SHORT COMMUNICATION

Withdrawn by the authors: Substituting Abstract

O-12. ROLE OF HOXA2 IN MOUSE EXTERNAL EAR MORPHOGENESIS: A MODEL TO DECIPHER HUMAN CRANIOFACIAL GENETIC DISORDERS

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A variety of human conditions affect external ear morphogenesis, including microtia and partial duplications. A human *HOXA2* partial loss of function induces a bilateral microtia associated to an abnormal shape of the auricle [1]. In the mouse, *Hoxa2* is indispensable for the patterning of second arch neural crest cells (NCCs) and their derivatives including external ear structures. Indeed, *Hoxa2* inactivation resulted in the duplication of the external auditory canal and absence of the auricle [2,3]. Thus, functional analysis of *Hoxa2* in mouse may provide insights into the molecular mechanisms of external ear morphogenesis and a suitable model to understand the etiology of human abnormalities.

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3- Santagati F., Minoux M., Ren S. Y. and Rijli F.M. (2005). Temporal requirement of Hoxa2 in cranial neural crest skeletal morphogenesis. *Development* 132, 4927-4936.