

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Assessment of neonatal iron stores and HFE gene mutations

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Abstract

Background: The association between iron stores (Fe) and HFE gene polymorphisms on high-risk neonates is shown.

Methods: We included newborns with high perinatal risk. Newborns were divided into three groups for measurements of serum ferritin (SF): iron overload (IO) with SF 1000 $\mu\text{g/L}$, normal iron stores (NIS) with SF 154-1000 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and low iron stores (LIS) with SF <154 $\mu\text{g/L}$. We used real-time PCR for identification of polymorphisms C282Y, H63DE, and S65C of the HFE gene.

Results: We studied 97 newborns with IO in 24 cases (ratio 0.247) and SF 1789 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (95% CI 1376-2201), NIS in 36 cases (0.371), and SF of 461 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (389-533) and LIS in 37 cases (0.381) and SF 82 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (69-96). There were no cases detected for C282Y or S65C mutations. We identified 18 neonates with H63D HFE variant (gene frequency 0.185) with heterozygous condition (H63D/WT) in 12 cases (gene frequency 0.124) and homozygote (H63D/H63D) in six cases (gene frequency 0.062). H63D allele frequency was 0.092. The HFE H63D variant showed no association for comparing infants with NIS vs. LIS (OR 1.2, 95% CI 0.3-4.3) and NIS vs. IO newborn infant (OR 2.5, 0.7-9.2).

Conclusions: In high-risk neonates ~25% show IO even with the possible selection bias. HFE gene variants do not influence on the neonatal iron stores.

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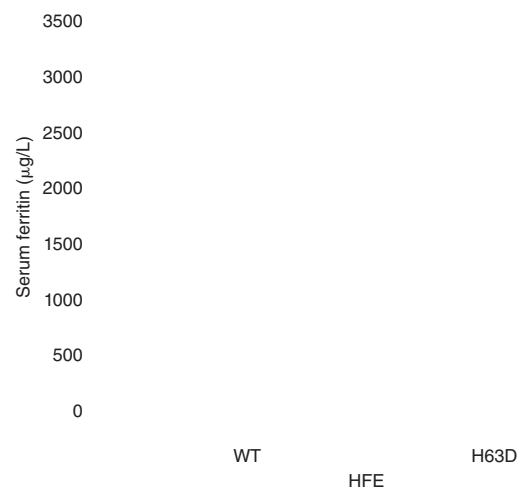


Figure 1 Distribution of serum ferritin values according to the H63D allele of the HFE gene. WT, natural allele; H63D, mutated allele.

