Heterozygous STAT1 gain-of-function mutations underlie an unexpectedly broad clinical phenotype: an international survey of 274 patients from 167 kindreds

Julie Toubiana, MD1,2,3,4, Satoshi Okada, PhD5,6, Julia Hiller, MD7,8,*, Matias Oleastro, MD9,*
Macarena Lagos Gomez, MD10,*
Juan Carlos Aldave Becerra, MD11,*
Marie Ouaché-Chardin, MD12,*
Fanny Fouyssac, MD13,*
Katta Mohan Girisha, MD14,Y
Amos Etzioni, MD15,Y
Joris Van Montfrans, MD16,Y
Yildiz Camcioglu, MD17,Y
Leigh Ann Kerns, MD18,Y
Bernd Belohradsky, MD19,Y
Stéphane Blanche, MD20,Y
Aziz Bousfiha, MD21,Y
Carlos Rodriguez-Gallego, MD22,Y
Isabelle Meyts22,Y
Kai Kisand, MD23,Y
Janine Reichenbach, MD24,Y
Ellen D Renner, MD19,#
Sergio Rosenzweig, MD25,#
Bodo Grimbacher, MD26,#
Frank L van de Veerdonk, MD27,#
Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann, M7,8,#
Capucine Picard, MD2,3,4,28,#
Laszlo Marodi, MD29,#
Tomohiro Morio, MD30,#
Masao Kobayashi, MD6,#
Desa Lilic, MD31,#
Joshua D Milner, MD32,#
Steven Holland, MD25,#
Jean-Laurent Casanova, MD2,3,5,33,@
and Anne Puel, PhD2,3,5,34,@
on behalf of the International STAT1-GOF study group†

1. Department of General Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
2. Paris Descartes University, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Institut Imagine, Paris, France, EU
3. Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Necker Branch, INSERM UMR1163, Necker Medical School, Paris, France, EU
4. Pediatric Hematology-Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, AP-HP, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
5. St Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Rockefeller Branch, Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA
6. Department of Pediatrics, Hiroshima University Graduate School of Biomedical & Health Sciences, Hiroshima, Japan
7. Institute of environmental medicine, UNIKA-T, Technical University and HelmholtzCenter, Munich, Germany, EU
8. CK CARE – Christine Kühne Center for Allergy Research and Education, Davos, Switzerland
9. Immunology and Reumatholoy Department, Hospital Nacional de Pediatría Garrahan, Buenos Aires, Argentina
10. Department of Preclincis, School of Medicine, Universidad de Valparaíso and Department of Pediatrics, Hospital Padre Hurtado-Clinica Alemana de Santiago, Chile
11. Allergy and Immunology Division, Edgardo Rebagliati Martins National Hospital, Lima,
12. Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit, AP-HP, Robert Debré Hospital, Paris, France, EU
13. Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Unit, Children Hospital, Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France, EU
14. Department of Medical Genetics, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal University, Manipal, India
15. Meyer Children's Hospital, Haifa, Israel
16. Department of Pediatric Immunology, Hematology and Infectious Diseases, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands, EU
17. Department of Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, Clinical Immunology and Allergy Division, Cerrahpasa Medical School, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey
18. Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy, Immunology, and Sleep Medicine, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Case Medical Center, Cleveland, OH, USA
19. Dr. von Hauner Children’s Hospital, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, EU
20. Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Ibn Rochd Hospital, King Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco
21. Department of Immunology, University Hospital Son Espases, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, EU
22. Department of Pediatrics, University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, EU
23. Institute of Biomedicine and Translational Medicine, University of Tartu, Estonia, EU
24. Division of Immunology, University Children’s Hospital and Children’s Research Centre & University of Zurich, Switzerland
25. Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases NIAID, NIH, Bethesda MD, USA
26. Center for Chronic Immunodeficiency, University Medical Center Freiburg and University of Freiburg, Germany, EU
27. Department of Internal Medicine, Radboud University Medical Center, Radboud Center for Infectious Diseases, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, EU
28. Study Center for Immunodeficiency, Necker Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, EU
29. Department of Infectious Diseases and Pediatric Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, EU
30. Department of Pediatrics and Developmental Biology, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan
31. Primary Immunodeficiency Group, Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK, EU
32. Laboratory of Allergic Diseases, NIAID, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA
33. Howard Hughes Medical Institute, New York, NY, USA
34. Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, EU

*,¥,#,@ equal contribution, † Members listed in acknowledgment section

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Adress for correspondence
Anne Puel, PhD
Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Necker Branch, INSERM UMR1163
Imagine Institute, Necker Hospital for Sick Children
24, Boulevard du Montparnasse, Paris, 75015 France, EU
E-mail: anne.puel@inserm.fr

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**Supplemental material**
Key points:

- Autosomal dominant \textit{STAT1} GOF is the most common genetic cause of inherited CMC and is not restricted to a specific age or ethnic group.

- \textit{STAT1} GOF underlies a variety of infectious and autoimmune features, as well as carcinomas and aneurysms associated with a poor outcome.
Abstract

Since their discovery in patients with autosomal dominant (AD) chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis (CMC) in 2011, heterozygous STAT1 gain-of-function (GOF) mutations have increasingly been identified worldwide. The clinical spectrum associated with them needed to be delineated. We enrolled 274 patients from 167 kindreds originating from 40 countries from five continents. Demographic data, clinical features, immunological parameters, treatment, and outcome were recorded. The median age of the 274 patients was 22 years (range: 1 – 71 years); 98% of them had CMC, with a median age at onset of one year (range: 0 – 24 years). Patients often displayed bacterial (74%) infections, mostly due to Staphylococcus aureus (36%), including the respiratory tract and the skin in 47% and 28% of patients, respectively, and viral (38%) infections, mostly due to Herpesviridae (83%) and affecting the skin in 32% of patients. Invasive fungal infections (10%), mostly caused by Candida spp. (29%), and mycobacterial disease (6%) caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis, environmental mycobacteria, or BCG vaccines, were less common. Many patients had autoimmune manifestations (37%), including hypothyroidism (22%), type 1 diabetes (4%), blood cytopenia (4%), and systemic lupus erythematosus (2%). Invasive infections (25%), cerebral aneurysms (6%), and cancers (6%) were the strongest predictors of poor outcome. CMC persisted in 39% of the 202 patients receiving prolonged antifungal treatment. Circulating IL-17A-producing T-cell count was low for most (82%) but not all of the patients tested. STAT1 GOF mutations underlie AD CMC, as well as an unexpectedly wide range of other clinical features, including not only a variety of infectious and autoimmune diseases, but also cerebral aneurysms and carcinomas that confer a poor prognosis.
Introduction

Chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis (CMC), characterized by persistent or recurrent infections of the nails, skin, oral or genital mucosae with *Candida* spp, mainly *C. albicans*, may result from primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs). In patients with T-cell deficiencies, CMC is associated with various infections and autoimmune diseases. CMC is one of the most common infections in patients with autosomal dominant (AD) hyper-IgE syndrome (AD-HIES) and the only infectious complication reported in patients with autosomal recessive (AR) autoimmune polyendocrine syndrome type I (APS-I). By contrast, since the late 1960s, patients have been reported who display an apparently inherited form of isolated CMC and no distinctive associated clinical or immunological phenotype (CMC disease, CMCD). However, invasive candidiasis, peripheral dermatophytosis, bacterial infections of the skin, and respiratory tract have occasionally been reported in some CMCD patients. Autoimmune diseases, typically affecting the thyroid, have also been described in these patients. CMCD can be life-threatening as it is associated with an unexplained increase in the risk for squamous cell carcinoma and cerebral aneurysm. A number of the CMCD cases reported belonged to multiplex and/or consanguineous families suggestive of AD and AR inheritances.

The pathogenesis of CMC, first studied in PIDs with syndromic CMC, strongly suggested a role for IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22 in mucocutaneous immunity to *C. albicans*. Patients with AD HIES, heterozygous for *STAT3* loss-of-function mutations, have low proportions of IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22-producing T cells *ex vivo* and *in vitro*. Patients with AR APS-1 and biallelic loss-of-function (LOF) mutations of *AIRE* have high plasma titers of neutralizing autoantibodies against IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22. Low proportions of circulating IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22-producing T cells have also been found in some patients with Mendelian susceptibility to mycobacterial disease (MSMD) and AR IL-12Rβ1 or IL-12p40 deficiency, who may also develop CMC. Patients with AR CARD9 deficiency and various invasive fungal diseases occasionally display CMC and low IL-17A
producing T-cell counts.\textsuperscript{4,14,15} These findings paved the way for the candidate gene-based
discovery of AR IL-17 receptor A (IL-17RA), AR IL-17RC, AR ACT1, and AD IL-17F
deficiencies in some patients with inherited CMCD.\textsuperscript{1,16-18} However, the genetic etiology of
CMCD remained unknown for most patients, including those with low proportions of
circulating IL-17A and IL-17F T cells.\textsuperscript{19}

Genome-wide strategies have identified heterozygous \textit{STAT1} gain-of-function (GOF)
mutations\textsuperscript{20,21} as the underlying cause in about half of CMCD patients (depending on the
centers). Among the 400 CMCD patients studied in the laboratory of the corresponding
author (Necker & Rockefeller branches), approximately half of them carry \textit{STAT1} GOF
mutations (Puel A., unpublished data). These mutations affect the coiled-coil domain
(CCD) or DNA-binding domain (DBD) of STAT1. They increase STAT1 phosphorylation
by impairing nuclear dephosphorylation and are GOF for the STAT1-dependent cytokines
IFN-\textit{\textalpha}/\textit{\textbeta}, IFN-\textit{\textgamma}, and IL-27, and STAT3-dependent IL-6 and IL-21.\textsuperscript{20,22-24} Impaired IL-17A-
and/or IL-17F-producing T-cell development accounts, at least in part, for CMCD, but the
underlying mechanisms remain elusive. Since 2011, 184 patients from 120 kindreds with
\textit{STAT1} GOF mutations have been described.\textsuperscript{20,21,23-59} Most reports have focused on the
molecular and cellular defects of one or a small series of patients. This provides useful but
incomplete clinical information. The comprehensive clinical features and outcomes of
patients with \textit{STAT1} GOF mutations remain undefined. We therefore undertook the
detailed clinical analysis of an international cohort of 274 patients with genetically and
biochemically confirmed \textit{STAT1} GOF mutations. We collected information concerning
demographic and clinical features, clinical outcome, preventive and curative treatments,
and immunological and hematological investigations.
Methods

Study design, ethical concerns, definitions and methods for data collection, immunological and genetic analyses, as well as statistical analysis are described in the Supplemental Appendix.

Results

Genetic and immunological features

We studied 274 patients from 167 kindreds originating from 40 countries on five continents, most of whom were from Europe (62%) (Table S1 in the Supplement). M/F ratio was 1.03, and median age of the patients at the time of the study was 22 years (range: 1 – 71 years). In total, 167 of the 274 cases (61%) were familial (60 kindreds) (Table S1), the remaining 107 cases being sporadic (107 kindreds). Three of the sporadic cases had a relevant familial history of disease previously reported to be associated with CMCD (carcinoma, autoimmunity, or aneurysm) that could not be explored genetically. We identified 76 mutations in STAT1 (Table S1); the mutation affected the CCD in 104 kindreds (62%), the DBD in 58 (35%) kindreds, the transactivation domain (TAD) in 2 (1%) kindreds, the N-ter domain (NTD) in 2 (1%) kindreds, and the SH2 domain (SH2D) in one (1%) kindred. All the 76 STAT1 mutations were tested in vitro and were all found to be GOF in each functional assay tested (at least one assay per mutation). Blood leukocyte subsets were analyzed in 232 patients (Table 1). Most patients did not display diagnostically relevant functional defects in immune parameters except low memory B cells (49% of the 53 patients tested) as well as low IgG2 (38%) or IgG4 (50%) levels. Abnormal immunological features were significantly associated with lower respiratory tract infections (LRIs) (i.e. low CD19+ (p=0.02) or CD4+ (p=0.005) cell subsets), viral infections (low proportions of CD19+ (p<0.001) or CD4+ (p=0.009) cell subsets), or mycobacterial infections (low proportions of CD19+ (p=0.005), or CD4+ (p=0.005) cell subsets, low IgG levels (p<0.001) without or
with weak antibody (Ab) production to protein antigens \((p<0.001)\)). Regarding Th17 immunity, lower proportions than normal of \textit{ex vivo} IL-17A-producing T cells and of IL-17A production, measured after 12 hrs of stimulation with phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA)-ionomycin or \textit{Candida} spp., were observed in 82\% of 49 patients and 40\% of 10 patients tested, respectively. Further details regarding genetic and immunologic features are described in the Supplemental Appendix.

**Fungal infections**

CMC was observed in 268 (98\%) of the 274 individuals carrying \textit{STAT1 GOF} mutations (Table S2), with a median age at onset of 1 year (range: birth – 24 years) (Figure 1A). None of the six patients without CMC (median age 32 years, range: 4 – 61 years) was totally asymptomatic. One had invasive fungal infection, five had invasive bacterial infections, four had hypothyroidism, one had a cerebral aneurysm. Three of them had a familial history of CMC. Mucocutaneous fungal infections mostly affected the oral mucosae (93\% of patients, thrush, glossitis, and/or cheilitis) (Table 2). Skin (57\%, pustules, annular plaques, intertrigo), esophageal/genital (56\%), and/or nail (56\%, onyxis, perionyxis) infections were also often reported (Table 2). Recurrent and/or severe aphthous stomatitis occurred in 125 (46\%) patients, and candidiasis of the scalp occurred in 55 (20\%) patients. \textit{Candida} spp. were isolated from various specimens (skin, nails, throat, genital/esophageal mucosae) (Table 3), and \textit{C. albicans} was the species most frequently isolated (95\% of the 147 \textit{Candida} isolates). Superficial dermatophytic infections of the scalp, skin or nails were suspected in 44 (16\%) patients and were microbiologically confirmed (\textit{Trichophyton} spp., \textit{Microsporon} spp.) in 52\% of these patients. Photographs of mucocutaneous fungal infections are found in Figure 2. Twenty-eight (10\%) patients developed invasive fungal infections (Table 2). Ten patients suffered from invasive candidiasis, and fungal pneumonia was observed in 17 patients (\textit{Pneumocystis jiroveci} \((n=6)\), \textit{Aspergillus} spp. \((n=5)\), \textit{Cryptococcus} spp. \((n=4)\), and \textit{Histoplasma} spp. \((n=2)\)). Two
patients had fungal nephritis (C. curvatus and Trichosporon asahii), two patients suffered from cryptococcal meningitis, and three patients displayed disseminated fungal disease (Coccidioides spp. or Mucoraceae) (Table 3). Overall, although most patients had CMC, a substantial number (24%, cumulative) displayed various other superficial (17%) or invasive (10%) fungal diseases.

**Bacterial infections**

Bacterial infections were observed in 202 of the 274 patients studied (74%; Table 2 & Table S2). LRIs were reported in 129 patients (47%, Table 1) with often recurrent lobar pneumonia, bronchitis, and/or interstitial pneumonia. Streptococcus pneumoniae (n=13), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (n=13), Haemophilus influenzae (n=9), and S. aureus (n=7) were the most frequent pathogens (Table 3). Ear-nose-and-throat (ENT) infections were observed in 121 of the 274 patients (44%), mostly as recurrent or chronic sinusitis or otitis media. Recurrent conjunctivitis/keratitis were observed in 39 patients, and 15 patients had blepharitis or ectropion. Recurrent skin infections were found in 77 patients (28%) (Table 2). Folliculitis was the main skin infection, followed by cellulitis, abscesses, and paronychia. The causative agent was documented in 25% of cutaneous infections, with S. aureus isolated in most cases. Other probable bacterial infections included recurrent pyelonephritis (n=8), severe gastroenteritis (n=8), sepsis (n=7), or bone and joint infections (n=3). Seventeen patients (6%) developed mycobacterial diseases. Lung infections were due to M. tuberculosis (n=3) or non-tuberculous, environmental mycobacteria (n=3). Skin disease and adenitis were caused by Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine or environmental mycobacteria (n=5), and disseminated disease by BCG (n=2), M. tuberculosis (n=3), or M. genavensae (n=1), Table 3. Two thirds of the patients were presumed to be vaccinated with BCG during childhood according to the global BCG vaccination policies.60
**Viral infections**

One hundred three patients (of 274, 38%) developed at least one systemic or atypical viral infection, or recurrent mucocutaneous viral infections (Table 2 & Table S2). Recurrent mucocutaneous viral infections (rash, stomatitis, vulvitis or keratitis) affected 88 patients (32%). The main causal agents were Herpes Simplex and Varicella-Zoster viruses (Table 3). Eighteen patients (7%) had severe chickenpox (i.e. rash associated with VZV pneumonitis or cutaneous bacterial superinfection), and 33 (12%) had a history of shingles during childhood that was recurrent in 58% of cases. Thirty-two (12%) patients had recurrent *Molluscum contagiosum* or warts. Severe systemic infections were reported in 23 (8%) of the 274 patients: cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) were the viruses most frequently found (Table 3). Uncontrolled CMV viremia requiring antiviral treatment was observed for 8 patients. Six patients had CMV disease with proven organ infection, including one patient with retinitis, two with ulcerative digestive infections, and three with lung infections, one of whom also had encephalitis. One patient had a combined adenovirus and EBV disseminated infection (blood, lung and gut) requiring rituximab with partial efficacy (P234). Chronic active EBV infections (*n*=10) were less severe and did not require specific treatment. A few cases of severe HHV-6 and parvovirus (*n*=4) infection were described, resulting in severe sepsis or hemophagocytosis, and one patient developed BK-virus urinary tract infection with functional consequences. Two patients displayed severe disease due to live virus vaccines (small-pox and measles). Two patients had chronic hepatitis C infection leading to cirrhosis.

**Autoimmune and inflammatory diseases**

Clinical autoimmunity and/or autoimmune antibodies were documented in 118 (43%) of the 274 patients (Table 4 & Table S3). Median age was 24 years in this subpopulation (range: 3.5 years – 71 years) at the time of the study, and the M/F sex ratio was 0.79. One hundred one (37%) displayed clinical autoimmune manifestations, which represents a
much higher rate than the standard population (~3%), and 19% of these patients had more than one clinical autoimmune disorder. Most of these features were related to thyroid disease: hypothyroidism ($n=60$) requiring hormone substitution, and hyperthyroidism in one patient; 62% of these patients were women. Some patients displayed other autoimmune endocrine diseases, mainly type 1 diabetes mellitus ($n=11$). Cutaneous diseases were observed in 28 patients displaying vitiligo, alopecia, or psoriasis. Five female patients displayed systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) with systemic features (i.e. vasculitis, serositis or antiphospholipid syndrome with a history of thrombo-embolism), and one patient had scleroderma. A few patients displayed pernicious anemia ($n=1$) or celiac disease ($n=4$) with specific autoantibodies (auto-Abs). Autoimmune hepatitis began before adulthood in six patients (67% being men). Hematologic autoimmunity ($n=11$, 73% of men) consisted of chronic hemolytic anemia or autoimmune thrombocytopenia during childhood. Two patients had ankylosing spondylitis, and one patient had multiple sclerosis. Six patients displayed inflammatory bowel disease including Crohn’s disease ($n=2$), enteropathy with lymphocytic infiltration ($n=2$), and ulcerative colitis ($n=2$). Auto-Abs were found in 66 of the 157 patients tested (42%). Most patients with clinical autoimmunity tested were found positive for autoantibodies ($n=49/75$, 65%), mostly for anti-nuclear Abs ($n=18$), anti-thyroid Abs ($n=21$), Abs against other endocrine glands ($n=7$), and gastrointestinal Abs ($n=8$). Auto-Abs were also detected in the absence of clinical symptoms in 20% of the patients tested ($n=17/84$), mostly anti-nuclear Abs (76%) and anti-thyroid Abs (18%).

**Other clinical features**

Aneurysms ($n=17/274$, 6%; Table 4, Table S3 & Figure 2) occurred at a higher rate than the standard population (~3%) and were diagnosed at a median age of 23 years (range: 3 – 50 years), which is much younger than the standard population (~50 years). There was no difference between the sexes. Aneurysms tend to be more frequent in patients with
underlying autommunity ($p=0.05$), type I diabetes in particular (27% vs. 5%, $p<0.01$). Diagnosis was based on symptoms and radiologically confirmed in 15 patients. Systematic radiologic investigations identified two additional patients. Cerebral imaging was also carried out for 25 other asymptomatic patients and yielded normal results. Fifty-percent of symptomatic patients endured hemorrhages; the others had abdominal pain, and neurological manifestations, such as hemiplegia, seizures or attention lapses. Most aneurysms were located in the cerebral vascular system (82%). Most affected patients had multiple aneurysms in the CNS, mostly in the basilar trunk, vertebral arteries, and cerebral and intracranial carotid arteries. Extracerebral aneurysms were found in the abdominal aorta, iliac arteries, and lung arteries ($n=3$). Histological and microbiological investigations were performed in one patient (P27, Table S3) and were negative. The other neurological features observed were cerebral vasculitis ($n=3$), epilepsy ($n=3$), polyneuropathy ($n=1$), multiple sclerosis ($n=1$), and hemiplegia of unknown origin ($n=1$). Cognitive disability was diagnosed in eight patients during childhood, a frequency slightly higher than that in the general population. Fourteen patients had cutaneous, gastrointestinal, or laryngeal carcinoma, eleven of which were squamous cell carcinomas, one patient had melanoma, and another one acute leukemia, leading to an overall cancer rate of 5.8% (95% confidence interval 3.03%-8.57%) (Table 4). The M/F ratio was 1.0. We compared this cancer rate to that observed in the reference 2000 US Standard population. To account for the low median age of the $STAT1$ GOF patients, we computed the expected cancer rate in the reference population as a weighted average of the age-specific cancer rates, in which the weights were the proportions of $STAT1$ GOF patients in the corresponding age groups. The expected age-adjusted cancer rate in the reference population was found to be 1.1%, below the lower bound of the confidence interval of the rate in the population of patients studied here. This result supports that $STAT1$ GOF patients may have an increased risk of cancer. Carcinoma were more frequent in patients with a history of esophagitis (10% vs. 2%, $p=0.002$). Two patients had benign tumors of vascular origin. Finally, other diseases, such
as asthma, eczema, and signs of allergy were observed in 54 patients (20%), a frequency similar to that found in the general population and without unusual severity.66

Preventive and curative treatment

Two hundred two (of 274, 74%) patients needed long-term antifungal treatment, mostly systemic (Table 5). Fluconazole was the major agent used for first-line treatment, followed by itraconazole or posaconazole. Clinical resistance to at least one antifungal was observed in 78 patients of the 202 patients treated with long-term antifungal therapy (39%), and in 8 of the 53 patients treated intermittently (15%). Twenty-five treated patients displayed resistances to more than one antifungal (10%). Results for strain susceptibility were available for 40% of the patients with CMC resistant to treatment and revealed a high level of resistance to azoles (98%). Most of these patients required second- or third-line treatments, such as voriconazole, echinocandins, terbinafine or liposomal amphotericin B. Patients with clinical resistance to antifungals had globally a more severe phenotype (recurrent pneumonia: 51% vs. 25% p<0.001, systemic fungal infections: 17% vs. 7% p=0.01, mortality: 21% vs. 7%, p=0.001). Antibacterial prophylaxis was administered to 66 patients (of 274, 24%), for recurrent LRI or cutaneous staphylococcal disease; cotrimoxazole was the main agent used (Table 5). Thirthy percent of patients with recurrent pneumonia received polyvalent IV IgG infusions (14% of all patients). One patient received GM-CSF infusions, interferon alpha, and then acitretin, with no major improvement of CMC or herpes virus infections. Five patients received G-CSF, leading to a marked improvement in CMC lesions in one patient only. One patient received IFN-γ from 6 to 15 years, with no detectable effect on CMC or LRIs. One patient (P116) was treated with JAK inhibitor Ruxolitinib that led to significant clinical improvement of CMC without complete clearance of the disease.58 Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) was performed in five patients with severe CMC and recurrent bacterial or systemic viral infections; three of them died several months after HSCT, one
from persistent hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis despite three HSCT (P157, phenotypically HLA-identical, cord blood transplantation, and haplo-identical HSCT), one from disseminated CMV at 30 years (P160, fully matched HSCT), and the other from interstitial lung disease at 2 years (P190, HLA-identical sibling HSCT). The other two are currently alive without serious complications (P161, cord blood transplantation from mismatched donor and P234, phenotypically HLA-identical HSCT). Six patients underwent immunosuppressive treatment for severe autoimmune disorders, and had a good clinical response, without serious infectious complications. One patient underwent radiotherapy for squamous cell carcinoma and recovered fully, and two others had rituximab for uncontrolled systemic EBV infection.

**Clinical outcome**

Thirty-three patients (of 274, 12%) failed to thrive (Table 4). Thirty-one patients (11%) developed secondary gastrointestinal complications, such as dysphagia (n=19) or esophageal stenosis (n=12). Most of them had a history of recurrent esophageal candidiasis (n=30, 97%). Bronchiectasis and cystic pulmonary lesions developed in 57 patients (of 274, 21%) (Table 4 & Figure 2), all with a previous history of recurrent pneumonia or bronchitis, and displaying acute secondary infectious episodes caused by *P. aeruginosa* (n=11 out of 57, 19%), *S. aureus* (n=6, 11%), non-tuberculous mycobacteria (n=4, 7%) or *Enterobacteriaceae* (n=2, 3%). One of these patients also had an associated pneumatocyst, and three other patients underwent lobectomy. Thirty-four patients (of 274, 12%) died (Table 4 & Table S3) at a median age of 30 years (range: 1 – 58 years). The main causes of death were severe infections (n=13, 38%), i.e. disseminated BCG disease, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, CMV, *S. aureus* septicemia or bacterial LRI, at a median age of 17 years (range: 1 – 52 yrs), cancer (n=8, 24%), at a median age of 43 years (range: 33 – 58 yrs), and cerebral hemorrhage due to aneurysm (n=5, 15%), at a median age of 9 years (range: 4 – 34 yrs). Overall, cumulative survival rate at 60 years of age was significantly
lower (31%) in patients who developed invasive infection, cancer, and/or symptomatic aneurysm than those without (87%) any of these three complications (Figure 1B). Other causes of death possibly associated with STAT1 GOF phenotypes included fulminant hepatitis (1 patient from an unknown cause, and 1 from autoimmune hepatitis), and complication of HSCT in three patients. Three patients died from unrelated causes, at the ages of 10, 46, and 50 years. Lymphocyte cell subset abnormality (low CD4+ and/or CD19+ lymphocyte counts) was associated with a higher mortality rate (19% vs. 6%, \(p=0.004\), and 25% vs. 7%, \(p<0.001\), respectively).
Discussion

We show here that CMC is the most common infectious manifestation in patients carrying STAT1 GOF mutations, and is frequently resistant to azole treatments. Surprisingly, these patients often display viral, bacterial, and other fungal infections. In addition, these patients also develop various types of autoimmunity, as well as aneurysms and carcinomas, much more often than the general population. The presence of these latter complications accounts for a poor outcome. The penetrance of CMC is very high, as only six (2%) STAT1 GOF patients (2.8% excluding all probands) never had CMC at a median age of 32 years. CMC typically begins in early childhood, although it may first present up to the third decade of life, and signs and symptoms varied within and between families. In these patients, CMC is most likely the consequence of impaired IL-17A and IL-17F immunity, as it is also seen in patients with inborn errors of IL-17A/F immunity. Circulating IL-17A-producing T cells counts are low in most but not all patients tested (82%). Normal counts therefore cannot exclude a diagnosis of STAT1-GOF. The frequency of CMC in the cohort described here may be overestimated as a result of an ascertainment bias. Clearly, STAT1 GOF mutations underlie biological phenomena that can cause markedly different phenotypes that are rarely mutually exclusive, as evidenced by CMC-free patients. Other fungal infections included mostly superficial dermatophytosis, without the deep dermatophytosis seen in some CARD9-deficient patients. Invasive infections by a variety of yeasts and moulds were observed in some patients. Cutaneous and bronchopulmonary infections caused by S. aureus were also observed, as in patients with AD-HIES. The occurrence of staphylococcal skin disease in some patients with CMCD and inborn errors of IL-17 immunity suggests the involvement of one or more IL-17 cytokines. Its occurrence in patients with auto-Abs against IL-6 suggests that impaired STAT3-dependent IL-6 signaling may also be involved. Respiratory tract infections may be favored by low IgA, IgG2, and/or IgG4 levels as well as a poor Ab response, as documented in some patients. The occurrence of mycobacterial and viral infections is
paradoxical, as bi-allelic LOF STAT1 mutations underlie such infections by impairing IFN-γ and IFN-α/β responses, respectively while GOF STAT1 mono-allelic mutations enhance signaling downstream of these cytokines.\textsuperscript{20,23,37,45,72} Viral disease might be due to exhaustion of virus-specific T cells, as described for patients with AD HIES,\textsuperscript{73} and mycobacterial disease to refractory responses to IFN-γ.\textsuperscript{37}

Patients with GOF STAT1 mutations also displayed autoimmunity, aneurysms, and malignancies. Autoimmunity is not observed in patients with inborn errors of IL-17A/F immunity or in patients with AD HIES. Other monogenic autoimmune disorders may shed more light on the pathogenesis of autoimmunity in patients with STAT1 GOF mutations.\textsuperscript{74} IPEX syndrome, caused by FOXP3 deficiency, underlies forms of autoimmunity that occasionally overlap with those in STAT1 GOF patients.\textsuperscript{74} STAT1 GOF mutations however do not seem to affect FOXP3 expression and the development of Tregs.\textsuperscript{23} The autoimmune features observed in patients with STAT1 GOF mutations also overlap with those of APS-1 patients (with mutations in AIRE). In addition to CMC, APS-1 patients usually present hypoparathyroidism, adrenal insufficiency, and, occasionally, thyroiditis, autoimmune enteropathy, vitiligo, alopecia, diabetes, and hepatitis.\textsuperscript{3,75} Although the corresponding patients share autoimmune phenotypes, LOF AIRE and GOF STAT1 mutations have not been mechanistically connected yet. The enhanced autoimmunity of patients with STAT1 GOF mutations is likely to result from stronger IFN-α/β signaling, as some of these autoimmune features are observed in patients treated with recombinant IFN-α (e.g. thyroiditis) and in patients with type I interferonopathies (e.g. SLE).\textsuperscript{76,77} It remains unclear why the various inborn errors resulting in enhanced IFN-α/β immunity give rise to such diverse and only partially overlapping phenotypes.\textsuperscript{76,78}

The outcome of patients with STAT1 GOF mutations is poor. Premature death (12%) results from infections (38%), aneurysms (15%), cancers (24%), and autoimmune hepatitis.
Infections remain a major cause of premature death in these patients, with a high proportion of severe and/or recurrent LRI infections, leading to lung sequelae, viral, and invasive fungal infections.1,2 The proportion of patients with cerebral aneurysm has probably been underestimated, as radiological investigations were performed for only 42 patients, including 15 patients with clinical signs suggestive of aneurysm. Given the high morbidity and mortality of cerebral aneurysms, systematic radiological screening is probably warranted in all patients, when the diagnosis is made, and should be repeated during life. Aneurysms may form due to conjunctive tissue abnormalities, as in patients with STAT3 deficiency,79 and/or impaired IL-17 immunity, as shown in animal models.80 Their pathogenesis may also be autoimmune, as in cerebral vasculitis, or infectious, as in systemic Candida infection.1 Patients with aneurysms did not differ markedly from the others in terms of invasive fungal infection rates (p=0.6), but they seemed to display more autoimmune disorders. Patients with an interferonopathy caused by SAMHD1 mutations also display cerebral vasculitis and aneurysm.76,81 The frequency of skin and ENT carcinomas was high, and probably better estimated than that of cerebral aneurysm. These conditions are better understood and probably result, at least in part, from CMC and the chronic muco-cutaneous inflammation (especially esophagitis) it causes.82 Enhanced IFN production is unlikely to play a direct role, as these cytokines have antitumoral activity.83 Patients with esophagitis and dysphagia should be regularly screened for tumor by sequential biopsies of the esophagus. Taken together, STAT1 GOF-associated AD CMCD should not be considered benign and should be handled at centers with experience in the diagnosis and management of such patients.

The heterogeneity of clinical care for the patients in this cohort makes it difficult to issue uniform recommendations concerning optimal management. The high rate of CMC resistance to antifungal treatments is a major issue. Indeed, azole resistance necessitates the intravenous use of alternative antifungals (amphotericin B, echinocandins) that could lead
to toxicity and major lifestyle changes. Furthermore, as resistance to treatment is associated with severe infectious phenotype (systemic bacterial or fungal infections) and a poor outcome, these patients should be seen more frequently. However, long-term antifungal therapy remains the first line for CMC treatment, whereas antibiotic prophylaxis and IgG infusion should be considered for patients with recurrent LRIs, with or without detectable Ab deficiency. Second line therapies, such as GM-CSF and G-CSF treatments have been proposed as a way of enhancing IL-17 T-cell differentiation.84-86 However, despite an encouraging recent report,41 these adjuvant therapies were useful in only one of the five patients in which they were tried. Treatments targeting the JAK-STAT pathway, such as the JAK1/2 inhibitor ruxolitinib, which has been approved for myelofibrosis treatment, have shown significant clinical efficiency and might become the treatment of choice for severe CMC resistant to antifungals.30,58 HSCT was performed in five patients with severe and recurrent fungal and viral infections,25 but three of them died. HSCT does not appear to be a viable option at the present time. However, pilot studies with closely-matched donors should be considered. Other potential immunotherapies such as recombinant IL-17A or IL-17F or inhibitors of STAT1 activity for specific use in patients with GOF STAT1 mutations may prove more useful. IFN-α/β-blocking antibodies might also alleviate autoimmune features and may be considered in the future. The options must be weighed up carefully, bearing in mind the various anti-infectious, anti-tumor, and autoimmune effects of each cytokine or Ab. In conclusion, STAT1 GOF mutations are the most common known genetic etiology of CMCD and are found in about half the patients studied.1,87 However, given the unexpected broad array of clinical diseases revealed by our current study, physicians should also evoke STAT1 GOF in patients whose candidiasis is a minor, incidental finding, and even in patients without candidiasis. Disease severity results from the deleterious impact of CMCD on quality of life, and/or the poor outcome associated with infections, autoimmunity, aneurysm, and carcinoma.
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Members of the International STAT1-GOF study group: Sophie Cypowyj, PhD1,Y, Caroline Thumerelle, MD2,Y, Antoine Toulon, MD3,4,Y, Jacinta Bustamante, MD3,5,6,Y, Natalia Tahuil, MD7,Y, Aicha Salhi MD8,Y, Sorina Boiu MD9,Y, Charu Chopra, MD10,Y, Daniela Di Giovanni, MD11,Y, Liliana Bezrodnik, MD11,Y, Jeannette Boutros, MD12,Y, Caroline Thomas, MD13,Y, Gina Lacuesta, MD14,Y, Sarah Jannier, MD15,Y, Anne-Sophie Korganow, MD16,Y, Catherine Paillard, MD15,17,Y, David Boutboul, MD18,Y, Mélanie Bué, MD19,Y, Aude Marie-Cardine, MD20,Y, Sophie Bayart, MD21,Y, Mélanie Migaud, MSc3,5,Y, Laurence Weiss, MD22,Y, Marina Karmochkine, MD22,Y, Juan-Miguel Garcia-Martinez, MD23,Y, Jean-louis
Stefan, MD, Philippe Bensaid, MD, Guy-Patrick Jeannoel, MD, Torsten Witte, MD, Ulrich Baumann, MD, Thomas Harrer, MD, Carmen Navarrete, MD, Antony Terance Benjamin, MD, Davide Firinu, MD, Claudio Pignata, MD, Paolo Picco, MD, David Mendoza, MD, Saul Oswaldo Lugo Reyes, MD, Carlos Torres Lozano, MD, Margarita Ortega-Cisneros MD, Mariana Cortina, MD, Mehrnaz Mesdaghi, MD, Mohammad Nabavi, MD, Nima Rezaei, MD, Samaneh Zoghi, PhD, Malgorzata Pac, MD, Vincent Barlogis, MD, Gabriel Revon-Rivière, MD, Yishai Haimi-Cohen, MD, Ronen Spiegel, MD, Dan Miron, MD, Jabir Bouchaib, MD, Lizbeth Blancas-Galicia, MD, Beata Toth, MD, Barbara Drexel, MD, Pierre Simon Rohrlich, MD, Olivier Lesens, MD, Miriam Hoernes, MD, Elizabeth Drewe, MD, Mario Abinum, MD, Julie Sawalle-Belohradsky, MD, Gerhard Kindle, MD, Mark Depner, MD, Lili Milani, PhD, Tiit Nikopensius, PhD, Mado Remm, PhD, Ulvi Gerst Talas, PhD, Mark Tucker, MD, Mary Willis, MD, Stephanie Leonard, MD, Hilaire Meuwissen, MD, Ronald M Ferdman, MD, Mark Wallace, MD, Mukesh M Desai, MD, Prasad Taur, MD, Raffaele Badolato, MD, Beata Soltesz, MD, Christina Schnopp, MD, Annette F Jansson, MD, Deniz Ayvaz, MD, Nadejda Shabashova, MD, Liudmyla Chernyshova, MD, Anastasia Bondarenko, MD, Despina Moshous, MD, Benedicte Neven, MD, Chahinez Boubidi, MD, Fatima Ailal, MD, Giuliana Giardino, MD, Stefano Del Giacco, MD, Marie-Elisabeth Bougnoux, PhD, Kohsuke Imai, MD, Teppei Okawa, MD, Yoko Mizoguchi, MD, Yusuke Ozaki, MD, Masato Takeuchi, MD, Akira Hayakawa, MD, Birgit Lögering, MD, Kristian Reich, MD, Timo Buhl, MD, Kilian Eyerich, MD, Martin Schaller, MD, Peter D Arkwright, MD, Andrew R Gennery, MD, Andrew J Cant, MD, Adilia Warris, MD, Stefanie Henriet, MD, Najla Mekki, MD, Ridha Barbouche, MD, Imen Ben Mustapha, MD, Christine Bodemer, MD, Michel Polak, MD, Emmanuel Grimpel, MD, Pierre-Régis Burgel, MD, Alain Fischer, MD,
Olivier Hermine, MD\textsuperscript{3,95,¥}, Marianne Debré, MD\textsuperscript{71,¥}, Dilara Kocacyk, MD\textsuperscript{96,¥}, Fatima Dhall, MD\textsuperscript{97,¥}, Smita Y Patel, MD\textsuperscript{97,¥}, Leen Moens, PhD\textsuperscript{98,¥}, Filomeen Haerynck, MD\textsuperscript{99,100,¥}, Melissa Dullaers, PhD\textsuperscript{99,¥}, Levi Hoste, MD\textsuperscript{99,100,¥}, Ozden Sanal, MD\textsuperscript{98,¥}, Sara Sebnem Kilic, MD\textsuperscript{101,¥}, Joachim Roesler, MD\textsuperscript{102,¥}, Fanny Lanternier, MD\textsuperscript{3,5,103,¥}, Olivier Lortholary, MD\textsuperscript{3,103,¥}, Claire Fieschi, MD\textsuperscript{18,¥}, Joseph A Church, MD\textsuperscript{63,¥}, Chaim Roifman, MD\textsuperscript{104,¥}, Araya Yuenyongviwat, MD\textsuperscript{105,¥}, Pär Peterson, PhD\textsuperscript{106,¥}, Stéphanie Boisson-Dupuis, PhD\textsuperscript{1,3,5,¥}, Laurent Abel, MD\textsuperscript{1,3,5,¥}, Beatriz E Marciano, MD\textsuperscript{107,¥}, Mihai G Netea, MD\textsuperscript{108,¥}.

1. St Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Rockefeller Branch, Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA
2. Pneumology and Allergology Unit, Jeanne de Flandres Hospital, Lille, France, EU
3. Paris Descartes University, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Institut Imagine, Paris, France, EU
4. Dermatological Unit, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP), Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
5. Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Necker Branch, INSERM UMR1163, Necker Medical School, Paris, France, EU
6. Study Center for Immunodeficiency, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, EU
7. Immunology Unit, Hospital Del Niño Jesus, Tucuman, Argentina
8. Dermatology Department, Ain Naadja Hospital, Algiers Medical University Algiers, Algeria
9. First Department of Pediatrics, Athens University Medical School, Athens, Greece, EU
10. Department of Immunology, Leicester Royal Infirmary, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK, EU
11. Immunology Unit, Ricardo Gutiérrez Pediatric Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina
12. Primary Immunodeficiency Clinic, Department of Pediatrics, Cairo University, Egypt
13. Pediatric Intensive Care and Onco-Hematology Units, Nantes Hospital, Nantes, France, EU
14. Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
15. Department of Oncology and Pediatric Hematology, Hautepierre Hospital, Strasbourg, France, EU
16. Department of Clinical Immunology and Internal Medicine, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg et Université de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, EU
17. Imuno-Rheumatology Molecular Laboratory, INSERM UMR S1109, Labex Transplantex, Recherche Center of Immunology and Haematology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France, EU
18. Immunology Department, AP-HP, INSERM U1126, Hayem Center, Saint-Louis Hospital, Paris, France, EU
19. Department of General Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, AP-HP, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
20. Pediatric Immuno-Hemato-Oncology Unit, Charles Nicolle Hospital, Rouen, France, EU
21. Department of Pediatric Hematology, University Hospital, Rennes, France, EU
22. Department of Clinical Immunology, Georges Pompidou University Hospital, Paris, France, EU
23. Unit of Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Department of Pediatrics. University Hospital Cruces, Barakaldo-Bizkaia, Spain, EU
24. Pediatric Hemato-Oncology Department, Saint-Etienne Hospital, Saint-Etienne, France, EU
25. Department of Pediatrics, Argenteuil Hospital, Argenteuil, France, EU
26. Department of Pediatrics, Roanne Hospital, Roanne, France, EU
27. Clinic for Immunology and Rheumatology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany, EU
28. Pediatric Immunology, Allergy and Neonatology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany, EU
29. Infectious Disease Unit, Department of Internal Medicine III, Institute of Clinical Immunology, University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany, EU
30. Department of Immunology, Hospital de Niños Roberto del Rio, Santiago de Chile, Chile
31. Pediatric Pneumology Department, GKNM Hospital, Coimbatore, India
32. Department of Medical Sciences “M. Aresu”, University of Cagliari, Monserrato, Italy, EU
33. Department of Translational Medical Science, Federico II University, Naples, Italy, EU
34. 2nd Division of Pediatrics – Rheumatology, Giannina Gaslini Institute, EULAR Centre of Excellence in Rheumatology 2008-2013, Genova, Italy, EU
35. Department of Pediatric Allergy, National Institute of Pediatrics, Mexico City, Mexico
36. Immunodeficiencies Research Unit, National Institute of Pediatrics, Mexico City, Mexico
37. Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. UMAE-HECMNO-IMSS, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
38. Department of Infectious Diseases, Hospital para el Niño, Toluca, Mexico
39. Department of Immunology, Mofid Children Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
40. Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Rasool-e-Akrham Hospital, Iran University Of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.
41. Research Center for Immunodeficiencies, Children's Medical Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
42. Network of Immunity in Infection, Malignancy and Autoimmunity (NIIMA), Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN), Tehran, Iran
43. Department of Immunology, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
44. Department of Clinical Immunology, Children’s Memorial Health Institute, Warsaw, Poland, EU
45. Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Timone Enfants Hospital and Aix Marseille University, Marseille, France, EU
46. The Day Hospitalization Department, Schneider Children’s Medical Center of Israel, Petach Tikva, and Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
47. Department of Pediatrics B, Emek Medical Center, Afula, & Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, Technion, Haifa, Israel
48. General Pediatrics, Agadir, Morocco
49. Department of Infectious Diseases and Pediatric Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, EU
50. Division of Immunology, University Children’s Hospital and Children’s Research Centre & University of Zurich, Switzerland
51. Department of Clinical Hematology, Nice University Hospital, Nice, France, EU
52. Infectious Disease Department, Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital, France, EU
53. Division of Allergology, University Children’s Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland
54. Clinical Immunology and Allergology Department, Nottingham Universities Hospitals, Nottingham, UK, EU
55. Primary Immunodeficiency Group, Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK, EU
56. Dr. von Hauner Children’s Hospital, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, EU
57. Center for Chronic Immunodeficiency, University Medical Center Freiburg and University of Freiburg, Germany, EU
58. Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia, EU
59. Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia, EU
60. United States Naval Medical Center, San Diego, CA, USA
61. Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego, CA, USA
62. Delmar Medical Building, Delmar, NY, USA
63. Division of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Department of Pediatrics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA
64. Department of Infectious Diseases, Orlando Health, Orlando, FL, USA
65. Division of Immunology & Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology; B J Wadia Hospital for Children, Mumbai, India
66. Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences, Pediatrics Clinic and Institute for Molecular Medicine “A. Nocivelli”, University of Brescia, Brescia, Italy, EU
67. Department of Dermatology, Technische Universität München, München, Germany
68. Immunology Division, Hacettepe University Children's Hospital, Ankara, Turkey
69. Department of Mycology, Allergology and Immunology, Kashkin Research Institute of Medical Mycology, Ilia Mechnikov North-Western State Medical University, Saint-Petersburg, Russia
70. Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Pediatric Immunology, P.L. Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (NMAPE), Kiev, Ukraine
71. Pediatric Hematology-Immunology-Rheumatology Unit, AP-HP, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
72. Department of Pediatrics A, Hussein Dey University Hospital, University of Medicine of Algiers, Algiers, Algeria
73. Clinical Immunology Unit, Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Ibn Rochd Hospital, King Hassan II University, Casablanca, Morocco
74. Microbiology Laboratory, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, EU
75. Fungal Biology and Pathogenicity, INRA USC 2019, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France, EU
76. Department of Pediatrics and Developmental Biology, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan
77. Department of Pediatrics and Developmental Biology, Tokyo, Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan
78. Department of Pediatrics, Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, Japan
79. Department of Pediatrics, University of Tokyo Hospital, Tokyo, Japan
80. Department of Pediatrics, Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe, Japan
81. Dermatologikum Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany, EU
82. Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Allergology, University Medical Center Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, EU
83. Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany, EU
84. Department of Dermatology, Eberhard Karls University, Tübingen, Germany, EU
85. University of Manchester, Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital, Manchester, UK
86. Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
87. UK Great North Children’s Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals, National Health Service Foundation Trust & Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Lead, UK
88. Department of Paediatrics, Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, Amalia Children’s Hospital, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, EU
89. Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Foresterhill, Aberdeen, UK
90. Laboratory of Cyto-Immunology, Institut Pasteur of Tunis, Tunis, Tunisia
91. Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes Unit, AP-HP, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
92. Department of Pediatrics, AP-HP, Trousseau University Hospital, Paris, France, EU
93. Department of Respiratory Diseases, AP-HP, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France, EU
94. UMR INSERM 1163, Collège de France, Paris France, EU
95. Hematology Unit, AP-HP, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, Paris, France, EU
96. Department of Paediatric Allergy and Immunology, Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey, EU
97. Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
98. Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Experimental Laboratory Immunology, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, EU
99. Clinical Immunology Research Laboratory, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium, EU
100. Department of Pediatric Immunology and Pulmonology, Center for Primary Immunodeficiency, Jeffrey Modell Diagnosis and Research Centre, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium, EU
101. Department of Pediatrics, Uludag University School of Medicine, Görükle Bursa, Turkey
102. Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, TU Dresden, Germany, EU
103. Department of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital, AP-HP, Paris, France, EU
104. Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
105. Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Songkhla, Thailand
106. Institute of Biomedicine and Translational Medicine, University of Tartu, Estonia, EU
107. Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases NIAID, NIH, Bethesda MD, USA
108. Department of Internal Medicine, Radboud University Medical Center, Radboud Center for Infectious Diseases, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, EU

† equal contributions
Authorship Contributions

JT and AP had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. JT, JLC, and AP did the scientific literature search and were responsible for the study design. All authors participated to the patients’ inclusion and data collection. JT and AP centralized the data and JT undertook the data analysis. All authors interpreted the data. JT and AP created the figures, and JT, JLC and AP prepared the first draft of the report. All authors were involved in the writing and/or revision of the manuscript.

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists for this study.
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### Table 1. Immunological investigations of patients with STAT1 GOF mutations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biological investigations</th>
<th>Patients tested (n)</th>
<th>Normal (%)</th>
<th>Low (%)</th>
<th>High (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total lymphocyte rate</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4(^+) T lymphocytes</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD8(^+) T lymphocytes</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD19(^+) or CD20(^+) B lymphocytes</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD27(^-)CD19(^+) memory B lymphocytes</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD16(^+)CD56(^+) NK cells</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD3(^+)IL-17(^+) or CD4(^+)IL-17(^+) T lymphocytes*</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD4(^+)IFN(\gamma) T lymphocytes†</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-cell proliferation (mitogen and/or antigen)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBMC IL-17 production (pg/mL)‡</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>IgG levels (g/L)</td>
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<td>77</td>
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<td>IgM levels (g/L)</td>
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<td>IgE levels (kIU/L)</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3¶</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antibodies against protein antigens§</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* CD3\(^+\)IL-17\(^+\) lymphocyte normal range (% of CD3\(^+\)): 0.7 – 1.7; CD4\(^+\)IL-17\(^+\) lymphocyte normal range: (% of CD4\(^+\)): 6 – 22\%; † CD4\(^+\)IFN\(\gamma\) T lymphocytes normal range (%): 6-18\%; ‡ IL-17 (PBMC stimulated with Candida) normal range: 900-5000 pg/mL; # IgG>15 g/dL; ¶IgE>140 kIU/L; § tetanus, diphteria toxoid, or poliovirus
Table 2. Sites of infection in patients with STAT1 GOF mutations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of infections</th>
<th>Patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mucocutaneous fungal infections</strong></td>
<td><strong>268 (98)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oropharyngeal mycosis</td>
<td>254 (93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous mycosis</td>
<td>155 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophageal / genital mycosis</td>
<td>153 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onychomycosis</td>
<td>153 (56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphtous stomatitis</td>
<td>125 (46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scalp mycosis</td>
<td>55 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invasive fungal infections</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 (10)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive candidiasis</td>
<td>10 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other invasive infections</td>
<td>20 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bacterial infections</strong></td>
<td><strong>202 (74)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRI</td>
<td>129 (47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>121 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>77 (28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others†</td>
<td>24 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mycobacterial infections</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 (6)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung disease</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adenitis / skin disease</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminated disease</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Viral infections</strong></td>
<td><strong>103 (38)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutaneous</td>
<td>88 (32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic</td>
<td>23 (8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LRI: Lower respiratory tract infection; ENT: ear, nose and throat; * Probable or proven bacterial / viral infection; † Severe acute gastroenteritis, septicemia, bone and joint infections, recurrent urinary tract infections.
Table 3. Documented pathogens associated with STAT1 GOF mutations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associated pathogens</th>
<th>Documented infections (%)</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mucocutaneous fungal infections</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Candida albicans</em></td>
<td>140 (82)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dermatophytes</em> spp.</td>
<td>23 (13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others*</td>
<td>9 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Invasive fungal infections</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Candida</em> spp.</td>
<td>10 (29)</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pneumocystis jiroveci</em></td>
<td>6 (18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Aspergillus</em> spp.</td>
<td>5 (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cryptococcus</em> spp.</td>
<td>6 (18)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others†</td>
<td>7 (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bacterial infections</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Staphylococcus aureus</em></td>
<td>36 (36)</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Streptococcus</em> spp.</td>
<td>20 (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</em></td>
<td>13 (13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Haemophilus influenzae</em></td>
<td>9 (9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others‡</td>
<td>21 (21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mycobacterial infections</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>M. tuberculosis</em></td>
<td>6 (35)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>M. bovis</em> or BCG strain</td>
<td>5 (30)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others¶</td>
<td>6 (35)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Viral infections</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella-Zoster</td>
<td>51 (31)</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Molluscum contagiosum /Warts</em></td>
<td>32 (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMV or EBV</td>
<td>25 (15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others¶¶</td>
<td>10 (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parasitic infections

§ C. glabrata, C. tropicalis, C. kefir, C. membranaefacie, C. famata, D. dubliniensis and Malassezia furfur; † Histoplasma, Trichosporon, Coccidioides, Apophysomyces; ‡ Enterobacteriaceae, Campylobacter spp., Stenotrophomonas maltophilia, anaerobic pathogens, Neisseria meningitides; ¶ M. avium, M. fortuitum, M. mucogenicum, M. genavensis or not identified; * Clinically probable or microbiologically confirmed: ¶¶ HHV6, adenovirus, Parvovirus, BK virus, hepatitis C virus, live virus vaccine disease; § Giardiasis, visceral leishmaniasis

n=2
Table 4. Other clinical features and outcome of patients with STAT1 GOF mutations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-infectious phenotypes</th>
<th>Patients (%)</th>
<th>n=274</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autoimmunity/inflammatory disease</strong></td>
<td>101 (37)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thyroid disease</td>
<td>61 (22)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other endocrine disease*</td>
<td>12 (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin disease†</td>
<td>28 (10)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal disease‡</td>
<td>11 (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autoimmune hepatitis</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autoimmune cytopenia*</td>
<td>11 (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others¶</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aneurysm</strong></td>
<td>17 (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral</td>
<td>14 (5)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracerebral</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tumor</strong></td>
<td>17 (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benign</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma</td>
<td>11 (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal carcinoma</td>
<td>2 (0.7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others§</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other clinical features</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma / eczema</td>
<td>54 (20)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone fragility</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical outcome</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to thrive</td>
<td>33 (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dysphagia/ esophageal stenosis</td>
<td>31 (11)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchiectasis</td>
<td>57 (21)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>34 (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Diabetes mellitus, Addison’s disease, GH deficiency; † SLE, vitiligo, psoriasis, alopecia, scleroderma; ‡ Biermer anemia, celiac disease, colitis; * Immunologic anemia or thrombocytopenia; ¶ Multiple sclerosis, ankylosing spondylitis; § Melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Table 5. Treatments of patients with STAT1 GOF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treatment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patients (%)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>n=274</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No antifungal treatment</td>
<td>19 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermittent antifungal treatment</td>
<td>53 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current long-term antifungal treatment</td>
<td>202 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local treatment only</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral fluconazole</td>
<td>150 (55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral posaconazole / itraconazole</td>
<td>53 (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral voriconazole</td>
<td>19 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.V. echinocandins</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral terbinafane</td>
<td>3 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.V. amphotericin B</td>
<td>7 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antibiotic prophylaxis</strong></td>
<td>66 (24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotrimoxazole</td>
<td>41 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrolides</td>
<td>20 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others*</td>
<td>12 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Antiviral prophylaxis</strong></td>
<td>4 (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyvalent immunoglobulins</td>
<td>37 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunotherapy †</td>
<td>8 (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunosuppressive therapies‡</td>
<td>6 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT)</td>
<td>5 (2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* nebulized colimycin, topical fucidic acid, fluoroquinolone, tetracycline, amoxicillin; † GCSF/GM-CSF, interferon alpha/gamma, rituximab; ‡ cyclosporine, aziathoprine, corticoids, or mycophenolate mofetil
Figure legends

Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier curves for onset of CMCD and outcome.
(A) Onset of CMC. Exact age at onset of CMC was available for 253 patients. (B) Overall survival curves. Age at the time of the study was available for 269 patients. Patients with severe complications (i.e. patients who displayed invasive infections, aneurysms and/or tumors) were compared with patients without any severe complication (Log rank test, \( p < 0.001 \)).

Figure 2. Photographs of patients with STAT1 GOF mutations.
(A) Thrush. (B,C) Onycomycosis. (D,E,F) Cutaneous candidiasis. (G) Dermatophytes. (H) Cutaneous and genital candidiasis; (I) Cutaneous candidiasis. (J) Angular stomatitis. (K) Esophageal candidiasis. (L) Bronchiectasis. (M) Cerebral aneurysm. Complete phenotype of each patient is described in the Supplemental Tables S1-3.
Figure 1

A

% without CMC

Age at onset of CMC (Yrs.)

Patients, n

0

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65

B

Without severe complication

With severe complications

Survival (%)

Age (Yrs.)

Number at risk:

Without complication 170 120 79 54 25 7 3 0

With complications 99 75 63 38 26 13 4 1
Heterozygous STAT1 gain-of-function mutations underlie an unexpectedly broad clinical phenotype: an international survey of 274 patients from 167 kindreds