

Cleft lip and palate in the Chilean population: association with BamH1  
polymorphism of the transforming growth factor alpha (TGFA) gene Fisura  
labiopalatina en población chilena: asociación con polimorfismo BamH1 del gen  
factor transformante del crecimien

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In recent studies we have demonstrated that the model that better explains the genetic etiology of non syndromic cleft lip/palate (CL/P) in the Chilean population is one that postulates the existence of a major dominant autosomic locus with low penetrance, without discarding the possible influence of polygenes. Similar conclusions have been communicated by others authors in different populations. Thus, investigations have been initiated to seek possible associations between candidate genes and restriction length polymorphisms (RFLP's), specifically between Transforming Growth Factor Alpha (TGFA) gene RFLP's and CL/P, in caucasian populations. Results thus far obtained have been inconclusive. Therefore, the aim of this work was to study this association in the Chilean population, that is ethnically different. The gene and phenotype frequencies of the TGFA gene BamH1 polymorphism in CL/P probands (n = 21) and controls (n = 16) were determined. No significant differences were detected in