

Asian J Androl 2005; 7 (2): 127–137 DOI: 10.1111/j.1745-7262.2005.00041.x AJA

### ·Original Article ·

# Identification of a novel testis-specific gene and its potential roles in testis development/spermatogenesis

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#### Abstract

**Aim:** To identify and characterize a novel gene with potential roles in testis development and spermatogenesis. **Methods:** A cDNA microarray was constructed from a human testis large insert cDNA library and hybridized with probes of human or mouse adult and fetal testes. Differentially expressed genes were isolated and sequenced. RT-PCR was used to test the tissue distribution of the genes of interest and *in situ* hybridization was performed to localize the gene expression in the mouse testis. A range of bioinformatical programs including Gene Runner, SMART, NCBI Blast and Emboss CpGPlot were used to characterize the new gene's feature. **Results:** A novel testis-specific gene, NYD-SP5, was differentially expressed in fetal and adult testes. The deduced protein structure of NYD-SP5 was found to contain an IQ motif (a short calmodulin-binding motif containing conserved Ile and Gln residues), a Carbamate kinase-like domain, a Zn-dependent exopeptidase domain and a lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) C-terminal-like domain. RT-PCR analysis revealed that NYD-SP5 was predominantly expressed in the testis but not in other 15 tissues examined. *In situ* hybridization and RT-PCR examinations revealed that the expression of NYD-SP5 is a newly found testis-specific gene with potential roles in testis development and spermatogenesis through a calmodulin-activated enzyme. (*Asian J Androl 2005 Jun; 7: 127–137*)

Keywords: spermatogenesis; testis; calmodulin

#### 1 Introduction

A central question in developmental genetics is how a complex organism with structurally, morphologically and functionally distinct tissues and organs can be derived from a single-cell zygote. The formation of different organs and tissues is based primarily on differential gene expression. While "housekeeping genes" that contribute to basic structural or metabolic cellular functions are expressed ubiquitously throughout the body, "tissuespecific" genes that contribute to specialized functions in differentiated cell types are expressed in a regulated fashion. Spermatogenesis, a complex process leading to the formation of male gametes, has been considered as a model system for developmental analysis of regulatory mechanisms associated with tissue-specific gene expression [1] because spermatogenesis is characterized by the expression of many genes that either are not expressed in any other cell type or are expressed in only very few

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other cell types. Most of these genes also exhibit stagespecific expression during spermatogenesis, which could be considered as spermatogenic cell type-specific since the occurrence of different spermatogenic cell types is also stage-specific during spermatogenesis. Therefore, the spermatogenic cell lineage has provided a unique opportunity for developmental analysis of tissue-specific gene expression and the governing regulatory mechanisms.

In order to identify developmentally regulated genes in the testis, we have constructed cDNA microarrays from a human testis large insert cDNA library [2]. cDNA probes from human fetal and adult testes were used to hybridize the cDNA microarray. NYD-SP5 was one of the clones, which was identified as a differentially expressed gene with higher intensity in the adult testis than fetal testis. Additionally, the tissue distribution and cellular localization, together with protein structure prediction results, indicated that NYD-SP5 was a novel testisspecific gene with a potential calmodulin-binding region. Calcium plays a central role in spermatogenesis [3], spermiogenesis [4] and following fertilization [5]. Many of the calcium activating events are mediated by the intracellular calcium receptor calmodulin (CaM), which when bound to calcium can activate a variety of enzymes, including protein kinases, phosphatases and phosphodiesterases [6]. Because CaM is present in all tissues, celltype-specific functions are determined by the complement of its downstream targets [7, 8]. The newly found CaM binding protein, NYD-SP5, in a spermatogenic cell would point to a new insight into the mechanism of spermatogenesis regulation through CaM.

#### 2 Materials and methods

#### 2.1 Samples

Informed consent was received from either the participants or their kin and the ethics committee of Nanjing Medical University (China) granted research approval prior to sample collection. Human adult testes (28 years old and 37 years old) were obtained from the Body Donor Center (Nanjing Medical University) and fetal testes were obtained from accidentally aborted (as a consequence of road accidents) 6-month-old fetuses (Clinical Reproductive Center, Nanjing Medical University). Testis tissue samples from five individuals with Sertoli-cellonly syndrome (SCOS) were acquired via biopsy and health volunteers with proven fertility and normal semen quality (assessed by WHO criteria, 1999) donated ejacu-

#### 2.1 Preparation of human testis cDNA microarray

The testis cDNA microarray was constructed as described previously [2]. Briefly, this microarray contained 9216 cDNA clones that were derived from a human testis 5'-STRETCH PLUS cDNA library (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA, USA [source of insert cDNA came from 25 Caucasians aged from 20 to 65 years]). The inserts were amplified by PCR using 5'-CCATTGTGTTGGTACCCGGGAATTCG-3' (P1) as a forward primer and 5'-ATAAGCTTGC TCGAGTCTAGAGTCGAC-3' (P2) as a reverse primer. PCR products were used to make the human testis cDNA microarray. The microarray was hybridized with human testis cDNA probes from deceased adults and accidentally aborted 6-month-old fetuses. The human testis cDNA microarrays were also hybridized with probes prepared from the testes of 1- and 4-week-old mice to screen for homologous genes in testis development.

#### 2.3 Sequence identification and analysis

For differentially expressed genes, cDNA clones were isolated for further analysis. The amplified cDNA plasmids were isolated and purified (QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and the inserts were sequenced using the ABI 377 automatic sequencing machine (Perkin-Elmer, Norwalk, USA). For each clone, sequence homologies were searched in the databases of GenBank. The nucleic and deduced amino acid sequences were also analyzed using a range of bioinformatical programs including Gene Runner (http://www.generunner. com),SMART (http://www.smart.embl-heidelberg.de), NCBI Blast (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast),and Emboss CpGPlot (http://www.cbi.pku.edu.cn/tools/ EMBOSS/cpgreport).

## 2.4 Analysis of NYD-SP5 gene expression in different tissues by RT-PCR

After sequence identification and analysis, a novel testis specific gene, named NYD-SP5, was found. The expression profile of NYD-SP5 was determined by using PCR screening. Multiple tissue cDNA panels, including testis, thymus, small intestine, colon, spleen, leukocyte, prostate gland, ovary, pancreas, heart, kidney, lung, placenta, liver, brain and skeletal muscle were purchased from Clontech (#1420-1). The NYD-SP5 specific primers were as follows: upstream: 5' CTCACCT TATACCTGACAAACG 3' (nt 2,627- nt 2,648) and

downstream: 5' GCCTTTCCTCAAGATCATAGC 3' (nt 2,853-nt 2,873). The PCR product was 247 bp in size. G3PDH was used as the positive control. The reagents in 50  $\mu$ L PCR reaction tubes were as follows: H<sub>2</sub>O 33.6  $\mu$ L, buffer 5  $\mu$ L, 10 mmol/L dNTP 1  $\mu$ L, Tag DNA polymerase 0.4  $\mu$ L, upstream primer 5pmol 2.5  $\mu$ L, downstream primer 5 pmol 2.5  $\mu$ L, and cDNA sample 5  $\mu$ L. PCR conditions were as follows: denaturation at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing at 56 °C for 30 sec and extension at 72 °C for 30 sec. The first cycle had a denaturation period of 5 min; the last cycle an extension period of 7 min. Thirty-five cycles of PCR were performed. The PCR products were analyzed by 1.5 % (w/v) agarose gel electrophoresis.

### 2.5 Cellular localization of NYD-SP5

#### 2.5.1 Probe preparation

Mouse homologous fragment was prepared by RT-PCR. Mouse testis total RNA was isolated using TRIzol Reagent (GIBCO BRL, Grand island, NY). Reverse transcription was performed in 15 µL of reaction mixture. First 1  $\mu$ L of total RNA (about 3  $\mu$ g, 1  $\mu$ L random primer (0.2 µg/mL Sangon, Shanghai, China) and 7 µL DEPC water were mixed and incubated at 70°C for 5 min; then  $3 \,\mu\text{L}$  M-MLV RT  $5 \times$  buffer, 0.75  $\mu\text{L}$  dNTP (20 mmol/ L), 0.35  $\mu$ L RNasin(50 U/ $\mu$ L), 1  $\mu$ L moloney murine leukemin virus (M-MLV) Reverse Transcriptase (Promega, Shanghai, China), 1 µL DEPC water were added and incubated at 37°C for 1 h, and then 95°C for 5 min. The primer sequences for amplification of mouse NYD-SP5cDNAwere: P1: 5'-CCGATATGCTGAATGTCC3'; P2: 5'-TGTCACAAAATGCTGTCC- 3'. The desired fragment was 249bp. PCR reaction mixture and conditions are the same as above except the annealing temperature was lowered to 54 °C. The PCR products were detected by staining with ethidium bromide after electrophoresis on a 1.5 % (w/v) agarose gel and purified by DNA gel extraction kit (Biorad [Hercules, CA, USA]) according to the instructions.

T7, Sp6 promoter sequences were added to the 5' end and 3' end of mouse DNA fragment, respectively also by PCR reaction. And the PCR products with T7, Sp6 promoter sequences on both sides were purified and used as the template in the *in vitro* transcription (DIG RNA labeling kit, Roche [Indianapolis, IN, USA]). The efficiency of thus obtained anti-sense and sense RNA probes were evaluated by a standard direct detection as described in The DIG System User's Guide for Filter Hybridization (Roche)(http://www.roche-applied-science.

com/prodinfo\_fst.htm?/PROD\_INF/MANUALS/ DIG\_MAN/dig\_toc.htm)

#### 2.6 In situ hybridization

For preparation of paraffin-embedded sections, mouse testes at 15 days, 30 days, and 60 days were cut and fixed in 4 % (w/v) paraformaldehyde in Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS) at 4°C overnight. The fixed testes were dehydrated with ethanol and embedded in paraffin. Paraffin-embedded sections of 5  $\mu$ m thickness were cut and collected on slides pretreated with polylysine.

Sections were deparaffinized in xylene for 10 min (two changes) and rehydrated through 100 %, 70 % ethanol (two changes), DEPC H<sub>2</sub>O and PBS (two changes). Then, the sections were treated for 10–15 min at 37°C with 2  $\mu$ g/mL proteinase K in 10mmol/L Tris, pH 7.5. After that, the enzyme digestions were stopped and post-fixed by immersing the sections in 4 % paraformalde-hyde in PBS for 5 min. Finally, the sections were further washed in PBS (two changes for 5min).

The sections were prehybridized and blocked in hybridization buffer (DIG Easy Hyb, Roche) without probe at 42°C for 2 h. The hybridization buffer was applied to each section with an optimal concentration of 100 ng/mL labeled RNA probes. Hybridization was carried out at 58°C for 16 h in a humidified chamber. Subsequently, the sections were washed in 4×SSC for 5 min, 2×SSC for 30 min, 1×SSC and 0.5×SSC for 10 min, and twice in 0.01 mol/L PBS for 10 min. The immunological detection of the DIG labeled signal was performed as described by the manufacturer (DIG Nucleic Acid Detection Kit, Roche).

## 2.7 Analysis of NYD-SP5 mRNA in normal sperm and testes of five patients with SCOS

Five male patients with SCOS were recruited in this study. Tissues from their testes were obtained via biopsy at the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medial University (Nanjing, China) for section pathologic diagnosis, and RNA was extracted using Trizol reagent. Total RNA of ejaculated sperm was also extracted with Trizol reagent. Then total RNA was reverse-transcripted to cDNA with Avian Myeloblastosis Virus (AMV) reverse transcriptase. Expression of NYD-SP5 was determined as follows: The cDNAs were amplified with the sequence specific primers (P1 and P2) as described above and PCR products were resolved by electrophoresis; the testis cDNAs were processed in a similar way to detect the presence of  $\beta$ -actin mRNA.

#### 3 Results

#### 3.1 cDNA microarray hybridization

The hybridization of the constructed testis cDNA microarrays with adult and fetal testis probes revealed a series of clones that were highly expressed in adult but not fetal testis. Of 9216 clones analyzed, 592 had intensities at least three times higher for probes prepared from adult tissue than those from fetus tissue, whereas 139 cDNA clones had at least three times higher signals for probes prepared from the fetus testis than those from adult testis. The reciprocal expression characteristics of these genes indicated that different sets of genes were involved in different developmental stages. The hybridized signal intensities from human adult and fetal testicular probes for one of the clones, named NYD-SP5, were 26.32 and 4.87 respectively, indicating a 5-fold higher expression in the adult than that in the fetus (Figure 1A, B). Also, in situ hybridization with mouse testis cDNA probe the intensities from adult and fetal testes for NYD-



Figure 1. cDNA microarray hybridized with <sup>33</sup>P-labeled (A) human fetal testis cDNA probe, (B) human adult testis cDNA probe, (B) 1-week mouse testis cDNA probe, (C) 4-week mouse testis cDNA probe. NYD-SP5 is marked with arrow.

SP5 were 12.37 and 3.0, respectively (Figure1C, D), showing the same expression time pattern with human testis.

#### 3.2 Structural features of the cDNA and deduced protein

NYD-SP5 (GenBank Accession No. AY014282) was found to consist of 3598 nucleotides and contain an open reading frame of 1027 amino acids (Figure 2). A nucleotide blast search against the GenBank database revealed a similar nucleotide sequence in mice (GenBank Acces-

1	TC	CGG	CTG	AAG	GTT	TCO	GTG	CTD	GGA	AAO	CGO	GCC	TCC	GCG	GAG	GTA	GCO	GTT	ccc	TGAC
61	CT	AGC	CAT	<u>G</u> GC.	ACA	GAA	CAC	TGA	AAA	CCA	CGA	ccc	TGT	CGG	ATC	CAT	CTT	AAT	CCA	GATC
			М	A	Q	N	Т	E	Ν	H	D	P	Y	G	S	1	L	I	Q	1
121	CA	TGA	AGA	CCT	TTA	TCA	GTT	AAA	GGA(	GAA.	ATT	AAC	AAA	ATT	CAC	ACC	TGA	GGA	AAA	AGGA
	Н	Е	D	L	Y	Q	L	К	Е	К	L	Т	Κ	F	Т	Р	Е	Е	К	G
181	GA	GAC	TCL	AGA	CAT	TCA	GAG	ICT	TGA,	AAC.	AGC.	AAT	CAA	AAQ	GAC	TGA	AGT	GGG	GTT	AAGA
	Е	Т	L	D	Ι	Q	S	L	E	T	А	Ι	K	R	T	Е	V	G	L	R
241	AT	TCA	CAT	TGA	GAA	GTA	TTT	AAA	IGT	TGT.	AAA	CCA	GAA	TGT	ATT	AAC	GAC	TTC	TGT	TAAT
	I	Н	I	Б	K	Y	L	Ν	V	V	Ν	Q	N	V	L	Т	Т	$\mathbf{S}$	V	Ν
301	GA	TGA	GAG	CTT	ATA	TAC	TCC	CCA	GGC	TTO	CAA	ATG	GTT	ACT	TCC	AAC	TGT	AAT	TGA	TCAG
	D	Е	S	L	Y	Т	$\mathbf{P}_{-}$	Q	Α	S	К	W	L	L	$\mathbf{P}$	Т	V	Ι	D	Q
361	AA	ATC	ATT	TAT	TTT	CCC	TCA	GGA	ATC	TGA	GGG	TAC	ATT	TTG	GCA	ACC	CCA	AAG	ACA	GCAC
	K	S	F	Ι	$\mathbb{F}$	Ρ	Q	Е	S	Е	G	Т	F	W	Q	Р	Q	R	Q	Н
421	AG	TTC	ATC	TCT	GCC	TGT	CTT	TOC	AAG	AGC.	AAA	GAT	AAA	GGT	TTC	GAA	GTT	AAT	CAA	AGGG
	S	S	S	L	Ρ	V	F	$\mathbf{P}$	$\mathbb{R}$	A	К	Ι	К	V	S	K	L	I	К	G
481	TC	TAA	CAT	ATO	CAG	ССТ	CAC	GGT	TCT	GCC.	ATC	TTC	TCA	TTG	CAC	AGA	TCC	СТА	TTT	CACT
	S	Ν	I	$\mathbf{S}$	S	L	Т	V	L	$\mathbf{P}$	S	$\mathbf{S}$	н	C	Т	D	$\mathbb{P}$	Y	F	Т
541	CC	TAT	ACC	AGT	CTT.	ACA.	AGC:	AGA	IGO	CCA	CAA.	AGG	GAT	TTT	AAG	TAT	GAT	AGA	ACG	AGGG

Figure 2 (continued).

	P = I	P	V	L	Q	Α	D	A	H	К	G	Ι	L	S	М	Ι	Е	R	G					
601	CIGA	TTO	CACC	IAAC	AGC	AAG	GAT	TAC	CTT	TCA	GAA	TCC	ACO	CAT	TAC	ACCI	CAG.	AGC	AGCT					
	L I	Р	Р	Т	A	R	I	Т	F	Q	Ν	Р	P	I	Т	P	R	A	A					
661	CCTC	TGC	ATAG	TTT	TGA	TGA	AGC	ACG	TAA	GAT	TCC	AAC	TGT.	AGO	CAC	ITT	CAC	TAT	ACCT					
	P I	H	S	$\mathbf{F}$	Ð	Е	A	R	К	I	Ρ	Т	$\mathbf{V}$	$\mathbf{A}_{-}$	Т	$\mathbb{F}$	Т	I	Р					
721	CGGG	AAO	CACC	TCC	ATC	TCC	AGC	AGA	AGT	GAA	GTT	CIT	TCO	CAA	GAA	ACA.	AAG.	ATC	AAAG					
	R E	P	Р	Р	S	Р	A	Ε	$\mathbf{V}$	К	F	F	Р	Κ	К	Q	R	S	Κ					
781	GGGA	AAA	GCAG	iaag	GTC	AAG	AGG	ACA	TCA	TGA	TAG	GAA	GGO	CAT	GAA	AGT	CAA	AAC	ACCT					
	G B	S	R	R	S	R	G	Н	Н	D	R	К	A	М	К	V	К	Т	Ρ					
841	TTG/	GAG	CCCI	IGAA	ATC	ACT	GTG	GGA	TTA	TGA	CTT	TTT	AAT	TTA	TGA	TGG	TGT	CAT	AGAC					
	L B	A	L	K	S	L	W	D	Y	D	F	L	Ι	Y	D	G	V	Ι	Ð					
901	AATA	CAG	0000	AGA	CTT	CTT	AGC.	ATT	CAA	GGA	ACA	TTT	TAG	CTT	AGC	TTG	GGG.	AGG	TATT			carban	ate	1
	N T	` A	Р	D	F	L	А	F	K	Е	Н	F	S	L	A	W	G	G	I			inase-lil		
961	TTTT	CTC	TCTI	'GGA	ACA	CGT	CGA	GAA	GTT	TCT	CAG	GAA	CTA	TGC	TAT	ACC.	AGA.	AGT	CAAG			lomain		
	F S	L	L	Ε	Η	¥.	Ε	K	F	L	R	Ν	Y	A	Ι	Ρ	E	Y	K		Ľ			1
1021	ATAA	AAG	GGAA	ATAA	TTT	GGT	GGC	CCT	CCT	TCC	AGA	GTT	TGA	GCT	GAC	GAA	TAA	ACT	TACC					
	I K	G	Ν	Ν	L	V	A	L	L	Р	E	F	E	L	Т	Ν	K	L	Т	$\mathcal{I}$				
1081	AGAT	ATG	ACCI	TCT	CTC	AGT	GTT	AGA	GGA	ccc	AGC	TCA	TGT	CCA	AAT	GCT	GAT.	AAA	TCTT					
	R Y	D	L	L	S	¥	L	E	D	Р	A	Н	V	Q	M	L	I	Ν	L					
1141	CCAG	GGC	AAAG	GTA	CAA	GGG	CCA	AGA	TGG	AAA	TTC	GGA	GGO	CGO	CAT	GAA	GAT	CCA	AGCC					
	P 6	Q	R	Y	K	G	Q	D	G	Ν	S	Е	A	А	M	К	Ι	Q	A					
1201	ACAT	GGA	AATG	CTA	CAA	AGC	AAG	AAA	ATT	CTT	CCT	CTT	TTA	TCG	OCA	GCA	GAA	GTG	GGCA		A	n IQ mot	if	
	T V	K	C	Y	K	Α	R	K	F	F	L	F	Y	R	Q	Q	K	R.	Α		-			
1261	TCAG	GTG	TGAT	TGC	CAT	TGC	TTG	GCT	GTT	ATA	TTG	CCA	TAA	GAC	TCG	ACT	AAA	GAA	GATA					
	S (	G V	I	A	Ι	A	W	L	L	Y	С	Н	Κ	Т	R	L	Κ	К	1					
1321	CTA	AGG	AAT	CAC	STC/	IGAG	ACA	CC1	rega	IGAA	TTI	TCG	CAT	TOG	AGC	CAA	GCA	TCI	GGCA,	-				
	LI	C E	S	R	Q	R	Η	L	E	N	F	R	Ι	R	A	Κ	Н	L	A			7 1		
1381	GCC	<b>IACI</b>	'GGA/	ATC	3CA1	ICAG	GAC	XTC	XCAG	GAC	XGA(	TAI	TAT	CCA	TAT	VCCC	ATC	ATI	AGGG		A	Zn-dep	ender	n
	A I	V W	I N	R	Ι	R	Т	S	R	R	Τ	Ι	Ι	H	Ι	P	S	L	G		exc	opeptida	ses	
1441	TAT	1000	AGO	CTGI	FGAG	iaga	IACA	(TA3	TGC	CGA	TT	PCA#	CAC	ACA	IGCA	GAA	CAT	GCA	GCTG	1	do	main		
	<u>Y</u> 3	5 6	) P	- ¥	R	E	Η	Ι	A	D	F	_N	Т	Q	Q	Ν	М	Q	L ·					
1501	GGG	AGGC	TGT	GTG/	ACA1	ICTI	IAGA	(TGC	XAA	TGI	GA/	<b>TG</b>	CAT	CTA	CAT	CTG	CTC	CCA	TCAT					
	G 1	S I	. C	D	Ι	L	D	Α	Ν	V	Ν	Y	I	Y	1	С	S	Н	Ħ					
1561	ATG	AT6	ACG/	AGT1	FAGT	IGCI	GTA	TT/	ICAA	IAAA	IAA]	ICC1	AAG	TCI	ACA	TGC	AGC	CGT	CAAA					
	И І	V D	) E	L	Y	L	Υ	Y	К	Κ	I	L	S	L	Η	Ā	А	V	Κ					
1621	TCI	GGGA	ACC	TTG/	AGG/	ICAG	GAAG	TG/	LCC1	GCA	\GG/	CAC	GTT	CAA	AAT.	TAT	CAC	ACC	TGAA					
	S (	G N	L	Е	D	R	S	Ð	L	Q	D	R	F	К	I	I	Т	Р	E					
1681	GCT	GTAA	ACA'	ICTI	ICCC	TAA	GCA	TC/	ATAT	GTO	CCI	rege	CAC	TCA	CCI	GAT	GTA	CAG	TCCC					
	A 1	7 N	I I	F	$\mathbf{P}$	K	Η	Н	М	С	L	A	T	Н	L	М	Y	S	Р	F	igure	2 (continu	ied).	

#### NYD-SP5: a novel testis specific gene

1741	AAGO	6CAA	TCA/	AAAG	jaat	CAAA	IAAA	(TCT	CAT	1006	agg	AAC	AGA	GGC	CTA	CAT	CGT	CAG	CGGG	
	$\mathbf{K} = I$	I I	K	R	Ι	Κ	Ν	L	Ι	R	G	Т	Е	A	Y	Ι	V	S	G	
1801	CTC	CTCC	ACA	GAG!	(TGA	ITT	IAGO	TGT	GGC	CGA	TAT	GTT	AGA	CAT	ACC	CAT	CCI	GGG	CTCT	
	L I	, H	R	D	D	L	A	V	A	D	М	L	D	Ι	Ρ	Ι	L	G	S	
1861	GAG	CTG	AAC]	FAGO	TCA	TCI	TTA	TAG	TAC	CAA	ATC	TGG	AGG	CAA	ACG	TGT	CH	TGA	CAGT	
	E I	P E	L	Α	Η	L	Y	S	Т	К	S	$\mathbb{G}$	$\mathbb{G}$	K	R	¥	$\mathbf{F}$	$\mathbb{D}$	S	
1921	GCC/	LATG	TGG(	CAGT	FTCC	TCC	TGG	iaat	ATA	TGA	TAT	TTA	TAG	TCA	GCA	ACA	GAT	GAT	AGAG	
	A 1	V V	A	V	Р	Ρ	G	Ι	Y	D	Ι	Y	S	Q	Q	Q	M	Ι	E	٢
1981	CAG	CTGA	GTC/	AGCT	FGAT	'AAC	CTGA	TCA	CCT	GCA	AAT	ACA	GCG	CTG	GCT	CTI	TAA	AAT	GGAC	
	Q 1	. S	Q	L	I	Т	D	Н	L	Q	1	Q	R	W	L	F	Κ	M	D	L
2041	TCTO	GAGT	τcα	GAGO	GAAA	TGG	GAC	CTGC	ATT	TTG	TGA	TAT	TCC	TTC	CTA	CCT	'AAA	GTG	CTAC	
	S I	E F	R	G	N	6	Т	A	F	C	D	I	P	S	Y	L	К	C	Y	J
2101	AAA3	FGGG	TGCI	FAAA	IGGA	IGAG	TAG	CAG	ATA	TGG	CCT	TGA	AGA	CIG	GAG	(AAA	GAA	ATG	GGCA	
	K 7	V V	L	К	Е	S	S	R	Y	G	L	Е	D	W	R	К	К	W	A	
2161	CAAO	GAGC	CAG	CTTT	ICGT	IGAA	GAT	CTC	TGA	IGGA	GCT	GGC	CGG	CAT	TTT	AGC	ACA	GCA	CGCA	
	Q 1	E P	Α	L	¥	Κ	Ι	S	Е	E	L	Α	G	Ι	L	Α	Q	Н	A	
2221	CAG	XCAG	TCA/	ATG/	GAA	ACG	GTT	CCC	GAC	GTG	GAG	GAA	ATT	CCT	CCA	AAC	ATT	TCF	CAGT	
	Q 1	e v	Ν	Е	К	R	F	Р	Т	W	R	К	F	L	Q	T	F	L	S	
2281	CAAO	3666	GTGI	IGA]	FOGA	LAGO	ATI	0000	ACC	TGC	AGA	CAA	TGT	CAC	CAA	.001	CAC	AGT	GGAC	
	Q (	6 G	V	I	Е	A	$\mathbb{F}$	Р	Р	A	D	Ν	V	Т	Ν	L	Т	V	D	
2341	ATG	TGA	TAG	AGCC	CAA	ICG6	GAA	IAAT	CAG	CGT	GCT	GTC	GAC	AGG	GGA	.CC/	GCT	TCA	TGCT	
	M H	I I	Ε	$\mathbf{P}$	Ν	$\mathbf{G}$	К	I	S	V	L	S	Т	G	D	Q	L	Н	Å	
2401	GAA	lGCC	CCTI	FCA3	FCTC	CTC	TGG	TAC	CAC	CGI	600	TCA	GAC	CIC	AGT	GGA	TOC	CCA	AGTT	
	E S	S P	F	Ι	S	S	G	Т	Т	V	$\mathbf{P}$	Q	Т	S	V	D	$\mathbf{P}$	Q	V	
2461	CTC/	\CTT	ATT	IGTO	6001	ICCA	IAAI	TGG	AAA	AGC	CTG	CAG	AAT	GAG	AGA	.TGT	GGT	TGG	TTAC	
	L = 1	r Y	L	С	L	Q	1	G	К	Α	С	R	М	R	D	Y	V	G	Y	
2521	TITI	ICGA	TAG	ATCI	IGGT	GAC	TTI	TAT	AGA	TCC	AAG	CAC	CTT	GGA	ACA	ACA	GGT	GTG	GGCA	
	F S	S I	D	L	V	Т	$\mathbb{F}$	Τ	D	Ρ	S	Т	L	Е	Q	Q	V	W	Α	
2581	ACCI	XGCC	TTA/	ACCI	roge	ATA	TAG	TGA	ICCA	GCI	GGC	CCT	GAC	TCA	ACT	CAC	CTI	ATA	CCTG	
	T = G	L	Ν	L	A	Y	$\mathbf{S}$	D	Q	L	А	L	Т	Q	L	Т	L	Y	L	
2641	ACAA	ACG	GOCA	TCT	GGA	TTG	CAG	TTT	GAG	CAC	CCT	GGA	AGT	GCO	CCG	CTT	TGT	TCC.	AAAG	
	T N	G	Н	L	D	$\mathbb{C}$	S	L	S	Т	L	Е	V	Р	R	F	V	Р	К	
2701	GAAA	GGA	AGAA	AAC	CAA	ATG	CAT	GAG	TGO	GCT	GTC	AAT	GCO	GAT	GCT	GGC	AAC	CAG	FCGC	
	E R	K	Κ	Т	К	$\mathbb{C}$	М	S	Α	L	S	M	Р	M	L	А	Т	S	R	
2761	TATG	CAG	TGAT	GAC	CAC	OCA	GCT	AAG	ACA	CAG	CAA	TCT	CTC.	ACT	GGT	TTT	CCA	CTA	IGTT	
	Y A	V	М	Т	Т	Q	L	R	Н	S	Ν	L	S	L	V	F	Н	Y	V	
2821	TITC	TOC	AGAT	CTG	TAG	GGC	CCA	TGG	CAT	TGG	CTA	IGA	ICT	ΓGA	GGA.	ΛΛG	GCA	AGG.	MACT	
	$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{L}$	. Q	Ι	С	R	A	Н	G	I	G	Y.	D	L	E	E	R	Q	G	Т	
2881	F L GTTT	. Q TTA	I TATT	C TATA	R .TGA	A GCA	H CCT	G GAA	I GAG	G ACA	Y CAA/	D GTT(	L GGG	E AAT	E GTT.	R AAC	Q AAT	G CGG	T CGAG	

LDH C-terminal domain-like sequence

Figure 2 (continued).

·132·

2941	GA:	FCTO	CAC	9GGC	3GT0	CCD	CAT	GACI	CTT	IGC	TCG	CCA'	ICT	TR	CAT(	CAT	XA1	CAJ	\GA/	IATA
	D	L	Q.	G	V	L	М	Т	$\mathbb{F}^{-}$	A	R	Н	L	F	Ι	Ι	Η	Q	Е	Ι
3001	TCa	VGC/	VCC.	EAA1	EATO	GCA.	NGG(	CGAO	GAOI	CAA	TTT	ΤΛΛ	3AO)	2AOA	MT	FGC	IGA1	[AT]	IGA/	ист
	S	A	Р	Ν	M	Q	G	Е	Т	Ν	$\mathbf{F}$	К	Т	Т	Ι	Α	D	I	Е	Т
3061	AT:	FCT/	AAG.	AGT/	AC.	AAA	GGA/	AAAG	CAA	4AT)	GAG.	ATT'	IGA.	<b>IGA</b>	3GA0	GCA/	ACAG	TC	CAA/	GAT
	Ι	L	R	V	Т	К	Е	Ν	К	M	R	F	Е	E	Е	Q	Q	S	К	D
3121	GA	eaa/	AA4	CTC	CTC	TAA.	ACCI	CAA	GAA.	\ <u>TG</u>	<u>a</u> to	CTG	GAA'	eac.	\GT∂	ACA:	FAAC	AA)	PTT(	GAT
	D	К	Ν	L	S	К	Р	К	К	*										
3181	CO	CAGI	FCTO	GGA/	<b>ATA</b>	AAA.	AGG	GCAJ	ATT:	ITT	TTT	ICT	3TT:	\GA)	AT/	AAA	1000	AG	3GG/	IAAT
3241	TG	STTI	FGCT	ITT0	FTG	TGC	FAG	GAG	GTG.	AT	CAG	AAC:	AGA'	FTA:	CAA:	FGA/	ATC	CTO	TT	ATT
3301	AA	4CA1	FTG:	ETT/	(TT)	AAG	FGA.	ICTI	fat:	FTT.	ATT	TAT	ΓAA,	10C)	λAA)	ACT:	[AT]	TG	[GT]	TTC
3361	AT.	FTG/	\GA(	STGI	ITG	AAC.	AAT	0001	FTC'	FTC	TTC	TCA.	AC'	ICA(	GAA.	AAA	\GT/	AT(	CTG/	(TAA
3421	AA	GAAC	3AAJ	AGTI	[AA]	AAG	ICT.	FACI	IGA'	FAT	CAO	CTC	00Ci	ATT:	FAC.	FTCC	TC/	TA	GCC	TCA
3481	GG	ATT/	ATG	FAGO	TT	TTA	ETT.	ITT/	ATG:	ITT	TAT	AAA	ЗТТ	FTC:	FCC.	EAT?	FTC1	[AA]	FAGT	CCA.
3541	TC	GATO	CTT	CTGO	CAT	TTA	EAG	GTTI	IG <u>A</u>	\TA	<u>AA</u> G	GCT	TAA	GAA:	FTG	CTA	[AA]	IAAJ	AA	
									Pe	oly	-A .	sig	nal							

Figure 2. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of NYD-SP5. Numbering of the nucleotide sequence is shown on the right. The initiation and stop codons, as well as the polyadenylation signal, are marked by shades and underlines respectively. The nucleotide sequence appears in the GenBank databases under accession number AY014282. The predicted functional domains are underlined and shaded.

sion No. AK019535), and a similar nucleotide sequence in rats (GenBank Accession No. XM\_236331).

Further, NYD-SP5 protein shares 68 % identity and 78 % positive amino acid sequence with its mouse homolog protein BAB31783 encoded by AK019535, and shares 57 % identity and 67 % positive with its rat homolog protein XP\_236331 encoded by XM\_236331 (Figure 3). These data indicate high levels of homology between NYD-SP5 and mice and rats at either the nucleotide or the protein level; therefore, NYD-SP5 is a human-mouse-rat homologous gene. GenBank human genome database searching mapped NYD-SP5 to chromosome 15q22.31 (NT\_086827).

Simple modular architecture research tool (SMART) predicted a high possibility of an IQ motif (368–390aa) in the middle of NYD-SP5 protein sequence and three enzyme domains within NYD-SP5 sequence (Figure 2). These domains include a carbamate kinase-like domain located before the IQ motif (269–328aa), a Zn-dependent exopeptidases domain after the IQ motif (424–470aa), and a LDH C-terminal domain-like sequence that lies in the C-terminal (626–672aa) (Figure 2). In addition, CpG island revealing program, Emboss CpGPlot, reported two relatively high GC content regions occurred from –

57 to -269 bp and -411 to -629 bp in the upstream of NYD-SP5 chromosome [8] (Figure 4).

#### 3.3 Expression of NYD-SP5 in normal tissues

Tissue distribution studies using RT-PCR on a human tissue kit showed that the designed 247 bp product was expressed predominantly in the testis, but not in the other 15 tissues examined, including the ovary – the female germ-cell-producing organ (Figure 5). Therefore, NYD-SP5 was identified as a testis-specific gene.

#### 3.4 Cellular localization of NYD-SP5

Using an *in situ* hybridization technique, we examined the localization of NYD-SP5 mRNA at mouse testes. The results showed that the expression of NYD-SP5 was confined to seminiferous tubules. Strong hybridization signals from the mouse probe was exclusively localized in the spermatocytes and spermatids, and no signal above the background level was detected outside the seminiferous tubules or in Sertoli-cell at all ages examined, namely days 15, 30 and 60 (Figure 6). It is suggested that mouse NYD-SP5 is expressed in the male germ line cell but not the somatic cell in mouse testis.

#### NYD-SP5: a novel testis specific gene

-----EDLYQLKEKLTKFSPEEK human MAQNTENHDPVGSILIQ---18----------EDLHQLKEKLVKPSAEET nouse MADAGEDSDPTCSTLTQ----131-----ret NAMAGENOPTOSTLTQA/NRCFLRERONTPOKSQRLLLRKINRAALPSDTVENQQFTYSEFRQGPQCMERRPHTLLRCQPVENTSHTJSDPHSEVANPQCHGRLHQLKERLTQFSAEET  $^{+0}$ an; entern (m. en, human GETLD105LETA1KETE/GLR1HTEX/LWVMAWLTT5/NDF5L7TP0/SKVLLPTV1D0/SFTFF0ESEGTFW0P0R0H55SLPVFPRAk------INCOME. RATIO FOR ETATOR TENDER THE DAY LOY INGERT AN AVAILASTIC STREET PRODUCT FOR THE DAY LOY OF THE DAY. FOL ROPLOLON, ETALOPTETCLKTH JERYLGTYNGEUTMTPVK--SLDSP INSKYA IPTV IDOKSFT FPMAPDK-LWELQKHROSLPROPTRAKPRVELNXX IMODPFNDHRRAAWN SYGT human -----IK----------YSKLIKOSNISSLTVLPSSHCTDPYFTP LPVLqADAHKGELSMEERGLIPPTARI TFQNPP I TPRAAPLHSFDEARKIPTVATFT- CPREPPPS PAEV KFFP---THE SEPREMONDER RESTENCT OF PERMONSION OF PERMO PERMONSION OF PERMONSION 61 n 11 000, bu, banka, an maaja anaaka ah aajadababahanni banabahan aja anaanna maj. • . 1, 1 . . 1 1 -------NKVKTPLENLKSLNDADFLTYDGVTDATAPOFLAFKEHPSLANGGTPSLLENNEKFLRSYALPEVKT norse S-BREETPRERAKESRGPLERKG----STEERISLPVTEEGKAKLPLGSDCERPFKAPLSP/SACD/DEA/A/GPCLG/LPSTRTTTPSKTRRSPMD/TLP/YNGS/DRA/PDFTAPKTRYKLTRGSTFSFLED/TEKFLKDVALSEAK/ human KONUTALLPEPELINKLINADLESVLEDPAHVQILINLPEQEYKQQDOSEAAMKIQATWOCKARKFELPYRQQODASOTIALUULIVOHTRUKKILEESRQHILENFRIRADHAA Income IKGESUTSLUPEPELONKUTINGVILAVUENPYHIQULUSUPGQPGYKGQDGKAEAATNIQATVKSYKARSSETSYIQQQQASGYTALQUULHCHETRUKRIVEESIQDHUENPRIRAQHUAA THE RESEARCH AND THE REPORT OF T human NVNRERTSRETELHUPSLGYSAPVREHEADFNTQQNQLGRECDELD-------ANVINTYTCSHHMIDELVLYYKKTLSLHAAVKSCNLEDRSDLQDR NISRERTSRRTEEHIPSLOTSQSTR0EESDLDEQARQUGRLCDELGTMSNRGTDFDCQSRRLSSATNAVVWTTVCSSPMD0ERLYVRRLSLQAAVKSGYYGDRSDLQAR AR DEREMARKARRENESSER REIRE ALL THE REPORTED IS MARKEN FK1 TEPEVINIEPKINISCATHANSPKATKETKSLIKETKSLIKEDLAVADALDIPTLCSEPELARLYSTKSGCKEVFDSAVAWPPGTYDTYSQQQUEQLSQLITINLQTQ Incuse FRUTTPEN/INFTKHRRCLATHUNSPKATKRINLTRGEEAYTVGGTLIKRDLAVADMUNPTLCSEPEL/HLTSARSGSKRTFDNAV/PMPFGT/DT/YYQQUEQLSQL/TDNLGTR rnt FRUTPE/WNIFTKHBRCLATHUMSPKAUKRUN, DØGELAYDØGULIKROLWADMUNPULASEPEL/HUTSØSSSKRIFDWAVPMPFØ/YDD/TYQQUIGQUSQUATDALGIR human RVLPWADSEFRONGTAFCDIPSYLACYKUYLKESSRYGLEDWRONOAGEPAL/WISEELAGILAQHAQPVNEXRFPTWROFLQTFLSQGOVIEAPPPADAUTNLTVDRLTEPNOXISVLS INCOME. REVERSIONER FOR THE ACCOMPANIES AND A STREET AND A STREET AS TO A STREET AS THE ACCOMPANIES AND A STREET AS THE ACCOMP TAX. REFERENCESSING AND A DESCRIPTION OF A ARCHARD AN ARCHARDARD N'ARCHARDARD AND ARCHARDARD ARCHARDARD ARCHARDARD ARCHARDARD ARCHARDARD ARCHARDARD ARCHARD human TGDQLIAESPEISSGTTVPQISVDPQVLTYLCLQIGAACONDAVQ9FS3DL7TP1DPSTLEQQ9WITGLNLAYSDQLALTQLTL1LTWHLDCSLSTLEXPRP4P----KERKERCMSA ncose MCDQLBLDGPFISSGTTIPQTSVDPQVLNSLCLQRX1CKEKDVVGVFS1DL7TFEDPSTLEQQVTTTGLNLSYSDQL00TQLTLVLTVGHLXCSLSTLSTPRFTEDSERERGRLSIQAE NCDQFHADGPF1SSCTTHPQTSvDPQv1NSLCLR1CN1CKERDvvCvFS1DLVTFEDPSTLEQQvWtTGLNLSVSDQLAvTQLTL1LTvCvLvCsLSTLEVPFFHEDAEREKDFLSTQAE - 2012年11日 - 11日 human LS---------MP------------MLATSRYAVIIITTGLRHSNLSLVFHYVFLQLCRAHG1GYDLEERQGTV ------APETSRYA/DISTQL/RHDNLSLTFTYVFLQACEAHG1GYDLEDROGTV nouse L----Text. U/SNRFL/VDLALSGTOL/JCTSTVTSANL8L/MOA/HEI/V/V/RFTLCPPL/KTEGGK0G11DBGSTFREIN/CXAPETSEV/WBSTOL/RDLS.JFFY/VFL/MCR/HG167/DLEDROGTV \* human FILYERLKHRRLGH, TIGEDLGCVLMTFARHLFLIHJEISAPMAGETNFRTTIADUETILEVTRENKHRFEEDOSKDDK-NLSRPOS------Incuse: FELYESLKRHKLGRLTIGVDLQCVLMTFARNLFEIHQEESAPPMQGETNFKTTIDDEFELGVTEENKNIFYRIKQSKEEEDNLYEPVEIHSEEV TeL FILVESLKRIKLGRUTTGVDLGCALMTFARVLFLIHGEDSAPDMQGETNFKTTIDDLETILGVTEENKNIFAGEKRKREEEESLYEPVETYTKIV 

Figure 3. Sequence comparison of NYD-SP5 and its homology in mouse and rat using CLUSTER W [9].

·134·



Figure 4. Report of CpG rich region prediction [10]. An island is defined as a region that satisfies the following constraints: Obs/Exp ratio >0.6; % C + % G >50 %, Length >200.



Figure 5. Electrophoresis showing expression profiles of NYD-SP5 with G3PDH as control. NYD-SP5 was specifically expressed in testis with no expression in any other organ.

# 3.5 Analysis of NYD-SP8 mRNA in spermatozoa and the testis of five patients with SCOS.

RT-PCR analysis showed that NYD-SP5 mRNA was also detected in spermatozoa but not in the testes of patients with SCOS that is characterized histologically by complete loss of the germinal epithelium in testicular tubules, and clinically by aspermia (Figure 7). Therefore, it has been suggested that NYD-SP5 is expressed in germ cells but not somatic cells in human testes.



Figure 6. Cellular localization of mouse homology of NYD-SP5 mRNAs in mouse testes of different ages. Positive signal is shown in purple. (A): 15-day testis; (B): 30-day testis; (C): 60-day testis; (D): the control with sense probe.



Figure 7. (A): Analysis of NYD-SP5 mRNA in the testis of patients with SCOS. As a control, the lower panel displays the expression level of  $\beta$ -actin in corresponding patients. Plasmid containing NYD-SP5 full length was used as the positive control. (B): Analysis of NYD-SP5 in the ejaculated spermatozoa. A designed band of 247 bp was detected in the PCR product.

#### 4 Discussion

Using cDNA microarrays constructed from the human testis large insert cDNA library, we have identified a novel testis-specific gene, NYD-SP5, which is differentially expressed in fetal and adult testes of humans and mice. The tissue distribution and cellular localization of NYD-SP5 mRNA suggests that it is a male germ line cell specific gene with potential roles in the process of spermatogenesis. The predominant expression of NYD-SP5 mRNA in adult but not fetal testes can be confirmed by the *in situ* hybridization analysis in mouse testes, showing restricted localization of NYD-SP5 in the seminiferous tubules with signals mainly in primary spermatocytes and advanced spermatogenic cells, as well as ejaculated spermatozoa, which are absent from fetal testes.

Because of the tissue and cell-line-specific expression pattern of NYD-SP5, CpG frequency of the chromosome upstream of NYD-SP5 was examined. There is a CpG rich area in the promoter region of NYD-SP5, which might be related to the expression regulation of the gene. There is evidence indicating that methylation of the CpG island inhibits the transcription of genes [9]. The regulation of tissue-specific expression of the Pgk-2 gene, which is expressed only in spermatogenic cells in eutherian mammals, has been described to be in such a fashion that its expression is repressed in somatic cells [1]. The tissue-specific and stage-dependent expression of NYD-SP5 may also require demethylation of its CpG rich segment. Further studies along this line with NYD-SP5 may provide detailed mechanisms for developmentally regulated gene expression.

As to the function of NYD-SP5 in spermatogenesis, bioinformatical analysis provided some clues. NYD-SP5 contains three enzyme domains and one IQ motif, which is in charge of CaM binding. CaM is recognized as a major calcium sensor and orchestrator of regulatory events through its interaction with a diverse group of cellular proteins [6]. Because CaM is present in all tissues, cell-type-specific functions are determined by the complement of its downstream targets. In the testis, several calmodulin binding proteins, such as calspermin, Ca (2+)/ calmodulin-dependent protein kinase IV (CaMKIV), and testis-specific calcineurin B, were isolated and demonstrated to be essential for spermatogenesis. For instance, CaMKIV is expressed in spermatids and targeted to chromatin and the nuclear matrix [12], and calspermin has been speculated to play a role in binding and sequestering CaM during the development of the germ cell [13]. NYD-SP5 might be another member of CaM targets involved in the process of spermatogenesis. The IQ motif, which NYD-SP5 contained, is one of the three recognition motifs for CaM interaction and reported as a consensus for Ca2+-independent binding. Neuromodulin (GAP 43/P-57), neurogranin and Brush Border Myosin I (BBMI), all of which contain an IQ motif, interact with CaM in the absence of  $Ca^{2+}[14]$ . Neuromodulin is a major component of the motile "growth cones" that form the tips of elongating axons and plays an important role in regulation of axon growth and new connection modulation [15]. Neurogranin is the most prominent substrates of protein kinase C (PKC) in the mammalian brain [16]. BBMI is a major component of the actin assembly in the microvilli of intestinal cells, and has also been reported to have effects on membrane traffic in polarized epithelial cells [17]. All of the three IQ motif-containing members take part in the regulatory events in the cell life. Therefore, NYD-SP5 seems to operate as a regulator in spermatogenesis. Furthermore, there are three enzyme domains occurring near the IQ motif, which advanced the possibility of regulatory function for NYD-SP5 through catalyzing some reactions in cell metabolism. In hybridization signal analysis, clones with intensities of > 10 were considered as positive signals to ensure that they were distinguished from background with statistical significance of >99.9 % [2]. Signal intensity of NYD-SP5 in adult microarray was just a little higher than the threshold value, only 26.32 and 12.37 in human and mouse adult testes, respectively, which was quite lower than skeleton protein or cell structure protein. For example, in adult microarray the signal intensity of outer dense fiber protein 2 is 581.07, and the intensity for kinesin family member 2 is 104.66. The comparatively low intensity in microarray hybridization together with predicted function domains in NYD-SP5 protein sequence indicated that NYD-SP5 might play a regulatory role in the spermatogenesis process.

In summary, NYD-SP5 is a newly found testis-specific gene with potential regulatory roles in human spermatogenesis. The tissue-specific and stage-specific expression of NYD-SP5 has suggested its importance in the fundamental understanding of spermatogenesis. Further research is required to determine the physical function of NYD-SP5 protein in spermatogenesis.

#### Acknowledgment

The work was supported by grants from China National 973 (No. G1999055901) and National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 30170485). We thank Dr Min Xu for valuable discussions and Dr Monica Antenos for her critical reading of the manuscript.

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