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4 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Genetic characterization and clinical

- correlation in a cohort of Turkish patients
- with immunodeficiency: insights from whole
- exome sequencing

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ABSTRACT

11

Background: This retrospective study aims to present the clinical and genetic data of patients diagnosed with immunodeficiency through genetic diagnostic methods. It is essential to investigate the impact of genetic risk factors, such as consanguinity, on immunodeficiency, identify the underlying genetic variants, and assess potential risks. Identifying genetic defects in patients with unknown etiology is critical for accurate diagnosis and effective treatment.

Methodology: Patient histories were evaluated, and detailed clinical findings were recorded. Genetic anal yses were performed, identifying eight different variants consistent with autosomal recessive inheritance.
 The American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics classification criteria were utilized to assess several
 pathogenic and likely pathogenic variants associated with various immunodeficiency disorders.

Results: Several pathogenic and likely pathogenic variants were identified, related to immunodeficiency disorders such as severe combined immunodeficiency due to ADA deficiency and LIG4 syndrome. A significant proportion of patients had a history of consanguinity. The clinical variability observed emphasizes the importance of comprehensive genetic evaluation. Whole exome sequencing (WES) proved effective in uncovering the genetic causes of unexplained immunodeficiency symptoms.

Conclusion: This study highlights the critical role of genetic testing in diagnosing immunodeficiency disorders. WES and next-generation sequencing technologies were particularly useful in identifying the genetic basis of immunodeficiency in patients with unexplained symptoms. Genetic evaluation enables personalized treatment strategies, improving patient management and outcomes. Comprehensive genetic assessments are especially important in populations with high consanguinity rates.

30 **Keywords:** Immunodeficiency, consanguinity, whole exome sequencing (WES).

31 Background

Genetic diagnosis helps identify the origins of diseases, 32 facilitates the development of effective treatment 33 strategies, allows for timely interventions, and enables 34 the assessment of hereditary risks. Today, a variety 35 of technologies and tests have been developed for 36 genetic diagnosis (1). Next-generation sequencing 37 (NGS) technology allows for the rapid sequencing and 38 analysis of many genes simultaneously (2). Whole-39 exome sequencing (WES) is a technique that targets 40 the protein-coding regions of the genome (3). The 41 human genome consists of 3.2 billion nucleotides and 42 contains approximately 23,500 protein-coding genes. 43

Additionally, there are about 180,000 exons in the human 44 genome; these exons represent about 1% of the genome, 45 totaling approximately 30 million nucleotides (4). The 46

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- 47 human exome contains approximately 85% of known
- 48 disease-associated variants (3). The emergence of NGS,
- 49 and particularly WES, has made it possible to diagnose
- 50 many genetic disorders (5).
- 51 Immunodeficiency results from the deficiency or absence
- 52 of one or more components of the immune system (6).
- 53 Immunodeficiencies are generally classified into two main
- 54 categories: primary immunodeficiency and secondary
- 55 immunodeficiency (7). Primary immunodeficiencies are
- 56 diseases that arise from monogenic germline mutations in
- 57 functional genes governing both the innate and adaptive
- immune systems (8). Secondary immunodeficiency is acondition caused by factors not related to the immune
- 59 condition caused by factors not related to the immune 60 system, resulting in temporary or permanent dysfunction
- 61 of immune cells or tissues (9).
- 62 The aim of this study is to present the variants identified through whole exome sequencing (WES) analysis in 63 immunodeficiency patients, excluding non-genetic 64 causes. The OMIM (Online Mendelian Inheritance 65 in Man) database contains 969 phenotypes related to 66 immunodeficiency, with known molecular bases for 67 these phenotypes. The significance of genetic approaches 68 in immunodeficiency patients is increasing, and studies 69 have shown that 35%-52% of immunodeficiency patients 70 receive a diagnosis through NGS analysis. 71

In this study, non-genetic etiological causes have been 72 73 excluded in immunodeficiency patients, emphasizing the importance of genetic evaluation. Additionally, the 74 variability and diversity in the phenotypes of complex 75 diseases associated with immunodeficiency are detailed. 76 The findings support the role of genetic analyses in 77 diagnosing immunodeficiency disorders and provide 78 important insights for clinical practice. 79

80 Methods

The aim of this study is to present clinical and genetic data of immunodeficiency patients diagnosed through NGS analysis. This is a single-center cohort retrospective study conducted at the Genetic Disorders Evaluation Center of Istanbul Medipol University. Patient files were reviewed and re-evaluated. The criteria for including patients in this study are as follows:

- Referral to the Genetic Disorders Evaluation Center of
 Istanbul Medipol University between 2015 and 2024.
- Genetic results obtained through NGS analysis, such aswhole exome sequencing (WES).
- Presence of immunodeficiency signs during clinicalexamination.
- Born as a result of consanguineous marriage.

According to these criteria, a total of nine patients were 95 96 included in the study. The anamnesis information of the 97 patients was evaluated using the ALIS patient database information system employed by the Genetic Disorders 98 Evaluation Center of Istanbul Medipol University. The 99 onset time and complaints of the patients, consanguinity 100 between the parents, and the existence of similar cases in 101 the family were queried. Detailed clinical examination 102 findings of the patients were reviewed using the patient 103 database information system. 104

The WES analysis of the patients was performed by 105 contracted institutions. WES was performed with 106 the QIAseq Human Exome Kit and Novaseq 6000 107 platform (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA). Alignment to 108 the reference genomes (GRCh38/hg38 for human) was 109 performed using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA). 110 The identified variants were functionally annotated 111 using ANNOVAR. Variants were reported based on 112 the phenotype of the patients. Attention was focused 113 on variants classified as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, 114 and of uncertain significance. If the gene in which the 115 variant was detected was associated with multiple 116 diseases in the OMIM database, differential diagnosis 117 was conducted based on physical examination and all test 118 results. Possible genetic etiologies responsible for the 119 immunodeficiency signs in the patient were determined. 120

This study presents the variability of genetic etiology and
phenotype in patients with immunodeficiency symptoms.121The power of NGS analyses in identifying the etiology
of patients with unknown immunodeficiency symptoms123124
was evaluated.125

126

141

Results

The demographic information, family histories, and 127 clinical findings of the 9 patients included in the 128 study are summarized in Table 1. All patients have a 129 consanguineous marriage. In seven patients, the age of 130 onset of the disease is below 3 years. Five patients have 131 a preliminary diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency. 132 Additionally, various laboratory abnormalities have been 133 detected in most of the patients. 134

WES analysis was performed on all patients. A total 135 of eight different variants were identified among nine 136 patients. Additionally, the same variant was found in 137 one pair of siblings (Patient numbers: 6 and 7). Variants 138 consistent with the phenotypes of autosomal recessive 139 inheritance are presented in Table 2. 140

Discussion

This study details the results of genetic analyses in 142 patients exhibiting symptoms of immunodeficiency. 143 The application of genetic testing in patients without 144 an identified organic cause through conventional 145 diagnostic methods represents a significant advancement 146 in the diagnostic process. Particularly, identifying the 147 underlying genetic causes of complex diseases like 148 immunodeficiency allows for a more holistic approach to 149 patient management. 150

This classification divides genetic variants into five 151 categories: "Pathogenic," "Likely Pathogenic," "Variants 152 of Uncertain Significance (VUS)," "Likely Benign" and 153 "Benign." This framework plays a critical role in genetic 154 counseling processes and disease risk assessments 155 Additionally, the ClinVar and HGMD databases provide 156 systematic presentations of the relationships between 157 genetic variants and diseases, making significant 158 contributions to diagnostic and evaluation processes. 159 The combined use of these three systems allows for a 160 more detailed and comprehensive analysis of genetic 161 variants. This enhances the reliability of the variants and 162

ent ID #1 #2 #3 #4 #5	Sex M F M F F	agnosis (Y) 5 10 7 5 4	t onset (y) Congenital N/A 5 MONTHS Postnatal/ Congen 15 DAYS	nguineous + + + + + + + + + +	Jree Cousin N/A + N/A + +	gree Cousin N/A N/A	gree Cousin N/A N/A	ame Village N/A	:r affected 1 Brother (Ex), 2 – – 1 Broth Jals in family Cousin	al features	odeficiency + + + + + +	Others Severe Com- bined Immuno- deficiency, Iga Primary Immunodefi- ciency, Lymphopenia, deficiency, Iga Primary Neutropenia, Neutropenia, MC Immunodefi- ciency, Liver Primary Immunoc ↓ lgm ↓, CD3 ↓, Igm ↓, CD3 ↓, AST ↑ High, Pancreatic Insuf- ficiency, Atrophic Kid- ficiency, Atrophic Kid- iney, Abnormal Urinary MAGT_1, STK4, AGT_1, STK4, AAST ↑ Immunoc ciency, Ciency System, Premature Birth, Short Stature, Growth Retardation, Microcephaly, Devel- Hepatomegaly Primar
#4 #5	ш	5	tnatal/ Congenital DAYS	+	+				- 1 Brother		+	Primary Immunodefi- ciency
9#	Ŀ	12	Q	+	+				1 Brother		+	Common Var- iable Immu- nodeficiency, Combined Immuno- deficiency, Lymphoma, CD4 ↓, CD19 ↓, Isohemag- glutinin ↑, T And B Cell Proliferation
L#	Σ	6	7	+	+				1 Sister		+	Primary Immuno- deficiencl, Lymphope- nia, Iga ↓
8#	ш	7	Congenital	+	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1		+	Inflammatory bowel dis- ease, ulcer- ative colitis, eczema, chronic diarrhea, anal abscess, hydronephro- sis, short stature
6#	Σ	23	2 MONTH	+		+			I		+	Diabete mellitus malabsor tion, deve opmenta delay, develop delay, delay, develop mental

MIMO	# 102700	# 606593	# 170100	# 102700	# 611521	# 233650, # 603554, # 601457	# 233650, # 603554, # 601457	# 613148	# 610370
Genetic diagnosis	Severe combined immu- nodeficiency due to ADA deficiency	LIG4 syndrome	Prolidase deficiency	Severe combined immuno- deficiency due to ADA defi- ciency, Autosomal reces- sive; Adenosine deaminase deficiency, partial, Autoso- mal recessive	Immunodeficiency 35	Combined cellular and humoral immune defects with granulomas, Omenn syndrome, Severe com- bined immunodeficiency, B cell-negative	Combined cellular and humoral immune defects with granulomas, Omenn syndrome, Severe com- bined immunodeficiency, B cell-negative	Inflammatory bowel disease 28, early onset, autosomal recessive	Diarrhea 4, malabsorptive, congenital
Agmg classification / pathogenicity criteria (ACMG)	Pathogenic / PVS1, PM3, PM2, PP5	Pathogenic/ PM3, PVS1, PM2, PS3, PP1, PP5	VUS /PM2, PM4	Likely Pathogenic / PVS1, PM2	Pathogenic / PVS1, PM3, PM2, PP5	Pathogenic / PM3, PM2, PM5, PP3, PM1, PP2, PS3, PP5	Pathogenic / PM3, PM2, PM5, PP3, PM1, PP2, PS3, PP5	Likely Pathogenic / PP3, PM2	Likely Pathogenic / PVS1, PM2
gnomAD frequency (Aggregated - Aggrega- tion of gnomAD exome + genome)	0.0001131	0.00009549	0.000004958	not found	N/A	0.00003979	0.000003979	not found	not found
mutation type	Frameshift	Stop Gain	In frame /Non Frameshift	Splice	Frameshift	Missense	Missense	Missense	Stop Gain
Variant	c.956_960del (p.Glu319Glyfs*3)	c.2440C>T (p.Arg814*)	c.1359_1361del (p.Glu453del)	c.95+2del	c.647del (p.Pro216Argfs*14)	c.104G>C (p.Gly- 35Ala)	c.104G>C (p.Gly- 35Ala)	c.133T>G (p.Trp- 45Gly)	c.10C>T (p.Gln4*)
Zygosity	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous	Homozy- gous
9	NM_000022.4	NM_206937.2	NM_000285.4	NM_000022.4	NM_003331.5	NM_000536.4	NM_000536.4	NM_001558.4	NM_020999.4
Genes	ADA	LIG4	PEPD	ADA	TYK2	RAG2	RAG2	IL10RA	NEU- ROG3
Patient ID	#	#2	£#	#4	#5	9#	2#	#	6#

Table 2. Genetic results of patients with autosomal recessive inheritance disease.

aids in the development of effective strategies for disease
management. Consequently, it provides an effective
approach in the fields of genetic counseling and patient
monitoring (10).

167 It is important to note that while this study provides 168 valuable insights into the genetic etiology and clinical features of immunodeficiency in a single-center cohort, 169 it does not fully confirm whether this cohort can be 170 171 generalized to a larger population or if it could serve as a 172 representative sample for the broader immunodeficiency community. Given that all patients were referred to 173 the Genetic Disorders Evaluation Center at Istanbul 174 Medipol University between 2015 and 2024, the findings 175 may reflect the specific patient population within this 176 particular center and healthcare system. This raises the 177 possibility that findings from this study may not fully 178 represent the immunodeficiency spectrum observed 179 across different regions or healthcare settings. Therefore, 180 further research with multi-center studies or larger 181 182 cohorts would be beneficial in confirming the broader applicability of the results and understanding the genetic 183 and clinical diversity in the immunodeficiency patient 184 population. 185

Patient #1 and Patient #4 exhibit similar clinical 186 findings, both showing pathogenic changes in the ADA 187 gene. In Patient #1, a homozygous frameshift mutation 188 p.E319Gfs*3 (c.956 960delAAGAG) was identified 189 in the ADA (NM 000022.4) gene. This variant is 190 categorized as a "disease-causing mutation" in the 191 192 HGMD database under accession number CD930882 193 for "Adenosine deaminase deficiency," and classified as "pathogenic/likely pathogenic" in the ClinVar database 194 under accession number RCV000173618.3 for "Severe 195 combined immunodeficiency (SCID) due to ADA 196 deficiency." According to ACMG criteria (PVS1, PP5, 197 PM2), this variant is classified as "pathogenic"(11). 198

In Patient #4, a homozygous splice variant c.95+2delT was detected in the *ADA* (NM_000022.4) gene. This variant is classified as "likely pathogenic" based on ACMG criteria (PVS1, PM2, and PP3). Both mutations are consistent with the SCID resulting from "Adenosine deaminase deficiency."

Severe combined immunodeficiency due to ADA 205 deficiency (OMIM #102700) is an autosomal recessive 206 genetic defect characterized by severe deficiencies 207 in T, B, and NK cells, accounting for 10%-15% of 208 SCID cases. Generally, ADA deficiency is diagnosed 209 in infancy, with over 85% of affected individuals 210 showing severe immunodeficiency symptoms, including 211 recurrent opportunistic infections, lymphopenia, and 212 developmental delays within the first six months of 213 life (12). The clinical features of patients with ADA-2 214 deficiency reported in the literature show similarities 215 with the severe immunodeficiency symptoms exhibited 216 by Patient #1 and Patient #4. This indicates that both 217 patients share common phenotypic characteristics 218 associated with ADA deficiency. 219

Patient #2 presented to our institution with clinical features
including primary immunodeficiency, lymphopenia,
neutropenia, elevated MVC, pancreatic insufficiency,
atrophic kidney, abnormal urinary system, premature

birth, short stature, growth delay, microcephaly, 224 developmental delay, and joint hypermobility. 225

WES analysis revealed a homozygous p.R814X 226 (c.2440C>T) nonsense variant in the *LIG4* (NM 002312.3) 227 gene. This variant is reported in the HGMD database 228 under access number CM014721 as a "disease-causing 229 mutation" for LIG4 syndrome, and in the ClinVar database 230 under rs104894419 as "pathogenic/likely pathogenic" 231 (13). According to ACMG criteria (PVS1, PM2, PP3, and 232 PP5), this variant is classified as "pathogenic." The LIG4 233 gene is associated with the "LIG4 syndrome" phenotype in 234 the OMIM database (OMIM: #606593). 235

LIG4 syndrome is characterized by autosomal 236 recessive severe combined immunodeficiency, radi 237 sensitivity, chromosomal instability, pancytopenia, 238 and developmental and growth delays. Some patients 239 with this syndrome have also been reported to exhibit 240 leukemia and dysmorphic facial features (14). In the 241 literature, patients with compound heterozygous variants 242 in the LIG4 gene have been reported to have a history 243 of chronic infections, microcephaly, growth retardation, 244 leukopenia, anemia, thrombocytopenia, and indications 245 of acute kidney failure (15). Patient #2's clinical findings 246 largely overlap with those reported in the literature for 247 LIG4 syndrome. 248

Patient #3 is a 7-year-old male from a consanguineous 249 family who presented to our institution at 5 months of 250 age with immunodeficiency, liver disease, X-linked 251 lymphoproliferative syndrome (XLP), deficiencies in 2.52 MAGT1, STK4, ITK, coronin, GATA2, CD27, and MCM4, 253 regional seizures, hepatomegaly, and splenomegaly. A 254 homozygous c.1359 1361delGGA in-frame deletion 255 was identified in the PEPD (NM 000285.3) gene. 256 classified as a "disease-causing mutation" in the HGMD 257 database under access number CD941756 for "Prolidase 258 deficiency" and as "pathogenic" in the ClinVar database 259 under access number rs757386104, with a population 260 (0.00001223,frequency gnomAD) significantly 261 below polymorphism levels(16). Biallelic PEPD gene 262 mutations are associated with the "Prolidase deficiency" 263 phenotype in the OMIM database (OMIM: # 170100). 264 The "Prolidase deficiency" phenotype is characterized by 265 cutaneous lesions (painful skin ulcers and telangiectasias), 266 recurrent infections (especially cutaneous and respiratory 267 infections), dysmorphic facial features, developmental 268 delay, intellectual disability, anemia, thrombocytopenia, 269 and hepatosplenomegaly. Clinically, it is heterogeneous 270 among patients, and the severity varies greatly (17). 271 Although the variant identified in this patient is classified 272 as a variant of uncertain significance (VUS) according 273 to current guidelines, the case was included in the study 274 due to the clear phenotypic expression consistent with 275 the associated genotype. The strong genotype-phenotype 276 correlation observed in this patient, along with the clinical 277 features that aligned with the known manifestations of 278 the disorder, supported the inclusion of this case in the 279 study despite the uncertain classification of the variant. 280

Patient #5 is a 4-year-old female from a consanguineous 281 family who presented to our institution with clinical 282 findings of severe pneumonia and a preliminary 283 diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency. A homozygous 284

p.P216fs (c.647delC) frameshift mutation was identified 285 in the TYK2 (NM 003331) gene, reported as "likely 286 pathogenic" in the ClinVar database under access number 287 288 rs1555719963. In silico analyses predominantly classify this variant as "deleterious." According to ACMG 289 criteria (PVS1, PM2, PP3, and PP5), it is classified as 290 "pathogenic." Biallelic TYK2 mutations are associated 291 with the "Immunodeficiency 35" phenotype (OMIM: 292 611521), characterized by increased susceptibility to 293 localized or disseminated mycobacterial infections 294 following BCG vaccination, and are a cause of primary 295 immunodeficiency. Some patients also exhibit heightened 296 sensitivity to other intracellular organisms and viral 297 infections. In affected cases, it has been reported that 298 immune system cells are at normal levels, but faulty 299 signaling in specific immunological pathways is 300 observed (18). Additionally, mutations in the TYK2 gene 301 that affect type 1 interferon levels have been suggested to 302 303 play a significant role in the severe course of COVID-19 304 infection (19). In the literature, it has been reported that 305 homozygous and compound heterozygous changes in the TYK2 gene are associated with disease in patients with 306 recurrent infections (20). 307

Patient #6 and Patient #7 are two siblings, aged 12 and 9, 308 respectively, who exhibit similar clinical features. Both 309 patients have been found to have a homozygous p.G35A 310 311 (c.104G>C)missensemutationintheRAG2(NM 000536) gene. This mutation is classified in the HGMD database 312 with access number CM141426 as a "disease-causing 313 mutation" for "Hyper-IgM syndrome," and in the ClinVar 314 database with access number rs148508754 as having 315 "Conflicting interpretations of pathogenicity." In silico 316 analyses predominantly characterize the identified variant 317 as "damaging." According to ACMG criteria, the variant 318 is classified as "likely pathogenic" (PM2, PM5, PP2, and 319 320 PP3). The RAG2 gene has been associated in the OMIM 321 database with phenotypes such as "Combined cellular and humoral immune defects with granulomas," "Omenn 322 syndrome," and "Severe combined immunodeficiency, B 323 cell-negative" (OMIM: * 179616). 324

Patient #6 presented with a diagnosis of severe combined 325 immunodeficiency and combined immune deficiency. 326 327 The patient began experiencing symptoms at the age of 5, including autoimmune hemolytic anemia, recurrent 328 pneumonia, and granulomatous lesions. Two years later, 329 a lymphoma diagnosis was made. Laboratory results 330 showed decreased CD4 levels, decreased CD19 levels, 331 elevated isohemagglutinin levels, and increased T and B 332 cell proliferation. 333

Patient #7 presented with a preliminary diagnosis of 334 primary immunodeficiency and has shown signs of 335 lymphopenia and IgA deficiency since the age of 2. The 336 clinical features and laboratory results of both patients 337 align with the phenotypes associated with the RAG2 gene 338 in OMIM, including "Combined cellular and humoral 339 immune defects with granulomas," "Omenn syndrome," 340 and "Severe combined immunodeficiency, B cell-341 negative." 342

Considering the autoimmune hemolytic anemia, recurrent
pneumonia, and granulomatous lesions observed in
Patient #6, their condition aligns closely with the

phenotype of Omenn syndrome. Similarly, Patient #7's 346 lymphopenia and IgA deficiency also suggest a potential 347 compatibility with Omenn syndrome. Therefore, both 348 patients may have a likelihood of being associated with 349 Omenn syndrome. The literature frequently reports 350 complex clinical features such as autoimmune conditions. 351 granulomatous lesions, and infections in individuals 352 with RAG2 deficiency, which are similar to the clinical 353 presentations of Patient #6 and Patient #7(21). 354

Patient #8 is a 7-year-old male from a family with a 355 history of consanguinity, who presented with clinical 356 features of congenital immunodeficiency, inflammatory 357 bowel disease (ulcerative colitis), eczema, an abscess in 358 the anus, and chronic diarrhea. A homozygous p.W45G 359 (c.133T>G) missense mutation was identified in the 360 IL10RA (NM 001558.3) gene, which is classified in 361 the HGMD database with access number CM1412394 362 as a "disease-causing mutation" for "inflammatory 363 bowel disease, very early-onset"(22). According to 364 ACMG criteria, this change is classified as a " likely 365 pathogenic (PM2, PP3), and in silico prediction tools 366 indicate that this variant is "damaging" in variant of 367 likely pathogenicterms of its functional effect. IL10RA 368 gene mutations have been reported to be associated 369 with the phenotype of Inflammatory bowel disease 28, 370 early onset, autosomal recessive in the OMIM database 371 (OMIM: #613148). 372

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) consists of a group 373 of inflammatory diseases affecting the small and large 374 intestines in genetically susceptible individuals. The 375 main types are ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease 376 (CD) (23,24). Most patients experience these diseases 377 during adolescence or adulthood (25). However, they can 378 also manifest in infancy (26). Early-onset inflammatory 379 bowel disease (IBD) can present with a wide range of 380 symptoms, both gastrointestinal and extraintestinal. 381 Gastrointestinal symptoms may include diarrhea 382 with blood and/or mucus, frequent vomiting, growth 383 retardation, and perianal skin tags or fistulas. Systemic 384 and/or extraintestinal symptoms can involve intermittent 385 fevers, arthritis, arthralgia, folliculitis, uveitis, and 386 dermatological manifestations (27). 387

In a similar study reported in the literature, a child with 388 a different compound heterozygous mutation in the IL-389 10RA gene was also observed to have very early-onset 390 IBD (28). In this study, there are parallels between the 391 gastrointestinal symptoms and extraintestinal signs 392 experienced by the patient and those of Patient #8. Both 393 cases illustrate the broad spectrum of symptoms associated 394 with early-onset IBD. The findings in Patient #8 overlap 395 with similar cases reported in the literature, highlighting 396 the presence of both gastrointestinal and extraintestinal 397 symptoms, which emphasizes the complexity of early-398 onset IBD. This suggests that IL10RA gene mutations 399 play a significant role in the early stages of inflammatory 400 bowel disease. 401

Patient #9, a 23-year-old male from a consanguineous 402 family, presented with clinical findings that began 403 at 2 months of age, with a preliminary diagnosis of 404 immune deficiency. He also exhibited symptoms 405 of diabetes mellitus, malabsorption, developmental 406

delay, motor developmental delay, and developmental 407 regression. A homozygous p.Q4* (c.10C>T) stop codon 408 (nonsense) mutation was identified in the NEUROG3 409 (NM 020999.3) gene, classified as a "disease-causing 410 mutation" in the HGMD database under access number 411 CM1713951 for "Neonatal diabetes & malabsorptive 412 diarrhoea," and according to ACMG criteria (PVS1, 413 PM2, PP3) as "pathogenic"(29). All in silico prediction 414 tools indicate that this change, which creates an early 415 stop codon, could completely abolish gene expression, 416 yielding "damaging" results. Mutations in the NEUROG3 417 gene (OMIM *604882) have been reported in association 418 with congenital malabsorptive diarrhea (OMIM: # 419 610370), which is characterized by severe malabsorption 420 and the absence of enteroendocrine cells (30). In the 421 422 literature, a previously reported Turkish case and his 423 cousin were followed for permanent neonatal diabetes mellitus, malabsorption, and neurointestinal dysplasia, 424 where a homozygous c.10C>T variant in the NEUROG3 425 gene was identified (29). These findings highlight that 426 the clinical features of Patient #9 are similar to those of 427 other cases with NEUROG3 mutations in the literature, 428 emphasizing the role of genetic mutation in such complex 429 symptomatology. 430

431 Conclusion

This study emphasizes the importance of genetic testing 432 in diagnosing immunodeficiency diseases, highlighting 433 the effectiveness of genetic analyses in identifying the 434 underlying causes of complex diseases. Additionally, this 435 study makes a valuable contribution to the literature by 436 providing more information on the genetic foundations 437 438 of immunodeficiency diseases and demonstrating that the integration of genetic testing into clinical practice allows 439 for more accurate diagnosis and targeted management of 440 the treatment process. 441

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442 List of Abbreviations
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443	ACMG	American College of Medical Genetics and
444		Genomics
445	ADA	Adenosine Deaminase
446	BWA	Burrows-Wheeler Aligner
447	CD	Crohn's Disease
448	CLINVAR	Clinical Variation Database
449	COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
450	GATA2	GATA Binding Protein 2
451	HGMD	Human Gene Mutation Database
452	IBD	Inflammatory Bowel Disease
453	IL10RA	Interleukin 10 Receptor Subunit Alpha
454	lga	Immunoglobulin A
455	lgm	Immunoglobulin M
456	ITK	IL2-Inducible T-Cell Kinase
457	LIG4	DNA Ligase 4
458	MVC	Mean corpuscular volume
459	MCM4	Minichromosome Maintenance Complex
460		Component 4
461	NGS	Next-generation sequencing
462	NEUROG3	Neurogenin 3
463	OMIM	Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man
464	PEPD	Peptidase D (Prolidase)
465	PM	Pathogenic moderate (ACMG criteria)
466	PP	Pathogenic supporting (ACMG criteria)

PVS		Pathogenic very strong (ACMG criteria)	467				
RAG	12	Recombination activating Gene 2	468				
SCIL	1	Severe combined Immunodenciency	469				
	+ 7		470				
VUS	-	Variant of uncertain significance	472				
WES	5	Whole exome sequencing	473				
XLP	-	X-Linked Lymphoproliferative Syndrome	474				
Ack	nowled	gment	475				
We	would li	ke to thank the families who participated in this	476				
stud	ly and th	le laboratory staff who helped with this project.	477				
Dec	laration	of conflicting interests	478				
The	authors	declare that they have no conflicts of interest	479				
rega	rding th	e publication of this article.	480				
Fun	ding		481				
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Ethi	cal app	roval	483				
Ethi	cal appro	oval is not required at our institution to publish an	484				
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and	designe	d the study. M.E. A.A. S.N and A.G. performed	486				
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