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Microdeletion Analysis of AZF Region on Y Chromosome in Korean Infertility Patients

JIN CHOI¹, JAE-WON HUH¹, WOO-YOUNG KIM¹, SEUNG-HEUI JEON¹,
JOO-MI YI¹, TAE-HYEONG KIM^{1,2}, OOK-HWAN CHOI³, KI-MAN NAM³,
HWA-JUNG BAE³, NAM-CHUL PARK⁴, MIKIO NAMIKI⁵,
EITETSU KOH⁵, WON-HO LEE¹ AND HEUI-SOO KIM¹

¹Division of Biological Sciences, Pusan National University, Pusan, Korea

²Pusan Bioinformatics and Biocomplexity Research Center,
Pusan National University, Pusan, Korea

³Cytogenetic Unit, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology,
Pusan National University Hospital, Pusan, Korea

⁴Department of Urology, College of Medicine, Pusan National University,
Pusan, Korea

⁵Department of Urology, School of Medicine, Kanazawa University,
Kanazawa, Japan

Azoospermia factor (AZF) region of the human Y chromosome has been known as candidate for male infertility. In order to understand the prevalence of microdeletion in the AZFs region of the Y chromosome in Korean infertile men, we examined PCR analysis with STS primer set within the AZF region using the genomic DNAs derived from 63 Korean infertility men with numerical chromosomal normality. Microdeletion of the AZFs region were detected in 23 individuals (37%) among 63 infertility patients; 12 (19%) patients in the AZFa region, 4 (6.3%) patients in the AZFb region, 7 (11.1%) patients in the AZFc region, and 4 (6.3%) patients in the AZFd region showed microdeletion event, respectively. Compared to the previous study, the value of microdeletion of the AZF region in Korean population was higher than that of the foreign patients. Taken together, our data indicates that the AZFa region of the Y chromosome is strong candidate for Korean male infertility.