## Genetic profile and onset features of 1005 patients with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease in Japan

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**Objective** To identify the genetic characteristics in a large-scale of patients with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT).

**Methods** From May 2012 to August 2016, we collected 1005 cases with suspected CMT throughout Japan, whereas *PMP22* duplication/deletion were excluded in advance for demyelinating CMT cases. We performed next-generation sequencing targeting CMT-related gene panels using Illumina MiSeq or Ion Proton, then analysed the gene-specific onset age of the identified cases and geographical differences in terms of their genetic spectrum.

**Results** From 40 genes, we identified pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants in 301 cases (30.0%). The most common causative genes were *GJB1* (n=66, 21.9%), *MFN2* (n=66, 21.9%) and *MPZ* (n=51, 16.9%). In demyelinating CMT, variants were detected in 45.7% cases, and the most common reasons were *GJB1* (40.3%), *MPZ* (27.1%), *PMP22* point mutations (6.2%) and *NEFL* (4.7%). Axonal CMT yielded a relatively lower detection rate (22.9%), and the leading causes, occupying 72.4%, were *MFN2* (37.2%), *MPZ* (9.0%), *HSPB1* (8.3%), *GJB1* (7.7%), *GDAP1* (5.1%) and *MME* (5.1%). First decade of life was found as the most common disease onset period, and early-onset CMT cases were most likely to receive a molecular diagnosis. Geographical distribution analysis indicated distinctive genetic spectrums in different regions of Japan.

**Conclusions** Our results updated the genetic profile within a large-scale of Japanese CMT cases. Subsequent analyses regarding onset age and geographical distribution advanced our understanding of CMT, which would be beneficial for clinicians.