INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY THE FRANCIS CRICK INSTITUTE



### **DYRK1A and ocular diseases**

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### How does it start?



"Do eye defects observed in my son are related to his DYRK1A-associated intellectual disability?"

### **Contact families** DYRK1A Syndrome International Association (DSIA)

- 26 patients from DYRK1A Syndrome International Association (DSIA)
  - Ocular defects? Yes, for 26 patients
  - Genetic details? Yes, for 14 patients



### **Contact families** UK Genomics England 100,000 Genomes Project

• Sequencing ~85,000 NHS patients with rare disease or cancer and their families

 $\rightarrow$  19 patients with *DYRK1A* mutations





#### **Contact families** Published cases

• 112 patients with *DYRK1A* mutations reported in the literature



**Contact families** 

- 14 patients with genetic details from DYRK1A Syndrome International Association (DSIA)
- 19 patients from the UK Genomics England 100,000 Genomes Project
- 112 patients reported in the literature
- → 145 patients from 144 unrelated families







### 62.1% of patients have ocular features



### 35.6% of patients have refractive error





### 21.1% of patients have strabismus



# 25.5% of patients have enophthalmia or deep-set eyes



## 20% of patients have optic nerve abnormalities



# 47.8% of patients have other ocular features





### **DYRK1A and brain development**

- DYRK1A is expressed in developing and adult brain and optic nerve development
- DYRK1A influences neural development
- Mouse model mimics patient diseases (including optic nerve abnormalities)



### DYRK1A syndrome, a genetic disease

- DNA is like a text, in two copies
- Important to have two clear copies
- A misspelling, an insertion or a deletion can modify the text
- Some misspellings do not modify the understanding of the text



# Specific mutations lead to specific ocular defects?

- 108 mutations in *DYRK1A* associated with intellectual disability
  - Large deletions
  - Misspelling (81 mutations)
- Similar ocular diseases between patient groups with or without large deletions
- Large deletion affect several genes which may contribute to extra-DYRK1Arelated features



# Specific mutations lead to specific ocular defects?

- Same misspellings showed a variable ocular features
- We are unique, with misspellings in other genes
- Numerous ocular features were ambiguous



#### **UCL**

### Conclusions

- Increased risk of ocular pathology compared to the general population
  - Optic nerve defect
  - Refractive error (x2)
  - Strabismus (x6.7)
- Recommend to refer to ophthalmology after genetic diagnosis is confirmed
- The treatment of any preventable vision loss may reduce the social and behavioural difficulties seen in these patients

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### Thank you!

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