Mutations in gene causes metabolic syndrome in Iranian families

Genetic mutations causing an inherited form of the metabolic syndrome have been found, with implications for drug development across diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

A substitution error in the gene DYRK1B tracked exactly with early-onset coronary artery disease, abdominal obesity, hypertension, and type 2 diabetes running in three large families in Iran, Arya Mani, MD, of Yale, and colleagues found.

A second substitution mutation in the same gene was found in affected, but not unaffected, members in a fourth family of a different ethnic background, the group reported in the May 15 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The specific mutations found are likely rare, but genome-wide association studies have also linked DYRK1B to type 2 diabetes and traits associated with the metabolic syndrome, which may implicate common variants in the general population, the group noted.

Read the full, original story: Metabolic Syndrome: Genetic Trigger?