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Sequence Polymorphisms of Mitochondrial Control Region DNA in Argentine population

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Abstract. As mitochondrial analysis offers great potentials for individualization in forensics, it is sometimes the more convenient and more successful method to be considered, in particular, with low DNA samples. That is the reason why today, many efforts are made to build up mitochondrial databases for forensic purposes. In our study, we analyzed the Sequence Polymorphisms of Mitochondrial DNA Control Regions, HV1 and HV2, in Argentine individuals, most of them from the city of Buenos Aires, with the aim of creating our own database. © 2003 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

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1. Introduction

Sequencing of Mitochondrial DNA D-Loop Region [1,2] has been incorporated since 1993 in our laboratory to study maternal lineage. Since then, it has become a tool of choice for forensic casework. Automated DNA Sequencing of PCR products have made mitochondrial DNA analysis easier and faster. The aim of this study is to analyze Sequence Polymorphisms of Mitochondrial Control Region DNA [3] in our population, and for that purpose, we studied the D-Loop Hypervariable Regions 1 and 2 (HV1 and HV2). Statistical interpretation of the results let us create a database with sequences of our own population.

2. Materials and methods

We studied 565 unrelated Argentine individuals, most from the city of Buenos Aires. DNA was extracted by Miller's method (salting out) and by chloroform/phenol/isoamyl alcohol extraction method.

Mitochondrial DNA D-Loop Region of approximately 1.300 bp was amplified from blood samples using the following primers: L-15926 and H-00580. For forensic samples, we amplified three fragments of HV1 Segment (253, 156 and 192 bp) and three fragments of HV2 Segment (233, 227 and 172 bp) using the following primers: L-15997/H-16255; L-

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16099/H-16255; L-16209/H-16401; L-00030/H-00262; L-00140/H-00366; and L-00241/H-00412, respectively. PCR was performed in a GeneAmp PCR System 9700® (Perkin Elmer). PCR product was purified using Microspin S-300 HR Columns (Amersham/Pharmacia). Sequencing reaction was performed with “Big Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Kit” (PE BioSystems). Templates were purified using Centrisep-Spin Columns and analyzed in an ABI Prism 310 Genetic Analyzer (PE Applied BioSystems).

3. Results and discussion

We analyzed the Sequence Polymorphisms of Mitochondrial Control Region DNA in 565 unrelated individuals. We studied HV1 Region in all the samples and HV2 Region in 261 of them. For HV1 Region, we analyzed 390 bp (16023–16412), and for HV2 Region, 342 bp (060–401). In HV1 Region, we observed 325 different haplotypes (57.5%) and 262 individuals showed a unique haplotype (46.4%).The Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS) was the most frequent haplotype observed, present in 35 unrelated individuals (11%). We calculated Genetic Identity (P=0.013) and Genetic Diversity (h=0.9887). We also found 143 polymorphic sites with 159 mutational events, being 135 of them transitions (84.9%) and 24 transversions (15.1%), and, in 13 polymorphic sites, we could observe both types of mutational events (8.17%). In our population, HV1 Region did not present either insertions or deletions. Transition C → T at position 16223 was the most frequent substitution, found in 283 individuals (50%).This mutational event is present in Amerindian, Asian and African haplotypes [4]. The haplotype 16223-T, 16298-C, 16325-C, 16327-T was frequent in our population (8.9%), as well as that described in Amerindians [5]. In 129 individuals, we found a transition C → T at position 16189 showing the polycytosine tract (from 16184 position to 16193 position). We found heteroplasmies in five samples at positions 16187C/T, 16210 A/G, 16261 C/T, 16265 C/T and 16179 T/C. All the mutational events found in HV1 Region are described in Table 1. The analysis of HV2 Region in 261 unrelated individuals displayed 146 different haplotypes, a value of P=0.017 (Genetic

Table 1 Mutational events in HV1 Region

Table with 3 main sections showing mutational events in HV1 Region. Each section includes a sequence alignment and a table of counts for transitions (T, G, C) and transversions (A).

Sample: 565 unrelated individuals. Mutational events: 159. Transitions: 135. Transversions: 24.

