

FULL LENGTH ARTICLE

Clinical relevance of loss-of-function mutations of *NEMO/IKBKG*

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Abstract Dysfunctional inhibitor of nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B) kinase regulatory subunit gamma (*IKBKG*) is known to trigger incontinentia pigmenti (IP), anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency (EDA-ID), immunodeficiency (ID), and *IKBKG* deleted exon 5 autoinflammatory syndrome (NDAS). The correlation between genotype and phenotype remains elusive because of the considerable variability in *IKBKG* genes. This study aimed to systematically describe *IKBKG* gene mutations and clinical characteristics. Cases with *IKBKG* mutations and thorough clinical features were gathered using PubMed, Web of Science, EMBASE, Scopus, and Cochrane databases, with a publication deadline of February 12, 2023. The Newcastle-Ottawa scale and its modified version were used to assess the quality of each study. Gene mutations and clinical manifestation data were analyzed and reviewed. 144 publications with 564 patients were included in the analysis. IP, EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS accounted for 78.0%, 15.8%, 5.0%, and 1.2% of *IKBKG* mutations, respectively. Skin abnormalities (89.5%), dental abnormalities (68.5%), infection (100%), and non-infectious inflammation (100%) were the most common manifestations of IP, EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS, respectively. Mutations related to EDA-ID and ID are concentrated in the zinc finger region and characterized by the most severe clinical symptoms. E390RfsX5 can cause IP, EDA-ID, and ID. c.1182_1183delTT and H413R caused the most common manifestations. *Mycobacterium* (22.7%) and *Streptococcus* (17.5%) were the most common pathogens. Almost all cases of hyper-IgM occurred in patients with EDA-ID. Different structural domains correspond to symptoms with varying degrees of severity. Certain mutations may correspond to unique manifestations, providing insight into disease

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progression.

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Introduction

The nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B) pathway, a signaling pathway of notable conservation in biological evolution, is instrumental in various cellular processes, including survival, proliferation, activation, differentiation, aging, and death.¹ The inhibitor of NF- κ B kinase regulatory subunit gamma (*IKBKG*, Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM) 300248), also known as the NF- κ B essential modulator (*NEMO*), serves as a pivotal regulatory subunit in the NF- κ B signaling pathway, forming the IKK complex with IKK α and IKK β and participating in the activation of the NF- κ B signaling pathway.² Mutations in *IKBKG* can cause varying degrees of inactivation of the NF- κ B signaling pathway, leading to different clinical manifestations; when the NF- κ B pathway undergoes *IKBKG* amorphic mutations, it can cause incontinentia pigmenti (IP, OMIM 308300), which is an X-linked dominant genetic disease mainly occurring in female but lethal in male.³ Some males survive because of the presence of an additional X chromosome, known as Klinefelter syndrome, or the existence of somatic mosaicism or hypomorphic mutations.⁴ Because the physiological process of ectodermal development relies on the regulatory factor NEMO in the NF- κ B pathway,⁵ mutations in *IKBKG* can result in significant ectodermal dysplasia manifestations. These include pigmentation abnormalities of the skin, which are the primary features of IP. Additionally, both IP and anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency share features such as morphological abnormalities of teeth, alopecia, thin hair, and nail dystrophy. Furthermore, anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency commonly presents with sweat gland deficiency. Characteristic gene mutations of IP are represented by exon 4–10 rearrangements.⁶ In addition, NF- κ B pathway can cause IP or anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency (EDA-ID, OMIM 300291) when undergoes hypomorphic mutations in *IKBKG*; EDA-ID is an X-linked recessive inheritance often occurring in male,⁷ and its clinical manifestations encompass not only the aforementioned ectodermal dysplasia but also include immunodeficiency. Because of the important role of NF- κ B in osteoclasts, specific *IKBKG* mutation sites can also lead to a special type of EDA-ID, namely osteopetrosis, lymphedema, EDA, and immunodeficiency (OL-EDA-ID, OMIM 300301),⁸ this is the most severe clinical phenotype caused by hypomorphic mutations in *IKBKG*. Current understanding suggests that osteopetrosis caused by *IKBKG* mutations results from impaired activation of the IKK complex in osteoclasts, disrupting their differentiation and function, and causing an imbalance between bone formation and resorption.^{9,10} However, the contribution of concurrent RANK signaling impairment or abnormal activation of other signaling pathways to osteopetrosis cannot be excluded. Additionally, lymphoedema in OL-EDA-

ID may result from abnormalities in the NEMO-dependent, VEGF-3-mediated NF- κ B signaling pathway.⁸ In addition, dysregulation of the NF- κ B pathway can cause disorders in Toll-like receptor, B cell receptor, and T cell receptor signal transduction, leading to immunodeficiency (ID, OMIM 300636) without ectodermal dysplasia, which is mainly manifested by recurrent infections.¹¹ *NEMO* deleted exon 5 autoinflammatory syndrome (NDAS), also called X-linked systemic autoinflammatory disease (SAIDX, OMIM 301081), a new disease classification discovered in recent years,¹² which mainly manifested by uveitis, lymphohistiocytic panniculitis, and hepatitis.

The phenotypes of *IKBKG* mutations are highly diverse. However, to date, comprehensive reviews have yet to address *IKBKG* mutations. This article aimed to systematically review and categorize cases associated with *IKBKG* mutations up to February 12, 2023, and delineate the clinical characteristics pertinent to these mutations.

Methods

Protocol and registration

This systematic review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guideline,¹³ and the protocol was registered in the PROSPERO database (authorized ID number: CRD42023405264).

Search strategy

The following keywords were searched using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in PubMed: “NEMO”, “IKBKG”, “IP”, “EDA-ID”, “IMD33”, and “SAIDX”, and then formed into an appropriate search strategy using logical words “and” and “or” to form logical connections, and executed in PubMed, Web of Science, EMBASE, Scopus, and Cochrane with a publication deadline of February 12, 2023, and the language of English. Additional relevant but excluded studies were manually searched using Google Scholar.

Study selection and screening

Initially, EndNote was used to eliminate duplicate studies, and the remaining articles were assessed by reviewing their abstracts. Letters, editorials, commentaries, books, meeting abstracts, guidelines, basic medical science experiments, and studies unrelated to *IKBKG* mutations or those lacking detailed clinical or laboratory information were excluded. Only studies reporting clinical or molecular characteristics associated with *IKBKG* mutations were included. Following this, a comprehensive full-text review

was conducted on all articles to exclude those that failed to meet the predefined criteria.

Data extraction and quality assessment

All included studies used Excel to extract patient sex, country, age at onset, age at gene test, age at diagnosis, age at death, symptoms, family histories, mutation sites, and therapy. The data extraction procedure was performed independently by Jin Wang and Kexin Shen, with any discrepancies being resolved by consensus. The methodological quality of case reports or case series was evaluated according to the Newcastle-Ottawa scale (NOS) and its modified version.¹⁴ Additionally, the NOS was used to evaluate case-control and cohort studies' quality and risk of bias (Table S1).

Results

Search result and study selection

A total of 2477 studies were screened, of which 1128 repeated articles were excluded by EndNote and manual checks, and 624 irrelevant articles were excluded by

reading the titles and abstracts. The remaining articles were retrieved by full-text reading; 428 conformed to the exclusion criteria for document type, 61 were fundamental articles, 81 lacked sufficient information on clinical or *IKBKG* mutation, seven were repeated cases, and the remaining four were unavailable in full-text and non-English. In total, 144 articles were included (Fig. 1).

Study characteristics and patient demographics

The study included 144 articles covering 564 patients with *IKBKG* mutations, of whom the majority were patients with IP (440, 78.0%). Diseases caused by *IKBKG* mutations exhibit differences in sex composition. For instance, patients with IP are predominantly female (94.7%), whereas patients with EDA-ID (100%), ID (100%), and NDAS (100%) were male. The mutation was most common in France, the USA, Australia, and Japan. The age of onset varied among diseases. The disease developed after birth in 72.2% of patients with IP, while most patients with EDA-ID and all eight patients with ID and a clear onset time developed the disease after a month. In terms of disease diagnosis, 84.4% of patients with IP could be diagnosed during the neonatal period. Among the five patients with ID and a clear diagnosis time, three were diagnosed between one month and one year of age;

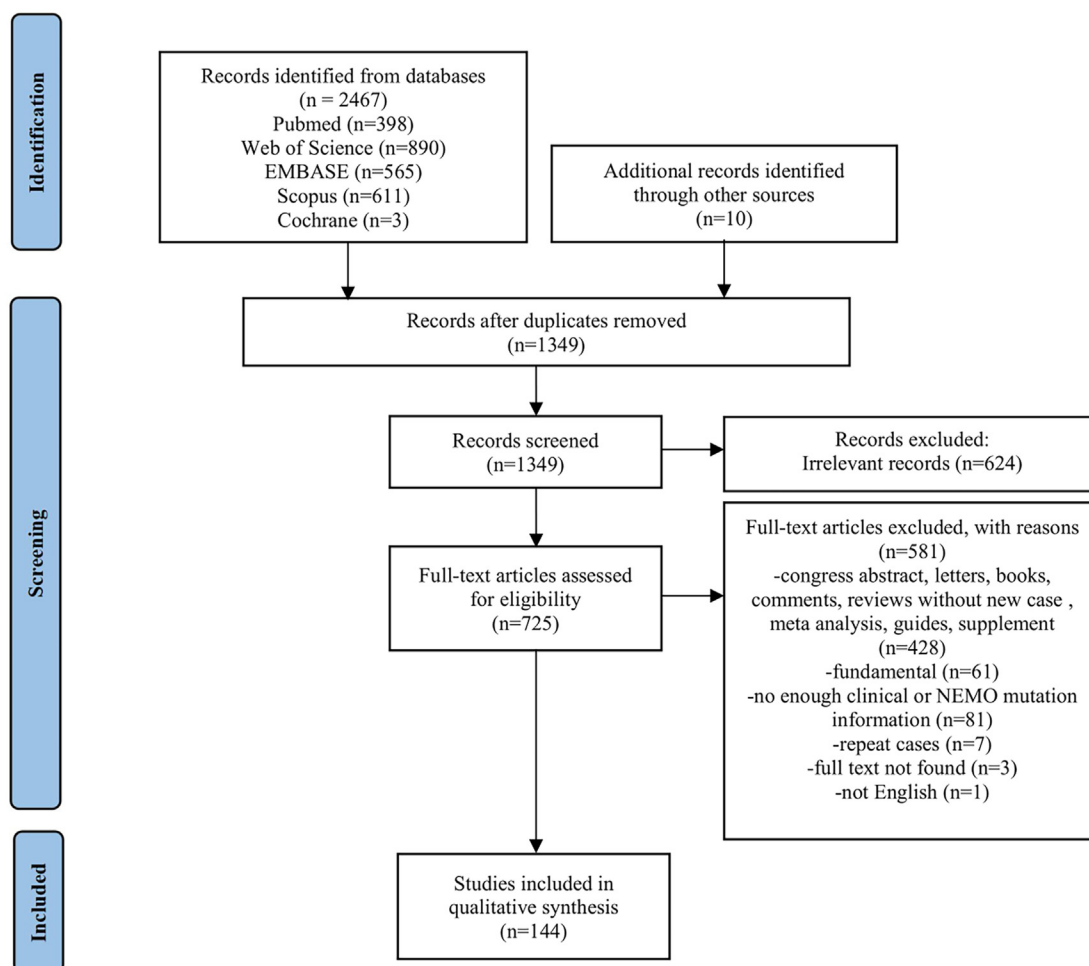


Figure 1 PRISMA flow diagram.

more than half of patients with IP completed genetic testing at the age of one; most patients with EDA-ID died after reaching the age of one. The median age at death from EDA-ID was 3.5 years of age. In addition, for patients with IP and ID, family histories and sporadic cases accounted for approximately half of the cases. Among the patients with EDA-ID, those with a family history accounted for a larger proportion (71.2%), and all three patients with NDAS were sporadic cases (Table 1).

Clinical characteristics of patients with *IKBKG* mutations

Most patients with IP (89.5%) presented with abnormal skin manifestations, notably hyperpigmentation or hypopigmentation. Additional prevalent symptoms included dental abnormalities (33.8%), such as abnormal tooth shape, missing teeth, and delayed dentition; ocular abnormalities (32.5%), including retinal-related abnormalities, vision defects, strabismus, cataracts, and optic nerve-related abnormalities; hair abnormalities (29.8%), such as alopecia, thin hair, and woolly hair; and central nervous system abnormalities (25.2%), such as seizures, motor impairment, intellectual disability, and developmental delay. Other less common symptoms include abnormalities in the nail, palate, and chest. Patients with EDA-ID typically exhibited dental (69.7%) and hair (59.6%) abnormalities, hypohidrosis or anhidrosis (47.2%), and skin (33.7%) abnormalities. Abnormalities of the central nervous system, eyes, and face were comparatively infrequent in these patients (Fig. 2).

ID and NDAS represent infectious and non-infectious inflammation, respectively. Our analysis of the systems affected by inflammation due to *IKBKG* mutations revealed that the respiratory system was the most susceptible, followed by the hematological and digestive systems. It is crucial to note that minor clinical presentations, such as recurrent sinusitis and otitis media, may have been overlooked. This is particularly applicable to patients with ID lacking other characteristic manifestations, who are frequently misdiagnosed in the early stages of the disease (Fig. 3A). Almost a third of patients with *IKBKG* mutations had concomitant infections, with bacterial infections being the most common (79.7%), followed by viral (14.5%), fungal (5.1%), and parasitic (0.7%) infections. Among bacterial infections, the primary pathogens were *Mycobacteria*, *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, and *Escherichia coli*. Additionally, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Klebsiella*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* accounted for a marked proportion of the cases (Fig. 3B).

The primary consequences of immunological dysfunction due to *IKBKG* mutations were EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS. The most common manifestation of IP was an increase in the eosinophil count. Antibody deficiencies were prominent in patients with EDA-ID. Approximately half of the patients had hypogammaglobulinemia, and one-third had low levels of IgM and IgA. However, most patients had normal B-cell levels. T-cell abnormalities were occasionally observed, whereas abnormalities in natural killer cells are extremely rare. Patients with ID exhibited similar issues. Additionally,

our data support the finding that in patients with EDA-ID, 90.9% of those with hyper-IgM syndrome had hypogammaglobulinemia. Moreover, patients with NDAS were found to exhibit abnormal antibody levels, with decreased B-cell counts, distinguishing them from patients with EDA-ID or ID (Fig. 4).

Del4-10 is the most prevalent type of *IKBKG* mutation. This systematic review encompassed 112 other mutations, as depicted in Figure 5A, illustrating mutation locations and corresponding clinical scores. Each clinical manifestation in the system was assigned a score of 1 point, with an additional point for inflammation. Mutations related to IP (except for exon 4–10 deletion) are concentrated in the CC1 domain and are characterized by the mildest clinical symptoms. IP had the highest clinical manifestation score in the LZ region, followed by the zinc finger (ZF) region. Mutations related to EDA-ID were concentrated in the ZF region and were characterized by severe clinical symptoms. The number of EDA-ID mutations in the CC1 region was relatively large and severe. ID mutations were also concentrated in the ZF region; most had the same gene mutations as those in EDA-ID. NDAS focused on exon 5 mutations such as c.1182_1183delTT, H413R, X420W, Q313W, R153H, Q205X, and Y308X, which could cause clinical manifestations in at least six organ systems. c.1167_1168insC, apart from del4-10, is the most common mutation. E390RfsX5 can cause IP as well as EDA-ID and ID. Table 2 lists some special gene mutations' detailed information and clinical features, including gene sites with many mutations, multiple clinical manifestations, and those associated with special diseases or syndromes; the references cited in Table 2 are also listed here.^{4,8,12,15–67} Figure 5B depicts the interplay between various mutations in *IKBKG* across different diseases.

Discussion

The diverse clinical presentations of *IKBKG* gene mutations are fascinating and warrant further exploration. The diagnosis of IP and EDA-ID necessitates a comprehensive evaluation of diverse clinical presentations and laboratory findings, alongside differential diagnoses from related conditions. Our comparative analysis in Figure 2 delineates the clinical manifestations associated with *IKBKG* related disorders. Notably, central nervous system abnormalities manifest at a prevalence of approximately 40 % among IP patients, surpassing the secondary diagnostic criterion of nail anomalies. This suggests the significant role of central nervous system abnormalities in IP, despite central nervous system abnormalities not being included in either the primary or secondary diagnostic criteria for IP. Therefore, our findings strongly support the proposal by Minić et al.⁶⁸ to incorporate CNS abnormalities into the diagnostic criteria for IP, cautioning against potential underdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis in the absence of such inclusion. *IKBKG* mutations exhibit marked heterogeneity in sex selection and phenotypes. For instance, V146G can manifest as IP in females,⁶⁹ while present as EDA-ID in males.²⁰ Historically, mutations in the N-terminal region of *IKBKG* were linked with female IP, while those in the C-terminal region correlated with male EDA-ID.¹⁷ However, our study suggests

Table 1 Demographic data of patients with *NEMO* mutation.

		IP		EDA-ID		ID		NDAS	
No. of evaluated patients		n = 440		n = 89		n = 28		n = 7	
Sex, n (%)	M	22 (5.3)	n = 418 NK = 22	76 (98.7)	n = 77	27 (100)	n = 27	4 (100)	n = 4
	F	396 (94.7)		1 (1.3)	NK = 12	0 (0)	NK = 1	0 (0)	NK = 3
Country, n (%) n; NK		France = 56 (18.1);	n = 309 NK = 131	USA = 31 (40.8);	n = 76	USA = 16 (59.3);	n = 27	USA = 7 (100);	n = 7
		Austria = 54 (17.5);		Japan = 11 (14.5);	NK = 13	UK = 5 (18.5);	NK = 1		NK = 0
		Korea = 30 (9.7);		France = 8 (10.5);		Japan = 2 (7.4);			
		China = 29 (9.4);		German = 6 (7.9);		Turkey = 2 (7.4);			
		Japan = 23 (7.4);		UK = 5 (6.6);		German = 2 (7.4);			
		Canada = 23 (7.4);		Italy = 4 (5.3);					
		Italy = 22 (7.1);		Turkey = 2 (2.6);					
		Brazil = 15 (4.9);		Norway = 2 (2.6);					
		Greece = 12 (3.9);		Others = 7 (9.2);					
		Serbia = 10 (3.2);							
		Denmark = 8 (2.6);							
		USA = 6 (1.9);							
		German = 3 (0.9);							
		Turkey = 3 (0.9);							
		UK = 2 (0.6);							
		Others = 13 (4.2);							
Age at onset, n (%) n; NK	<1Mo	57 (72.2)	n = 79	6 (23.1)	n = 26	0 (0)	n = 8	/	/
	1Mo-1Yr	17 (21.5)	NK = 361	10 (38.5)	NK = 63	4 (50)	NK = 20	/	/
	≥1Yr	5 (6.3);		10 (38.5)		4 (50)		/	/
Age at diagnosis, n (%) n; NK	<1Mo	27 (84.4)	n = 32	/	/	0 (0)	n = 5	/	/
	1Mo-1Yr	2 (6.3)	NK = 408	/		3 (60)	NK = 23	/	/
	≥1Yr	3 (9.4)		/		2 (40)		/	/
Age at gene test, n (%) n; NK	<1Mo	1 (3.6)	n = 28	/	/	/	/	/	/
	1Mo-1Yr	10 (35.7)	NK = 412	/		/		/	/
	≥1Yr	17 (60.7)		/		/		/	/
Age at death, n (%), n; NK	<1Mo	/	/	0 (0)	n = 20	/	/	/	/
	1Mo-1Yr	/		1 (7.7)	NK = 69	/		/	/
	≥1Yr	/		19 (92.3)		/		/	/
Family history, n (%), n; NK	Y	140 (50.2)	n = 279	37 (71.2)	n = 52	11 (50)	n = 22	0 (0)	n = 3
	S	139 (49.8)	NK = 161	15 (28.8)	NK = 37	11 (50)	NK = 6	3 (100)	NK = 4

NK: not known, M: male, F: female, Y: yes, S: sporadic, Mo: month, Yr: year.

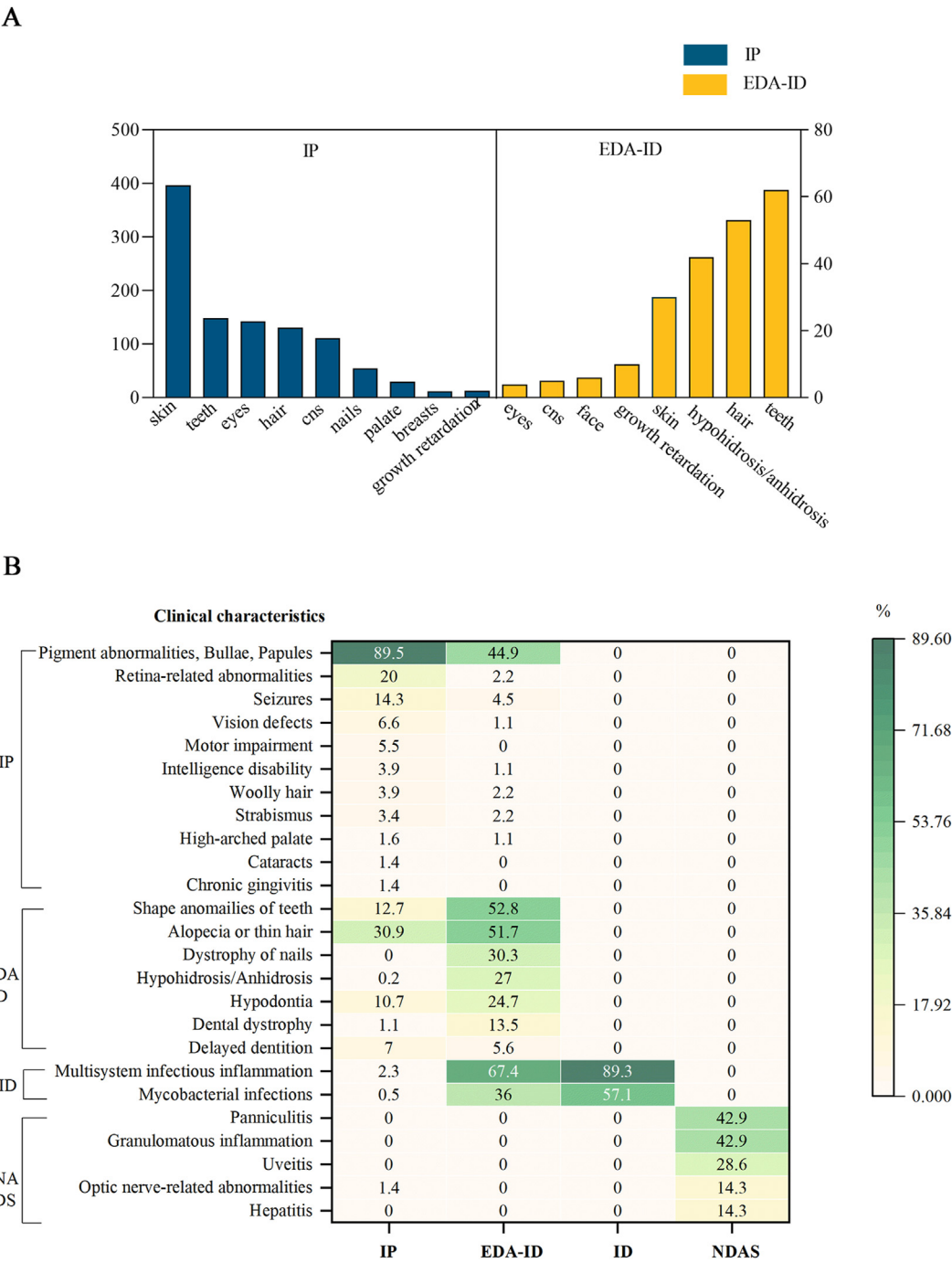


Figure 2 Clinical manifestations of *NEMO* mutations. **(A)** Comparison of ectodermal manifestations of IP and EDA-ID patients with *NEMO* mutations. **(B)** Heat map of detailed classification list of clinical findings for patients in IP, EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS with *NEMO* mutations. *NEMO*, nuclear factor- κ B essential modulator; IP, incontinentia pigmenti; EDA-ID, anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency; ID, immunodeficiency; NDAS, *IKBKG* deleted exon 5 autoinflammatory syndrome.

that this paradigm may not universally apply. As illustrated in Figure 5A, mutations associated with IP and EDA-ID are dispersed across various structural domains of *IKBKG*, indicating a complex genotype–phenotype relationship. Nevertheless, Figure 5A highlights that mutations occurring in the ZF domain contribute to greater phenotypic diversity, harboring a multitude of variants capable of causing multiple disorders. For example, Y308X and C417R

can exhibit as EDA-ID in some individuals, whereas in others, they may solely manifest as ID.^{39,50,51,70} E390RfsX5 can even cause not only IP as well as EDA-ID and ID.^{49,71,72} Furthermore, mutations occurring here also imply more severe manifestations. Stephanie et al²⁶ mentioned that mutations in the ZF structural domain are often complex and life-threatening. This is consistent with our research findings. Certain mutations, such as X420W, H413R, Q157P,

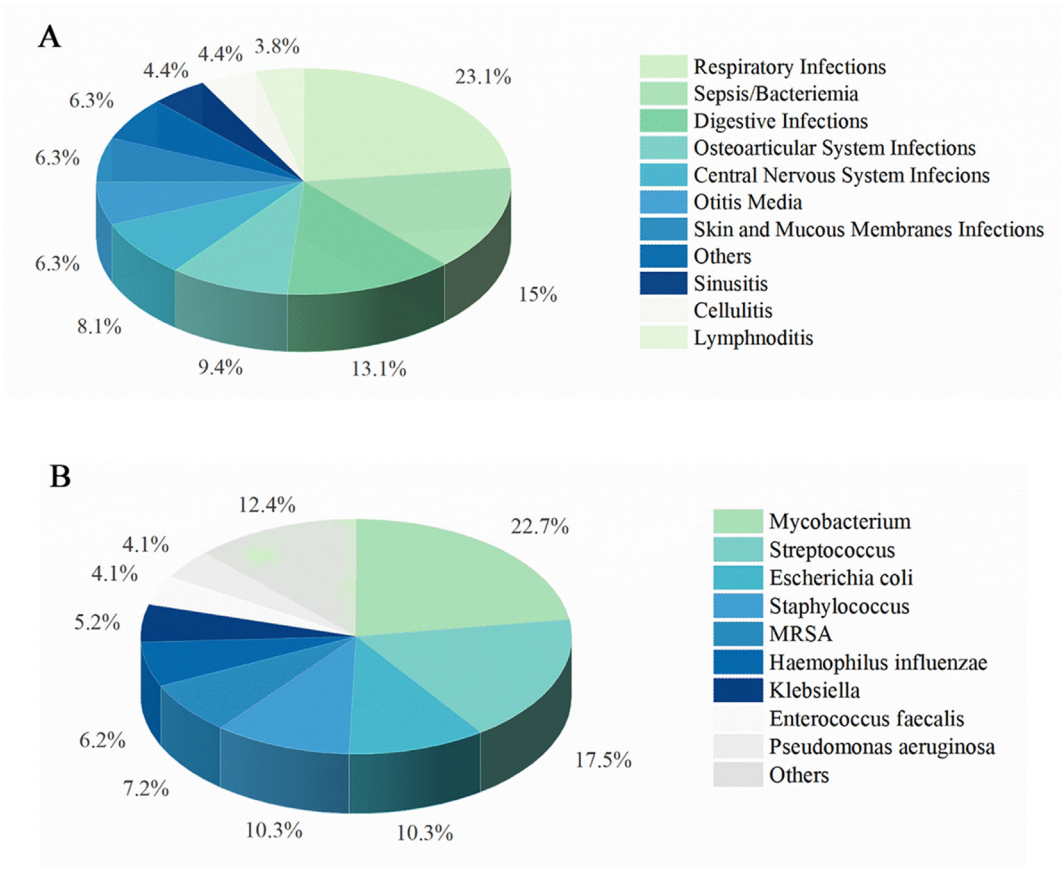


Figure 3 Infection in *NEMO* mutations. **(A)** Organ system inflammation caused by infection in patients with *NEMO* mutations. **(B)** Common bacterial pathogens in patients with *NEMO* mutations. *NEMO*, nuclear factor- κ B essential modulator.

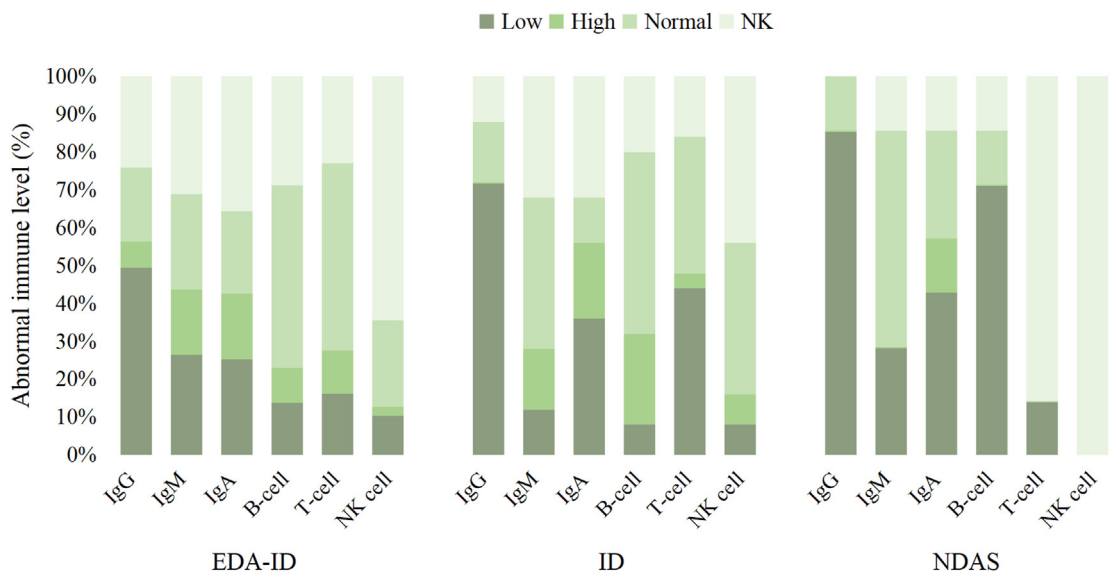


Figure 4 Immune status of EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS patients with *NEMO* mutation. *NEMO*, nuclear factor- κ B essential modulator; EDA-ID, anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency; ID, immunodeficiency; NDAS, *IKBKG* deleted exon 5 auto-inflammatory syndrome.

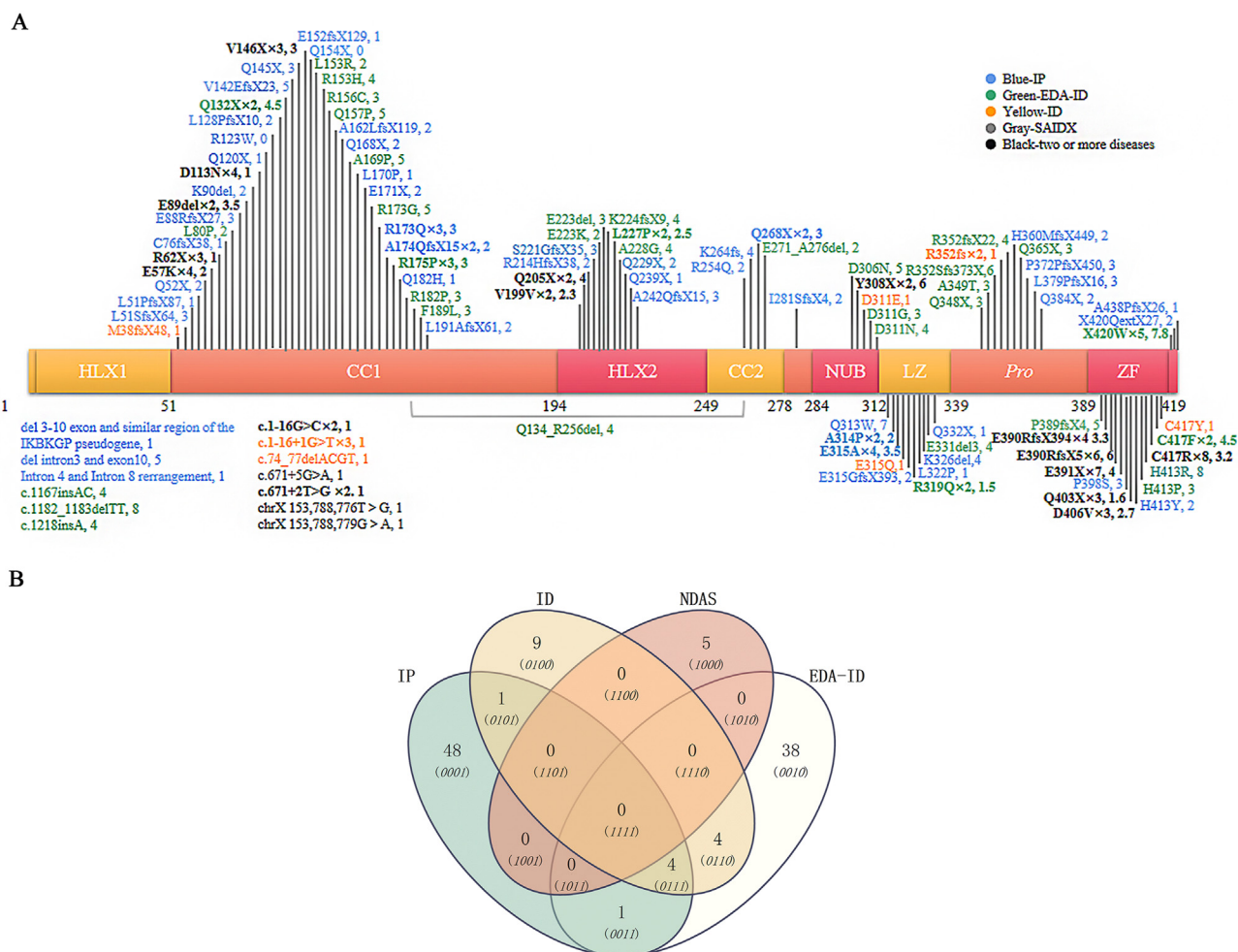


Figure 5 Locations and distribution of *NEMO* gene mutations in IP, ID, EDA-ID, and NDAS. **(A)** Schematic diagram of *NEMO* mutation sites. IP-related mutations are highlighted in blue, EDA-ID-related mutations are highlighted in green, ID without EDA are highlighted in yellow, and black represents two or more diseases caused by one mutation site. The lower left quadrant indicates nucleotide mutations for which the impact on protein alterations is yet to be determined. **(B)** Venn diagram of common mutations in different diseases in patients with *NEMO* mutations. *NEMO*, nuclear factor- κ B essential modulator; IP, incontinentia pigmenti; EDA-ID, anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency; ID, immunodeficiency; NDAS, *IKBK*G deleted exon 5 auto-inflammatory syndrome; HLX, HeLical domain (HLX1/2); CC1/2, coiled-coil motif 1/2; NUB, *NEMO* ubiquitin binding domain, LZ, leucine zipper domain; Pro, proline-rich region; ZF, zinc finger.

E390RfsX5, and c.1182_1183delTT, induce premature stop codons, leading to OL-EDA-ID, the most severe clinical phenotype induced by hypomorphic mutations in *IKBK*G.^{8,17,55,60,61} Among the observed mutations, X420W induced the most severe manifestations. This is attributed to its location as a codon within the *IKBK*G gene, which markedly influences the bioactivity of *IKBK*G and the operational efficiency of the NF- κ B signaling pathway.⁷³ We reviewed mutations in the ZF structural domain and found that most cases were EDA-ID.^{67,74} Furthermore, considering the severity of EDA-ID and ID associated with mutations in the ZF region, there is a propensity for immune-related complications. Mutations in the ZF region can impair NF- κ B pathway activation in immune cells, compromising host defense mechanisms against microbial pathogens — a primary factor contributing to mortality in patients with *IKBK*G mutations.⁷⁵ However, our correlation analysis between

mutation sites and clinical severity did not reveal significant differences ($P > 0.05$). This may be related to an insufficient sample size.

Since NF- κ B is typically associated with the development of tumors, such as small cell lung cancer, rectal cancer, and multiple myeloma,^{76–78} some types of *IKBK*G mutations accompany tumors. For instance, the del4-10 mutation leads to IP combined with Wilms' tumor,⁴⁴ the X420W mutation leads to OL-EDA-ID combined with lymphangioma,⁴³ the D311E mutation leads to ID combined with nasopharyngeal carcinoma,³¹ and the E315Q mutation leads to ID combined with squamous cell carcinoma of the skin and thyroid cancer.³³ The correlation between these mutations and tumor development is unknown; however, vigilance should be increased.

The immunological abnormalities caused by *IKBK*G mutations are particularly prominent. Our data indicate that

Table 2 Detailed clinical information of some special *NEMO* mutation.

Nucleotide change(n)		Amino acid change	Mutation type	Exon involved	Phenotype score	Disease	Clinical features										References
							CNS	Eye s	Hair	Teeth	Palate	Breas t	Nai ls	Skin	Others		
Mosaics	Dup from Intron3 to Exon6	K224fsX9	Duplication	From Intron3 to Exon6	Min = 1; Max = 5; Mean = 2.8	IP; EDA-ID; NDAS	Y	Y	—	Y	—	—	Y	Y	Tuner syndrome	Maingay-de Groof et al (2008) ⁴²	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Facial asymmetry	Rashidghamat et al (2016) ⁵⁹	
	c. 671 + 3 G> C	—	Intronic mutation	Exon 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Neutrophilic dermatitis; extensive panniculitis; fat necrosis; autoinflammatory syndromes	Hegazy et al (2022) ²⁵	
c.1167_1168insC	—	R175P R182P L227P Q348X	—	Exon 5 Exon 6 Exon 6 Exon 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	IBD	Kawai et al (2012) ³⁵	
	—	E390fsX394 E390RfsX5	Frameshift; Frameshift and early termination	Exon 10	Min = 1; Max = 6; Mean = 3.3	IP, EDA-ID-OL, ID	—	Y	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections	Zonana et al (2000) ⁶⁷	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Pulmonary hypertension GVHD	Orange et al (2004) ⁵¹	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Tufting enteropathy; osteosclerosis; lymphedema	Ohnishi et al (2017) ⁴⁹	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Hemophagocytic disease	Martuszewski et al (2020) ⁴⁵	
c.169G > A	—	E57K	Missense	Exon 2	Min = 0; Max = 4 Mean = 2	IP, EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	Y	—	Y	Y	Anhidrosis	Permaul et al (2009) ⁵⁵	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Hyper IgM syndrome	Schmid et al (2006) ⁶²	
c.1217A > T	—	D406V	Missense	Exon 10	Min = 2; Max = 4; Mean = 2.7	IP, EDA-ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Y	Infections; anhidrosis; Behcet's disease; hyper IgM syndrome	Zonana et al (2000) ⁶⁷	
c.337G > A	—	D113N	Missense	Exon 3	Min = 1; Max = 1 Mean = 1	EDA-ID; ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Infections	Chang et al (2008) ¹⁸	
c.1171G > T	—	E391X	Nonsense	Exon 10	Min = 1; Max = 4 Mean = 1.8	EDA-ID; ID	—	—	—	Y	—	—	—	—	Infections	Keller et al (2011) ³⁶	
c.1207C > T	—	Q403X	Nonsense	Exon 10	Min = 2; Max = 2 Mean = 1.6	EDA-ID, ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Y	Infections; kidney abscess;	Keller et al (2020) ²⁶	

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Nucleotide change(n)	Amino acid change	Mutation type	Exon involved	Phenotype score	Disease	Clinical features										References
						CNS	Eye s	Hair	Teeth	Palate	Breas t	Nai ls	Skin	Others		
c.1249T > C	C417R	Missense	Exon 10	Min = 1; Max = 6; Mean = 3.2	EDA-ID; ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—		Y	Infections	Orange et al (2004) ⁵¹	
														Bronchiectasis; Pulmonary insufficiency; Hyper IgM syndrome Anhidrosis	Zonana et al (2000) ⁶⁷ Jain et al (2001) ³⁴ Orange et al (2002) ⁵⁰	
Del 4-10	—	Deletion	Exon 4-10	Min = 0; Max = 10; Mean = 2.5	IP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Infection	Ogasawara et al (2019) ⁴⁸ Pauly et al (2005) ⁵³ Bayart et al (2018) ¹¹	
														Pilocytic astrocytoma Deformity (foot; finger; face)	Kmetz et al (2009) ³⁸ Fusco et al (2017) ²² Guevara et al (2016) ²⁴ Gregersen et al (2013) ²³	
														Blind; Franceschetti-Jadassohn's Syndrome		
														Bipolar disorder; subungual tumors	Kibbi et al (2018) ³⁷	
														West syndrome	Margari et al (2013)	
														SLE; dysmorphic hands; pes planovalgus	Piccoli et al (2012) ⁵⁶	
														Conversion disorder	Wang et al (2013) ⁶⁶	
														Psychomotor retardation	Hsiao et al (2010) ²⁷	
														Pulmonary hypertension	Alshenqiti et al (2017) ¹⁵	
														Blind; dilated veins	Salamon et al (2016) ⁶³	
														Wilms' tumor	Mariath et al (2018) ⁴⁴	
Del 4–10 (XXY)	—	Del 4–10 47, XXY	Exon 4-10	Min = 2; Max = 7 Mean = 4.5	IP	Y	Y	Y	—	—	—	—	Y	Klinefelter syndrome; aplasia cutis congenita; difficulty swallow	Moro et al (2020) ⁴⁷	
c.172_173delAA	N58SfsTer	Deletion mutation and early termination	Exon 2	5	IP	—	Y	Y	Y	—	—	Y	Y	Infection	Ergin et al (2022) ²¹	
c.425_426delGT	V142EfsX23	Frameshift	Exon 4	5	IP	—	Y	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Ectatic and malformed portal tracts; bile plugs; hypoplasia of portal vein radicles	Danescu et al (2018) ²⁸	

Del intron3 and exon10	—	Deletion mutation	Intron 3 exon 10	5	IP	Y	Y	—	—	—	—	—	Y	Progressive proximal skeletal muscle weakness; dilatative cardiomyopathy	Huttner et al (2010) ³⁰
c.262_264delGAG	E89del	Frame deletion	Exon 3	6	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; hyper IgM syndrome; anhidrosis	Inaba et al (2021) ³²
c.437T > G	V146G	Missense	Exon 4	Min = 2; Max = 4 Mean = 4	EDA-ID	Y	—	—	Y	—	—	—	—	Infections; generalized lymphadenopathy	Devora et al (2010) ²⁰
c.505G > C	A169P	Missense	Exon 4	5	EDA-ID	—	—	—	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; Crohn's disease; anhidrosis	Mizukami et al (2012) ⁴⁶
c.518C > G	R173G	Missense	Exon 4	5	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; anhidrosis	Ku et al (2007) ⁴⁰
c.613C > T	Q205X	Missense	Exon 5	6	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; GVHD	Yilmaz et al (2022) ⁶⁴
c.761G > A	R254Q	Missense	Exon 6	2	EDA-ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Y	AIHA	Huppmann et al (2015) ²⁹
c.916G > A	D306N	Missense	Exon 10	5	EDA-ID	—	—	—	Y	—	—	—	Y	Pulmonary tuberculosis; ITP;	Ramírez-Alejo et al (2015) ⁵⁸
c.923A > G	Y308C	Missense	Exon 4	Min = 4; Max = 8 Mean = 6	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; psoriasis; atopic dermatitis; cutaneous sarcoidosis	Kolitz et al (2021) ³⁹
c.944A > C	E315A	Missense	Exon 8	Min = 2; Max = 5; Mean = 3.5	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; deafness; agenesis corpus callosum and right kidney	Huppmann et al (2015) ²⁹
c.1027+5G > A	—	Splice mutation	A skipping of exon 4, exon 5, and exon 6	Min = 2; Max = 6 Mean = 4	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	—	Infections; protein-losing enteropathy; pulmonary embolization; Crohn's disease; infant death syndrome	Ørstavik et al (2006) ⁵²
c.1117+1G > A	R352Sfs373X	Frameshift and early termination	Exon 9	6	EDA-ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Infections; lymphedema; hepatic veno-occlusive disease/sinusoidal obstruction syndrome; autoimmune thrombocytopenia; GVHD;	Heller et al (2020) ²⁶
c.1167dupC	E390RfsX5	Frameshift	Exon 10	Min = 2; Max = 7 Mean = 5.1	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; anemia; SCID; GVHD; skull deformity; chronic diarrhea; septic shock; anhidrosis; eczema;	Martuszeewski et al (2020) ⁴⁵
c.1250G > T	C417F	Missense	Exon 10	Min = 4; Max = 5 Mean = 4.5	EDA-ID	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; anhidrosis;	Zonana et al (2000) ⁶⁷

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Nucleotide change(n)	Amino acid change	Mutation type	Exon involved	Phenotype score	Disease	Clinical features										References
						CNS	Eye s	Hair	Teeth	Palate	Breas t	Nai ls	Skin	Others		
c.458G > A	R153H	Missense	Exon 3	6	EDA-ID-OL	—	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	—	Infections; lymphedema; osteoporosis; anhidrosis	Keller et al (2011) ³⁶	
c.470A > C	Q157P	Missense	Exon 4	5	EDA-ID-OL	—	—	Y	—	—	—	—	Y	Infections; dysmorphic; osteopetrosis	Carlberg et al (2014) ¹⁷	
c.1182_1183delTT	—	Frameshift	Exon 10	8	EDA-ID-OL	Y	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; lymphoedema; osteopetrosis; asthma; hypothyroidism; anhidrosis	Roberts et al (2010) ⁶¹	
c.1238A > G	H413R	Missense	Exon 10	8	EDA-ID-OL	Y	—	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Infections; lymphoedema; osteopetrosis; saddle nose; frontal bossing; growth retardation. MAS	Silvia et al (2017) ⁶⁰	
c.1259A > G	X420W	Stop lost	Exon 10	Min = 5; Max = 10 Mean = 7.8	EDA-ID-OL	Y	Y	Y	Y	—	—	—	Y	Anhidrosis; osteosclerosis; lymphedema; sepsis; capillary hemangiomas; anemia; thrombocytopenia; intestinal obstruction; multiple lymphangiomata; gastroenteritis;	Mansour et al (2001) ⁴³ Döffinger, et al (2001) ⁸	
c.185G > A	R62Q	Missense	Exon 2	Min = 1; Max = 2 Mean = 1.3	ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Infections; lymphocytic colitis; granulomatous Hepatitis; autoimmune hemolytic anemia; immune thrombocytopenia; Evans syndrome	Rae et al (2017) ⁵⁷	
c.931C > G	D311E	Missense	Exon 8	4	ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nasopharyngeal carcinoma; disseminated BCG infection; cervical lymphadenitis; parotitis; sepsis	Imamura et al (2011) ³¹	
c.943G > C	E315Q	Missense	Exon 8	5	ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lymph node tuberculosis; sepsis; squamous cell carcinoma; thyroid	Inoue et al (2018) ³³	

[illegible]

immunological abnormalities in patients with EDA-ID, ID, and NDAS are primarily antibody deficiencies, predominantly IgG deficiency; varying levels of abnormalities in IgM and IgA antibodies may accompany them. In EDA-ID, elevated levels of IgM can indicate hyper-IgM syndrome, predisposing individuals to opportunistic infections.³⁴ Therefore, this should be carefully monitored. In our study, a majority of EDA-ID cases accompanied by hyper-IgM syndrome occurred in the ZF region and few cases of EDA-ID children with hyper-IgM syndrome were caused by mutations located in other regions.^{79,80} The main reason is that the ZF structural domain disrupts the degradation of the NF- κ B inhibitor I κ B- α mediated by CD40L, thereby affecting the class switch of immunoglobulins,³⁴ and there is a noted correlation with *Pneumocystis jirovecii* infection. Another notable immunological anomaly observed in EDA-ID patients is polysaccharide antibody deficiency. Unfortunately, our study did not comprehensively gather data on this immune aberration, which can occasionally manifest as the sole laboratory anomaly in EDA-ID patients, especially when concurrent with dental anomalies.⁸¹ Dental abnormalities are hallmark features of ectodermal dysplasia, with tooth anomalies being the predominant developmental irregularity observed in EDA-ID associated with *IKBK*G mutations. In physiological conditions, activation of the NF- κ B pathway downstream of the ectodysplasin, edar, and edar-associated death domain plays a crucial role in odontogenesis and other ectodermal developmental processes. Dysfunctions in ectodysplasin, edar, or edar-associated death domain can precipitate ectodermal dysplasia. As a downstream regulator within this pathway, *IKBK*G mutations can also induce ectodermal dysplasia, particularly affecting tooth tip formation.⁸² Therefore, *IKBK*G mutations often lead to cone-shaped teeth.

In this study, the number of B-cells in most patients with EDA-ID and ID was usually normal, and T-cells and natural killer cells were relatively less affected. In NDAS, more than half of the patients have a low number of B cells, suggesting the need for further fine lymphocyte phenotyping of patients with *IKBK*G mutations. Notably, when *IKBK*G affects T cells, it may coincide with the onset of inflammatory bowel disease, such as somatic mosaicism involving R175P, R182P, L227P, and Q348X³⁵ in X-linked anhidrotic ectodermal dysplasia with immunodeficiency frequently lower NF- κ B activity, thereby impacting antigen presentation, T cell differentiation, and function, leading to significant T cell infiltration of the intestinal wall.¹⁹ The influence of *IKBK*G mutations on Toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling pathways is often cited to explain the susceptibility of *IKBK*G patients to various pathogens. Impairments in TLR4 response to lipopolysaccharide and partially compromised CD40 signaling may relate to infections with gram-negative bacteria and *Pneumocystis carinii*. IL-1b, IL-18, TLR2, or other NF- κ B-dependent signaling pathways' diminished responses may be associated with infections from gram-positive bacteria. Severe mycobacterial infections may also be linked to impaired TLR signaling. Most patients with IP exhibit eosinophilia, most noticeable in stages 1 and 2. These abnormalities can be detected in the periphery and the bone marrow, ranging from 5% to 79%. This mechanism is related to the over-activation of keratinocytes.⁸³ Over time, most children

eventually normalized, highlighting the importance of aiding the early diagnosis of IP.

In terms of treatment, early infection control is important because severe infections are often the main cause of death in patients with *IKBK*G mutations, especially in EDA-ID patients with impaired C-reacting protein responses. According to our research, *Mycobacteria*, *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, and *Escherichia coli* are the most common pathogens that should be monitored in children with suspected *IKBK*G mutations. If conventional anti-infective therapy is ineffective, several other pathogens must be considered, such as MRSA, *Klebsiella*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Alternative intravenous immunoglobulin therapy is available for patients with impaired immunoglobulin conversion.⁷ Hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation is usually used in situations that pose a severe threat to life or in cases presenting with mesodermal defects of *IKBK*G,^{26,84} such as OL-EDA-ID.⁷ The global survival rate after hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation among *IKBK*G-deficient children was 74% at a median follow-up after hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation of 57 months, and most of the clinical symptoms caused by *IKBK*G mutation were curable, except for colitis.⁸⁴ Some targeted treatments, such as NEMO-binding domain peptide and CRISPR/Cas9, and therapies involving embryonic stem cells, or induced pluripotent stem cells, are currently under research and development.⁸⁵

Clinical diseases caused by *IKBK*G gene mutations are generally still in the early stages of exploration and require more attention. Moreover, newly discovered disease subtypes, such as NDAS, require further sharing and discussion regarding their diagnosis and treatment. We look forward to further discoveries regarding *IKBK*G mutations.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Jin Wang: Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft. **Kexin Shen:** Data curation, Visualization. **Hongxia Lou:** Software. **Lina Zhou:** Methodology, Resources. **Yunfei An:** Supervision. **Xiaodong Zhao:** Supervision, Writing – review & editing. **Yuan Ding:** Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing – review & editing.

Conflict of interests

Xiaodong Zhao is a deputy editor-in-chief for *Genes & Diseases* and was not involved in the editorial review or the decision to publish this article. The other authors declared no competing interests.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

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