Commentary

A comment on: 'Molecular diagnosis of transthyretin Met30 mutation in an Italian family with familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy' by Paola Strocchi et al., FEBS Letters 359 (1995) 203–205

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Familial amyloidotic polyneuropathy (FAP) is a heterogeneous group of genetic disorders characterized by progressive systemic deposition of extracellular amyloid fibrils, mainly affecting the peripheral nervous system. These disorders, inherited as an autosomal dominant trait, have frequently been described in various ethnic groups, but have rarely been reported in Italy.

In 1993, we published (Italian Journal of Neurological Sciences 14 (1993) 303–309) a new Italian FAP kindred including 106 members over six generations, with 19 proven affected individuals. Genomic DNA analysis of the prepositus, performed by Alessandro Mauro from the University of Turin, revealed a TTR ^{30}Val-Met substitution. This family was included in a clinical follow-up and in a molecular and genetic study, as already heralded in our article. The data will be soon published in a new paper.

Dr. Strocchi, to whom we simply sent some blood samples for amino acid sequencing of the amyloidogenic protein, used the whole of the clinical and laboratory data of the members of this family for the drawing up of her article, taking the data from our article without any verbal or written request for their use.

The behaviour of Dr. Strocchi is difficult to justify.

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