

Current Trends in OMICS (CTO)

Volume 3 Issue 1, Spring 2023

ISSN(P): 2790-8283 ISSN(E): 2790-8291

Homepage: <https://journals.umt.edu.pk/index.php/cto>



Article QR



Title: *In Silico* Analysis to Predict the Pathogenic Variants of CANT1 Gene Causing Desbuquios Dysplasia (DBQD) Type 1

Author (s): Zainab Asif Mirza, Ayman Naeem, Aamna Syed, Rana Muhammad Mateen, Muhammad Irfan Fareed, Mureed Hussain

Affiliation (s): University of Management and Technology,

DOI: Lahore <https://doi.org/10.32350/cto.31.02>

History: Received: November 22, 2022, Revised: March 20, 2023, Accepted: March 28, 2023, Published: June 15, 2023

Citation: Mirza ZA, Naeem A, Syed A, Mateen RM, Fareed MI, Hussain M. In silico analysis to predict the pathogenic variants of CANT1 gene causing desbuquios dysplasia (DBQD) Type 1. *Curr Trend OMICS*. 2023;3(1):18–38. <https://doi.org/10.32350/cto.31.02>

Copyright: © The Authors

Licensing:  This article is open access and is distributed under the terms of [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

Conflict of Interest: Author(s) declared no conflict of interest



A publication of

The Department of Life Sciences, School of Science
University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

***In Silico* Analysis to Predict the Pathogenic Variants of *CANTI* Gene Causing Desbuquois Dysplasia (DBQD) Type 1**

Zainab Asif Mirza, Ayman Naeem, Aamna Syed, Rana Muhammad Mateen, Muhammad Irfan Fareed, and Mureed Hussain *

Department of Life Sciences, School of Science, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Desbuquois dysplasia (DBQD) is an autosomal recessive chondrodysplasia that belongs to the multiple dislocation group and causes parental and afterbirth growth retardation, hand and proximal femur abnormalities, joint laxity, and scoliosis. Several missense and splice site mutations in *CANTI* gene are linked with the development of DBQD. *In silico* approaches can predict the pathogenic variations causing hereditary diseases. Hence, in the current study, *in silico* analysis was used to forecast the variants of *CANTI* gene that harm the functionality of calcium-dependent nucleotidase. A total of 281 variants with uncertain significance, retrieved from the *gnomAD*, dbSNP, ClinVar, and Variation Viewer databases, were analyzed using CADD, Meta SNP, CAPICE, and Condel to predict 61 highly pathogenic variants. Stability change predicting computational tools were applied to filter 19 highly pathogenic amino acid variants that impact protein dynamics via sample conformation or during vibrational entropy. UCSF Chimera was used for interactive visualization and analysis of unwanted interaction among 5 variants in the molecular structure of the protein. Ligand binding computational tools were used to interpret the protein-ligand interactions. A total of three (3) post-translational modification sites were also predictably disrupted by 16 variants. Spice and HSF 3.1 tools were applied to 95 variants to check their disease-causing potential. The variants of the gene were analyzed using computational tools based on different algorithms. The most damaging variants of *CANTI* gene that can affect the functionality and stability of the protein were predicted. It was determined that an extensive *in silico* analysis can determine the likely pathogenic variations for further *in vitro* experimental analysis.

Keywords: *CANTI*, Desbuquois dysplasia (DBQD), chondrodysplasia, gene mutations, gene variants, *gnomAD*

* Corresponding Author: mureed.hussain@umt.edu.pk

1. INTRODUCTION

Genetics is a critical factor that plays a crucial role in all diseases [1, 2]. Many genetic mutations affect human beings in early stages of life and cause malformation of the body. According to skeletal disorder classification and nosology, more than 400 clinical phenotypes are divided into 42 groups [3]. Moreover, 1 out of 5000 children are born with skeletal disorders. Chondrodysplasia, short stature, deformed bones, patterning defects in digits, and joint dislocation are some of the skeletal abnormalities caused by genetic defects. Chondrodysplasia includes a number of diseases caused by changes in genes. Chondrodysplasia or skeletal dysplasia are rare diseases. If taken collectively, they comprise a group that generalizes skeletal affection and results in functional skeletal limitations and even mortality [4]. Desbuquois dysplasia (DBQD) is an autosomal recessive chondrodysplasia. Its characteristics include prenatal and after birth growth retardation, short arms and legs, joint laxity, and scoliosis [5]. Hand and proximal femur abnormalities are the main characteristics /of the patients with the disease. While short long bones with ‘Swedish key’ appearance are the main radiological features of this disease. ‘Swedish key’ is marked with exaggerated trochanter appearance and advanced hand and foot bone age with delta phalanx. Severe respiratory problems are also associated with DBQD. Cognitive impairment is the clinical feature that distinguishes DBQD from other dysplasia. On the basis of characteristic hand anomaly, two forms of DBQD have been identified. Beemer et al. [6] and Meinecke et al. [7] addressed the distinct skeletal dysplasia characterized by micromelic dwarfism, vertebral abnormalities, narrow chest, and advanced carpotarsal ossification. They considered it to be the same disorder that Desbuquois described in two sisters in 1992 and suggested that it is an autosomal recessive inherited disorder [8]. The pattern of autosomal recessive inheritance of DBQD is inveterate on the association of both parental genes, horizontal transmission, and cousin marriage reports in consanguineous families [9].

CANTI and *XYLTI* gene mutations have been recognized as causative genes. In 2009, calcium activated nucleotidase (*CANTI*) were suspected of causing DBQD. A member of apyrase family, *CANTI* encodes soluble nucleotidase that favor the hydrolysis of UDP followed by GDP and UTP, although its function is still not specified in human beings. Nucleotidase has

a very low hydrolysis activity towards ADP and ATP, however, the role of *CANTI* in skeletal formation is still unknown [5].

CANTI belongs to the apyrase family of enzymes comprising nucleoside di and triphosphate hydrolyzing enzymes. They play a role in maintaining hemostasis and cause the inhibition of platelet aggregation through the hydrolysis of adenosine diphosphate [10]. Apyrase enzymes also play a vital role in neurotransmission regulation [11]. A human soluble apyrase has been cloned and its activity rigorously depends on calcium. So, it has been named as human soluble calcium activated nucleotidase 1 (hSCAN-1). *CANTI* encodes uridine diphosphate (UDP) nucleotidase, commonly required for the synthesis of proteoglycan. It is also involved in vesicular trafficking by calcium in Golgi apparatus through the activation of inositol triphosphate receptor [5]. It is responsible for DBQD and expands the hand anomaly spectrum in this disease [12]. It consists of 5 coding exons and three transcripts [13]. In 2009, Huber revealed that *CANTI* variants caused DBQD Type 1 in 9 families closely followed by Huber and colleagues [14]. In 2011, Furuichi and others demonstrated that its variants were responsible for DBQD Type 2 [15]. *CANTI* gene substrates are involved in many signaling pathways. After RT-PCR analysis, *CANTI* gene showed specific expression in chondrocytes. This demonstrates that there is an electron dense material in distended rough endoplasmic reticulum in the fibroblasts of DBQD patients [5].

Homozygosity mapping technique has been used to study DBQD. That study recognized an infant with this disease whose parents were first cousins. The most important consequence of DBQD was mapped to 17q25.3. While combining the mapping results with others, this study narrowed the critical interval of the region that contained ten annotated genes. After the sequencing of these genes, it was revealed that a 5bp duplication in the *CANTI* gene causes the disease. This report secured the role of *CANTI* gene in DBQD [14]. In 2011, three families were reported with DBQD Type 1 in hydropic fetuses of gestational weeks 17, 22, and 25, respectively. X-ray studies indicated that there was delta-shaped extra phalangeal bones and disorder-specific eminence of lesser tubercle of the femur that varied with the age of fetus. The loss of function was associated with missense mutations when *in vitro* nucleotidase activity was measured [16]. In 2011, it was suggested that c.676G>A mutation of *CANTI* gene in East Asian families should be derived from common families [17]. In 2015,

three (3) Indian patients were reported with DBQD. These patients belonged to two different families. Previously, the mutation c.676G>A (p.Val226Met) in *CANTI* gene was reported in DBQD patients from Japanese and Koreans. This study highlighted a novel homozygous mutation c.467C>T (p.Ser156Phe) and concluded that DBQD is not only present among East Asians but is also reported by the people of the Indian subcontinent [18]. Another report in 2019 revealed a Pakistani female patient diagnosed with DBQD Type 1 in three successive pregnancies. *CANTI* gene was identified as the cause of the disease after comparing the regions of homozygosity within SNP microarray from the first two terminated fetuses. The parents were tested since confirmatory tests were prevented due to insufficient fetal DNA. Both parents had the heterozygous mutation of *CANTI* ((c.643G>T; Glu215Term) gene. During the third pregnancy, ultrasound reports revealed a similar condition and the targeted analysis of the *CANTI* gene recognized homozygous c.643G>T mutation. The study suggested that the utilization of SNP microarray identifies the list of candidate genes in those broods who are at risk of a rare autosomal recessive disorder [19].

Genetic mutations need to be identified because there is no cure for the diseases caused by these mutations. Pathways for these genetic mutations need to be predicted as well for better understanding of the diseases caused by this skeletal disorder. In computational bioinformatics, *in silico* approaches have gained much attention. These approaches use the computational tools and databases of different algorithms. Before going to wet lab, variations in genetic sequences, either deleterious, mutated, or neutral, are checked out in these computational approaches to save time and expense. Even the phenotypes of these mutated genotypes can be predicted [20].

To understand the mutation's role in this gene, the current authors utilized computational tools [21] based on different algorithms [22], including missense tools to predict pathogenic variants, stability tools to analyze the impression of a mutated gene on the function of the protein, and post-translational modification analysis to detect the uncharacterized protein during translation from the genomic sequence [23].

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1. Retrieval of Variants

Genetic difference is considered to be crucial in the study of human health and SNPs help predict the changes that may have adverse health effects. To study the effects of the SNPs of *CANT1* gene, a total of 623 variants of this gene were retrieved from *gnomAD* (v2.1.1) [24], dbSNP, ClinVar, and Variation Viewer. After the application of filters on all the variants retrieved from different databases, 281 missense variants were obtained which were further analyzed for missense analysis.

2.2. Analysis and Prediction of Pathogenic Missense Variants

Missense variants with allelic frequency ≤ 0.001 were then analyzed by CADD (<https://cadd.gs.washington.edu>) [25]. CADD scores the deleteriousness of single nucleotide variants. It scores variants according to their pathogenicity potential. CADD combines more than 63 annotations. CADD analysis is very important for further *in silico* analysis.. After CADD analysis, 157 missense variants with PHRED score higher than 20 were further analyzed by CAPICE (<https://github.com/molgenis/capice>), CONDEL (<https://bbglab.irbbarcelona.org/fannsdB/>) and Meta-SNP (<https://snps.biofold.org/meta-snp/>) computational tools that predict the highly pathogenic variants of the candidate gene.

2.3. Functional Analysis of Protein

After the missense analysis of variants and filter application, the remaining variants with their respective substitution of amino acid were further analyzed for stability check, using protein stability predicting tools. The stability of protein affects its structure, expression, and solubility. Furthermore, it also has an impact on its functions. Decreased stability in protein structure due to concerned mutation is indicated by a negative scoring value in stability analysis and vice versa is true in case of a positive scoring value. DynaMut (<http://biosig.unimelb.edu.au/dynamut/>) [26], DUET (<http://biosig.unimelb.edu.au/duet/>) [27], iStable 2.0 [28], and Foldx (<http://foldxsuite.crg.eu/>) plugin in YASARA (<http://www.yasara.org/>) [29] were used to analyze the impact of mutation on protein stability based on the change in Gibbs free energy ($\Delta\Delta$).

2.4. Post-Translational Modification (PTM) Analysis of *CANTI* Gene

Post-Translational Modifications (PTM) are modifications in which there attaches a specific group by covalent bond with the protein molecule, so that proteins can perform their function [30]. These modifications are usually enzymatic modifications of proteins or the particular protein process during or after its synthesis. To access the modification in protein that can be deleterious, the current authors used an online web-server ‘ScanProsite’ at ExPASy [31]. It determines the functions of uncharacterized protein during translation from its genomic sequence. It accurately identifies the family of protein to which the new sequence belongs and can also detect various types of modifications, such as phosphorylation, sumoylation, or palmitoylation. After the analysis of protein modifications, the structural analysis of protein was predicted using the tool NetSurf-3.0 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/NetSurfP/>). This tool works on a neural network algorithm and predicts the secondary structure of amino acids in a sequence, as well as its structural disorder and backbone dihedral angles for each residue in the sequence. It also predicts the reliability of structures in the form of Z-score as ‘Buried’ or ‘Exposed’. Protein conservation analysis was carried out using the ConSurf (<https://consurf.tau.ac.il/>) server which is based on the evolutionary principle. Conserved and variable regions are indicated by the colors followed by MSA [32].

2.5. UCSF Chimera for Clashes Finding of *CANTI* Gene

Wild and mutant type protein structures have clashes. These clashes can disturb the native conformation of a particular protein structure. In this study, UCSF Chimera (<http://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/>) [33] software was used for the visualization of clashes in *CANTI* gene and energy minimization of these clashes. Structural energy minimization basically minimizes the molecules of the model, holding optically some atoms that are fixed. The Molecular Modeling Toolkit (MMTK) provides the minimization routines. Minimization is intended to clean small molecular structures and improve local interactions within the large molecule. Put simply, energy minimization moves the system toward a local minimum without crossing energy barriers and does not search for the global minimum. UCSF Chimera is designed on a clustering algorithm.

2.6. Prediction of Variant Spliceogenicity using *In Silico* Predictive Software

For splice site variants analysis, SPiCE [34], HSF 3.1 [35], and CADD were used. These softwares were used to access the pathogenicity on variations of *CANTI* gene near splice sites. The aim was to evaluate the effects of mutations on splicing signals and to recognize splicing motifs in any human sequence.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Analysis of Missense Variants

A total of 281 variants of *CANTI* gene were retrieved from these databases. Of these, 249 variants were retrieved after applying VEP annotation filter. Selected missense variants with allelic frequency ≤ 0.001 and allelic count < 50 were then analyzed using CADD. After applying the filter on variants with CADD scoring ≥ 20 , 157 variants were left. CAPICE, CONDEL, and Meta-SNP were applied to measure the effect of single nucleotide polymorphism on pathogenicity and the SNPs associated with the disease were identified. Moreover, 95 variants (60%) were predicted to be deleterious out of the remaining 157 variants using CAPICE algorithm with the applied filter of 'greater than or equals to 0.02'. Similarly, 133 variants (84%) were predicted to be disease associated by using CONDEL algorithm with the applied filter of 'greater than 0.522'. Furthermore, 80 variants (51%) with R.I. value greater than 0.5 were predicted to be deleterious by using Meta-SNP algorithm. After the analysis, only 61 highly pathogenic missense variants were obtained.

In silico analysis was used to analyze Superoxide dismutase 3 (SOD3) in a study conducted in 2019. Molecular dynamic modeling revealed two mutations, namely p.A91T and p.R231G, to be detrimental for ligand binding study [36]. In 2009, Celine Huber along with others studied 9 DBQD families and identified 7 mutations in *CANTI* gene. Among these were four nonsense mutations (Del 5' UTR and exon 1, p.P245RfsX3, p.S303AfsX20, and p.W125X), while 3 mutations were missense mutations (p.R300C, p.R300H, and p.P299L). These mutations were identified as conserved amino acid changers at the seventh nucleotidase conserved region (NRC). In 5 out of 9 families, arginine substitution at position 300 was identified.

3.2. Stability Analysis of Protein

After missense analysis, 61 highly pathogenic missense variants were analyzed for stability check, using DynaMut, DUET, and iStable 2.0. The algorithm of all these stability tools defined negative $\Delta\Delta G$ as destabilizing, while positive values represented the stabilizing of the altered protein. DynaMut predicted 34 (55%) variants as destabilizing mutations which affected protein function and 27 (44%) variants as stabilizing mutations which were functionally troublesome. DUET predicted 55 (90%) variants as the most destabilizing variants and 6 (9.8%) variants as stabilizing variants. iStable 2.0 detected 11 variants (18%) as destabilizing mutations variants and 50 variants (81%) as stabilizing variants. The cut-off value applied on variants analyzed by stability tools was < 0 (for destabilizing variants). For cross-checking the stability of variants, YASARA was performed to predict protein stability. Alanine scan and stability analysis was done using YASARA, which indicated a positive value as destabilizing protein structure. Value binding free energy change ($\Delta\Delta G$) for mutation were calculated in kcal/mol. FoldX determined the total energy of 61 variants in kcal/mol to predict the problem in protein structure. *CANT1* gene variants stability checks due to amino acid substitution using stability tools are shown in Figure 1. Out of 61 variants, 19 were considered as highly functional and affected variants. In a recent study, missense variants in ligand binding pocket were characterized through SIFT, nsSNPAnalyzer, PolyPhen-2, PhD-SNP, SNPs&GO, and SNAP2. Stability analysis was performed by algorithm I-Mutant2 to predict the effect in Alzheimer's disease [37].

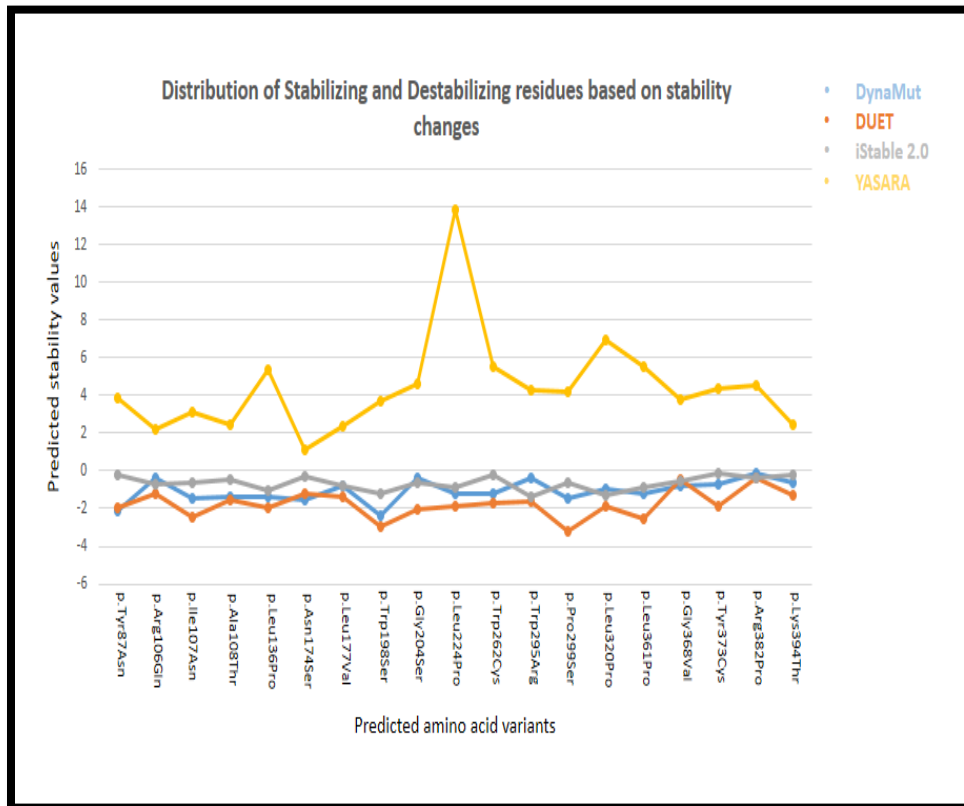


Figure 1. Stability Analysis of Missense Variants

It was determined that 19 out of 61 variants destabilize the protein structure.

3.3. Clashes Finding of *CANTI* Gene

UCSF Chimera software was used to visualize clashes in *CANTI* gene and for energy minimization of these clashes. *CANTI* protein structure was retrieved from the RCSB PDB site. Clashes or unwanted contacts occur in the wild and mutant type structures of *CANTI* protein. These clashes can disturb the native conformation of protein structure (Figure 4). No clashes were found in the wild type of Pro96Gln, Ser117Pro, Leu177Phe, Arg183Trp, and Lys394Arg. While, after structural energy minimization, there were clashes in the mutant types of these mutation residues, such as 1 clash in mutaPro96Gln, 1 in Ser117Pro, 1 in Leu177Phe, 4 clashes in Arg183Trp, and 1 clash in mutant types of Lys394Arg. Clashes in *CANTI*

gene due to mutations in protein structure using Chimera are shown in Figure 2.

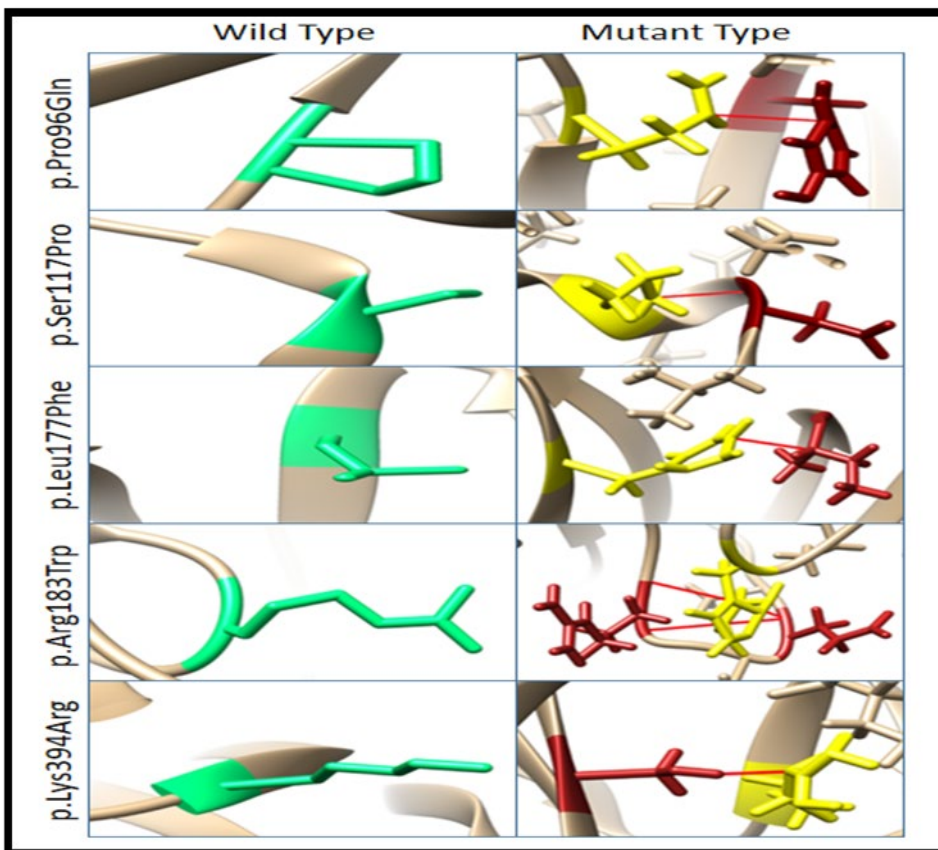


Figure 2. Clashes were Found in *CANT1* Gene Due to Mutations in Protein Structure using Chimera

Clashes were observed in the mutant types of Pro96Gln, Ser117Pro, Leu177Phe, Arg183Trp, and Lys394Arg. Spring green colour indicates the wild type residue and fire brick color shows the mutant residue, whereas red lines show the contacts found and yellow indicates the interacting residues.

3.4. Post-Translational Modification (PTM) Analysis of *CANT1* Gene

ScanProsite (EXPASY) was used to predict the post-translational modified sites in the structure of *CANT1* (PDB. I.D 1S1D) and mutant sites were visualized by using UCSF Chimera. N-glycosylation site (Condition: -N-X-S/T, Here X=uncharged amino acid), protein casein kinase II

phosphorylation site (Condition: -S/T-Aaa-Aaa-Aaa3-Aaa-Aaa, where Aaa shows acidic amino acids which must be present at +3 (Aaa3)), and protein kinase C phosphorylation site (Condition: -R/K1-3-X-S/T-X+1-(R/K)1-3, where X= uncharged amino acid and X+1=hydrophobic) were predicted as shown in figures 3a, 3b, and 3c.

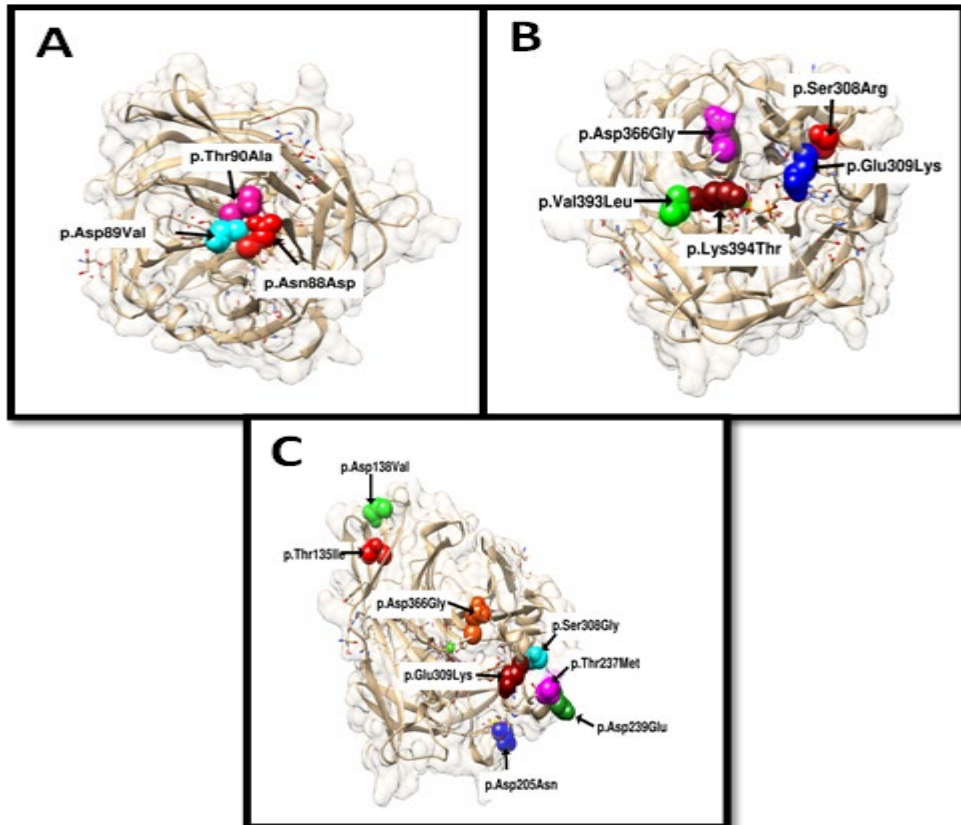


Figure 3. (A) Visualization of the loss of N-Glycosylation at positions p.Thr90Ala, p.Asp89Val, and p.Asn88Asp. These mutations disturb the motifs of NDTY. (B) Visualization of protein kinase C phosphorylation sites at positions p.Ser308Arg, p.Asp366Gly, p.Glu309Lys, P.Val393Leu, and p.Lys394Thr. Mutations p.Ser308Arg, p.Asp366Gly, and p.Glu309Lys disturb the motifs of SeK, while P.Val393Leu and p.Lys394Thr mutations disturb the motifs of SvK. (C) Visualization of protein casein kinase II phosphorylation sites at positions p.Asp138Val, p.Thr135Ile, p.Asp366Gly, P.Ser308Gly, p.Glu309Lys, p.Thr237Met, p.Asp239Glu and

p.Asp205Asn. Mutations p.Asp138Val, p.Thr135Ile affect the TIsD motifs, mutations p.Asp366Gly, P.Ser308Gly, p.Glu309Lys affect SekD motifs, mutations p.Thr237Met and p.Asp239Glu affect TtgD motifs, while p.Asp205Asn affects the SdgD.

3.5. Conservational and Structural Analysis of *CANTI* Gene

NetSurf-3.0 predicts the surface accessibility and secondary structure of amino acids in sequence, either as ‘Buried’ or ‘Exposed’. The results of conservational analysis using ConSurf and secondary structure analysis using NetSurf-3.0 data are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of Conservational Analysis using ConSurf and Secondary Structure Analysis using NetSurf-3.0

Protein Change	ConSurf		NetSurfP-2.0		
	Score	Grade	RSA	ASA	Sec.Structure Exposed/Buried
p.Asn88Asp	9	-1.11	0.466	68.252	Exposed
p.Asp89Val	4	0.403	0.447	64.384	Exposed
p.Thr90Ala	8	-0.924	0.312	43.274	Exposed
p.Thr135Ile	3	0.558	0.249	34.509	Exposed
p.Asp138Val	1	2.162	0.658	94.847	Exposed
p.Asp205Asn	6	-0.306	0.566	81.604	Exposed
p.Thr237Met	2	0.751	0.579	80.238	Exposed
p.Asp239Glu	4	0.377	0.416	60.018	Exposed
p.Asp366Gly	3	0.462	0.522	75.206	Exposed
p.Ser308Gly	5	-0.091	0.504	59.069	Exposed
p.Ser308Arg	5	-0.091	0.504	59.069	Exposed
p.Glu309Lys	7	-0.643	0.58	101.378	Exposed
p.Val393Leu	1	1.265	0.31	47.708	Exposed
p.Lys394Thr	9	-1.184	0.419	86.229	Exposed

ConSurf predicts conservational analysis in terms of color scale which represents the conservation scores (9 - conserved, 1 – variable). NetSurf-3.0 predicts surface accessibility in terms of RSA and ASA, as well as the secondary structure of amino acids in sequence, either as ‘Buried’ or ‘Exposed’.

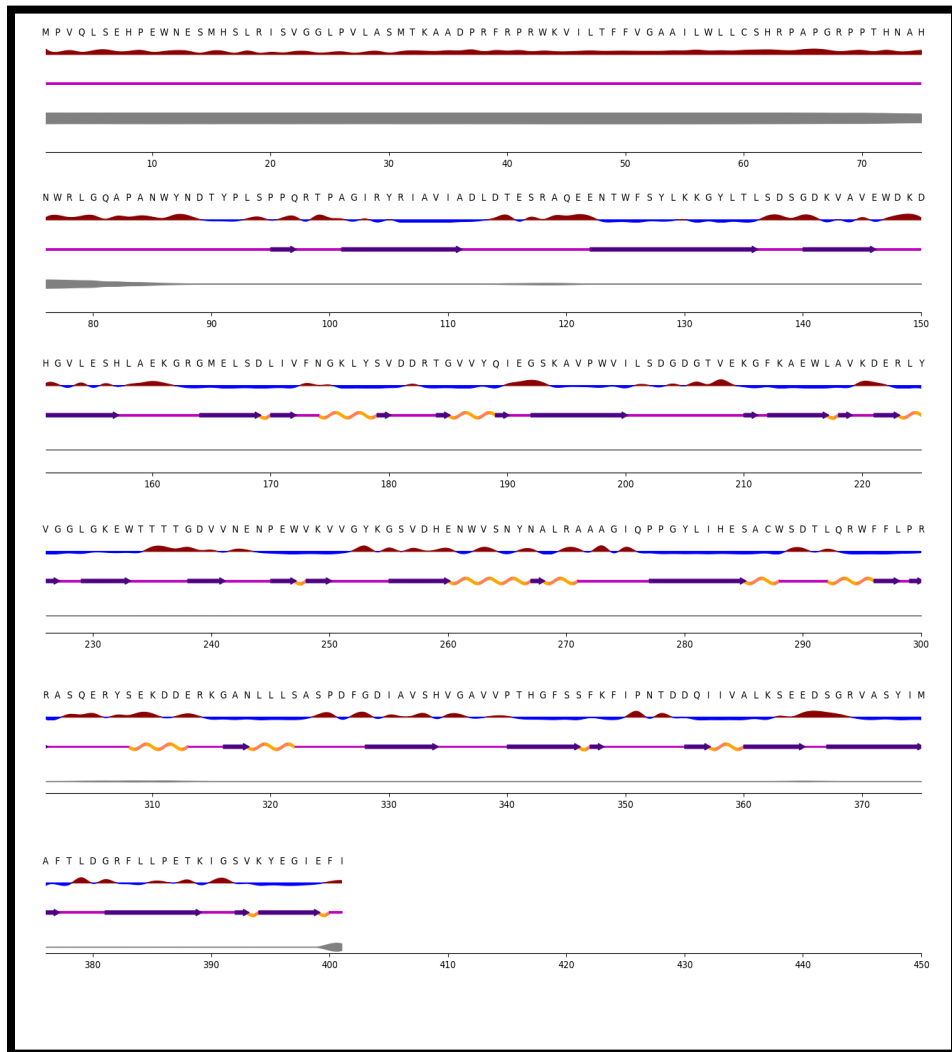


Figure 4. CANT1 structural analysis through NetSurf-3.0. Surface Accessibility: The red upward elevation indicates the exposed residue, while the sky blue low elevation shows the buried residue in protein structure. Secondary Structure: Straight pink line is the coil, the orange spiral is the helix, and the colored arrow (indigo) is the strand. Disorder: Below the secondary structure prediction line is the thick grayish line that shows the probability of disorder related to that residue. The wider the line is the greater are the chances of disordered residue.

3.6. Splice Site Variant Analysis

A total of 184 variants were retrieved from *GnomAD*. Among these, 95 variants were considered as canonical splice site variants. These 95 variants were splice region variants. For spliceogenicity of the variants, they were tested by CADD. Afterward, the variants with a score greater than 15 were selected. The researchers were left with 10 variants which were further analyzed by splicing tools, namely SPiCE and Human Splice Finder 3.1 (HSF 3.1). Table 2 shows the results of splicing analysis. Fig 5 depicts the SPiCE graphical representation output of 10 variants based on SSF-like and MES scores alteration in percentage. Variants with blue area represent the probability of alteration under the decision threshold of optimal sensitivity and variants with red area represent the probability of the upper decision threshold of specificity.

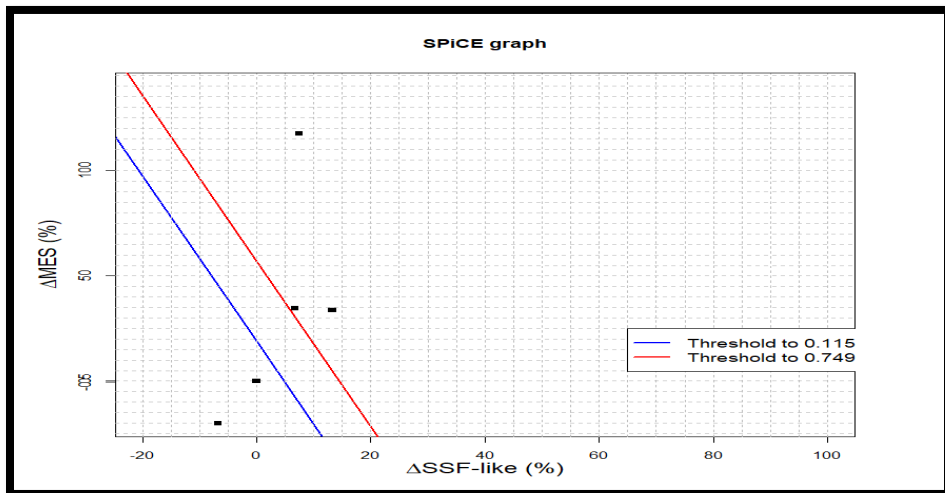


Figure 5. Graphical representation of SPiCE splicing tool of CANT1 gene. SPiCE graphical representation output of 10 variants based on SSF-like and MES scores alteration (in percentage). Variants with blue area represent the probability of alteration under the decision threshold of optimal sensitivity and variants with red area represent the probability of the upper decision threshold of specificity.

Table 2. Splice Site Variants' Analysis in CANT1 Gene using Splicing Tools (CADD, SPiCE and HSF 3.1)

INPUT	CADD	Spice		HSF	
Position	PHRED	Probability	SPiCE Prediction	HSF Prediction	HSF Score
17:78993923G>A	15.99	0.96966	High	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78993925G>C	10.8	0.02686	Low	Broken W.T. Acceptor Site	6.09>4.1 (-32.68%)
17:78993926A>G	6.929	0.80322	High	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78993929C>T	5.206	0.00039	Low	Broken W.T. Acceptor Site	6.09>0.42 (-93.1%)
17:78993944C>A	5.63	0.02686	Outside SPiCE Interpretation	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78994946T>C	5.141	0.02686	Outside SPiCE Interpretation	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78994992T>C	5.065	0.02686	Outside SPiCE Interpretation	New Acceptor splice site	5.04>7.22 (43.25%)
17:78995001G>A	5.575	0.02686	Outside SPiCE Interpretation	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78995232A>G	13.49	0.99979	High	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction
17:78996976C>A	9.931	0.02686	Outside SPiCE Interpretation	No significant impact on splicing signals.	No prediction

3.7. Conclusion

Desbuquois dysplasia (DBQD) is an autosomal recessive prenatal and postnatal growth disorder characterized by joint laxity, short extremities, and progressive scoliosis. Every 1 out of 5000 children are born with this skeletal disorder. In 2009, calcium activated nucleotidase (*CANTI*) was determined to be responsible for causing this disease. *CANTI*, a member of the apyrase family, encodes soluble nucleotidase that favour the hydrolysis of UDP followed by GDP and UTP, although its function remains unspecified in human beings. In this study, SNPs reported in *CANTI* gene were analyzed to determine the cause of DBQD. Extensive *in silico* analysis helped the researchers to understand the genetics of this disorder and identify the mutations in *CANTI* gene that cause this disorder. CADD, Meta SNP, CAPiCE, and Condel were used to examine 281 variants with unknown significance collected from the gnomAD, dbSNP, ClinVar, and Variation Viewer databases to forecast 61 highly harmful variants. The highly pathogenic 19 amino acid mutations were subjected to computational stability change prediction techniques. UCSF Chimera was utilized for the interactive display and investigation of undesirable interaction among five variants in the molecular structure of the protein. Moreover, 16 variants were projected to disrupt 3 PTM sites. Spice and HSF 3.1 tools were used to evaluate 95 variants for their propensity to cause disease and to forecast the ten splice variants with the highest pathogenicity. The reported SNP analysis of *CANTI* gene can be further extended by following wet lab experimental work or it can be observed in animal models.

REFERENCES

1. Jackson M, Marks L, May GHW, Wilson JB. The genetic basis of disease. *Essays Biochem.* 2018;62(5):643–723. <https://doi.org/10.1042/EBC20170053>
2. Jackson M, Marks L, May GH, Wilson JB. Correction: the genetic basis of disease. *Essays Biochem.* 2020;64(4):e681. https://doi.org/10.1042/EBC20170053_COR
3. Bonafe L, Cormier-Daire V, Hall C, et al. Nosology and classification of genetic skeletal disorders: 2015 revision. *Am J Med Genet A.* 2015;167(12):2869–2892. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.37365>

4. Geister KA, Camper SA. Advances in skeletal dysplasia genetics. *Annu Rev Genomics Hum Genet.* 2015;16:199–227. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-genom-090314-045904>
5. Huber C, Oulès B, Bertoli M, et al. Identification of CANT1 mutations in Desbuquois dysplasia. *Am J Hum Genet.* 2009;85(5):706–710. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2009.10.001>
6. Beemer FA, Kramer PPG, van der Harten HJ, Gerards LJ, Fraser FC, Preuc M. A new syndrome of dwarfism, neonatal death, narrow chest, spondylometaphyseal abnormalities, and advanced bone age. *Am J Med Genet.* 1985;20(3):555–558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.1320200317>
7. Meinecke P, Spranger J, Schaefer E, Maroteaux P. Micromelic dwarfism with vertebral and metaphyseal abnormalities and advanced carpotarsal ossification: Another observation. *Am J Med Genet.* 1989;32(3):432–434. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.1320320333>
8. Jéquier S, Perreault G, Maroteaux P. Desbuquois syndrome presenting with severe neonatal dwarfism, spondylo-epiphyseal dysplasia and advanced carpal bone age. *Pediatr Radiol.* 1992;22:440–442. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02013506>
9. Baratela WAR, Bober MB, Tiller GE, et al. A newly recognized syndrome with characteristic facial features, skeletal dysplasia, and developmental delay. *Am J Med Genet A.* 2012;158A(8):1815–1822. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.35445>
10. Yegutkin GG, Wieringa B, Robson SC, Jalkanen S. Metabolism of circulating ADP in the bloodstream is mediated via integrated actions of soluble adenylate kinase-1 and NTPDase1/CD39 activities. *FASEB J.* 2012;26(9):3875–3883. <https://doi.org/10.1096%2Ffj.12-205658>
11. Dunwiddie TV, Diao L, Proctor WR. Adenine nucleotides undergo rapid, quantitative conversion to adenosine in the extracellular space in rat hippocampus. *J Neurosci.* 1997;17(20):7673–7682. <https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.17-20-07673.1997>
12. Vigetti D, Genasetti A, Karousou E, et al. Modulation of hyaluronan synthase activity in cellular membrane fractions. *J Biol Chem.* 2009;284(44):30684–30694. <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M109.040386>

13. Yang M, Kirley TL. Site-directed mutagenesis of human soluble calcium-activated nucleotidase 1 (hSCAN-1): Identification of residues essential for enzyme activity and the Ca²⁺-induced conformational change. *Biochemistry*. 2004;43(28):9185–9194. <https://doi.org/10.1021/bi049565o>
14. Faden M, Al-Zahrani F, Arafah D, Alkuraya FS. Mutation of CANT1 causes Desbuquois dysplasia. *Am J Med Genet A*. 2010;152A(5):1157–1160. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.33404>
15. Kuang L, Liu B, Peng R, Xi D, Gao Y. A novel homozygous variant in CANT1 causes Desbuquois dysplasia type 1 in a Chinese family and review of literatures. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol*. 2020;13(8):2137–2142.
16. Furuichi T, Dai J, Cho T-J, et al. CANT1 mutation is also responsible for Desbuquois dysplasia, type 2 and Kim variant. *J Med Genet*. 2011;48(1):32–37. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/jmg.2010.080226>
17. Dai J, Kim O-H, Cho T-J, et al. A founder mutation of CANT1 common in Korean and Japanese Desbuquois dysplasia. *J Hum Genet*. 2011;56:398–400. <https://doi.org/10.1038/jhg.2011.28>
18. Singh A, Kim O-H, Iida A, Park W-Y, Ikegawa S, Kapoor S. A novel CANT1 mutation in three Indian patients with Desbuquois dysplasia Kim type. *Eur J Med Genet*. 2015;58(2):105–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmg.2014.11.006>
19. Forster KR, Hooper JE, Blakemore KJ, Baschat AA, Hoover-Fong J. Prenatal diagnosis of Desbuquois dysplasia Type 1: Utilization of high-density SNP array to map homozygosity and identify the gene. *Am J Med Genet A*. 2019;179(12):2490–2493. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajmg.a.61372>
20. Tchernitchko D, Goossens M, Wajcman H. In silico prediction of the deleterious effect of a mutation: Proceed with caution in clinical genetics. *Clin Chem*. 2004;50(11):1974–1978. <https://doi.org/10.1373/clinchem.2004.036053>
21. Nussinov R, Tsai CJ, Shehu A, Jang H. Computational structural biology: Successes, future directions, and challenges. *Molecules*. 2019;24(3):e637. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules24030637>

22. Navlakha S, Bar-Joseph Z. Algorithms in nature: The convergence of systems biology and computational thinking. *Mol Syst Biol.* 2011;7:e546. <https://doi.org/10.1038/msb.2011.78>
23. Yang JY, Yang MQ, Zhu MM, Arabnia HR, Deng Y. Promoting synergistic research and education in genomics and bioinformatics. *BMC Genom.* 2008;9(Suppl 1):e11. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2164-9-S1-11>
24. Khaja R, Zhang J, MacDonald JR, et al. Genome assembly comparison identifies structural variants in the human genome. *Nat Genet.* 2006;38:1413–1418. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng1921>
25. Rentzsch P, Witten D, Cooper GM, Shendure J, Kircher M. CADD: Predicting the deleteriousness of variants throughout the human genome. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2019;47(D1):D886–D894. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gky1016>
26. Rodrigues CH, Pires DE, Ascher DB. DynaMut: Predicting the impact of mutations on protein conformation, flexibility and stability. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2018;46(W1):W350–W355. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gky300>
27. Pires DEV, Ascher DB, Blundell TL. DUET: A server for predicting effects of mutations on protein stability using an integrated computational approach. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2014;42(W1):W314–W319. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gku411>
28. Chen C-W, Lin M-H, Liao C-C, Chang H-P, Chu Y-W. iStable 2.0: Predicting protein thermal stability changes by integrating various characteristic modules. *Comput Struct Biotechnol J.* 2020;18:622–630. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csbj.2020.02.021>
29. Krieger E, Vriend G. Models@Home: Distributed computing in bioinformatics using a screensaver based approach. *Bioinformatics.* 2002;18(2):315–318. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/18.2.315>
30. Mann M, Jensen ON. Proteomic analysis of post-translational modifications. *Nat Biotechnol.* 2003;21:255–261. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt0303-255>

31. Hulo N, Bairoch A, Bulliard V, et al. The PROSITE database. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2006;34(Suppl_1):D227–D230. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkj063>
32. Ashkenazy H, Abadi S, Martz E, et al. ConSurf 2016: An improved methodology to estimate and visualize evolutionary conservation in macromolecules. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2016;44(W1):W344–W350. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkw408>
33. Pettersen EF, Goddard TD, Huang CC, et al. UCSF Chimera–A visualization system for exploratory research and analysis. *J Comput Chem.* 2004;25(13):1605–1612. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcc.20084>
34. Leman R, Gaildrat P, Le Gac G, et al. Novel diagnostic tool for prediction of variant spliceogenicity derived from a set of 395 combined in silico/in vitro studies: An international collaborative effort. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2018;46(15):7913–7923. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gky372>
35. Desmet F-O, Hamroun D, Lalande M, Collod-Bérout G, Claustres M, Bérout C. Human Splicing Finder: An online bioinformatics tool to predict splicing signals. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2009;37(9):e67. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkp215>
36. Pereira GRC, Da Silva ANR, Do Nascimento SS, De Mesquita JF. In silico analysis and molecular dynamics simulation of human superoxide dismutase 3 (SOD3) genetic variants. *J Cell Biochem.* 2019;120(3):3583–3598. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.27636>
37. Pereira GRC, Gonçalves LM, Abrahim-Vieira BdA, De Mesquita JF. In silico analyses of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) and its genetic variants in interaction with the anti-Alzheimer drug Rivastigmine. *J Cell Biochem.* 2022;123(7):1259–1277. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.30277>