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# Lab Resource: Genetically-Modified Multiple Cell Lines

# Generation of two heterozygous GATA2 CRISPR/Cas9-edited iPSC lines, R398W and R396Q, for modeling GATA2 deficiency



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# ABSTRACT

Germline heterozygous GATA2 mutations underlie a complex disorder characterized by bone marrow failure, immunodeficiency and high risk to develop myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Our understanding about GATA2 deficiency is limited due to the lack of relevant disease models. Here we generated high quality human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) lines carrying two of the most recurrent germline GATA2 mutations (R389W and R396Q) associated with MDS, using CRISPR/Cas9. These hiPSCs represent an *in vitro* model to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying GATA2 deficiency, when differentiated into blood progenitors.

(continued)

## Resource Table

| Resource Ta  | ble   |   |  |                   |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Unique stem cell   | 1. ESi086-A-1   |   | n Cells have been grown in Matrigel and mT | 'eSR-1 (Stem Cell |
| lines identifier   | 2. ESi086-A-2   | used  | Technologies)                              |                   |
|  | (s)1. CBiPS8-3F-4 GATA2-R396Q-12<br>es 2. CBiPS8-3F-4 GATA2 R398W-8 | Type of Genetic<br>Modification                                   | Monoallelic point mutations in exon 6 of 6 | 3ATA2 gene        |
| Institution  | Intitut d'Investigació Biomédica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL)             | Associated disease  | GATA2 deficiency (OMIM:137295)             |                   |
| Contact  | Alessandra Giorgetti (agiorgetti@idibell.cat)                       | Gene/locus  | GATA2 (OMIM:137295; NM_001145661           | .2)               |
| information of<br>the reported ce<br>line distributor            |   | Method of<br>modification/<br>site-specific                       | CRISPR/Cas9                                |                   |
| Type of cell lines   | iPSC  | nuclease used   |  |                   |
| Origin   | Human   | Site-specific   | RNP  |                   |
| Additional origin  | Age: 0  | nuclease (SSN)  |  |                   |
| info (applicable   | 6   | delivery method   |  |                   |
| for human ESC  |   | All genetic materia   | alssODN                                    |                   |
| iPSC)  |   | introduced into   |  |                   |
| Cell Source  | Cord blood CD133 + cells  | the cells   |  |                   |
| Method of reprogramming  |   | Analysis of the<br>nuclease-targete                               | RFLP + Sequencing of the targeted allele d |                   |
| Clonality  | Clonal  | allele status   |  |                   |
| Evidence of the<br>reprogramming<br>transgene loss<br>(including | N/A   | Method of the off-<br>target nuclease<br>activity<br>surveillance |  |                   |
| genomic copy i   | f   | Name of transgene   |  |                   |
| applicable)  |   |   | N/A  |                   |
|  | (continued on next column)  |   |  | (continued on nex |

(continued on next column)

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|      |  |
|      |  |

| (continued)                      |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Eukaryotic                       |   |
| selective agent                  |   |
| resistance                       |   |
| (including                       |   |
| inducible/gene                   |   |
| expressing cell-                 |   |
| specific)                        |   |
| Inducible/                       | N/A   |
| constitutive                     |   |
| system details<br>Date archived/ | Annil 2021  |
| stock date                       | April 2021  |
| Cell line                        | Cell lines registered at Banco Nacional de Líneas Celulares at Instituto  |
|                                  | de Salud Carlos III (SPAIN)   |
| repository, built                | https://www.isciii.   |
|                                  | es/QueHacemos/Servicios/BIOBANCOS/BNLC/Paginas/LineasiPS.   |
|                                  | aspx  |
|                                  | Nomenclature:   |
|                                  |   |
|                                  | - CBiPS8-3F-4 GATA2-R396Q-12  |
|                                  | - CBiPS8-3F-4 GATA2 R398W-8   |
|                                  | Comisíon de Seguimiento y Control de Donación y Utilizacion de  |
| approvals                        | Células y Tejidos Humanos" (approval number 206 173 1, Title:   |
|                                  | Generacion y banqueo de celulas humanas pluripotentes inducidas   |
|                                  | (ips) a partir de celulas madre de cordon umbilical para la producción  |
|                                  | de células madre sanguíneas and approval number 525 428 1 Title:<br>Human disease modelling of GATA2- related Myelodysplastic |
|                                  | Syndromes and Acute Myeloid Leukemia)   |
| Addgene/public                   | N/A   |
| access repository                |   |
| recombinant                      |   |
| DNA sources'                     |   |
| disclaimers (if                  |   |
| applicable)                      |   |
|                                  |   |

#### 1. Manuscript section expected contents clarification

#### 1.1. Resource utility

The iPSCs carrying heterozygous GATA2 mutations, R398W and R396Q, give an unprecedent opportunity to provide unlimited number of iPSC-derived blood progenitors *in vitro*, overcoming the restrictions in accessing primary patient samples. This human-based GATA2 deficiency model will allow a better understanding of how GATA2-germline mutations promotes susceptibility to myeloid neoplasia. Table 1.

#### 2. Resource details

GATA2 deficiency belongs to a newly established World Health Organization (WHO) group of hereditary syndromes with predisposition to myeloid malignancies (Smith et al., 2004).

Individuals with germline heterozygous GATA2 mutations show a very complex and multisystemic phenotype with hematologic cytopenia leading to MDS, immunodeficiency involving B, NK, monocytic, CD4+, DC cell lineages, deafness and lymphedema(Hahn et al., 2011). Based on literature at least 75% of GATA2 mutation carriers develop MDS/AML at an estimated median age of 20 years (Wlodarski et al., 2016). Nowadays, chemotherapy and allogenic hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplantation remains the only treatment with favorable response. A mechanistic understanding of how GATA2 haploinsufficiency affects hematopoietic development is hindered by the lack of faithful disease model systems. Germline GATA2 mutations are either truncating loss-offunction (LOF) mutations, missense mutations in ZF2, or mutations disrupting Intron 4 enhancer site (Wlodarski et al., 2016). These mutations are thought to result in reduced/loss of GATA2 function, specifically abolishing the DNA-binding function of ZF2 (Chong et al., 2018). To date only few germline GATA2 mutations have been functionally studied. Therefore, using precise gene editing strategy we generated human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) carrying two of the most

recurrent germline GATA2 mutations associated with MDS.

CRISPR/Cas9 system was applied on healthy iPSC line (CBiPS8-3F-4), by using self-designed sgRNA targeting each mutation (R396Q and R398W). iPSCs were nucleofected with Cas9 protein and sgRNA together with an ssODN donor carrying the desired mutation. A 1187 G > A was introduced for the R396Q edited cell line, and 1198C > T was introduced for R398W edited cell line. After nucleofection single cell clones were expanded and screened by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) by digestion with XmnI. Positives clones were Sanger sequenced to verify the presence of the monoallelic mutations (Fig. 1A). One representative clone was selected for each mutation.

Both hiPSC lines maintained a normal 46XY karyotypes (Fig. 1B) and showed strong alkaline phosphatase (AP) activity (Fig. 1C). Immunofluorescence and flow cytometry analysis revealed expression of pluripotency markers such as NANOG, OCT4, SSEA4, TRA-1-81 and TRA-1–60 (Fig. 1C and D; scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m). Quantitative RT-PCR showed that both iPSC lines expressed a set of pluripotency genes, including OCT4, SOX2, NANOG, and REX1, uncovering a gene-expression profile comparable to hESC line, (Fig. 1E). Both hiPSC lines were able to form embryoid bodies (EBs) with high efficiency, which could be differentiated into derivatives of the three embryonic germ layers, including TUJ1 and GFAP-positive ectoderm,  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein (AFP) and FoxA2-positive endoderm, and CD45/CD34-positive mesoderm (Fig. 1F, scale bar = 25 µm). The iPSC line identity was confirmed by short tandem repeat analysis (STR) and compared with the original parental CBiPS8-3F-4 clone (Castano et al., 2019) (Supplementary Table S1). All cell lines were free from mycoplasma contamination as determined by PCR. (Supplementary Fig. S1)

#### 3. Materials and methods

#### 3.1. Human iPSC cultures

Human iPSC lines were maintained in a feeder-free culture system on Matrigel (BD Biosciences, MA)-coated 60-mm plates with mTeSR1 medium (StemCell Technologies) at 37 °C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and 20% O<sub>2</sub>. Culture medium was changed daily and cells will be passaged weekly by EDTA dissociation (EDTA 0.5  $\mu$ M + PBS).

## 3.2. CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing

The CRISPR tool (https://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/breakingcas) was used to design GATA2 sgRNA (Table 2). A guide sequence with a high probability to target the region of interest and low probability to generate off-targets was chosen. Rock inhibitor (Y-27632; 10uM) was added to the iPSCs 3 h before nucleofection. 100 pmol Alt-R® S.p. Cas9 (IDT) was incubated with 120 pmol Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9 sgRNA (IDT) at 25 °C for 10 min. 4uM of ssODN was added to the RNP complex prior the nucleofection. 200.000 cells were dissociated with Accutase (Gibco), washed twice with PBS without Ca and Mg and resuspended with 20ul of P3/S1Buffer. RNP complex + ssODN was added to the cell pellet and transferred to the 20ul cuvette. Cells were nucleofected with 4-D Nucleofector System (Lonza) using the CA-137 program. Nucleofected cells were cultured in a 12 well plate, with mTSR1 and 10uM of Y-27632. After 72 h of recovery, 1000 cells were seeded at a single cell level in a 100 mm plate to form single-cell colony. Genotyping was performed by PCR, RFLP and Sanger sequencing in single cell colonies to analyze the gene mutation.

#### 3.3. Karyotyping

Genomic integrity of the iPSC lines (passages 29 & 34) was evaluated by G-banded metaphase analysis with a resolution of 300–500 bands (Sant Joan de Déu, Barcelona). 70% confluent iPSC colonies were incubated with KaryoMax colcemid (Invitrogen), trypsinized, treated with hypotonic solution and fixed in Carnoy solution (75% methanol,

#### Table 1

Characterization and validation.

| Classification (optional italicized)                        | Test  | Result   | Data                          |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Morphology  | Photography   | Typical embryonic stem cell-like morphology                              | Fig. 1 <i>C</i>               |
| Pluripotency status evidence for the<br>described cell line | Qualitative analysis (Immunofluorescence                          | Immunostaining for pluripotency markers: OCT3/4 and NANOG                | Fig. 1 <i>C</i>               |
|   | Quantitative analysis (Flow cytometry and qPCR)                   | Flow cytometry: Expression of SSEA-4, TRA-1–60 and TRA-1–81              | Fig. 1D and E                 |
|   | -   | <u>R396Q</u>   |                               |
|   |   | SSEA-4: 100%TRA-1-60: 98%TRA-1-81: 63%                                   |                               |
|   |   | <u>R398W</u>   |                               |
|   |   | SSEA-4: 100%<br>TRA-1–60: 80%  |                               |
|   |   | TRA-1-60. 80%<br>TRA-1-81: 95%   |                               |
|   |   | qPCR: Expression of OCT4, SOX2, NANOG and REX1                           |                               |
| Karyotype   | Karyotype (G-banding)   | R396Q  | Figure 1B                     |
|   |   | 46, XY   |                               |
|   |   | <u>R398W</u>   |                               |
|   |   | 46, XY   |                               |
| Genotyping for the desired genomic                          | PCR and sequencing of the amplicon                                | Point mutations found in heterozygosis                                   | Fig. 1 <i>A</i>               |
| alteration/allelic status of the gene                       | surrounding point mutations                                       | NY / 4   | N7/4                          |
| of interest<br>Verification of the absence of random        | Transgene-specific PCR<br>PCR/Southern                            | N/A  | N/A                           |
| plasmid integration events                                  | PCR/Southern  | N/A  | N/A                           |
| Parental and modified cell line                             | STR analysis  | STR analysis of TH01, D21S11, D5S818, D13S317, D7S820,                   | Supplementary file 2,         |
| genetic identity evidence                                   |   | D16S539, CSP1PO, AMEL, vWa, TPOX. Both edited iPSCs                      | submitted in the archive with |
|   |   | lines match to the individual host profile                               | journal                       |
| Mutagenesis / genetic modification<br>outcome analysis      | PCR and sequencing of the amplicon<br>surrounding point mutations | Point mutations found in heterozygosis                                   | Fig. 1A                       |
| outcome analysis  | PCR-based analyses  | N/A  | N/A                           |
|   | Southern Blot or WGS; western blotting                            | N/A  | N/A                           |
|   | (for knock-outs, KOs)   |  |                               |
| Off-target nuclease analysis-                               | PCR across top 5/10 predicted top likely                          | No analysis was performed due to low probability in intergenic           | N/A                           |
|   | off-target sites, whole genome/exome sequencing                   | regions  |                               |
| Specific pathogen-free status                               | Mycoplasma  | Mycoplasma testing by RT-PCR . Both clones are negative                  | Supplementary Fig. 1          |
| Multilineage differentiation potential                      | Embryoid body formation   | Both iPSC line were differentiated into cells of mesoderm                | Fig. 1F                       |
|   |   | (CD43 and CD45), endoderm (FOXA2 and AFP) and<br>ectoderm GFAP and TUJ1) |                               |
| Donor screening (OPTIONAL)                                  | HIV 1 + 2 Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C                                | N/A  | N/A                           |
| Genotype - additional                                       | Blood group genotyping  | N/A  | N/A                           |
| histocompatibility info (OPTIONAL)                          | HLA tissue typing   | N/A  | N/A                           |

25% acetic acid). A minimum of 20 metaphases were examined.

#### 3.4. Alkaline phosphatase

iPSCs were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 1 min, washed with PBS and incubated with AP solution (Sigma) until colonies turned blue.

#### 3.5. Flow cytometry

iPSCs at passage 33 were dissociated as singles cells using Accutase (Gibco). Cells were stained with FACS antibodies (Table 2) for 15 min at RT in the dark. Gallios Flow Cytometer (Beckman Coulter) with the appopiate laser and filters sets was used to ran samples. The positive population was gated using Kaluza Analysis Software (Beckman Coulter).

#### 3.6. Immunocytochemistry for pluripotency and in vitro differentiation

iPSCs at passage 34 were fixed with 4% PFA for 20 min at RT, blocked and permeabilized with TBS + 0.5% Triton X-100 + 6% donkey serum for 1 h at RT. Primary antibodies were incubated overnight in TBS + 0.1% Triton X-100 + 6% donkey serum at 4 °C, and secondary antibodies were incubated 2 h at 37 °C (Table 2). Nuclei were stained using 4 ',6-diamino-2-fenilindol (DAPI).

To evaluate the differential potential of our iPSC lines, *in vitro* differentiation based on EB generation was performed at 37 °C, 5% CO2 and 20% O2. iPSC colonies at passage 35 were incubated with dispase

and colonies manually lifted, and incubated in ultra-low attachment plates in human embryonic stem (hES; Knockout DMEM, 10% KSR, 1% P/S) media for 24 h. EBs were then cultured with specific mediums for 48 h and seeded on matrigel coated slideflasks for 15–20 days: Ectoderm medium containing 50% Neurobasal, 50% DMEM/F12, 1% N2, 1% B27, 1% Glutamax and 1% Penicilin-Streptomycin; Endoderm containing Knockout-DMEM, 10% FBS (Hyclone), 1% NEAA, 0.1%  $\beta$ -mercaptoe-thanol, 1% Glutamax and 1% P/S; and Mesoderm as previously decribed (Castano et al. 2019). Differentiated cells were analysed by immunocytochemistry or Flow cytometry as described above. Confocal images were taken using Leica TSC SPE or Leica SP5 microscopes.

#### 3.7. Quantitative RT-PCR

mRNA was isolated from iPSCs at passage 33 using the standard RNAeasy MiniKit (QIAGEN) following manufacturer's protocol. For qRT-PCR, SYBR green (Life technologies) was used. Primer sequences are listed in Table 2. Ct values were normalized using GAPDH as housekeeping gene. Assays were run on the ABI PRISM 7900HT system (Applied Biosystems) and data were analyzed with the 2- $\Delta$ Ct method.

#### 3.8. Sequencing

Genomic DNA was isolated using QIAamp DNA Mini Kit (QIAGEN) according to manufacturer's protocol. PCR was performed with the primers GATA2-gDNA-PCR (Table 2) with GoTaq Flexi DNA Polymerase (Promega) with the following protocol; 95C for 5 min, 35 cycles of 95 °C for 30 s, 65 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 60 s and 72 °C for 7 min. PCR products

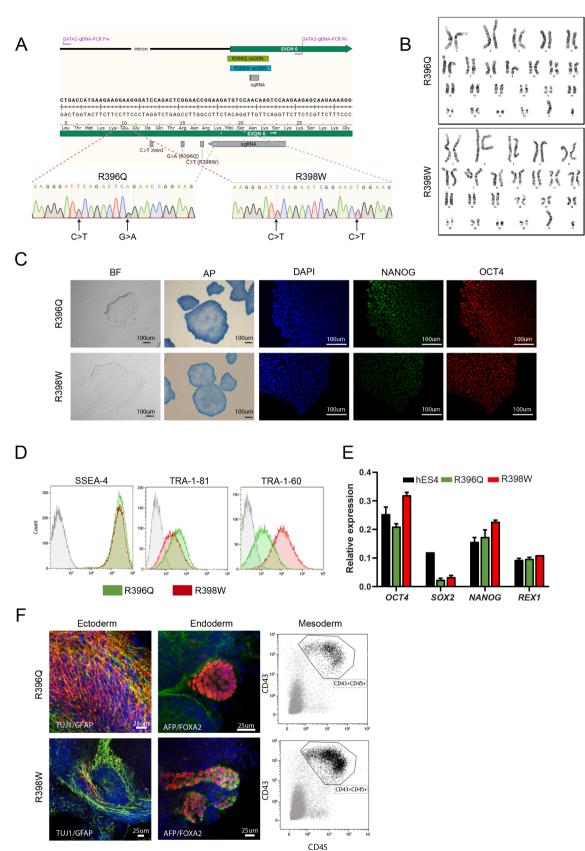


Figure 1: Generation and characterization of GATA2 (R396Q & R398W) mutated iPSC lines

Fig. 1. .

Table 2 Reagents details.

| Antibodies and stains u                               | used for immunocytochem  | istry/flow-cytometry   |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   | Antibody   | Dilution   | Company Cat # and RRID   |
| Pluripotency markers                                  | Mouse anti-OCT4 Goat<br>anti-NANOG AF-647<br>anti-SSEA-4 PE anti-<br>TRA-1–60 AF-647 anti-<br>TRA-1–81   | 1:2 1:5 1:40 1:20 1:20   | Santa Cruz Biotechnology, SC<br>5279; RRID: AB_628051<br>R&D AF1997; RRID:<br>AB_355097 BD Bioscience;<br>560219; RRID:AB_1645442<br>BD Bioscience; 560850; RRII<br>AB_10565983 Invitrogen;<br>12-8883-82; RRID:   |
| Differentiation<br>Markers                            | Rabbit anti-Alpha-1-<br>fetoprotein Goat anti-<br>FOXA2 Mouse anti-<br>TUJ1 Rabbit anti-GFAP<br>APC-H7 anti-CD45<br>APC anti-CD43  | 1:200 1:50 1:500 1:40 1:100  | AB_891606<br>DAKO; A0008; RRID:<br>AB_2650473 R&D AF2400;<br>RRID:AB_2845414 Covance;<br>MMS-435P; RRID:<br>AB_2313773 DAKO; Z0334;<br>RRID:AB_10013382 BD<br>Bioscience; 560178; RRID:<br>AB_1645479 BD Bioscience;<br>560198; RRID:AB_1645460  |
| Secondary antibodies                                  | Cy3 Donkey anti-Mouse<br>IgG AF488 Donkey anti-<br>Goat IgG AF488<br>Donkey anti Rabbit IgG<br>Cy3 Donkey anti-Goat<br>IgG AF488 Donkey anti-<br>Mouse IgG Cy3 Donkey<br>anti-Rabbit IgG | 1:200 1:200 1:200 1:200 1:200  | Jackson Immuno Research;<br>715–165-151; RRID:<br>AB_2315777 Jackson Immun<br>Research; 705–545-147;<br>RRID:AB_2336933 Jackson<br>Immuno Research; 711–545-<br>152; RRID:AB_2313584<br>Jackson Immuno Research;<br>705–165-147; RRID:<br>AB_2307351 Jackson Immun<br>Research; 715–545-151;<br>RRID:AB_2341099 Jackson<br>Immuno Research; 711–165-<br>152; RRID:AB_2307443 |
| Nuclear stain   | DAPI   | 1:10000  | Thermo Fisher Scientific   |
| Site-specific<br>nuclease                             |  |  |  |
| Nuclease information                                  | Alt-R® S.p. Cas9<br>Nuclease V3  | IDT, Cat# 1,081,059  |  |
| Delivery method<br>Selection/enrichment<br>strategy   | Nucleofection<br>N/A   | Lonza; 4D-NucleofectorTM Core Unit + X Unit (AAF-1002B + AAF-1002X)<br>N/A   |  |
| Primers and<br>Oligonucleotides<br>used in this study |  |  |  |
|   | Target   | Forward/Reverse primer (5'-3')   |  |
| GATA2-gDNA-PCR<br>GATA2-R396Q-<br>ssODN               | GATA2 (585 bp)<br>GATA2  | CTTGGCTTGGCTGGGAAG / ACAGGTGCCATGTGTCCAG<br>CTCTAGGTTAACAGGCCACTGACCATGAAGAAGGAAGGGATTCAGACTCAGAACCGGAAGATGTCCAACAAGTCCAAGAAGAGCAAGAAAGGGGCGGAGT |  |
| GATA2-R398W-<br>ssODN                                 | GATA2  | GTTAACAGGCCACTGACCATGAAGAAGGAAGGGATTCAGACTCGGAACTGGAAGATGTCCAACAAGTCCAAGAAGAGGAGCAAGAAAGGGGCCGGAGTGCTTCG   |  |
| Alt-R® CRISPR-Cas9<br>sgRNA                           | GATA2  | TGGACTTGTTGGACATCTTC   |  |
| Pluripotency Markers                                  | OCT4 (64 bp) SOX2  | GGAGGAAGCTGACAACAATGAAA/ GGCCTGCACGAGGGTTT TGCGAGCGCTGCACAT/ TCATGAGCGTCTTGGTTTTCC ACAACTGGCCGAAGAATAGCA/  |  |

GGTTCCCAGTCGGGTTCAC CCTGCAGGCGGAAATAGAAC/ GCACACATAGCCATCACATAAGG

GCACCGTCAAGGCTGAGAAC/ AGGGATCTCGCTCCTGGAA

Homo sapiens chromosome 3, GRCh38.p13 128481318-128481019

(qPCR)

(qPCR) Genomic target

sequence(s)

House-Keeping Gene

(72 bp) NANOG (111

bp) REX1 (61 bp)

GAPDH (75 bp)

GATA2 exon 6

were purified with DNA Clean & Conentratior-5 (Zymo Research) and sent for sequencing to Eurofins. Genetic alteratios were identified using Snap Gene v5.0.6

# 3.9. Mycoplasma test

Supernatand of confluent iPSCs at passage 33 was harvested. Venor GeM Classic Mycoplasma Detection Kit (Minerva Biolabs) was used following manufacturer's protocol.

# Author contributions

J.C. designed the study, carried out the experiments, analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript; D.R.M carried out the experiments and wrore the manuscript, Y.R. carried out the experiments, A.G. analyzed and discussed the data and wrote the manuscript; all authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

# **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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# Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scr.2021.102445.

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