

COMPOUND HETEROZYGOUS MUTATIONS IN AMNIONLESS CAUSE IMERSLUND-GRÄSBECK SYNDROME IN TWO HALF-SISTERS

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Background

Imerslund-Gräsbeck Syndrome (IGS) is a rare autosomal recessive disease characterised by intestinal vitamin B12 malabsorption. Clinical features include megaloblastic anemia, recurrent infections, failure to thrive, and mild proteinuria. Recessive mutations in cubilin (*CUBN*) and in amnionless (*AMN*) have been shown to cause IGS. To date, there are only about 300 cases described worldwide with only 41 different mutations found in *CUBN* and 30 different in the *AMN* gene.

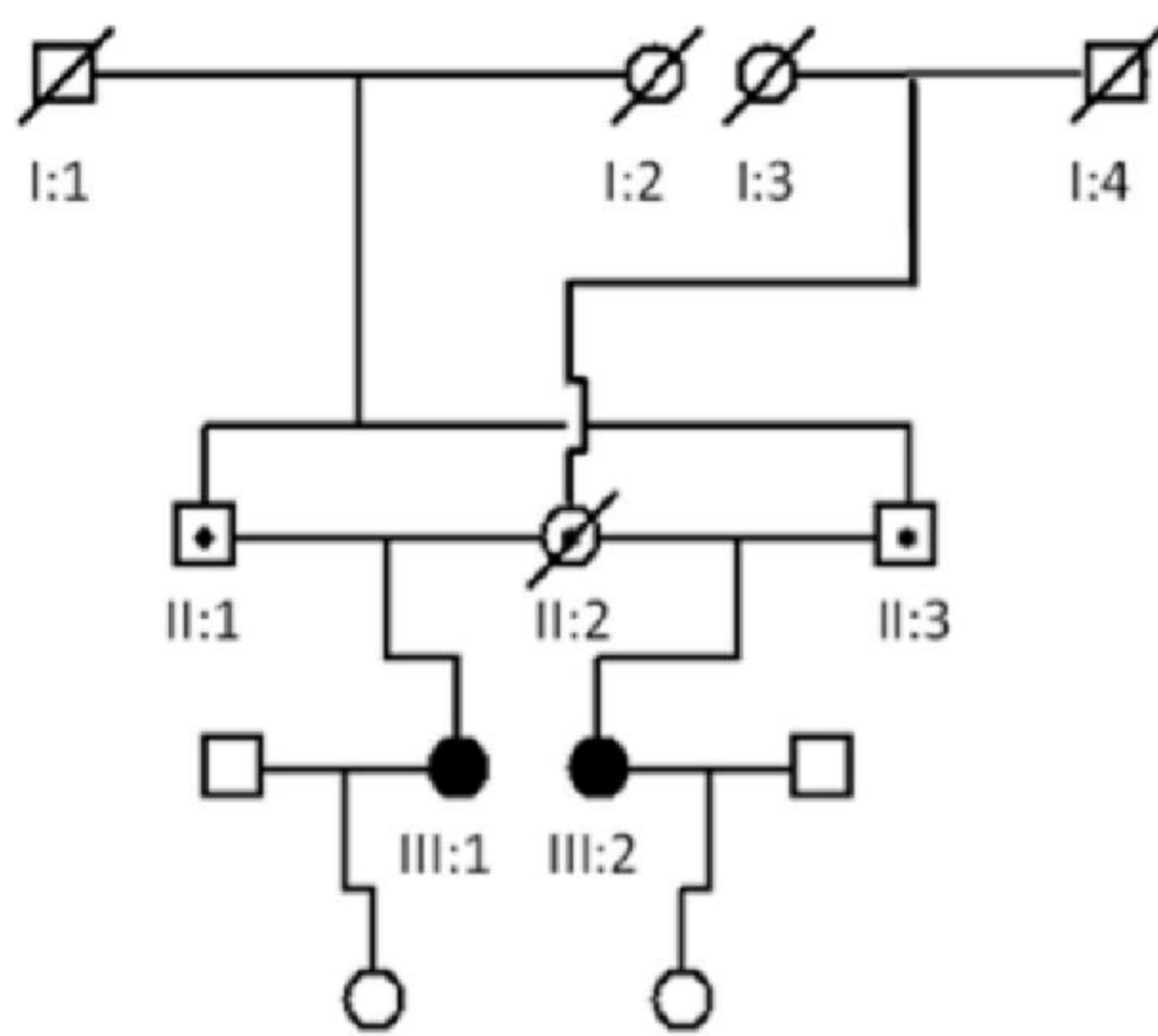


FIGURE 1
A. Pedigree diagram. Circles represent females, squares represent males. Shaded equals affected status, dots equals presumed carrier status.

Methods

We collected pedigree structure (Figure 1), clinical data (Table 1) and DNA samples from 2 half-sisters with IGS. Molecular diagnostics was performed by direct Sanger sequencing of all 62 exons of the *CUBN* gene and 12 exons of the *AMN* gene. Because of lack of parental DNA, cloning and sequencing of multiple plasmid clones was performed to assess the allele of identified mutations.

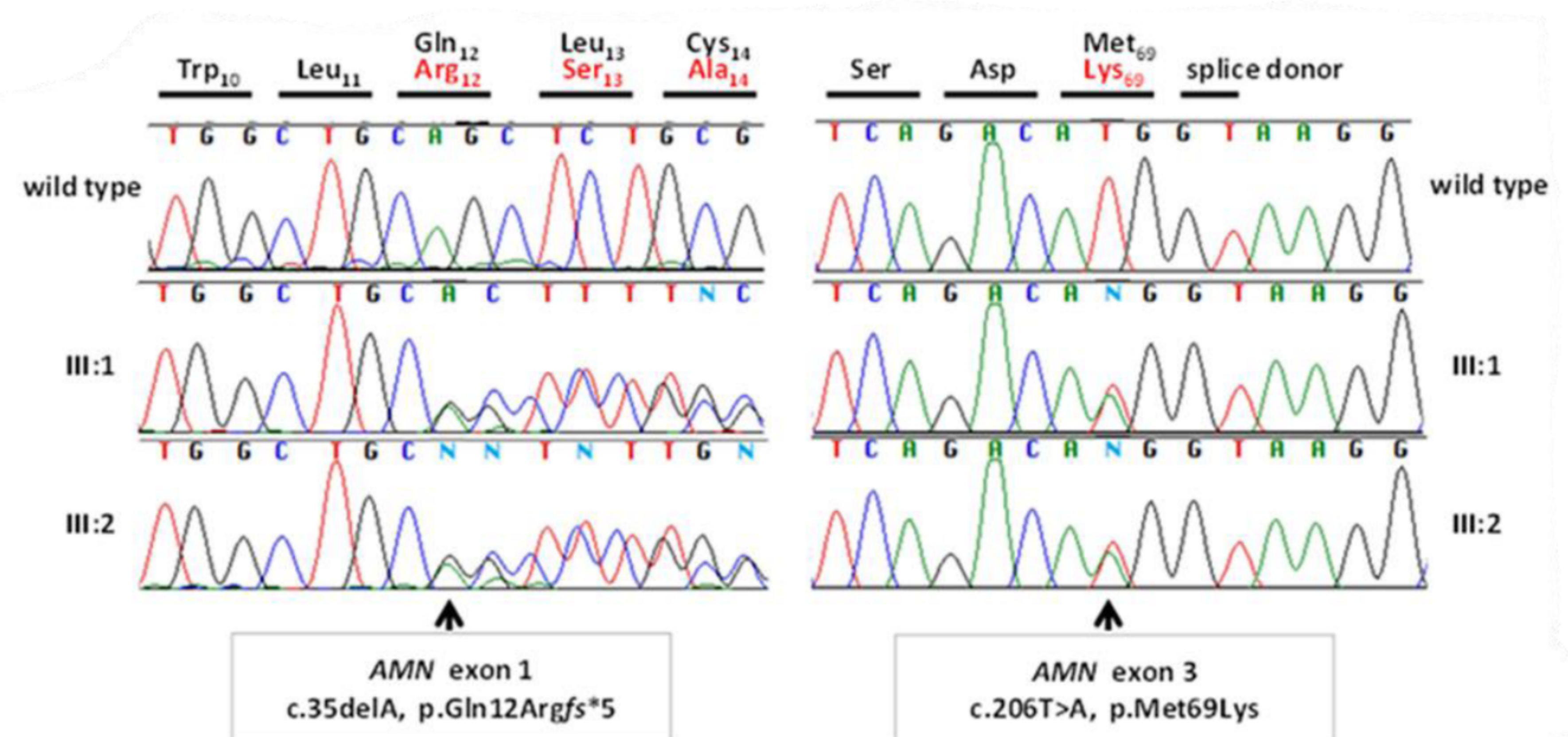


FIGURE 2
Chromatograms of 2 novel compound heterozygous mutations in the gene *AMN* (Genbank NM_030943.3), encoding for the protein amnionless, identified in 2 half-sisters (III-1 and III-2) with Imerslund-Gräsbeck syndrome.

Table 1: Clinical features of two half-sisters with Imerslund-Gräsbeck syndrome

ID	Age at diagnosis [years]	Vitamin B12 deficient	B12 level on treatment [ng/L]	Serum Creatinine [μmol/L]	Urinary protein/creatinine ratio [mg/mmol]	Total Vitamin D level (nmol/L)	24 h urine protein [g/24 h]	Neurological symptoms
III:1	2	Yes	405	64 (stable)	50-90	73	0.6-0.7	No
III:2	3	Yes	743	62 (stable)	66-71	76	0.65	No

Results

Genetic characterization revealed 2 novel compound heterozygous *AMN* mutations in both half-sisters with IGS (Figure 2). Trans-configuration of the mutations was confirmed.

Conclusions

We identified novel compound heterozygous mutations in *AMN* in a Caucasian family, extending the spectrum of known mutations for IGS.