

1 **Title**

2 **Pathogenic variants causing *ABL1* malformation syndrome cluster in a myristoyl-**
3 **binding pocket and increase tyrosine kinase activity**

5 **Running title**

6 ***ABL1* pathogenic variants**

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33 **Abstract**

34 *ABL1* is a proto-oncogene encoding a nonreceptor tyrosine kinase, best known in the somatic
35 *BCR-ABL* fusion gene associated with chronic myeloid leukaemia. Recently, germline
36 missense variants in *ABL1* have been found to cause an autosomal dominant developmental
37 syndrome with congenital heart disease, skeletal malformations and characteristic facies.
38 Here, we describe a series of six new unrelated individuals with heterozygous missense
39 variants in *ABL1* (including four novel variants) identified via whole exome sequencing. All
40 the affected individuals in this series recapitulate the phenotype of the *ABL1* developmental
41 syndrome and additionally we affirm that hearing impairment is a common feature of the
42 condition. Four of the variants cluster in the myristoyl-binding pocket of ABL1, a region
43 critical for auto-inhibitory regulation of the kinase domain. Bio-informatic analysis of
44 transcript-wide conservation and germline/somatic variation reveals that this pocket region is
45 subject to high missense constraint and evolutionary conservation. Functional work to
46 investigate ABL1 kinase activity *in vitro* by transient transfection of HEK293T cells with
47 variant *ABL1* plasmid constructs revealed increased phosphorylation of ABL1-specific
48 substrates compared to wild-type. The increased tyrosine kinase activity was suppressed by
49 imatinib treatment. This case series of six new patients with germline heterozygous *ABL1*
50 missense variants further delineates the phenotypic spectrum of this condition and recognises
51 microcephaly as a common finding. Our analysis supports an ABL1 gain-of-function
52 mechanism due to loss of auto-inhibition, and demonstrates the potential for pharmacological
53 inhibition using imatinib.

54

55

56 **Keywords**

57 ABL1

58 congenital heart defects

59 skeletal malformations

60 myristoyl-binding pocket

61 autoinhibition

62 imatinib

63

64 **Introduction**

65 *ABL1* is a proto-oncogene encoding a nonreceptor tyrosine kinase with diverse roles in
66 cytoskeleton remodelling and the DNA damage response(1). It is best known as part of the
67 somatic *BCR-ABL1* fusion gene in the Philadelphia chromosome, associated with chronic
68 myeloid leukaemia (CML) and acute lymphocytic leukaemia (ALL)(2).

69 *ABL1* spans 170kb of chromosome 9q34.12, comprising 11 exons. It has two isoforms owing
70 to use of alternative first exons. The longer transcript (NM_007313), encodes 19 additional
71 N-terminal residues involved in auto-inhibition of the ABL1 kinase.

72 Recently, Wang et al(3) described an autosomal dominant developmental syndrome (MIM
73 617602) caused by germline heterozygous missense variants (NM_007313.2:c.734A>G
74 p.(Tyr245Cys) and c.1066G>A p.(Ala356Thr)) in *ABL1*. Clinical features included
75 congenital heart disease, skeletal malformations, dysmorphic facies, and failure to thrive.
76 More recently, the clinical spectrum of the ABL1 malformation syndrome has been expanded
77 to include hearing impairment, renal hypoplasia, and ocular abnormalities(4).

78 Tyr245 lies in the SH2-kinase linker domain of ABL1 essential for the “docking” of the Src
79 homology (SH3) domain in the inactive conformation of the protein(5). Docking of SH3 to
80 the SH2-kinase linker domain is one of three “linchpins” proposed to hold ABL1 in an
81 inactive closed state, and therefore has an important auto-inhibitory role(6). Phosphorylation
82 of Tyr245 is necessary for maximal wild-type ABL1 kinase activity; a p.Tyr245Phe
83 substitution reduces ABL1 kinase activity by 50% *in vitro*(7). Unexpectedly, Wang et al
84 found that the c.734A>G p.(Tyr245Cys) variant increased ABL1 kinase activity(3),
85 suggesting a possible gain of function effect.

86 Ala356 lies within the myristoyl binding pocket of the ABL1 kinase domain. In isoform 1b
87 (NM_007313) a myristoyl group bound to the N-terminal glycine of ABL1 occupies this
88 pocket to stabilise the inactive conformation of the protein(8). This docking of the myristoyl

89 residue is the second “linchpin” of ABL1 auto-inhibition, which is lost in the BCR-ABL
90 fusion product as the ABL1 N-terminus is truncated. The substitution of Ala356 for the polar
91 amino acid threonine is expected to disrupt important hydrophobic interactions within the
92 pocket. Indeed, the c.1066G>A p.(Ala356Thr) variant has increased kinase activity *in*
93 *vitro*(3), consistent with a gain of function due to failure of auto-inhibition.

94 The developmental significance of ABL1 is illustrated by animal models. *Abl*² mice harbour
95 a targeted insertion-deletion in which exon 5 and part of exon 6 are replaced by the neomycin
96 resistance gene(9). Homozygotes die soon after birth with thymic and splenic atrophy,
97 lymphopenia, and osteoporosis(10). *Abl*^{ml} mice have a large targeted deletion of
98 approximately one third of the ABL1 protein from the c-terminus(11). Homozygotes have
99 increased perinatal mortality, with defects of spleen, head, and eye development(12).

100 Interestingly, *Abl*^{ml} homozygotes of a C57BL/6J background also develop cardiac
101 abnormalities(13). Heterozygotes of both strains are largely unaffected, suggesting that *ABL1*
102 does not display haploinsufficiency, and supporting the possibility that the human germline
103 missense variants act through a gain of function.

104 In this study, we have collected clinical and molecular details of six patients with deleterious
105 *ABL1* variants and have modelled the effects of these variants *in vitro*. We find that all but
106 one of the variants identified in this cohort cluster in the myristoyl binding pocket of ABL1,
107 and that these variants increase the tyrosine kinase activity of ABL1 *in vitro*. These results
108 are consistent with a gain-of-function effect, in which the variants disrupt the crucial auto-
109 inhibitory binding of an N-terminal myristoyl group to its binding pocket. We find that
110 variants in this myristoyl binding pocket are a common cause of the *ABL1* cardiac and
111 skeletal malformation syndrome.

112

113 **Subjects and Methods**

114 **Patients**

115 Patients 1, 3, and 5 were identified through genetic variant results returned via the
116 Deciphering Developmental Disorders (DDD) study(14) (Complementary Analysis Project
117 #278; DECIPHER IDs: patient 1 = 304716, patient 3 = 300146, patient 5 = 304918). UK
118 ethical approval for the DDD study has been granted by the Cambridge South Research
119 Ethics Committee (10/H0305/83). Patients 2, 4 and 6 were identified as part of routine
120 clinical practice through clinical genetics services in Australia and New Zealand. Informed
121 consent for publication was obtained for all patients whose clinical details and clinical
122 photographs are included in this report. Ethical approval for the study involving patient 4 was
123 obtained from the New Zealand Health and Disability Ethics Committee (16/STH/3).
124 Clinicians of all patients reported to have *ABLI* variants were contacted and requested to
125 make assessments of variant pathogenicity in their patients.

Genetic analysis

For patients 1, 3, and 5, whole exome sequencing of saliva DNA samples was carried out through the DDD study. The DDD sequencing and bioinformatics framework has been previously described(15). The DDD study identified 23 patients with missense variants in *ABL1*. Variants deemed pathogenic or likely pathogenic among those patients included in this report were confirmed by Sanger sequencing. The exome sequencing strategies used to identify the variants in patients 2 and 4 have been previously described(16,17). Each variant was confirmed by Sanger sequencing. Patient 6 underwent whole exome sequencing through Invitae (boosted exome, proband only). Genomic DNA was enriched using a proprietary hybridisation-based protocol and sequenced on an Illumina platform. Sequences were aligned to GRCh37. Mean sequencing depth was 230x, with 99.9% of positions in reportable exons covered at >20x. Minimum calling depth was at least 20x. Targeted regions included at least 95% of the mappable exome, +/- 10 bp flanking regions. Promoters, untranslated and other non-coding regions were not interrogated. Variants were identified using a proprietary calling algorithm and confirmed by Sanger sequencing. Variants are annotated against GenBank transcript ID NM_007313.2. Exons are numbered as for GenBank accession NG_012034.1. The variants identified in this study have been submitted to the ClinVar database (accession numbers SCV001439209 - SCV001439213).

Plasmid mutagenesis

A pCDNA3.1/V5-His A plasmid vector containing the *ABL1* cDNA sequence was gifted by Yaping Yang, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX, USA). Plasmid mutagenesis of the *ABL1B* transcript (NM_007313.2) was carried out for each variant following a modified version of the QuikChange Site-Directed Mutagenesis method (Agilent Technologies, Manchester, UK) using PfuUltra II Fusion HotStart DNA Polymerase (see Supplementary

Information for details). Primers were designed using Agilent's QuikChange Primer Design online tool (<https://www.chem.agilent.com/store/primerDesignProgram.jsp>) or using a partially overlapping primer design(18) (see Supplementary Information for primer sequences). Mutagenised plasmids were used to transform One Shot TOP10 Chemically Competent *E. coli* (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Paisley, UK). Individual clones were isolated and *ABL1* fully sequenced to confirm the correct sequence and presence of the required variant.

Transfection and ABL1 activity assay

To investigate ABL1 kinase activity in vitro, HEK293T cells were transfected with plasmid constructs encoding wild-type or variant *ABL1* cDNA using Lipofectamine 2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Paisley, UK). After 48 hours, cells were serum starved for one hour before preparation of protein lysates. Phosphorylation of ABL1 and the ABL1-specific substrate STAT5B was measured by western blotting using the following antibodies: ABL1 (clone OP20) (EMD Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA); Phospho-ABL1 (Tyr245) (Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA, #2861); Phospho-ABL1 (Tyr241) (Abcam, Cambridge, UK), STAT5 (Cell Signaling Technology, #9363); phospho-STAT5 (Cell Signaling Technology, #9359); Phosphotyrosine (Fisher Scientific, PY20), Actin (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, Texas, USA; SC-10731). Imatinib was purchased from Stratech (Ely, UK). To assess effect on phosphorylation activity, 1 μ M imatinib was added during the one-hour serum starvation before lysis.

Analysis of variation and conservation in ABL1

Non-pathogenic missense variants of *ABL1* in patients with abnormal phenotypes were collated from the DECIPHER database(14). *ABL1* missense variants in healthy population controls were identified through the gnomAD(19) and EVS(20) databases. PhyloP basewise evolutionary conservation scores(21) for every position in the transcript (NM_007313.2)

were obtained through the UCSC table browser(22). Missense constraint scores for every codon were obtained from the MTR Gene Viewer(23). Pathogenic variants were analysed by the standard pathogenicity prediction programs PolyPhen(24), SIFT(25), MutationTaster(26), and CADD(27).

Results

Clinical features

The clinical features of our cohort are summarised in Table 1, and representative clinical photographs are given in Figure 1. All six individuals recapitulate the phenotype of congenital heart disease, skeletal malformations, and characteristic facies which had been previously described. Hearing impairment has recently been identified as a common feature of the ABL1 malformation syndrome(4); four of our cohort exhibit conductive or mixed conductive/sensorineural hearing impairment, which was severe and persistent in one patient. Interestingly, two individuals have tall stature, in contrast to short stature in the majority of cases. Some other phenotypic features are also over-represented in our cohort, including camptodactyly (5/6) and microcephaly (5/6). Others are under-represented or absent, including pectus deformity (1/6), ear abnormalities (1/6), gastro-intestinal disorders (1/6), joint hyper-extensibility (0/6), dental decay (0/6), and genito-urinary disorders (1/6) (Table S1).

The most common clinical features across all described individuals with *ABL1* variants are dysmorphic facies (18/18), finger/toe abnormalities (17/18), congenital heart disease (14/18), failure to thrive (14/18), developmental delay (11/18), IUGR (10/18), ear abnormalities (9/18), palatal deformity (9/18), and microcephaly (9/18) (Table S1).

Pathogenic *ABL1* variants

We identified six individuals with five deleterious *de novo* missense variants in *ABL1*. Four of these variants have not been previously described. Our findings are summarised in Figure 2. Four of the five variants cluster in the myristoyl-binding pocket within the kinase domain, which is a critical auto-inhibitory region in ABL1 (Figure 3).

The molecular characteristics of each variant are shown in Table 2. The nucleotide and amino acid at each position is highly conserved between species. All variants are predicted to be deleterious by multiple pathogenicity prediction programs. None of the variants are present in gnomAD. All novel variants were classified as “pathogenic” or “likely pathogenic” by ACMG criteria(28).

Benign *ABL1* variation

Whereas pathogenic heterozygous germline *ABL1* variants cluster within and adjacent to the *ABL1* kinase domain, non-pathogenic *ABL1* variants in the DECIPHER cohort largely lie outside this region (Figure 2a). Benign germline variation among gnomAD participants is found in every domain of *ABL1* but is relatively scarce within the kinase domain (Figure 2a). Mean PhyloP scores are significantly higher in the kinase domain and the SH3/2 domains than the rest of the transcript, while MTR scores are correspondingly lower in these regions (Figure 2b, Supplementary Table 2). Codons and individual bases within the kinase domain are therefore prone to greater missense constraint and evolutionary conservation than other positions in the transcript.

Somatic *ABL1* missense variants associated with imatinib resistance in BCR-ABL leukaemias cluster exclusively within the kinase domain (Figure 2a). One residue (Ala452) is associated both with pathogenic variation in the germline, and imatinib resistance as a somatic variant.

223 ***In vitro* ABL1 assay**

224 To investigate ABL1 kinase activity *in vitro*, HEK293T cells were transfected with plasmid
225 constructs encoding wild-type or variant *ABL1* cDNA. Cell lysates were assayed for
226 phosphorylation of ABL1-specific substrates by immunoblotting (Figure 4). Phosphorylation
227 of ABL1-Tyr245 and STAT5B were substantially increased in lysates transfected with the
228 c.1066G>A p.(Ala356Thr) construct, consistent with previous reports(3). Phosphorylated
229 ABL1 and STAT5B were also increased for the c.1354G>A p.(Ala452Thr), c.1574T>C
230 p.(Val525Ala), and c.1582G>A p.(Glu528Lys) constructs (Figure 4A). These results are
231 consistent with gain of ABL1 tyrosine kinase activity due to loss of auto-inhibition by
232 myristoyl binding.

233 No evidence of ABL1 activation was seen for the negative control, c.881A>G
234 p.(Glu294Gly). This variant was identified through the DDD study in a patient with a likely
235 pathogenic *de novo* variant in another gene.

236 The c.731T>C p.(Val244Ala) construct caused an increase in phosphorylation of STAT5B
237 and of overall tyrosine phosphorylation, with reduced autophosphorylation at Tyr245
238 compared to wild-type. Alteration of Val244 to alanine therefore appears to result in loss of
239 phosphorylation of the adjacent Tyr245 residue. This result is surprising, as phosphorylation
240 of Tyr245 is thought to potentiate ABL1 kinase activity(7). However, the previously
241 described pathogenic c.734A>G p.(Tyr245Cys) variant also abolishes phosphorylation at this
242 site(3). Furthermore, other variants within the SH2-catalytic domain linker region have
243 previously been shown to cause ABL1 to adopt an active conformation by disrupting the
244 inhibitory interaction between the SH3 and catalytic domains(7,29).

245 Finally, as expected, imatinib abolished phosphorylation of ABL1-Tyr245 and STAT5B in
246 all of the constructs (Figure 4B).

247

248 Discussion

249 We describe six additional patients with a skeletal and cardiac malformation syndrome
250 caused by heterozygous missense variants in *ABL1*, which in five cases are confirmed as *de*
251 *novo*. All but one of these variants cluster in a myristoyl-binding pocket within the kinase
252 domain, suggesting a gain-of-function effect due to loss of auto-inhibition. We present
253 functional data consistent with this mechanism and reaffirm that the clinical phenotype of the
254 *ABL1* syndrome includes conductive hearing loss.

255 A distinctive feature of the variants we describe is their close spatial relationship to one
256 another in the three-dimensional crystal structure of the protein, and specifically their
257 position within the myristoyl binding pocket. This close spatial relationship is not
258 immediately apparent from the position of these variants in the *ABL1* transcript, and yet
259 suggests a self-evident mechanism by which they can exert a deleterious gain-of-function
260 effect. We predict that other amino-acid substitutions within the myristoyl-binding pocket,
261 particularly those which disrupt hydrophobic interactions or introduce bulky amino acids,
262 will also be deleterious in the germline. We also predict that missense variation or in-frame
263 deletion of the N-terminal glycine of *ABL1*, which carries the myristoyl modification, will be
264 deleterious.

265 We also describe a novel c.731T>C p.(Val244Ala) variant which lies in the SH2-kinase
266 linker domain, immediately adjacent to a previously described c.734A>G p.(Tyr245Cys)
267 variant. Other variants in this linker domain are known to disrupt the inhibitory docking of
268 the SH3 domain to the SH2-kinase linker domain, and thereby constitutively activate the
269 *ABL1* kinase(7). Notably, the c.731T>C p.(Val244Ala) variant we describe causes reduced
270 phosphorylation of *ABL1*-Tyr245 *in vitro*. Phosphorylation of Tyr245 is necessary for
271 maximal activation of the wild-type *ABL1*(7), yet the c.731T>C p.(Val244Ala) and
272 c.734A>G p.(Tyr245Cys) variants must activate *ABL1* independently of the Tyr245

273 phosphorylation status. Recently, an in-frame deletion of c.434_436del p.(Ser145del) has
274 also been associated with the *ABL1* developmental syndrome(30), but no functional work has
275 yet been performed to characterise the effect of this variant on ABL1 kinase activity.

276 *ABL1* is best known as a proto-oncogene. In CML and other haematological malignancies, a
277 somatic translocation between chromosomes 9 and 22 produces the Philadelphia
278 chromosome(31), carrying a *BCR-ABL* fusion gene. As the N-terminus of ABL1 is lost in the
279 fusion product, the auto-inhibitory binding of the myristoyl group to the kinase domain is
280 abolished, and ABL1 gains constitutive tyrosine kinase activity which drives cellular
281 proliferation(32).

282 Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) specific to ABL1, such as imatinib, are the mainstay of
283 treatment for CML. However, resistance to TKI therapy is strongly associated with somatic
284 missense variants in the ABL1 kinase domain, particularly in the ATP binding loop (P loop)
285 and at TKI-specific binding sites(33).

286 It is noteworthy that none of the activating germline variants we describe have been
287 associated with somatic TKI resistance. If, as we argue, germline variants in the kinase
288 domain sterically hinder myristoyl binding, they will functionally mimic the loss of the
289 ABL1 N-terminus in BCR-ABL. We therefore expect that TKIs effective against BCR-ABL
290 should be similarly effective against these variant proteins. Indeed, TKIs may potentially in
291 some way be therapeutically beneficial for the *ABL1* developmental syndrome or its
292 complications, for example in limiting aortic root dilatation or reducing the tendency for
293 dilatation to occur. However, given that this condition appears to affect embryonic and fetal
294 development, any more complete therapeutic effect would require as early treatment as
295 possible and entail long-term therapy, potentially risking adverse drug effects. While
296 imatinib is used to treat paediatric CML cases, it is expected to be teratogenic in pregnancy.

297 Further work is therefore required to ascertain whether therapeutic scope exists for use of
298 imatinib or similar TKIs in this condition.

299 It is also noteworthy that activating somatic missense variants in *ABL1* have not been found
300 to independently cause haematological malignancy, although both isoforms of *ABL1* are
301 ubiquitously expressed. Disruption of myristoyl binding alone may not activate *ABL1*
302 sufficiently to drive malignancy. Two other “linchpins” of *ABL1* auto-inhibition (the docking
303 of the SH3 domain to a polyproline helix in the SH2-kinase linker, and an N-terminal “brace”
304 over the SH3-SH2 unit) may prevent its excessive activation(6). Indeed, both the N-terminal
305 “brace” and the myristoyl group are lost in the BCR-ABL fusion. It is not clear whether the
306 activating germline variants we describe can act as driver variants in malignancy. No patients
307 with the *ABL1* skeletal and cardiac malformation syndrome described here or elsewhere are
308 reported to have haematological malignancy, but longitudinal follow up of these patients will
309 be required to better determine this.

310 From a clinical perspective, we believe this condition to be a phenotypically distinctive and
311 recognisable syndrome based on affected individuals' dysmorphology and associated clinical
312 features. Phenotypes such as skeletal malformations, aortic root dilatation and
313 pneumothorax point towards an overlap with genetic connective tissue disorders and we
314 recommend that *ABL1* be borne in mind in such cases. The high prevalence of hearing
315 impairment makes audiological assessment advisable. Furthermore, assessment of the aortic
316 root diameter at the time of diagnosis may also be appropriate in individuals found to have
317 pathogenic *ABL1* variants. Evidence is currently lacking as to the true risk of aortic
318 aneurysm and dissection in this condition. We are not aware of any affected individuals
319 having had rapid progressive aortic dilatation requiring surgical intervention and this may
320 therefore suggest a more indolent course. However, a precautionary approach of ongoing

aortic root screening similar to that used for Marfan syndrome may be appropriate until such time as more accurate natural history data are available.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. Clinical photographs of patients with the *ABL1* cardiac and skeletal malformation syndrome. **A:** Hands and feet of patients 1, 3, 5, and 6. Features include camptodactyly (patients 1, 3, 5, & 6), 5th finger clinodactyly (patients 3 and 6), bilateral Dupuytren's contracture (patient 5), and 2-3 toe syndactyly (patient 3). **B:** Facial photographs of patients 3 (top) and 6 (bottom). Note the small chin, down-turned mouth, and long, narrow nose.

Figure 2. Pathogenic and benign variation, missense constraint and evolutionary conservation in *ABL1* (NM_007313.2). **A)** Pathogenic and benign variants in *ABL1*. Red points indicate pathogenic germline *ABL1* variants described here and previously. Blue points indicate non-pathogenic *ABL1* missense variants in DECIPHER. Yellow points indicate somatic missense variants in haematological malignancy associated with Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (TKI) resistance in the COSMIC database. Raised yellow points indicate that this variant is also seen in the germline in a DECIPHER participant. Grey points indicate missense variants in gnomAD. **B)** Schematic of functional domains in *ABL1*, with amino acid residue labelled on the horizontal axis. Pathogenic missense variants cluster near the kinase domain of the transcript, as do somatic missense variants conferring resistance to imatinib. The kinase domain is also depleted for non-pathogenic variants in DECIPHER, and for benign variation in gnomAD. **C)** Missense constraint in *ABL1*. Moving average of Missense Tolerance Ratio (MTR) scores with 20 codon window. MTR scores represent the missense

tolerance of *ABL1* codons, derived from the prevalence of missense variation in the ExAC cohort. Lower scores indicate codons which are under missense constraint. Codons in the kinase domain and SH3/2 domains are under greater missense constraint than the remainder of the transcript. **D)** Basewise conservation in *ABL1*. Moving average of basewise PhyloP scores with 60 base window. Higher scores indicate more highly conserved bases. Bases at the 5' end of the transcript, comprising the SH3, SH2, and kinase domains, tend to be more highly conserved than the remainder of the transcript.

Figure 3. Structure of autoinhibited ABL1 showing locations of patient missense variants. **A)** Cartoon representation of autoinhibited ABL1 in complex with ATP-competitive inhibitor PD166326 and the myristoyl group of a myristoylated peptide (both shown in stick representation), with side-chains of patient missense variants shown as purple spheres (PDB: 1OPL). **B)** Closeup view showing that the Tyr245 side-chain packs in a hydrophobic crevice formed by the side-chains of Lys313 and Pro315 of the kinase domain. Substitution with a cysteine would abolish phosphorylation at this site and may disrupt an important salt bridge between Lys313 and Glu117. **C)** Closeup view showing that Ala356, Ala452, Val525 and Glu528 cluster at the myristoyl binding pocket and form important hydrophobic interactions with the myristoyl group and to other amino acids that complete the binding pocket. Amino acid substitutions observed in patients at these sites are likely to impact binding of the myristoylated peptide.

Figure 4. Missense variants cause increased ABL1 tyrosine kinase activity *in vitro*. **A)** Tyrosine kinase activity of ABL1 missense constructs. Missense variants NM_007313.2:c.1066G>A p.(Ala356Thr), c.1354G>A p.(Ala452Thr), c.1574T>C p.(Val525Ala), and c.1582G>A p.(Glu528Lys) markedly increase the phosphorylation of

ABL1 at residue Tyr245, and the phosphorylation of the ABL1-specific substrate STAT5B, compared to wild type. The c.881A>G p.(Glu294Gly) construct (for which the variant is not thought to be deleterious), does not increase phosphorylation of ABL1 or STAT5B. The c.731T>C p.(Val244Ala) construct increased phosphorylation of STAT5B and tyrosine phosphorylation overall, but not at ABL1-Tyr245. Substitution of Val244 for alanine therefore appears to result in loss of phosphorylation of the adjacent Tyr245 residue. These findings are consistent with gain of ABL1 tyrosine kinase activity due to loss of auto-inhibition through myristoyl binding. **B)** Treatment with 1 μ M imatinib results in complete loss of phosphorylation activity.

Table 1. Clinical details of patients with *ABL1* missense variants. BW, birth weight. Adult head circumference centiles are based on charts produced by Bushby et al.(34)

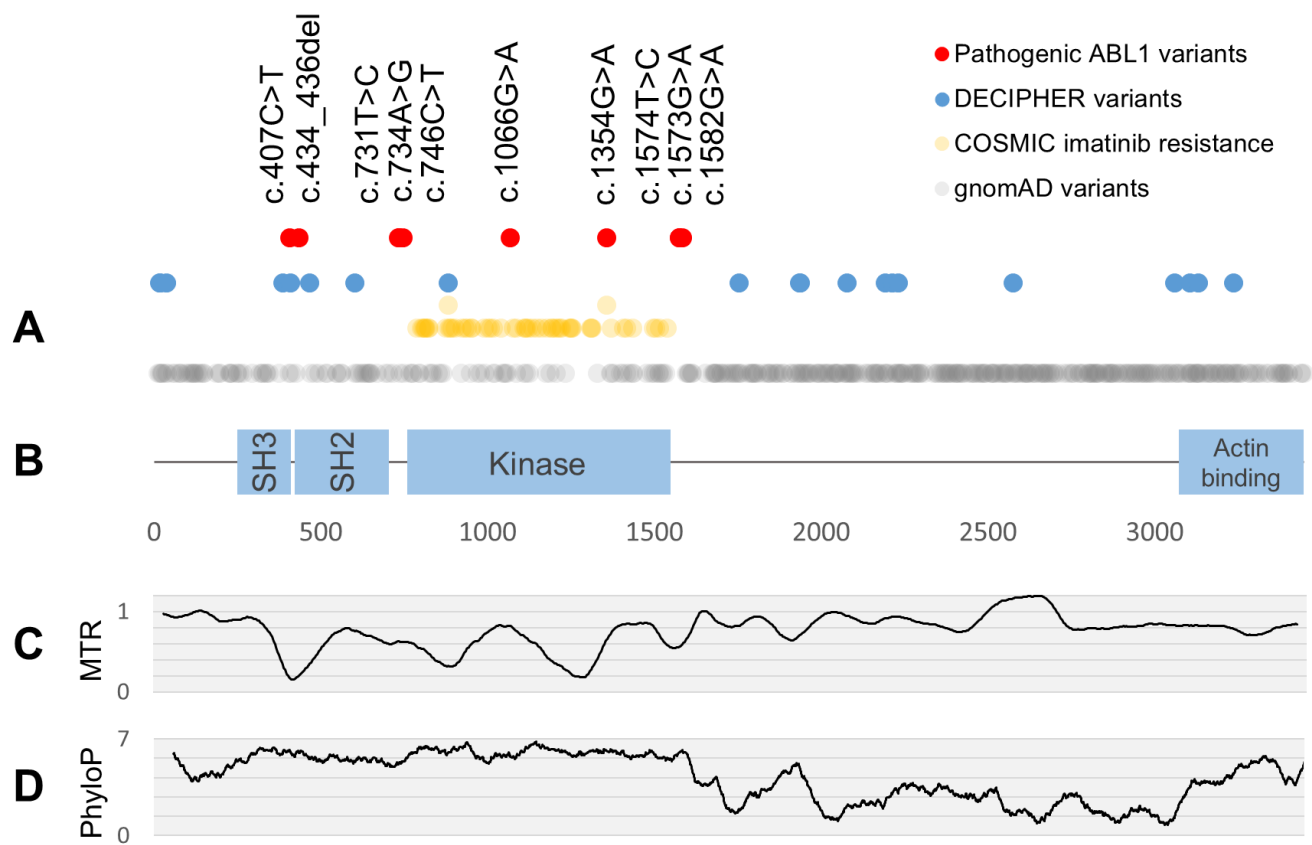
Table 2. Molecular details of deleterious *ABL1* missense variants. * The variant in patient 6 would be classified as "Likely pathogenic" if PP4 were applied (highly specific phenotype for a disease with a single genetic aetiology) or "Pathogenic" if PS3 were applied in light of the experimental findings in this paper (functional studies supportive of a damaging effect).

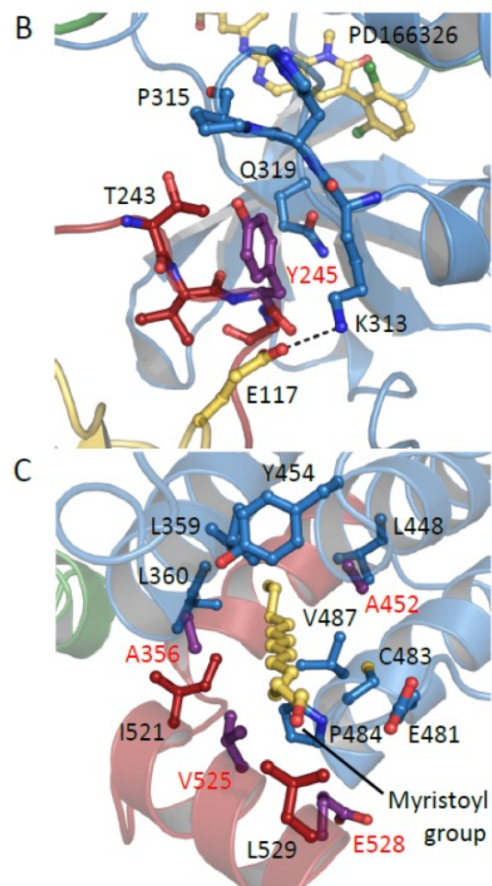
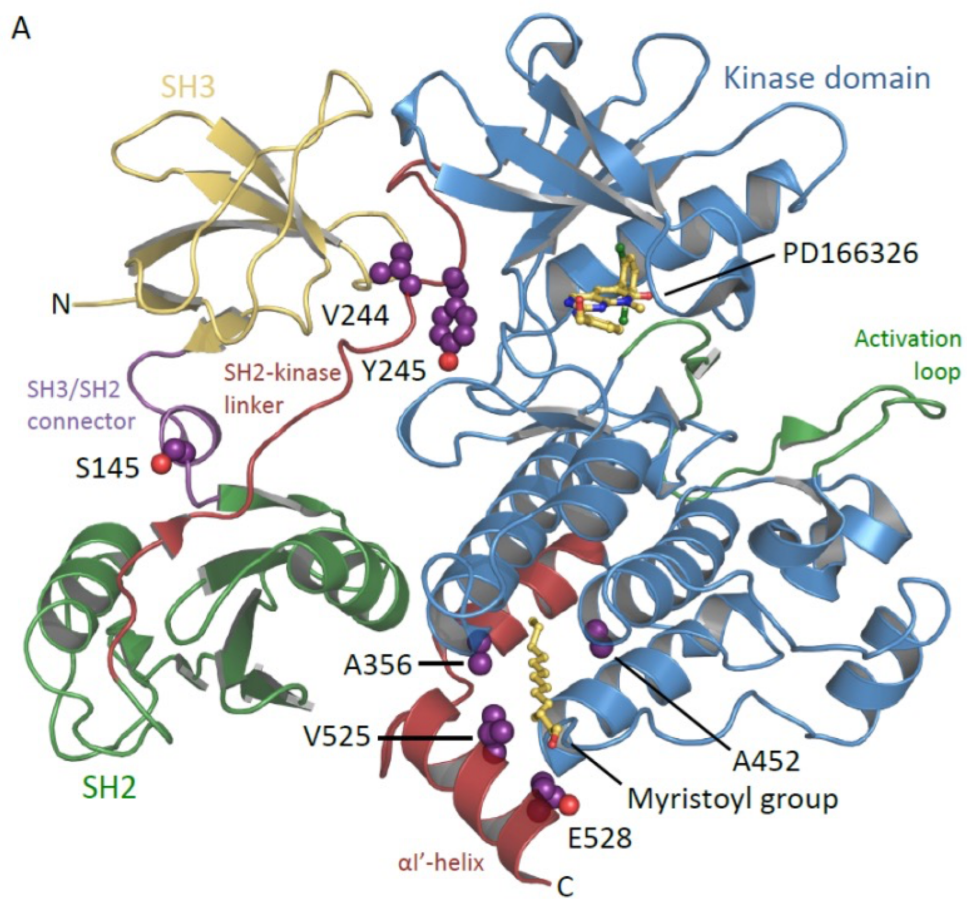
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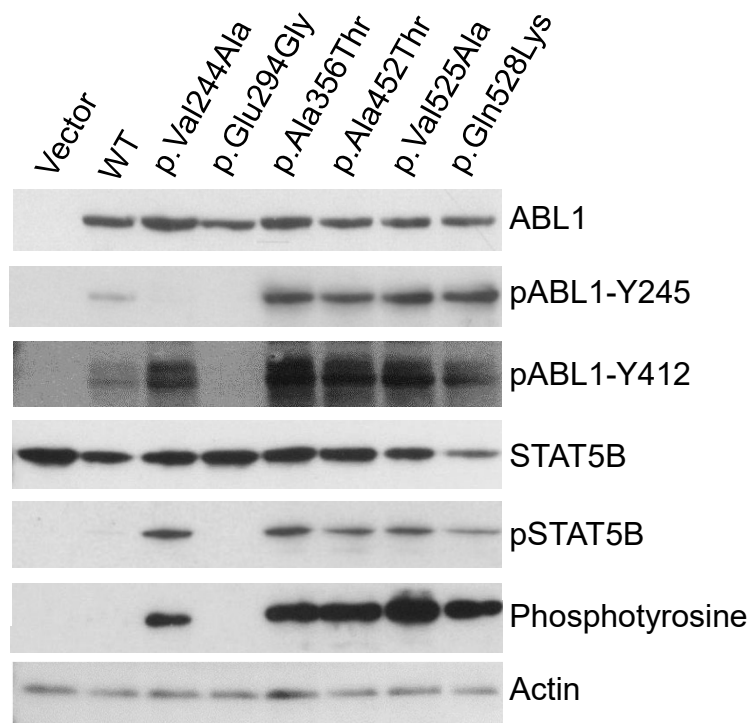
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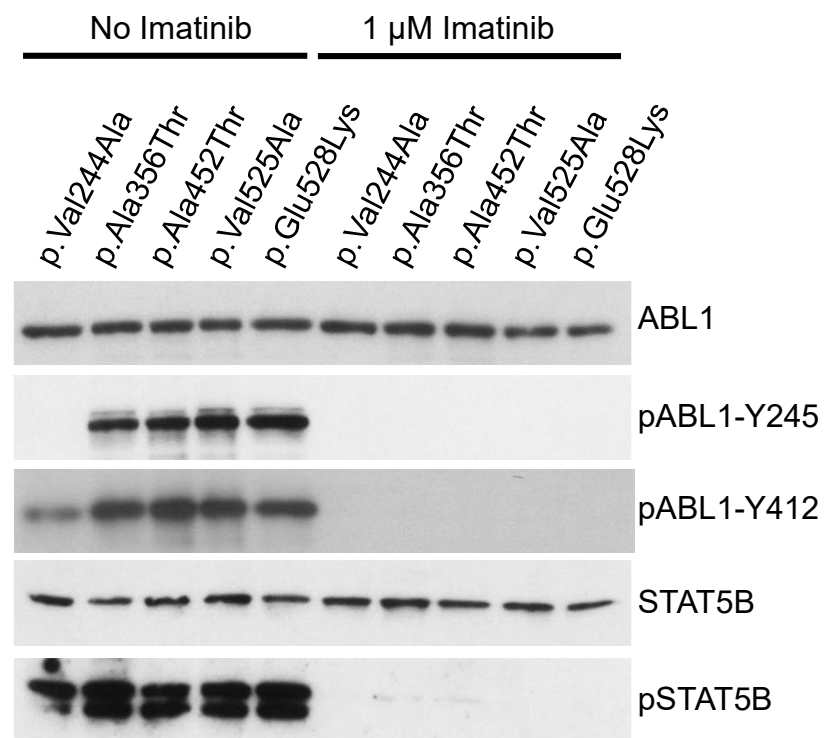




A



B



General	Patient Variant Age (years) Gender	1	2	3	4	5	6
		c.1066G>A; p.(Ala356Thr) 4 Female	c.1066G>A; p.(Ala356Thr) 29 Female	c.1354G>A; p.(Ala452Thr) 13 Male	c.1574T>C; p.(Val525Ala) 6 Female	c.1582G>A; p.(Glu528Lys) 40 Male	c.731T>C; p.(Val244Ala) 37 Male
Growth	Age at measurement	3.5 years	25 years	13 years	6 years	40 years	36 years
	Height/Length (cm)	92.4 (<9th centile)	150.8 (<0.4th centile)	170.9 (98th centile)	109 (9th centile)	191 (<99.6th centile)	188 (98th centile)
	Weight (kg)	11.6 (0.4th centile)	37.6	56.3 (91st centile)	(9th-25th centile)	82.5	103
	Head circumference (cm)	46 (<0.4th centile)	51 (<3rd centile)	52.1 (2nd centile)	45 (<2nd centile)	52.6 (<<0.4th centile)	60.5 (90th centile)
	Intrauterine growth restriction	Yes (BW 2.2kg at 37 weeks)	Yes (BW 2.41kg at 36 weeks)	No (BW 2.75kg at 37 weeks)	Yes (mild)	No (BW 3.09kg at 41 weeks)	Yes
Development	Growth failure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Feeding difficulties					Yes	Yes
	Stature	Short stature	Short stature	Tall stature	Short stature (mild)	Tall stature (proportionate)	Tall stature
	Developmental delay		No	Moderate (global)	Mild	Mild	Mild (mainly motor)
	Face	High-arched eyebrows, full cheeks	Elongated face, narrow maxilla, facial asymmetry, scaphocephaly			High-arched eyebrows	Broad forehead, narrow maxilla, long face
Dysmorphic features	Eyes		Deep-set eyes	Almond-shaped eyes, epiblepharon	Epicanthic folds	Ptosis, proptosis	
	Ears			Asymmetry of the ears		Prominent ears, lobeless ears	
	Nose	Hypoplastic alae nasi	Long narrow nose, hypoplastic alae nasi	Prominent nasal tip	Narrow overhanging nasal tip, broad nasal root	Prominent nasal bridge, low columella	Long narrow nose
	Mouth		Thin lips, dental crowding	Small down-turned mouth			Down-turned mouth
	Palate		High-arched palate			High palate	
	Chin	Microretrognathia	Pointed chin	Small pointed chin	Small pointed chin	Micrognathia	Pointed chin
Cardiovascular	Atrial spetal defect	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Ventricular septal defect	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Aortic root dilatation	No	Yes (mild)	Yes (mild)	No	Yes	Yes (mild)
	Other		Supra-valvular pulmonary stenosis	Patent ductus arteriosus		Bicuspid aortic valve, pacemaker for intermittent junctional rhythm	Idiopathic hypertension, mild concentric left ventricular hypertrophy
Skeletal	Pectus excavatum			Yes			
	Scoliosis		Yes (surgical intervention)			Yes (thoracic)	
	Finger/toe abnormality	Camptodactyly of fingers, arachnodactyly	Camptodactyly of fingers	2-3 toe syndactyly, camptodactyly of fingers, clinodactyly of 5th fingers	2-3 toe syndactyly, clinodactyly of 4th and 5th fingers, tapered fingers	Camptodactyly, bilateral Dupuytren's contracture, slender fingers	Camptodactyly, clinodactyly of 5th finger, slender fingers
	Foot deformity			Metatarsus adductus			Mild hindfoot valgus deformity
Other	Other			Hypoplasia of right lower limb			
	Other						
Joints	Hypermobility	None	Mild elbow laxity	Joint laxity (Beighton score 4/9)	None		None
	Other					Joint swelling of fingers, osteoarthritis of hips	
Gastrointestinal	Constipation/Reflux		No	Constipation	No		No
Genito-urinary	Renal tract		No	Left renal agenesis	No		
	Reproductive tract			Absent left vas deferens			Micropenis, hydrocoele
Skin	Thin skin		Yes		Yes		Yes
	Other		Fibromata of hands and feet				Cutis marmorata
Other	Hearing impairment	Congenital conductive hearing impairment	Chronic otitis media, secondary conductive hearing loss		Mixed conductive/sensorineural hearing impairment (50dB loss bilaterally)	Mixed conductive/sensorineural hearing impairment	
	Other		Lacrimal duct stenosis, recurrent pneumothorax	Bilateral inguinal hernias, fetal choroid plexus cysts, spontaneous pneumothorax		Varicose veins, liver cirrhosis	Oligodontia, distal upper limb weakness, prominent veins

General	Patient	1	2	3	4	5	6
Molecular labels	Position (hg19/GRCh37)	9:133748348	9:133748348	9:133753828	9:133755890	9:133755898	9:133738274
	Exon Number	6	6	8	10	10	4
	Transcript (RefSeq)	NM_007313.2	NM_007313.2	NM_007313.2	NM_007313.2	NM_007313.2	NM_007313.2
	c.	c.1066G>A	c.1066G>A	c.1354G>A	c.1574T>C	c.1582G>A	c.731T>C
	p.	p.(Ala356Thr)	p.(Ala356Thr)	p.(Ala452Thr)	p.(Val525Ala)	p.(Glu528Lys)	p.(Val244Ala)
Conservation	Nucleotide (phyloP)	Highly conserved 6.067	Highly conserved 6.067	Highly conserved 4.161	Highly conserved 4.998	Highly conserved 6.049	Highly conserved 4.736
	Amino Acid Conservation	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	<i>D. melanogaster</i>	<i>C. elegans</i>	<i>X. tropicalis</i>	<i>D. rerio</i>	<i>F. catus</i>
Pathogenicity	ExAC Allele Frequency	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Missense Tolerance Ratio	0,846	0,846	0,657	0,584	0,583	0,6
	SIFT	Damaging 0.019	Damaging 0.019	Damaging 0.013	Damaging 0.007	Damaging 0.048	Damaging 0.02
	Mutation Taster	Disease causing P: 0.999	Disease causing P: 0.999	Disease causing P: 0.999	Disease causing P: 0.999	Disease causing P: 0.999	Disease causing P: 0.998
	CADD	31	31	27	28,5	33	27,3
	ACMG Classification	Pathogenic	Pathogenic	Likely Pathogenic	Likely pathogenic	Likely pathogenic	Uncertain*
Inheritance	Inheritance	De novo	De novo	De novo	De novo	De novo	Unknown
	Zygosity	Heterozygous	Heterozygous	Heterozygous	Heterozygous	Heterozygous	Heterozygous