

## Pathogenetic Dichotomy in Angioleiomyoma

IOANNIS PANAGOPOULOS<sup>1</sup>, KRISTIN ANDERSEN<sup>1</sup>, MARTA BRUNETTI<sup>1</sup>,  
LUDMILA GORUNOVA<sup>1</sup>, ILYÁ KOSTOLOMOV<sup>2</sup>, WANJA KILDAL<sup>3</sup>, HANNE REGINE HOGNESTAD<sup>4</sup>,  
INGVILD LOBMAIER<sup>4</sup>, FRANCESCA MICCI<sup>1</sup> and SVERRE HEIM<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Section for Cancer Cytogenetics, Institute for Cancer Genetics and Informatics,  
The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway;

<sup>2</sup>Section for Applied Informatics, Institute for Cancer Genetics and Informatics,  
The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway;

<sup>3</sup>Section for Interphase Genetics, Institute for Cancer Genetics and Informatics,  
The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway;

<sup>4</sup>Department of Pathology, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway

**Abstract.** *Background/Aim:* Angioleiomyoma is a benign tumor, occurs at any age, and arises most frequently in the lower extremities. Genetic information on angioleiomyomas is restricted to six reported abnormal karyotypes, losses in chromosome 22 and gains in Xq found by comparative genomic hybridization, and mutation analysis of notch receptor 2 (NOTCH2), NOTCH3, platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta (PDGFRB), and mediator complex subunit 12 (MED12) in a few tumors. Herein, we report the genetic findings in another three angioleiomyomas. *Materials and Methods:* The tumors were examined using G-banding and karyotyping, RNA sequencing, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, Sanger sequencing, and expression analysis. *Results:* The first tumor carried a t(4;5)(p12;q32) translocation resulting in fusion of the cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA (CARMN in 5q32) with the TXK tyrosine kinase gene (TXK in 4p12) leading to overexpression of TXK. To our knowledge, this is the first time that a recurrent chromosome translocation and its resulting fusion gene have been

described in angioleiomyomas. The second tumor carried a four-way translocation, t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13) which fused the myosin heavy chain 11 gene (MYH11 in 16p13) with intergenic sequences from Xq22 that mapped a few kilobase pairs distal to the insulin receptor substrate 4 gene (IRS4), resulting in enhanced IRS4 expression. The third angioleiomyoma carried another rearrangement of chromosome band Xq22, t(X;9)(q22;q32), as the sole cytogenetic aberration, but no material was available for further molecular investigation. *Conclusion:* Our data, together with previously reported abnormal karyotypes in angioleiomyomas, show the presence of two recurrent genetic pathways in this tumor type: The first is characterized by presence of the translocation t(4;5)(p12;q32), which generates a CARMN::TXK chimera. The second is recurrent rearrangement of Xq22 resulting in overexpression of IRS4.

Angioleiomyoma, also known as angiomyoma, vascular leiomyoma or dermal angioma, is a benign tumor believed to arise from the smooth muscle layer (*tunica media*) of subcutaneous blood vessels (1). In the World Health Organization classification of soft-tissue and bone tumors, published in 2020, angioleiomyoma is considered a distinct tumor entity which, together with glomus tumor and myopericytoma, form the group of pericytic (perivascular) tumors (2). Angioleiomyoma accounts for 5% of all benign soft tumors, may occur at any age with a peak incidence between the fourth and sixth decade of life, and may arise anywhere but most frequently in the lower extremities (3). Fewer than 50 angioleiomyomas of the knee have been reported to date (4).

Angioleiomyomas are typically firm, well-circumscribed nodules in which well-differentiated, perivascular smooth-muscle cells are arranged around numerous vascular channels (2). The tumor cells are consistently positive for smooth

*Correspondence to:* Ioannis Panagopoulos, Section for Cancer Cytogenetics, Institute for Cancer Genetics and Informatics, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital, Montebello, PO Box 4954 Nydalen, NO-0424 Oslo, Norway. Tel.: +47 22782362, e-mail: ioannis.panagopoulos@rr-research.no

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Table I. *Angioleiomyomas reported with chromosomal abnormalities.*

Sex/age, years	Location	Karyotype	Reference
F/29	Trunk	46,XX,del(6)(p21p23),del(21)(q21)[12]/46,XX[7]	Heim <i>et al.</i> , 1986 (7)
M/73	Trunk	46~47,XY,-13,+1~2mar[20]/46,XY[2]	Nilbert <i>et al.</i> , 1989 (8)
F/58	Finger	46X,t(X;10)(q22;q23.2)[15]/46,XX[9]	Sonobe, <i>et al.</i> , 1996 (9)
F/41	Uterus	46,X,t(X;11)(p11.4;p15)[7]/46,idem,inv(2)(p15q13),t(5;20)(q13;q13.2)[10]	Hennig <i>et al.</i> , 1999 (10)
M/24	Thigh	46,XY,del(6)(q13q23),add(8)(q24),del(19)(q11),+mar	Welborn <i>et al.</i> , 2010 (11)
F/63	Ankle	45,XX,t(4;5)(p12;q33),der(13;15)(q10;q10)	Welborn <i>et al.</i> , 2010 (11)

F: Female; M: male.

Table II. *Clinicopathological and genetic data of the study cases of angioleiomyoma.*

Case	Sex/age, years	Location	Material for genetic analysis	Karyotype
1	M/57	Knee	Resection	46,XY,t(4;5)(p12;q32)[11]/46,idem,der(10)t(3;10)(q11;p15)[2]/46,XY[4]
2	M/57	Foot	Resection	46,Y,t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13)[7]/46,idem,t(1;5)(p36;q11)[3]/46,idem,t(6;15)(q15;q23~24),t(7;13)(q22;q34)[3]
3	M/42	Ankle	Needle biopsy	46,Y,t(X;9)(q22;q32)[13]

F: Female; M: male.

muscle actin (encoded by *ACTA2* on 10q23.31) and the calcium-binding protein calponin 1 (encoded by the *CNN1* gene on 19p13.2). They are variably positive for H-caldesmon, desmin, and vimentin but negative for pre-melanosome protein (also known as HMB45) and estrogen receptor (5, 6).

Genetic information on angioleiomyomas is limited. Abnormal karyotypes have been reported for six angioleiomyomas (Table I) (7-11). Recurrent losses from chromosome 22 and recurrent gains from Xq were found by comparative genomic hybridization (12). Rearrangement of the notch receptor 2 gene (*NOTCH2*) was detected in a single case (13). No mutations in exons 12 and 14 of the platelet-derived growth factor receptor beta gene (*PDGFRB*) were found in nine examined angioleiomyomas (14). A recent study described mutations of *PDGFRB* and *NOTCH3* in 3/11 and 4/11 examined angioleiomyomas, respectively (15). In other studies, no mutations in exon 2 of the mediator complex subunit 12 gene (*MED12*) were found in 18 angioleiomyomas examined (16, 17).

Herein, we report the cytogenetic and molecular genetic findings in three angioleiomyomas and discuss the possible pathogenetic pathways of angioleiomyoma tumorigenesis against the background of these data as well as previously published cases.

## Materials and Methods

**Ethics statement.** The study was approved by the regional ethics committee (Regional komité for medisinsk forskningsetikk Sør-Øst, Norge, <http://helseforskning.etikk.no>). Written informed consent

was obtained from the patients to publication of the case details. The ethics committee's approval included a review of the consent procedure. All patient information has been de-identified.

**Tumor description.** The patients were three males aged 57, 57, and 42 years (Table II). The tumors were located in the knee, foot, and ankle, respectively. In two cases, resected tumors were used for genetic examinations whereas material from a needle biopsy was used in the third case.

**G-Banding and karyotyping.** Samples were received and analyzed cytogenetically as part of our diagnostic routine. They were disaggregated mechanically and enzymatically with collagenase II (Worthington, Freehold, NJ, USA). The resulting cells were cultured, harvested, and processed for cytogenetic examination using standard techniques (18, 19). Chromosome preparations were G-banded with Wright's stain (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) and examined (18, 19). Metaphases were analyzed and karyograms prepared using a CytoVision computer-assisted karyotyping system (Leica Biosystems, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK). The karyotypes were described according to the International System for Human Cytogenomics Nomenclature (20).

**RNA sequencing.** Total RNA was extracted from frozen material of the two resected specimens (Table II) adjacent to that used for cytogenetic analysis and histological examination using miRNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and QiaCube automated purification system (Qiagen). The RNA concentration was measured with a QIAxpert microfluidic UV/VIS spectrophotometer (Qiagen). One microgram of total RNA was sent to the Genomics Core Facility (<http://genomics.no/oslo/>) at the Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo University Hospital for high-throughput paired-end RNA-sequencing. The software FusionCatcher and deFuse were

Table III. Designation, sequence (5'→3'), and position in reference sequences of the forward (F) and reverse (R) primers used for direct sequencing, i.e. polymerase chain reaction amplification and Sanger sequencing analyses. The forward primers had the M13 forward primer sequence TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT at their 5'-end. The reverse primers had the M13 reverse primer sequence CAGGAAACAGCTATGACC at their 5'-end.

Designation: Sequence (5'→3')	Reference sequence: Position
CARMN-351F1: AAGA AACTCTGGAGAAGCAGCCTCC	NR_105059.1: 351-374
CARMN-329F1: GCCATGCTGATGTCAGAGAAGCA	NR_105059.1: 329-351
TXK-130R1: TCGCTTCTGCACTGAACAGCAAC	NM_003328.3: 152-130
TXK-138R1: TCTCATTTGTGCGTTCTGCACTGA	NM_003328.3: 161-138
Seq3-Xq22-F1: AACTATTCGGTGAAATTTCCAAGCC	AL732308.7: 36754-36778
Seq3-16p13-R1: GACCTCCTCCAGGGTAGACAGATTG	NG_009299.1: 38590-38566
Seq3-Xq22-F2: GTGAAATTTCCAAGCCATTTCTTC	AL732308.7: 36763-36787
Seq3-16p13-R2: TCCAGGGTAGACAGATTGCACAGAA	NG_009299.1: 38583-38559

CARMN: Cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA; TXK: TXK tyrosine kinase; 16p13: chromosome band 16p13; Xq22: chromosome band Xq22.

used for detection of fusion transcripts (21-23). For quantification of RNA sequencing data (expression analysis), the program Kallisto was used (24). Quantification was calculated as transcripts per million (TPM) which is a measurement of the proportion of transcripts in the pool of RNA (24). Expression analysis was based on Ensembl release 95 (January 2019).

**Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and Sanger sequencing analyses.** The primers used are described in Table III. One microgram of total RNA was reverse-transcribed using an iScript Advanced cDNA Synthesis Kit for RT-qPCR according to the manufacturer's instructions (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). cDNA corresponding to 20 ng total RNA was used as template in the PCR assay. The quality of the cDNA synthesis was assessed by amplification of a cDNA fragment from the ABL proto-oncogene 1, non-receptor tyrosine kinase (*ABL1*) gene using the primer combination ABL1-91F1/ABL1-404R1 (25). A BigDye Direct Cycle Sequencing Kit was used to perform both PCR and cycle (Sanger) sequencing according to the company's recommendations (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). In case 1, the primer combinations were CARMN-329F1/TXK-130R1 and CARMN-351F1/TXK-138R1; in case 2, the primer combinations were Seq3-Xq22-F1/Seq3-16p13-R1 and Seq3-Xq22-F2/Seq3-16p13-R2.

Sequencing was run on an Applied Biosystems SeqStudio Genetic Analyzer system (ThermoFisher Scientific). The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) was used to compare the sequences obtained by Sanger sequencing with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) reference sequences (26). In case 1, the reference sequences were NM\_003328.3 for TXK tyrosine kinase (*TXK*) and NR\_105059.1 for cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA (*CARMN*), which corresponds to transcript variant 1 of the long non-coding RNA.

The sequences obtained by Sanger sequencing in case 2 were compared with sequences from chromosome bands 16p13 and Xq22. On band 16p13, the sequences were NG\_009299.1 which is the reference sequence for myosin heavy chain 11 (*MYH11* maps on 16p13.11), and AF001548.1 which is the complete sequence of BAC clone CIT987SK-A-815A9 (on 16p13.11) and contains most of the *MYH11* gene sequence. On band Xq22, the comparison was made with the sequence NC\_000023.11, which is chromosome X primary assembly, BX322556.5 (complete DNA sequence of YAC

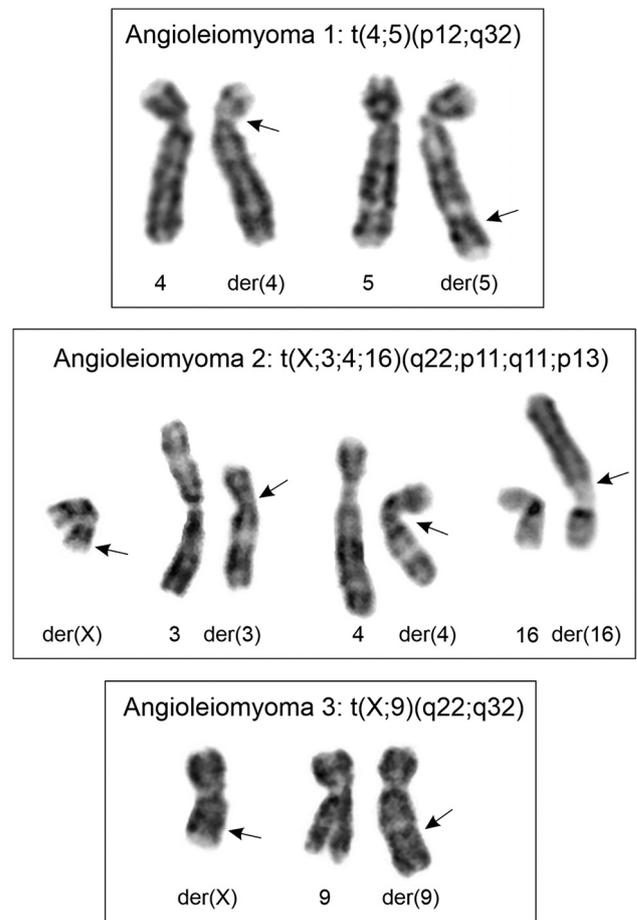


Figure 1. Cytogenetic analysis of the three angioleiomyomas. Partial karyotypes showing the derivative (*der*) chromosomes together with the corresponding normal chromosome homologs. For angioleiomyoma 1, *der*(4) and *der*(5) together with chromosomes 4 and 5 are shown. For angioleiomyoma 2, *der*(X), *der*(3), *der*(4), and *der*(16) together with chromosomes 3, 4, and 16 are shown. For angioleiomyoma 3, *der*(X), *der*(9), and the normal chromosome 9 are shown. Breakpoint positions are indicated by arrows.

Table IV. The cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA-TXK tyrosine kinase (CARMN::TXK) fusion transcripts detected in angioleiomyoma of case 1 carrying t(4;5)(p12;q32) after analysis of RNA sequencing data with the FusionCatcher program. Exons are based on the reference sequences NR\_105059.1 for CARMN and NM\_003328.3 for TXK.

CARMN (5'-end)	TXK (3'-end)	Spanning reads	Fusion sequence
Exon 3	Exon 2	27	GGACCAGAGGAGGGCCAGCAGCAGGCAGCCCGGAGACAGAACT:: ATAACACCATCCAGTCGGTTTTCTGTTGCTGCTGTTGCTGTTTC
Exon 1	Exon 2	16	TCCAGGCCCAAGGAGCCACACCTGGACCAGACCCAGGAAAG:: ATAACACCATCCAGTCGGTTTTCTGTTGCTGCTGTTGCTGTTTC
Intron 3	Exon 2	14	AATGACCAAGAAACTGGGCCTGAGGATGACAAGAAGCAGAATGGGCCTTG:: ATAACACCATCCAGTCGGTTTTCTGTTGCTGCTGTTGCTGTTTCAGTGTCAG
Exon 3	Exon 3	6	GGACCAGAGGAGGGCCAGCAGCAGGCAGCCCGGAGACAGAACT:: ACAAATGAGAACACAGATAAGCCTGAGCACAGATGAAGAGCTT
Exon 3	Intron 1	4	CCTCCTGGGACCAGAGGAGGGCCAGCAGCAGGCAGCCCGGAGACAGAACT:: CTTCTGTTAATTTGATTTGATGGTAAGAATCACCTGTTGCTACTGTATA
Exon 3	Exon 6	4	GGACCAGAGGAGGGCCAGCAGCAGGCAGCCCGGAGACAGAACT:: GTGGTACCATAGAAACATTACCAGAAATCAGGCAGAACATCTA
Exon 1	Exon 3	3	TCCAGGCCCAAGGAGCCACACCTGGACCAGACCCAGGAAAG:: ACAAATGAGAACACAGATAAGCCTGAGCACAGATGAAGAGCTT
Exon 3	Exon 10	3	GGACCAGAGGAGGGCCAGCAGCAGGCAGCCCGGAGACAGAACT:: AAAAAGTGGGAGATAGATCCATCTGAGTTGGCTTTATAAAGGA

clone ICI-4AC12), AL732308.7 (complete DNA sequence of BAC clone RP11-199F23), and AL928646.3 (complete DNA sequence of BAC clone CTD-2328D6).

In addition, the BLAST-like alignment tool (BLAT) and the human genome browser at UCSC were used to map the sequences obtained by Sanger sequencing, on the Human GRCh37/hg19 assembly (27, 28).

**Results**

*G-Banding and karyotyping.* G-Banding analysis of angioleiomyoma 1 detected two related clones which had the translocation t(4;5)(p12;q32) in common. The karyotype was 46,XY,t(4;5)(p12;q32)[11]/46,idem,der(10)t(3;10)(q11;p15)[2]/46,XY[4]. The t(4;5)(p12;q32) translocation is shown in Figure 1. In angioleiomyoma 2, G-banding analysis detected three related clones which had a four-way translocation, t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13), in common. The karyotype describing the primary aberration, as well as clonal evolution, was 46,Y,t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13)[7]/46,idem,t(1;5)(p36;q11)[3]/46,idem,t(6;15)(q15;q23~24),t(7;13)(q22;q34)[3]. The t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13) translocation is shown in Figure 1. In angioleiomyoma 3, a single translocation between chromosome bands Xq22 and 9q32 was seen in all examined metaphases, yielding the karyotype 46,Y,t(X;9)(q22;q32)[13] (Figure 1). Thus, cases 2 and 3 had rearrangement of chromosome band Xq22 in common.

*RNA sequencing, RT-PCR, and Sanger sequencing analyses.* *Case 1:* Analysis of the fastq files of RNA sequencing data with the FusionCatcher program detected eight CARMN::TXK chimeric transcripts (Table IV). RT-PCR

together with Sanger sequencing of the PCR products confirmed the presence of a chimeric transcript in which exon 3 of CARMN from 5q32 (nt 419 in reference sequence NR\_105059.1) was fused to exon 2 of TXK from 4p12 (nt 97 in Reference sequence NM\_003328.3). No other fusion transcripts were examined (Figure 2).

*Case 2:* Analysis of fastq files of the RNA sequencing data with the FusionCatcher program did not detect fusion transcripts compatible with the observed t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13) (data not shown). However, analysis of RNA sequencing data with the deFuse algorithm detected six transcripts in which sequences of the MYH11 gene from 16p13 were fused with sequences which mapped on chromosome band Xq22 distal but close to the insulin receptor substrate 4 (IRS4) gene (Table V and Figure 3). RT-PCR together with Sanger sequencing of the PCR products for the chimeric transcript designated in Table V as Seq 3 confirmed its presence in the tumor cells (Figure 3). No other fusion transcripts were examined.

*Expression analysis.* Transcripts from the genes ACTA2, MYH11, IRS4 and TXK were quantified using the program Kallisto. The results for the transcripts with the highest expression are shown in Table VI. As expected, ACTA2 expression was high in both angioleiomyomas studied. Both also expressed MYH11 but the transcripts differed. In angioleiomyoma with t(4;5)(p12;q32), the transcript ENST00000576790.7 had the highest expression. This transcript corresponds to the transcript variant SM2A of MYH11 (NCBI reference sequence: NM\_022844.3). In

Table V. Chimeric transcripts in angioleiomyoma of case 2 with  $t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13)$  in which sequences of the myosin heavy chain 11 gene (*MYH11*) gene from 16p13 fused with sequences mapped on chromosome band Xq22 close, but distal to, the insulin receptor substrate 4 (*IRS4*) gene. Chimeric transcripts were detected with the deFuse algorithm.

Chimeric transcript	Spanning reads	Fusion sequence
Seq 1	11	<p>AGAACTGCAGACAAGCAGGACAGGAGGGGTCCTGGAGCTGGCCCCGTGCAGCCC  TGAGTTCACTACCTTGAAGCATGCTCCGGTAGGCCGTGTCTGCGATGGCGTAGATGT  GAGGCGGCATCTCGTGCCCTTCTTGGCCCTGTACATGTCGACGATCTTCTCCGAGTAG  ATGGGCAGGTGTTATAGGGGTGACCACCACGCAGAAGAGCCAGATACGTCTGC  AGACAGAGAACCCAGCTTACTTCCAGACCTCCTCCAGGGTAGACAGATTGCACAGAA  GCACTCAA::GTTCTGTGCTGGATCCTTGGTGGTCCATCTGGTATCATTAGGTGTGGAAT  GGAGATACCAGACCCACAAGATGAAAAGTTTTTCTCCTGACCTGTTCCCCCATCACTG  GATGCCTGCCAGTGGGCTTCCCACTATTATTTCTGCTTTTGCCTTAGGGGAGGAAAGT  ACCTGCATGGACCACCTTCTGACACTAGGTGGAGGGGC</p>
Seq 2	5	<p>GTCGTGGCTACTTGGCCAGAAAGGCTTTTGCCAAGAGGCAGCAGCAGCTGACCGCCA  TGAAGGTGATTCAGAGGAAGTGCGCCGCCTACCTCAAGCTGGGAACTGGCAGTGGT  GGAGGCTTTTACCAAAAGTGAAGCCACTGCTGCAGGTGACACGGCAGGAGGAGGAG  ATGCAGGCCAAGGAGGATGAAGTGCAGAAGACCAAGGAGCGGCAGCAGAAGGCAGA  GAATGAGCTTAAGGAGCTGGAACAGAAGCA::TCGCGAAGGCCCGCGGGGTGTTGA  TGCGATGTGATTTCTGCCAGTGTCTGAATGTCAAAGTGAAGAAATCAATGAAGCG  CGGGTAAACGGCAGGAGTAACTATGACTCTTAAAGGTAGCCAAATGCCTCGTCACT  AATTAGTGAGGCGCATGAATGGATGAACGAGATTCCCACTGTCCCTACCTACTATCCAG  CGAAACCACAGCCAAGGGAACGGACTTGGCGGAATCAGCGGGGAAAGAAGACTCTG  TTGAGCTTGACTCTAGTCTGGCACGGTGAAGAGACGTGAGAGGTGTAGAATAAGTGG  GAGGCCCGCGGCCCGGCTGTCCCGCAGGGGTCCAGGGCGGGGTCTGCCGG  CCCTGCGGGCCGCGGTGAAAATACCACTACTCTGATCGTTTTTCACTGACCCGGT</p>
Seq 3	42	<p>AGTAACTCCTGGTCCCTCGCAGTGCCTGCCAACTCCACATTCCTGGCAAGAAGTGC  GACAAGCAGGACAGGAGGGGCTCCCTGGAGCTGGCCCCGTGACGCCCTGAGTTCAC  TCACCTTGAAGCATGCTCCGGTAGGCCGTGTCTGCGATGGCGTAGATGTGAGGCGGC  ATCTCGTGCCCTTCTTGGCCCTGTACATGTGACGATCTTCTCCGAGTAGATGGGCAG  GTGTTTATAGGGGTTGACCACCACGCAGAAGAGGGCCAGAGTACGTCTGCAGACAGAG  AACCCAGCTTACTTCCAGACCTCCAGGGTAGACAGATTGCACAGAAGACTCAA  TATTCTCATGTTAGAGATGGGGAAGTGGAGCTTGGAGTCTTAGTGGAACCCTGGGC  CTCACTGATATTCCAG::CATCTACTTTCTGGTAGAAGTGTGAATATGCCAGAAACC  AGCCAAAATGTCAACAAGAGAAGAAAGAAATGGGCTTGGAAATTTACCCGAATAGTTA  ATCAGTTGTGAGTAATTGTTAATGGAAATAGTTA</p>
Seq 4	5	<p>GAAGGAGGAGGAGCTGCAGGCGGCCCTGGCCAGGCTTGACGATGAAATCGCTCAGA  AGAACAATGCCCTGAAGAAGATCCGGGAGCTGGAGGGCCACATCTCAGACCTCCAGG  AGGACCTGGACTCAGAGCGGGCCGCCAGGAACAAGGCTGAAAAGCAGAAGCGGAGAC  CTCGGCGAGGAGCTGGAGGCCCTAAAGACAGAGC::TTCGCGAAGGCCCGCGGGGT  GTTGATGCGATGTGATTTCTGCCAGTGTCTGAATGTCAAAGTGAAGAAATCAATGA  AGCGCGGGTAAACGGCAGGAGTAACTATGACTCTCTTAAAGGTAGCCAAATGCCTCGTCA  CTAATTAGTGAGGCGCATGAATGGATGAACGAGATTCCCACTGTCCCTACCTACTATCCA  GCGAAACCACAGCCAAGGGAACGGACTTGGCGGAATCAGCGGGGAAAGAAGACTCTGT  TGAGCTTGACTCTAGTCTGGCACGGTGAAGAGACGTGAGAGGTGTAGAATAAGTGGGA  GGCCCCCGCGGCCCGGCTGTCCCGCAGGGGTCCAGGGGGTCTGCCGGCCCTGC  GGGCGCGGGTGAATAACCACTACTCTGATCGTTTTTCACTGACCCGGTGAAGCGGGGG</p>
Seq 5	5	<p>GGCAAGAAGTGCAGACAAGCAGGACAGGAGGGGCTCCCTGGAGCTGGCCCCGTGCAGCC  CTGAGTTCACTACCTTGAAGCATGCTCCGGTAGGCCGTGTCTGCGATGGCGTAGATGTGA  GGCGGCATCTCGTGCCCTTCTTGGCCCTGTACATGTCGACGATCTTCTCCGAGTAGATGG  GCA::AGAAAGAAGCTATGTTGAAATATTGAGGGCGGGTTCGCCAATATGCTTCCCCTCTG  CCATGATTGTAAGTTTCTGAGGCTTCCCCAGCCACGCAGAAGTGTGAGTCAATTAAGCTT  CCTTTGTTATAATTTACCCAGTCTCAGGTAGTATCTTTATAGCAGTGTGAAATGAAGTAA  TAACTAATAACATTAGCTATTTTCTCCTTCTTCTCCTCTCTTTTAGGTTAGTCTTGCCAG  GAGTCTGTCAATCTTTTCATATTTTCAAATAATCCACTTTTGTCTATAC</p>
Seq 6	22	<p>CCTCGCAGTCCCTGCCAAACTCCACATTCCTGGCAAGAAGTGCAGACAAAGCAGGACAGGA  GGGGCTCCCTGGAGCTGGCCCCGTGCAGCCCTGAGTTCACTCACCTTGAAGCATGCTCCGG  TAGGCCGTGTCTGCGATGGCGTAGATGTGAGGCGGCATCTCGTGCCCTTCTTGGCCCTGTA  CATGTCGACGATCTTCTCCGAGTAGATGGGCAGGTGTTTATAGGGGTTGACCACCACGCAGAA  GAGGCCAGAGTACGTCTGCAGACAGAGAACCAGCTTACTCCAGCTTACTCCAGGGTAGA  CAGATTGCACAGAAGCACTCAATATTCTCATGTTAGAGATGGGGAAGTGGAGCTTGGAGT  CTTAGTGGAACCCTGGGCTCACTGATATTCCAG::AGGAAGCCATTAAGGAGAATCTTTAA  TCCATATGAAATTTGAAGTACCAGAAGCATTCAATCATAAACAGTAAACAGGTAAGTCTA  GACCTGATGGTAAATAATATACACATCAGGTGCCACTTACTCAGATATTCTGAAGAAACTCA  AAGGTGAAATGGTGGTATAACAGCTTCAAGTCAATGAAGTGTTCGCCGGAACAGAACTAGAA  GATTTTCAAGATGACTAAAATCCACCAACAAAAACCTGGACCAGAAAAAC</p>

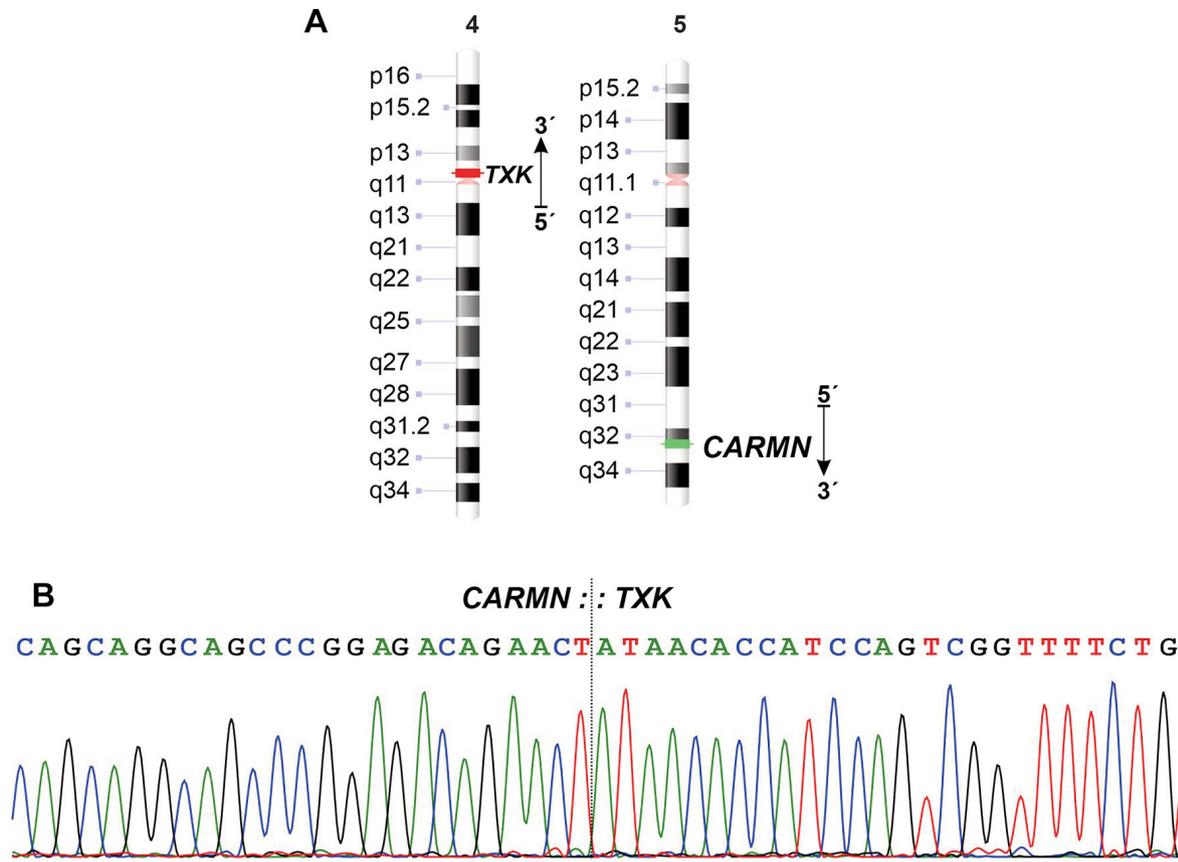


Figure 2. Molecular genetic examination of the case 1 angioleiomyoma carrying a  $t(4;5)(p12;q32)$ . A: The positions and transcription orientations (5'→3') of the tyrosine kinase gene (*TXK*) and the cardiac mesoderm enhancer-associated non-coding RNA (*CARMN*) are shown on ideograms of chromosomes 4 and 5, respectively. B: Partial sequence chromatogram showing the junction position in exons 3 of *CARMN* and 2 of *TXK*.

angioleiomyoma with  $t(X;3;4;16)$ , the transcript ENST00000300036.6 had the highest expression. This transcript corresponds to the transcript variant SM1A of *MYH11* (NCBI reference sequence: NM\_002474.3) (Table VI). The *TXK* gene was significantly expressed in the tumor with  $t(4;5)(p12;q32)$  but expression was negligible in the tumor with  $t(X;3;4;16)$ . In contrast, expression of *IRS4* was negligible in the former but high in the latter.

## Discussion

In 2010, Welborn and co-workers reported an angioleiomyoma with a  $t(4;5)(p12;q33)$  chromosomal aberration (11) (Table I). We herein present an angioleiomyoma with a  $t(4;5)(p12;q32)$  chromosomal translocation proving that a  $t(4;5)(p12;q32-33)$  translocation is recurrent in these tumors. We also show that the translocation results in a *CARMN::TXK* chimeric gene. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that a recurrent chromosomal translocation and its resulting fusion gene have been described in angioleiomyomas.

*CARMN* is a smooth muscle-specific long noncoding RNA located on chromosome band 5q32 and is transcribed from centromere to telomere (29). *CARMN* is a super enhancer-associated RNA important in differentiation and homeostasis of cardiac precursor cells (30, 31). It is evolutionarily conserved (29-31) and has many alternatively spliced isoforms. These are involved in cardiac cell specification and precursor cell lineage commitment (29-33). The noncoding *CARMN* physically interacts with various proteins affecting cellular biology. The interaction of *CARMN* with proteins SUZ12 and EZH2, which are subunits of the polycomb repressive complex 2, indicates a suppressive role during cardiac differentiation (30). Interaction of *CARMN* with myocardin helps preserve the contractile phenotype of vascular smooth muscle cells (29). Interaction of *CARMN* with the serum response factor regulates the plasticity of vascular smooth muscle cell and contributes to preventing the development of atherosclerosis (34). In the neoplastic context, fusions of *CARMN* with *NOTCH2* were reported in glomus tumors (13, 35-38).

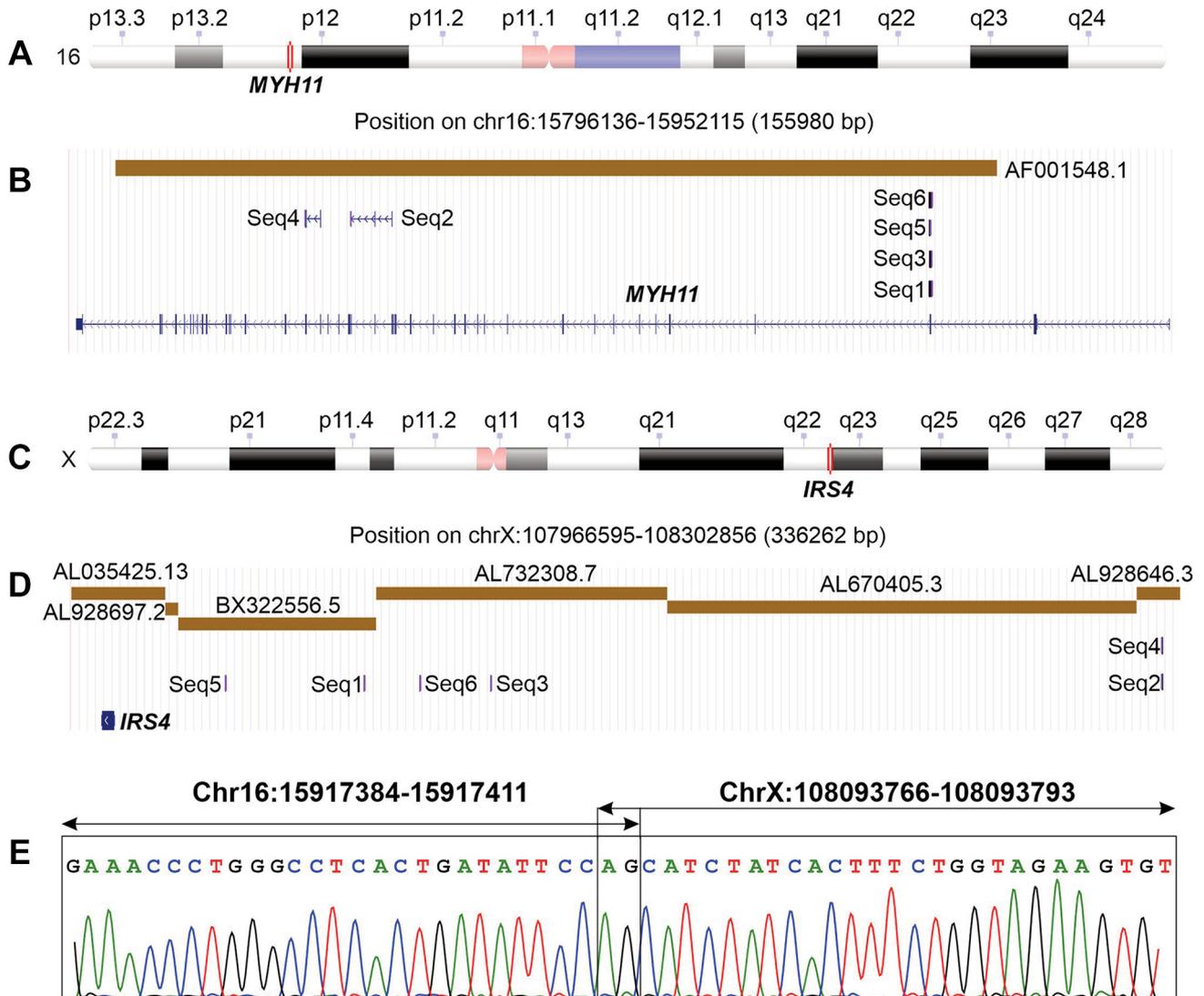


Figure 3. Molecular genetic examination of the case 2 angioleiomyoma carrying the four-way translocation  $t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13)$ . A: Position of the myosin heavy chain 11 gene (*MYH11*) on chromosome 16. B: Alignment of the six fusion transcripts (Seq 1 to Seq 6) from Table V on chromosome 16 using the BLAT algorithm showing that part of the sequences aligned in the *MYH11* locus. C: Position of the insulin receptor substrate 4 gene (*IRS4*) on chromosome X. D: Alignment of the six fusion transcripts (Seq 1 to Seq 6) from Table V on chromosome X showing that part of the fusion transcripts aligned on Xq22 close and distal to the *IRS4* locus. E: Partial sequence chromatogram showing the junction position of the fusion sequence 3 (Seq 3 in Table V) found with the deFuse algorithm.

The *TXK* gene is located on chromosome band 4p12, is transcribed from centromere to telomere, and codes for a cytoplasmic protein tyrosine kinase which is a member of the TEC subfamily of non-receptor protein-tyrosine kinases (39-42). The genes encoding proteins within the TEC subfamily of non-receptor protein-tyrosine kinases include *TEC* in 4p12, interleukin 2-inducible T-cell kinase (*ITK*) in 5q31-32, *BMX* non-receptor tyrosine kinase (*BMX*) in Xp22.2, and the Bruton tyrosine kinase gene (*BTK*) in Xq22.1. All the members of the TEC subfamily, *TXK*, *TEC*,

*ITK*, *BMX* and *BTK*, are selectively expressed in hematopoietic cells (39-43). *TXK* expression is highly restricted to the Th1/Th0 subset of T-cells (39, 40, 44). The *TEX* protein regulates expression of the interferon gamma gene (*IFNG* in 12q15) in Th1 cells (40, 44, 45).

The  $t(4;5)(p12;q32)$  chromosomal translocation in angioleiomyoma places the coding region of *TXK* under the control of the *CARMN* promoter. In smooth muscle cells, this promoter is normally highly active, causing high-level expression of the gene. Thus, the result of  $t(4;5)(p12;q32)$  is

Table VI. Expression analysis of the genes *actin alpha 2*, *smooth muscle (ACTA2)*, *myosin heavy chain 11 (MYH11)*, *insulin receptor substrate 4 (IRS4)*, and *TXK tyrosine kinase (TXK)* in two angioleiomyomas using the program Kallisto: Angioleiomyoma 1 with a t(4;5)(p14;q32) and angioleiomyoma 2 with t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13). Quantification was calculated as transcripts per million (TPM). Only the transcripts coding for protein are reported. Expression was based on Ensembl 96: April 2019.

Gene	Transcript	Expression (TPM)	
		Angioleiomyoma 1 t(4;5)	Angioleiomyoma 2 t(X;3;4;16)
<i>ACTA2</i>	ENST00000224784.10	7093.51	8514.48
<i>ACTA2</i>	ENST00000458159.5	61.9219	4.4482
<i>MYH11</i>	ENST00000576790.7	359.253	<0.001
<i>MYH11</i>	ENST00000300036.6	30.7248	759.511
<i>MYH11</i>	ENST00000396324.7	25.1201	<0.001
<i>MYH11</i>	ENST00000452625.7	<0.001	50.1152
<i>TXK</i>	ENST00000506073.1	813.023	0.962064
<i>TXK</i>	ENST00000264316.9	418.419	0.751982
<i>TXK</i>	ENST00000507351.1	139.464	0.0806992
<i>IRS4</i>	ENST00000372129.3	0.018286	294.86

activation of *TXK* and deregulation of its downstream targets. Because both *CARMN* and *TXK* are transcribed from centromere to telomere, the chimeric *CARMN::TXK* gene is predicted to be on the der(5)t(4;5)(p12;q32) chromosome.

The tumors of cases 2 and 3 carried karyotypes in which chromosome band Xq22 was rearranged: Case 2 had a t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13) whereas case 3 had a t(X;9)(q22;q32). Taking into consideration the previously reported angioleiomyoma with a t(X;10)(q22;q23.2) (9), we conclude that rearrangement of band Xq22 is a recurrent genetic event in angioleiomyoma tumorigenesis. In case 2, where material was available for molecular investigation, we showed that the complex translocation t(X;3;4;16)(q22;p11;q11;p13) resulted in fusion of highly expressed *MYH11* from 16p13 with intergenic sequences from Xq22, generating six chimeric, truncated *MYH11::Xq22* transcripts (Table IV). The Xq22 intergenic sequences map a few kilobase pairs distal to *IRS4*. Thus, the t(X;3;4;16) translocation brings the highly expressed *MYH11* into the close vicinity of *IRS4*, causing high expression of *IRS4*. We hypothesize, indeed believe, that in angioleiomyomas with Xq22 rearrangements [t(X;9)(q22;q32), namely in case 3 of the present report and the tumor carrying t(X;10)(q22;q23.2) reported by Sonobe *et al.* (9)], the salient molecular consequence of the translocations is an increased expression of *IRS4*.

Rearrangements of Xq22 resulting in increased expression of *IRS4* were previously reported in subungual exostosis through the translocation t(X;6)(q22;q13~14) (46, 47), and in a pediatric T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) with t(X;7)(q22;q34) (48). In subungual exostosis, the t(X;6)(q22;q13~14) resulted in rearrangement of collagen type XII alpha 1 chain (*COL12A1* from 6q13~14) whose 5' end was moved to Xq22, close to the *IRS4* locus (46, 47). The

molecular consequence was overexpression of *IRS4*. In T-ALL, t(X;7)(q22;q34) brought *IRS4* under the transcriptional control of T-cell receptor beta locus (from 7q34) regulatory elements (48). Rearrangements of Xq22/*IRS4* and 14q11.2/T-cell receptor alpha-delta locus (*TCRAD*) were also found in a T-ALL carrying the translocation t(X;14)(q22;q11.2) (49). In a pan-cancer study, *IRS4* was overexpressed in 10 different tumor types due to regulatory elements, such as enhancers being rearranged and juxtaposed near to *IRS4* (50, 51). In all the above-mentioned studies, the breakpoint region in Xq22 was within the same area from which Xq22 intergenic sequences were fused to *MYH11* in angioleiomyoma, generating *MYH11::Xq22* chimeric transcripts.

The *IRS4* gene is expressed at very low levels in many normal adult human tissues but highly so in skeletal muscle cells (52, 53) (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/8471>). The *IRS4* protein was found to control the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) signaling pathway (50, 51, 54). Overexpression of *IRS4* has been reported in lung cancer (55), hepatocellular carcinoma (56), and colorectal cancer (57). Because overexpression of *IRS4* in human cancer results in deregulation of the PI3K pathway, *IRS4* is a potential therapeutic target (50, 51, 54).

### Conclusion

Despite the low number of angioleiomyomas that have been genetically analyzed, a pathogenetic dichotomy can already be discerned: a recurrent t(4;5)(p12;q32) chromosomal translocation resulting in a *CARMN::TXK* chimeric gene in one subset of angioleiomyomas, whereas rearrangement of chromosome band Xq22 resulting in overexpression of the *IRS4* gene is seen in another. Whether other nonrandom

patterns of aberration reflecting alternative pathogenetic pathways exist in this tumor type can only be established when more tumors are examined using appropriate genetic methodologies.

## Conflicts of Interest

The Authors declare that they have no potential conflicts of interest.

## Authors' Contributions

IP designed and supervised the research, performed molecular genetic experiments and bioinformatics analysis, and wrote the article. KA performed molecular genetic experiments and evaluated the data. MB performed molecular genetic experiments and evaluated the data. LG performed cytogenetic analysis. IK performed bioinformatic analysis. WK performed expression analysis. HRH and IL performed the pathological examination. FM evaluated data. SH evaluated data, assisted with experimental design, and helped write the article. All Authors read and approved the final article.

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