A Study of Genetics and Interrelation of Bromidrosis and Wet Earwax

Seung Keun Park, M.D., Jai Il Suh, M.D., Chull Wan Ihm, M.D.
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Both of axillary odor and earwax are known to be originated from the apocrine gland secretion of those areas respectively.

Authors made genetical observation of bromidrosis and type of earwax in 25 bromidrotic families. The results were as follows:

Both of bromidrosis and wet earwax were recognized to be inherited as autosomal dominant.

In the bromidrotic families the incidences of bromidrosis and wet earwax were both approximately 50% of the family members. There were no sexual differences.

In bromidrotics the incidence of wet ear wax was 97.4%. The incidence of wet earwax in general population was 0.8% in 2,640 normal Koreans as control group.

Among the postpuberal offspring of the 25 families, the members showing either both of bromidrosis and wet earwax or none of them reached 95.6%. Members with only one of the two symptoms were 4.4%. That fact suggests the two symptoms are closely related to each other genetically.

Among the postpuberal offspring of 24 couples, one sides with the two symptoms and the other sides without the two symptoms, members with only one of both symptoms were observed in 4.9%. This finding suggests genes responsible for both effects are closely linked on the same chromosome theoretically.

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Fig. 1. Pedigrees of bromidrosis and wet earwax in 25 families of bromidrosis.