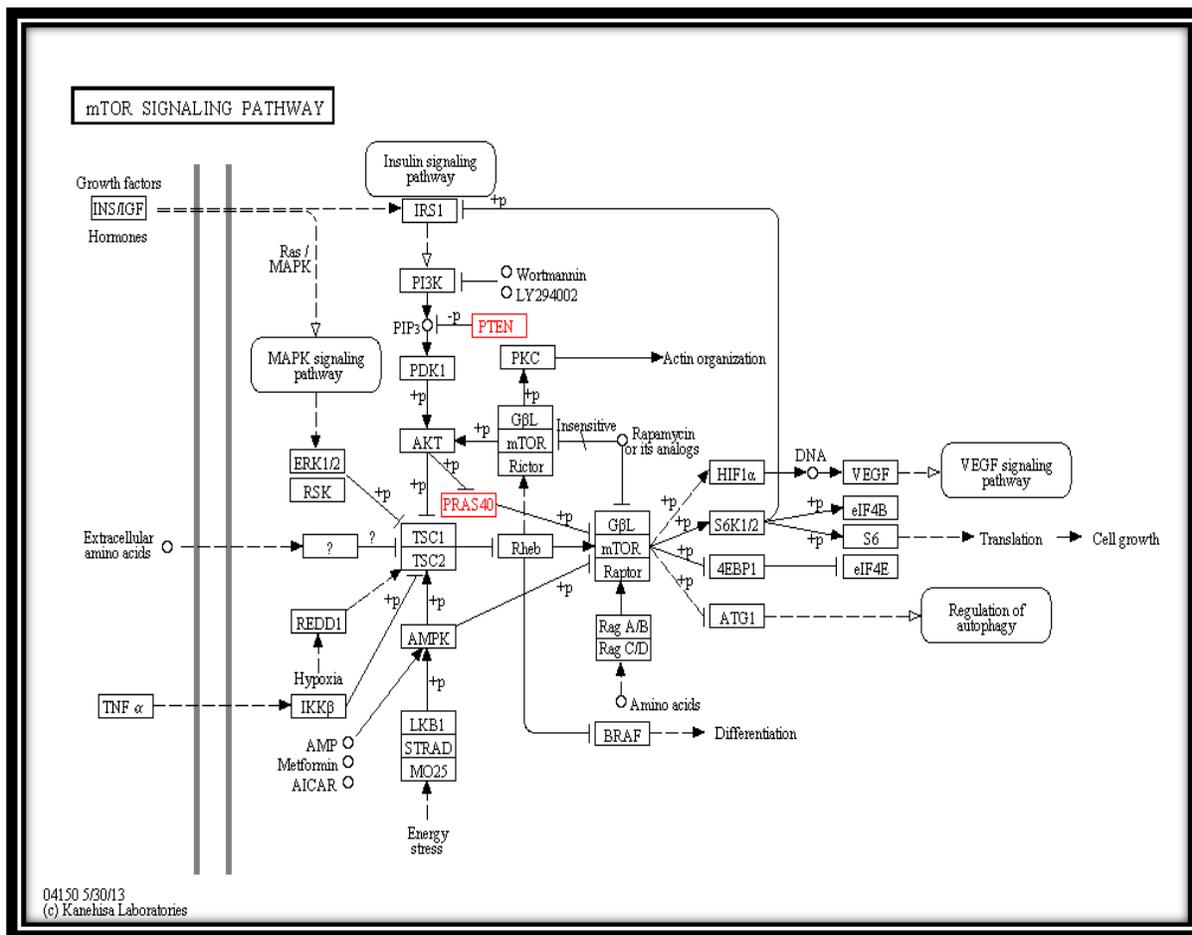


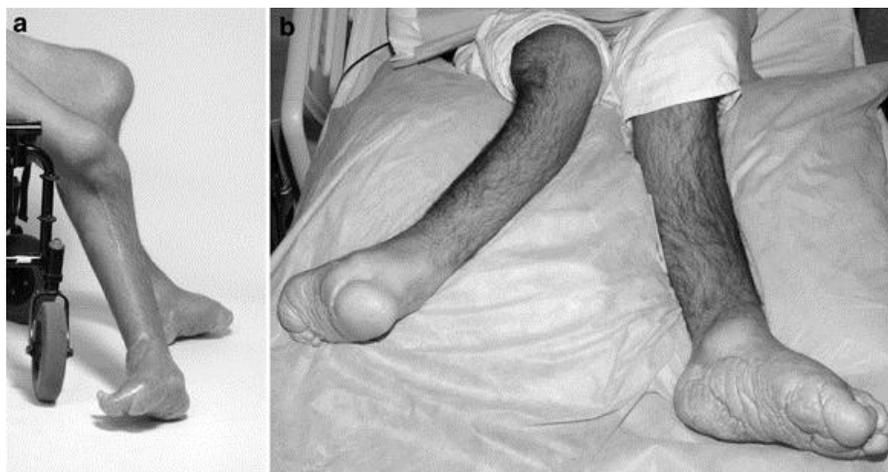
Fig. 2: mTOR Pathway

These figures show the metabolic pathway of AKT1 gene and PTEN which are responsible for the Proteus syndrome.

Signs and Symptoms

- It includes overgrowth occurring in skeleton part and tissues.
- It may rapidly progressive in childhood but slow or stabilize during adolescence.
- It consists rapidly growth occurring in one cell during the early stages from birth.
- The signs of overgrowth are apparent in 6 to 18 months.

- The overgrowth occurring in limbs, facial bones, skull and adipose tissues are affective.
- The overgrowth skin is rough as it seen.
- The skin is very thick and groovy lesions which is got overgrowth.
- The patient also faces the abnormalities such as vision loss etc.
- The affected part of the body, whether it is head or limb or any part of the body, gets overgrowth rapidly and the patient suffers.
- It may include immobility of joints.
- Deficiency of soft skin.
- Premature death is not common and it is caused by embolism and respiratory failure (14).



(a) And (b) Showing legs affected by proteus syndrome



(c) Joseph Merrick 'The Elephant Man'

How does it infect our cells and bones

Proteus syndrome is very uncommon disorder which is rarely found worldwide. Proteus syndrome, mainly has been reported, is caused by two genes. AKT1 and PTEN are mainly responsible for the proteus syndrome. These are responsible for the overgrowth

in the bones and tissues. AKT1 gene is the first gene found responsible for proteus syndrome. Proteus syndrome occurs when abnormality occurs in AKT1 gene which includes mutation in AKT1 gene. AKT1 gene is also known as serine-threonine-protein kinase which is responsible for the growth.

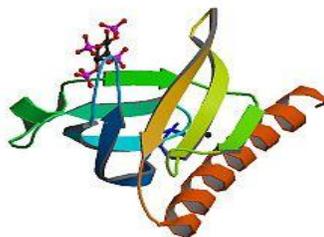


Fig. Structure of AKT1 gene from PDB

AKT1 gene regulates cells growth, cell division and cell death. So, it regulates the overgrowth of the cell. A single-nucleotide polymorphism in this gene

causes Proteus syndrome (15,16). PTEN gene is the other gene found responsible for the proteus syndrome.

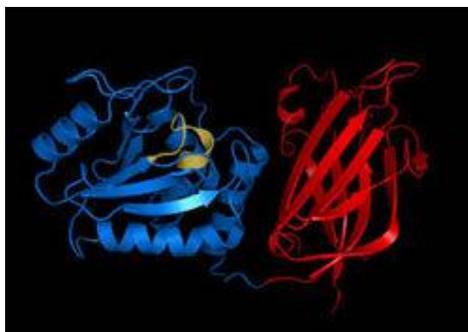


Fig. Structure of PTEN gene from PDB

Phosphatase and tensin homolog or PTEN acts as a tumor suppressor. The protein encoded by this gene is a phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphosphate 3-phosphatase (17). PTEN acts as a signaling cell to stop dividing the cells. It can cause cancer in the body. PTEN regulates Proteus syndrome when mutation occurs in the chromosome 10 and 16 (18-19). Proteus syndrome is not inherited. It is not necessary if one of the parents have the disorder the progeny will also suffer with this.

Diagnosis and Treatments

Rapamycin is the only drug is obtained in the world till now (20). Surgery is available.

CONCLUSION

In this review, the main objective is to obtain a drug which can suppress the activity of AKT1 gene and PTEN gene which is responsible for the proteus

syndrome. The drug which will be obtained can be highly effective which can oppose and suppress the activity of the responsible genes. The mutation which occurs on chromosome 10 and 16 can be identified before and the patient can be diagnosed. Thus, this can lead to clinical trials.

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