

PKD1 AND PKD2 MUTATION ANALYSIS IN 90 UNRELATED ITALIAN PEDIGREES WITH AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE (ADPKD): SANGER SEQUENCING vs NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING (NGS).

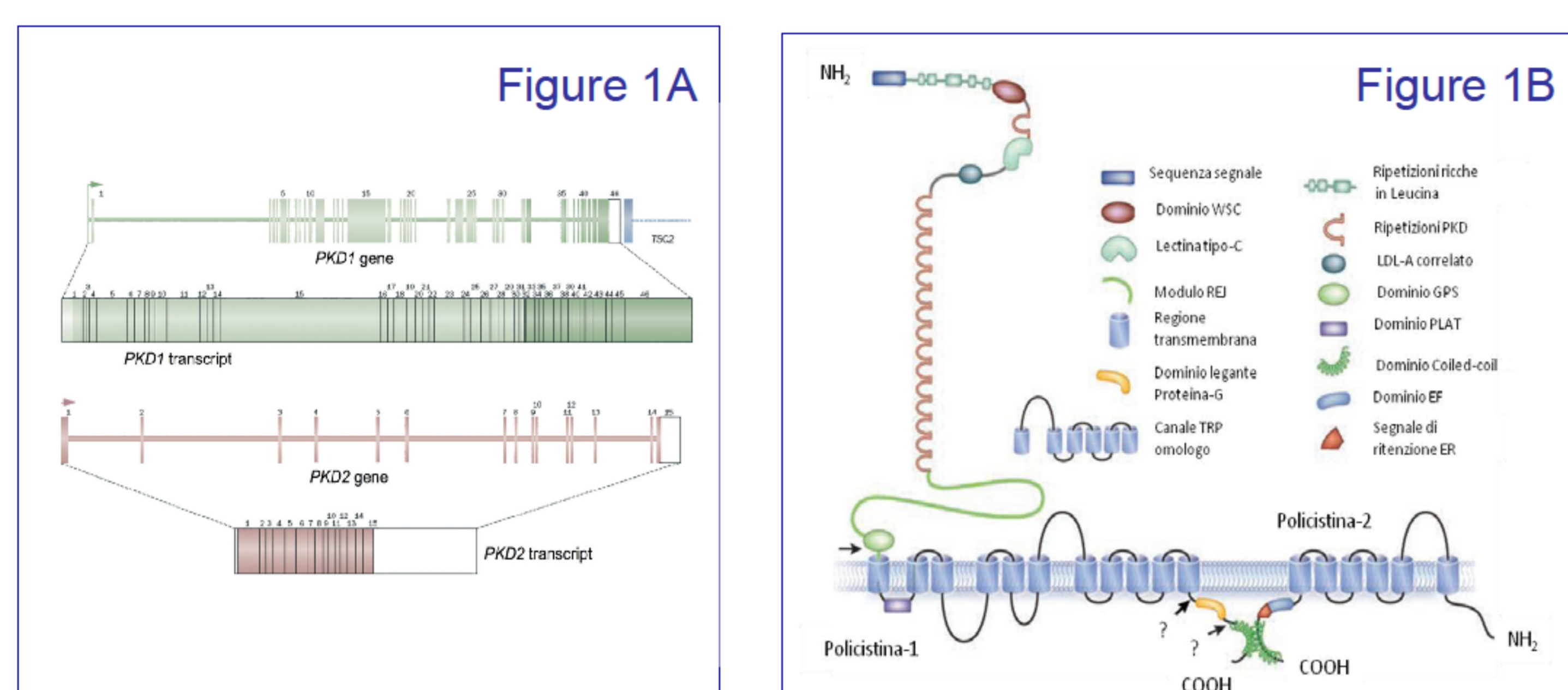
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INTRODUCTION

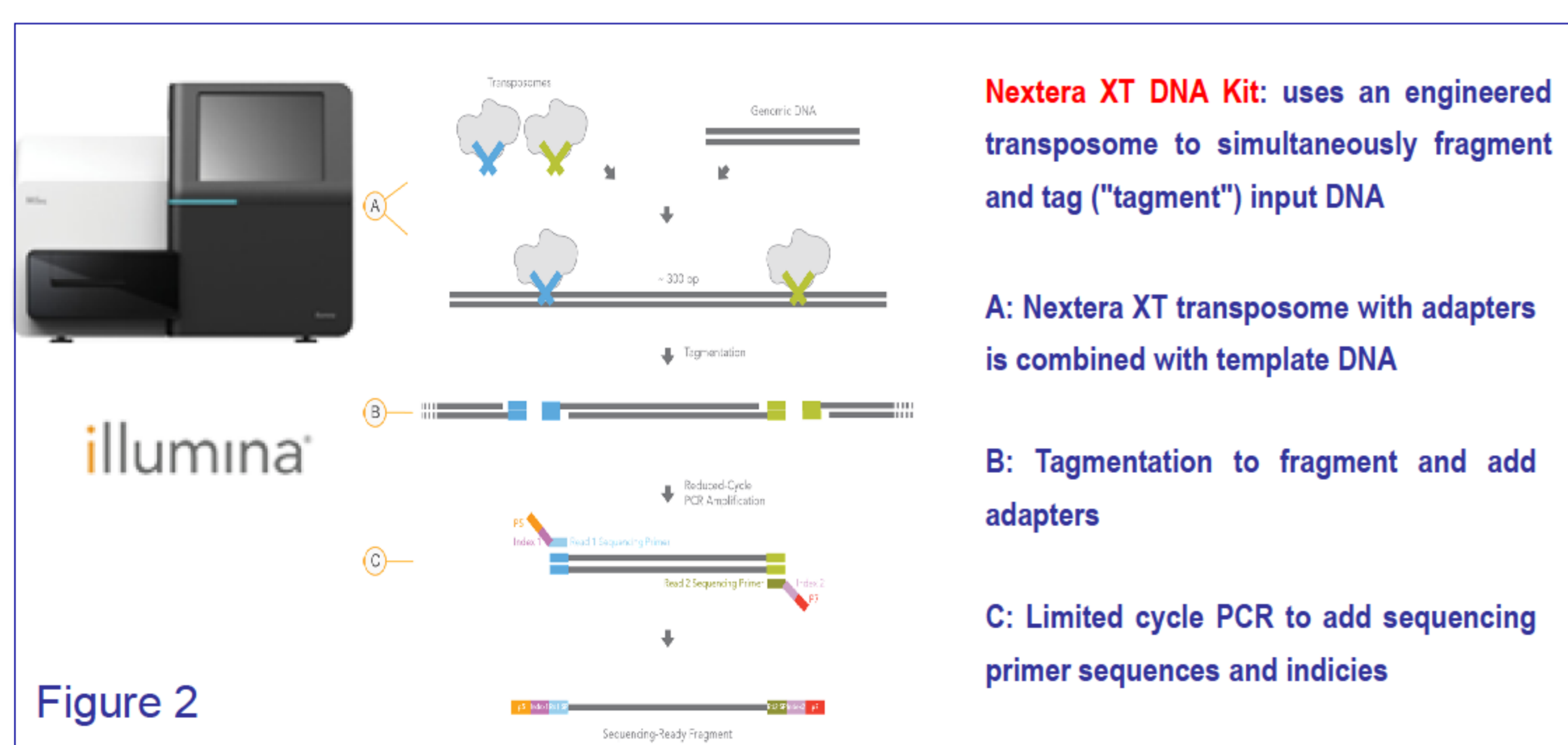
Autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD), is characterized by the development of renal cysts leading to end-stage renal failure. ADPKD is typically diagnosed by imaging but the diagnosis may be uncertain, especially in young individuals (<30 years) and in patients with a negative family history. ADPKD is caused by mutations in *PKD1* or *PKD2* genes encoding for polycystin-1 and -2, respectively (Figure 1A, B)



The mutational analysis of ADPKD is complicated by extensive allelic heterogeneity and by the presence of six highly homologous sequences of *PKD1* exons 1–33. Here, we report our comprehensive mutation analysis of *PKD1* and *PKD2* genes in 137 Italian ADPKD patients from 90 unrelated pedigree using both Sanger Sequencing and Next Generation Sequencing (NGS).

METHODS

PKD1 and *PKD2* genes were analyzed using Sanger sequencing, Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification (MLPA) and NGS by multiplexing indexed paired-end libraries from long range PCR using Illumina Nextera XT kit and Illumina MiSeq instrument (Figure 2)



RESULTS

We found 70 (48 novel) definitively (40) and highly/likely pathogenic (30) mutations and 6 novel indeterminate and likely neutral mutations. We achieved an overall detection rate of 90%. Nine out of 78 positive pedigrees resulted *PKD2* carriers (12%), 69/78 were *PKD1* carriers (88%) and 12/90 (13%) resulted mutation negative. 12 *de novo* *PKD1* mutations were identified in sporadic patients. Both parents of these probands have been analyzed for detected mutations demonstrating that all 12 mutations occurred *de novo*. We found the largest number of *de novo* mutations reported in a single study (15%).

RESULTS

Ten out of 90 pedigrees (3 previously analyzed by Sanger sequencing - 1 mutation-positive and 2 mutation-negative - and 7 not previously genotyped) were analyzed by NGS using Illumina Nextera XT and Illumina MiSeq: we confirm the presence of a previously identified nonsense mutation, the lacking of clear pathogenic mutations in the other two previously analyzed patients, the presence of pathogenic or probably pathogenic mutation in 6/7 novel patients and the absence of clear pathogenic mutations in one pedigree (Figure 3A). All NGS results were confirming by Sanger sequencing, achieving sensitivity and specificity of 100% for this small number of samples (Figure 3B and C).

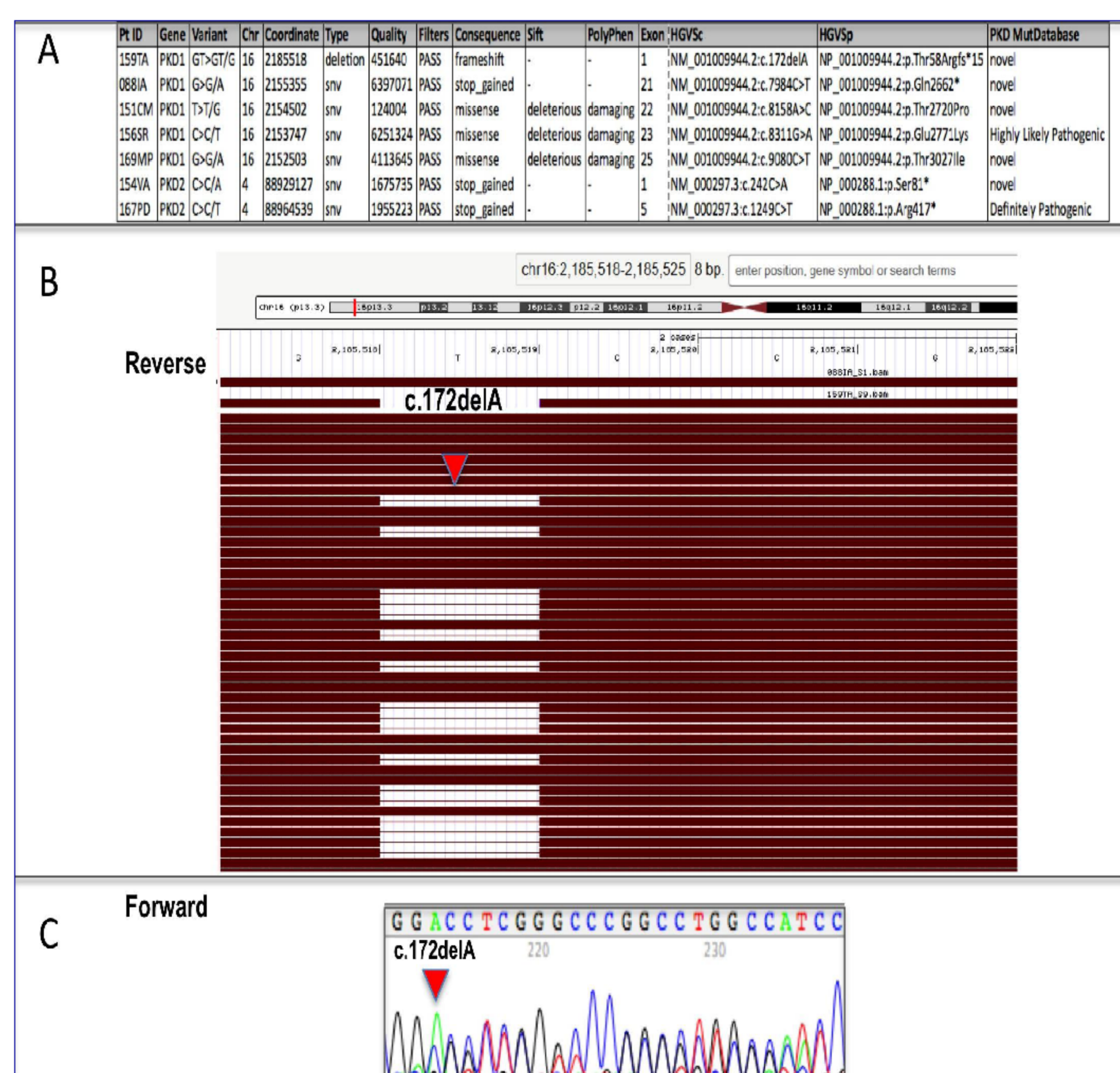


Figure 3.
A. Pathogenic Mutations identified by NGS.
B. Representative example of visual inspection of NGS alignment showing c.172delA (p.Thr58Argfs*15) mutation.
C. Sanger sequencing confirmation showing frameshift.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we performed a comprehensive mutation screening of *PKD1* and *PKD2* genes in 90 unrelated Italian families. Our study represents a significant advance in the molecular diagnosis of ADPKD Italian patients because it (i) analyzes the largest Italian cohort; (ii) reports the largest number of *de novo* mutations in a single study, demonstrating that the prevalence of *PKD1* *de novo* mutations may have been underestimated and emphasizing the importance of molecular screening in patients without family history; (iii) provides for the first time a new NGS method for Italian patients with a detection rate comparable to Sanger sequencing but with significantly lower costs and faster diagnostic times.