

1 **TITLE: Lack of interphotoreceptor retinoid binding protein, caused by**  
2 **homozygous mutation of *RBP3*, is associated with high myopia and**  
3 **retinal dystrophy.**

4

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15 **Financial Disclosure:** The authors have no proprietary or commercial  
16 interest in any materials discussed in this article

17 **Funding:** The National Institute for Health Research (UK) and Biomedical  
18 Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL Institute of  
19 Ophthalmology, The Foundation Fighting Blindness (USA), Fight For Sight,  
20 Moorfields Eye Hospital Special Trustees, Rosetrees Trust

21 **Conflict of Interest:** No conflicting relationship exists for any author

22 **Running head:** Nonsense mutations of *RBP3* and retinal dystrophy

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25

1 **Abstract**

2

3 **Purpose:** To present a detailed clinical and molecular study of four patients  
4 from two consanguineous families with a similar childhood-onset retinal  
5 dystrophy resulting from novel homozygous nonsense mutations in *RBP3*.

6

7 **Methods:** Four children with mutations in *RBP3* encoding interphotoreceptor  
8 binding protein (IRBP) were ascertained by whole exome sequencing and  
9 subsequent direct Sanger sequencing. Detailed phenotyping was performed  
10 including full clinical evaluation, electroretinography, fundus photography,  
11 fundus autofluorescence (FAF) imaging and spectral domain optical  
12 coherence tomography (OCT).

13

14 **Main Outcome Measures:** Results of ophthalmic examination, whole exome  
15 sequence analysis and Sanger sequence analysis.

16

17 **Results:** Two novel homozygous nonsense mutations (c.1530T>A ; p.Y510\*  
18 and c.3454G>T ; p.E1152\*) in *RBP3* were identified in four patients from two  
19 families. All four patients had a similar, unusual retinal dystrophy  
20 characterized by childhood onset high myopia, generalized rod and cone  
21 dysfunction and an unremarkable fundus appearance. FAF imaging showed  
22 multiple paracentral foci of low autofluorescence in one patient and patchy  
23 increased FAF in the region of the vascular arcades in another. The OCT  
24 showed loss of outer retinal bands over peripheral macular areas in all 4  
25 cases.

1

2 **Conclusions:** This report is the first to describe the retinal dystrophy in  
3 children caused by homozygous nonsense *RBP3* mutations highlighting the  
4 requirement for IRBP in normal eye development and visual function.  
5 Longitudinal study will reveal if the four children reported here will progress to  
6 a more typical retinitis pigmentosa phenotype previously described in adults  
7 with *RBP3* mutations. *RBP3* related disease should be considered in children  
8 with high myopia and retinal dystrophy, particularly when there are no  
9 significant fundus changes.

10

11

## 1 Introduction

2

3 *RBP3* (MIM \*180290) encodes the Inter-photoreceptor retinoid binding protein  
4 (IRBP), a 140-145kDa glycoprotein exclusively expressed by photoreceptors  
5 and the pineal gland. Expression of IRBP by rod and cone photoreceptors is  
6 reliant on trans-activation by the retina and pineal gland specific transcription  
7 factor Cone-Rod Homeobox (CRX)<sup>1,2</sup>. It is the most abundant protein found in  
8 the inter-photoreceptor matrix (IPM), the extracellular space between the  
9 photoreceptor outer segments and the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)<sup>3-5</sup>.

10 *RBP3* comprises four contiguous homologous repeats encoding retinoid  
11 binding modules of approximately 300 amino acid residues. These modules  
12 show structural homology to the C-terminal processing protease (CTPase)  
13 and crotonase superfamily that all use a  $\beta\beta\alpha$ -spiral fold to bind hydrophobic  
14 ligands<sup>6</sup>. The four modules together in IRBP may bind a single retinoid  
15 molecule<sup>7</sup>.

16

17 Early, in vitro studies showed that IRBP could facilitate the release of all-  
18 trans-retinol (ROL) by photoreceptor outer-segments and delivery to the RPE,  
19 and in turn, the release of 11-cis-retinal (RAL) by RPE cells<sup>8,9</sup>. This led to the  
20 suggestion that IRBP is involved with the transport of retinoids across the IPM  
21 including the maintenance of the isomeric state of retinoids during passage  
22 across the matrix<sup>10-12</sup>; however, the role of IRBP in the visual cycle that  
23 replenishes 11-cis-RAL is controversial. Initial investigation of the *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup>  
24 knockout (KO) mouse showed that IRBP was not essential for recycling of the  
25 chromophore 11-cis-RAL<sup>13</sup>. In the classical visual cycle, all-trans-ROL is

1 removed from the outer segments to be isomerised back to 11-cis-RAL by  
2 RPE65 in the RPE cells. Cones may use an additional process whereby all-  
3 trans-ROL is transported to the Müller cells where it is converted to 11-cis-  
4 ROL and transported back to the cones which can oxidise it to 11-cis-  
5 RAL (reviewed in:<sup>14</sup>). Specific investigation of the role of IRBP in cone function  
6 showed that IRBP deletion altered the balance of retinoids in the retina and  
7 also affected normal cone function, which could be rescued with 9-cis-  
8 RAL<sup>15,16</sup>. Furthermore, the ability of IRBP to protect 11-*cis*-ROL from  
9 isomerization in light may allow cones to produce 11-*cis*-RAL under photopic  
10 conditions and enable continuous cone function in constant light<sup>17</sup>. In contrast,  
11 investigation of the *irbp* KO on a rod transducin KO background, where only  
12 the cones respond to light, revealed no major defects in cone function,  
13 although the kinetics of mouse M/L-cone photoresponses were slowed<sup>18</sup>.  
14 Furthermore, under conditions where RPE65 activity is high (e.g. the Leu450  
15 variant in mouse) then IRBP is needed to maintain maximal rod dark  
16 adaptation<sup>18</sup>, suggesting IRBP might affect both rod and cone function  
17 dependent on conditions.

18

19 The *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup> KO mouse shows abnormalities of photoreceptor morphology as  
20 early as 11 days postnatally, and significantly reduced photoreceptor survival  
21 and electroretinogram (ERG) responses by one month of age, with slow  
22 progression thereafter<sup>19,20</sup>. These findings suggested *RBP3* to be a candidate  
23 gene for human retinal disease. In 2009, den Hollander and colleagues  
24 identified a shared homozygous region of chromosome 10 in four adult  
25 siblings from a consanguineous Italian family with autosomal recessive

1 retinitis pigmentosa (arRP)<sup>21</sup>. A homozygous missense change in the fourth  
2 retinol binding module of *RBP3* (c.3238G>A, p.D1080N) was identified by  
3 Sanger sequencing. Since that report no further patients have been  
4 documented with mutations in *RBP3*.

5

6 The present report describes the phenotype in 4 young patients with *RBP3*  
7 mutations, and identifies 2 novel disease-causing mutations.

8

## 9 **Methods**

10

11 The study protocol adhered to the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki and  
12 received approval from the local ethics committee. Written, informed consent  
13 was obtained from all participants or in the case of minors, their parents prior  
14 to their inclusion in this study.

15

16 Each patient with an *RBP3* mutation underwent a full clinical examination  
17 including visual acuity and dilated fundus examination. Retinal fundus imaging  
18 was obtained by conventional 30 degree fundus color photographs (Topcon  
19 Great Britain Ltd, Berkshire, UK), 30 and 55 degree fundus autofluorescence  
20 (FAF) imaging, and spectral domain optical coherence tomography (OCT)  
21 scans (Spectralis, Heidelberg Engineering Ltd, Heidelberg, Germany). Full  
22 field electroretinography (ERG) and pattern electroretinography (PERG) were  
23 performed using gold foil electrodes to incorporate the International Society  
24 for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV) standards<sup>22,23</sup>.

25

## 1 Molecular genetics

2

3 The subjects described here were part of a larger whole exome sequencing  
4 (WES) study of patients with childhood onset retinal dystrophies. Eighty  
5 probands and family members were recruited to the study. Patients were  
6 included based on at least one of the following criteria (1) unknown molecular  
7 diagnosis following previous investigations, (2) known parental consanguinity  
8 (3) unusual phenotype with no known molecular association, (4) >1 affected  
9 family member. Patient 1 from a Kurdish family from Turkey was selected for  
10 WES based on parental consanguinity, unusual clinical phenotype and the  
11 presence of a similarly affected sibling. DNA samples were isolated from  
12 peripheral blood lymphocytes using the Puregene DNA extraction kit (Gentra  
13 Puregene Blood Extraction Kit, QIAGEN, Manchester, UK). Exon capture was  
14 performed using the SureSelectXT Human All Exon V5 kit (Agilent, CA, USA).  
15 Paired-end sequencing was carried out using a Hiseq2500 high throughput  
16 sequencer (Illumina, CA, USA) at AROS Applied Biotechnology (Aarhus,  
17 Denmark).

18

19 The raw FASTQ output files comprising FASTA formatted text based  
20 sequence and quality data for each read were aligned to the Genome  
21 Reference Consortium human genome build 37 (GRCh37) using Novoalign  
22 version 2.08.03 (Novocraft technologies, Malaysia). Duplicate reads were  
23 flagged using Markduplicates (Picard Tools, Broad institute, Cambridge, MA,  
24 USA, <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>). Sequence variants were called  
25 using the Haplotype Caller module of the Genome Analysis ToolKit (GATK,

1 Broad institute, Cambridge, MA, USA, <https://www.broadinstitute.org/gatk>)  
2 version 3.3-0 creating a genomic variant call file (gVCF) formatted file for each  
3 patient sample. The individual gVCF files discussed in this study, in  
4 combination with gVCF files of ~ 3,000 clinical exomes (UCL-exomes  
5 consortium), were combined into merged VCF files for each chromosome  
6 containing on average 100 samples each. The final variant calling was  
7 performed using the GenotypeGVCFs module (GATK, Broad institute,  
8 Cambridge, MA, USA <https://www.broadinstitute.org/gatk>) jointly for all  
9 samples (cases and controls). Variant quality scores were then re-calibrated  
10 according to GATK best practices separately for insertion/deletions (Indels)  
11 and Single nucleotide variants (SNVs). Resulting variants were annotated  
12 using the ANNOVAR (<http://www.openbioinformatics.org/annovar/>) tool based  
13 on Ensembl (<http://www.ensembl.org>) gene and transcript definitions.  
14 Candidate variants were filtered based on function (non synonymous,  
15 presumed loss-of-function or splicing, defined as intronic sites within 5 bp of  
16 an exon-intron junction) and minor allele frequency (< 0.5% minor allele  
17 frequency in our internal control group, as well as the NHLBI GO Exome  
18 Sequencing Project dataset).

19

20 Subsequently, 7 patients with a similar clinical phenotype of high myopia and  
21 retinal dystrophy were ascertained and screened for mutations by direct  
22 Sanger sequencing of the coding exons of *RBP3* including the intron/exon  
23 boundaries (PCR primers and conditions available on request).

24



1 Mutation nomenclature was assigned in accordance with GenBank Accession  
2 number NM\_002900.2 with nucleotide position 1 corresponding to the A of the  
3 ATG initiation codon. Variants were identified as novel if not previously  
4 reported in the literature and if absent from all any online variant database  
5 including:

6 -Database of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (dbSNP). Bethesda (MD):  
7 National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine.  
8 (dbSNP Build 142) Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP/>

9 -NHLBI GO Exome Sequencing Project (ESP), Seattle, WA (URL:  
10 <http://evs.gs.washington.edu/EVS/>) [accessed September 2014]

11 -1,000 genomes project<sup>24</sup>

12 -Exome aggregation Consortium (ExAC) Cambridge, MA (URL:  
13 <http://exac.broadinstitute.org>) [accessed October 2014].

14

## 15 **Results**

16

17 Four patients, age 8-14 years, from 2 families, were identified with retinal  
18 dystrophy due to biallelic mutation of *RBP3* (Figure 1). Full clinical data are  
19 summarized in table 1. Visual acuities were measured in logMAR units and  
20 approximate Snellen values are additionally given below.

21

22 Family GC17452

23

24 Two siblings from this family were noted to have strabismus and reduced  
25 vision in infancy. The parents were first cousins but there was no family

1 history of eye problems. They were referred to their local unit where they were  
2 found to be highly myopic and spectacles were prescribed. Visual acuity  
3 remained poor despite refractive correction.

4

5 The older sibling (Patient 1) was first seen at Moorfields Eye Hospital (MEH)  
6 at age 5 years. His parents had, by then, noted poor night vision. His best  
7 corrected visual acuity was 0.550 logMAR (Snellen 20/80) in right eye and  
8 0.575 (Snellen 20/80) in the left. Fundus examination showed a tessellated  
9 appearance but was otherwise unremarkable. The OCT showed relative  
10 preservation over the central macula with retinal thinning and loss of the inner  
11 segment ellipsoid band (ISe) over eccentric macular areas. The  
12 electrophysiology was in keeping with a cone-rod dystrophy. Full-field ERGs,  
13 performed at the age of 10 years, revealed delay and amplitude reduction in  
14 ERG cone responses and less marked dysfunction in the rod system; the  
15 undetectable pattern ERG showed severe macular involvement. (Figure 2).

16

17 The younger sibling (Patient 2) was first seen at MEH age 4years. She was  
18 also myopic and reported to have poor night vision. The best corrected visual  
19 acuity was 0.475 logMAR (20/63 Snellen) right and 0.650 (Snellen 20/100)  
20 left. Examination revealed a tessellated fundus appearance. There was  
21 patchy increased FAF in the region of the vascular arcades (Figure 3). The  
22 OCT showed loss of the ISe over peripheral macular areas. Full-field ERGs,  
23 performed at the age of 9 years, revealed a similar pattern of abnormality to  
24 her male sibling but with less marked rod-system involvement (Figure 2).

25

1 Family GC19774

2

3 Both affected brothers in this family were noted in infancy to sit near to the  
4 television and hold toys very close. Neither brother appeared to have  
5 problems with night vision. The parents were first cousins but there was no  
6 family history of eye problems. Clinical evaluation revealed high myopia but  
7 vision could not be improved to normal with refraction.

8

9 The older sibling (Patient 3) was first seen age 2 years. There was a small  
10 exophoria and bilateral myopia. Fundus examination revealed myopic discs  
11 and a tessellated fundus but was otherwise unremarkable. At age 4 years  
12 visual acuity was 0.35 logMAR (Snellen 20/50) right and 0.325 logMAR  
13 (Snellen 20/40). The OCT showed loss of the ISe over peripheral macular  
14 areas. Full field ERG (Figure 2) showed evidence of rod and cone dysfunction  
15 with the rod system probably more affected; the PERG was normal indicating  
16 macular sparing. Repeat testing at aged 13 (not shown) demonstrated  
17 marked deterioration in cone function, with less marked rod system  
18 deterioration. The phenotype had developed into a cone-rod rather than rod-  
19 cone pattern of abnormality. Pattern ERG was undetectable consistent with  
20 severe worsening of macular function. At the last clinic visit age 14 years best  
21 corrected visual acuity was 0.12 logMAR (Snellen 20/25) and 0.02 logMAR  
22 (Snellen 20/20)

23

24 The younger sibling (Patient 4) was first seen age 2 years. He had a small left  
25 esotropia. Fundus examination was unremarkable. His visual acuity at age 5

1 years was 0.45 logMAR (Snellen 20/63) right and 0.425 logMAR (Snellen  
2 20/50) left. The OCT showed loss of the ISe over peripheral macular areas  
3 (Figure 3). FAF showed multiple paracentral foci of reduced signal with a  
4 normal central macula. Electrophysiological testing at age 7 years (Figure 2)  
5 showed ERG evidence of rod and cone dysfunction, with the rod-system  
6 probably more affected; the PERG showed relative macular sparing.

7

#### 8 Molecular findings

9

10 WES analysis of patient 2 revealed 25,799 exonic or presumed splice altering  
11 (within 5 bp of exon-intron junctions) variant calls after quality filtering (Table  
12 2). Of these, 623 had an allele frequency of <0.1% in the NHLBI ESP  
13 database. Of these 623 variants, 27 were homozygous variants, of which two  
14 were predicted to be loss of function (LOF). Of these two, a nonsense variant  
15 in the final exon of *RBP3* – c.3454G>T ; p.E1152\*, was identified as the likely  
16 causative variant due to the previous association of *RBP3* mutations with a  
17 retinal dystrophy. The homozygous variant call was subsequently confirmed in  
18 the both affected siblings by Sanger sequencing; both parents were  
19 heterozygous.

20

21 Seven unrelated patients with a similar retinal phenotype and high myopia  
22 underwent Sanger sequencing of *RBP3* and one further homozygous  
23 nonsense mutation (c.1530T>A ; p.Y510\*) was identified in exon 1 of *RBP3* in  
24 two affected siblings of family GC19774. Parental DNA was unavailable for  
25 screening.

1

2 Neither of these nonsense mutations were identified in our control set of 2,571  
3 samples (UCL-exomes), or any online database. The ExAC database  
4 includes exome sequencing variants from 61,486 individuals and contains 38  
5 heterozygous alleles of 20 predicted LOF variants in *RBP3* comprising 12  
6 frameshift and 8 nonsense variants. Nineteen of these variants were found in  
7  $\leq 4$  alleles, one was found in 10/16628 (0.06% minor allele frequency) alleles  
8 of South Asian origin, these might represent carriers of rare retinal dystrophy  
9 alleles.

10

## 11 **Discussion**

12

13 This report describes a novel phenotype in patients with retinal dystrophy  
14 consequent upon mutation in *RBP3*. The disorder involves both rod and cone  
15 systems. Some patients have marked central retinal involvement, and can be  
16 described as having a cone-rod pattern of dysfunction; others have a rod-  
17 cone pattern with macular sparing early in the course of the disorder which, in  
18 one patient, subsequently showed clear cone>rod dysfunction. Two novel  
19 mutations are reported.

20

21 The first report of *RBP3* mutation associated with retinal disease appeared in  
22 2009<sup>21</sup>, describing autosomal recessive RP in a consanguineous Italian  
23 family. Affected individuals had onset of central vision loss in adult life with or  
24 without night-blindness; the onset of symptoms ranged from 32 to 60 years of  
25 age. The clinical findings were typical for RP with attenuated vessels,

1 intraretinal pigment migration, posterior subcapsular cataract and a profound  
2 loss of both rod and cone function on electroretinography. Until the present  
3 report, no further patients have been reported with mutations in the gene.

4

5 The four patients in the present series are much younger (8-14 years) than  
6 the youngest previously reported (46 years). All affected individuals had  
7 childhood onset high myopia. Fundus examination was unremarkable in all 4  
8 patients, but FAF imaging revealed abnormalities in the two patients imaged  
9 and OCT revealed loss of the ISe over peripheral macular areas in all  
10 patients. Electrophysiology indicated marked dysfunction in both rod and cone  
11 systems in both families. There was, however, inter-familial variation. Both  
12 siblings (patients 1 and 2) in one family showed a cone-rod dysfunction with  
13 marked macular involvement at an early age. The two siblings in the other  
14 family showed a rod>cone dysfunction with macular sparing when first  
15 examined, but subsequent recordings, in the one sibling where there was  
16 repeat testing, showed deterioration with the development of cone>rod  
17 dysfunction and severe macular involvement.

18

19 The c.1530T>A ; p.Y510\* and c.3454G>T ; p.E1152\* mutations identified in  
20 this study, result in transcripts shortened by 738 and 96 codons respectively.

21 The former mutation is predicted to encode a transcript that will undergo  
22 nonsense mediated decay (NMD) and is likely to result in a complete loss of  
23 IRBP function. The second, terminal exon premature termination codon  
24 mutation is expected to avoid NMD (reviewed in <sup>25,26</sup>). If any protein was  
25 translated, the c.3454G>T ; p.E1152\* mutation would result in a protein

1 lacking the putative retinol binding site of the fourth retinoid binding module  
2 and would be expected to misfold<sup>6,11,27</sup>. Therefore, both are predicted to be  
3 LOF alleles.

4  
5 In contrast, the family identified in the earlier report had a homozygous  
6 missense mutation (p.D1080N). In vitro studies of this mutation in 293T-LC  
7 cells and the mouse cone-derived 661W cell line demonstrated that the  
8 encoded protein was misfolded and failed to be secreted<sup>28</sup>. The misfolded  
9 protein accumulated in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and induced the  
10 unfolded protein response (UPR). Interestingly, kosmotropes (chemical  
11 chaperones) and lower growth temperatures could rescue the secretion of  
12 some D1080N IRBP<sup>28</sup>, suggesting that in vivo some of this allele might be  
13 secreted and functional. Therefore those patients are potentially hypomorphic  
14 for IRBP, as opposed to our patients whose phenotype is likely to represent  
15 the human IRBP-null phenotype. This may explain the earlier clinical  
16 presentation.

17  
18 The *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup> knockout (KO) mouse lacks expression of *Irbp* due to an intragenic  
19 deletion of all but the first 24 nucleotides of *Rbp3* exon 1<sup>19</sup>. The mice show  
20 photoreceptor degeneration and markedly reduced rod and cone response  
21 measured by ERG by one month of age<sup>19,20</sup>. There was however, only slow  
22 deterioration in rod function thereafter<sup>20</sup>. Furthermore, the recovery of rod  
23 function after a bleach was normal<sup>20</sup>. Our patients are too young for detailed  
24 psychophysical testing but it will of interest to measure the kinetics of dark  
25 adaptation at a later age to test whether human subjects show normal

1 recovery of function after a bleach. If the slow disease progression observed  
2 in the mouse is mirrored in the human, it raises the possibility of intervention  
3 at a stage before significant retinal degeneration.

4

5 The mechanism of photoreceptor degeneration and dysfunction in the *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup>  
6 mouse models and our patients remains unclear. Although both rod and cone  
7 function are affected in *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup> mice under certain conditions, such as  
8 alterations in RPE65 activity<sup>15-18</sup>, there is no major disruption in the retinoid  
9 visual cycle, so it appears unlikely that it is these subtle changes in the visual  
10 cycle that mediate all the early changes observed in mice and patients and  
11 other mechanisms are likely to be involved. It may be the absence of IRBP  
12 from the subretinal space, where it is normally 70% of the soluble protein that  
13 leads to the physical disruption of the IPM and photoreceptor function.  
14 Alternatively, IRBP might bind other factors, such as proteins, cholesterol,  
15 vitamin E or lipids, that are essential for the maintenance of photoreceptors  
16 and it is the loss of this trophic support that underlies photoreceptor  
17 dysfunction and death. Recent studies have shown that *Irbp* KO mice have  
18 similar number of rods to wild type mice until postnatal day 15 but by  
19 postnatal day 18 there is a 20% reduction in numbers of nuclei in the ONL  
20 compared to wild type mice, followed by a spike in TUNEL-stained nuclei in  
21 the outer nuclear layer (ONL)<sup>29</sup>. In addition to this apoptosis-mediated cell  
22 death, receptor interacting proteins (RIP)-kinase mediated necrosis appears  
23 to be a factor in *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup> mediated photoreceptor loss<sup>30</sup>. Moreover, inhibition of  
24 RIP1 with Nec1 or Nec1s prevented rod and cone photoreceptor cell death<sup>30</sup>,  
25 highlighting potential therapeutic interventions.



1

2 Interestingly, all of the patients with the initial *RBP3* (c.3238G>A, p.D1080N)  
3 mutations were reported to be highly myopic<sup>21</sup>. All of our *RBP3* truncation  
4 patients are also highly myopic. In the *Irbp*<sup>-/-</sup> KO mouse, axial length is  
5 significantly increased with a corresponding severe myopic shift<sup>29</sup>.  
6 Collectively these data show that IRBP, which is expressed early in retinal  
7 development plays an important additional role in normal eye growth and  
8 retinal development. The reason for this is unclear, but it may relate to the role  
9 of retinoids in retinal development, or the binding of another trophic factor, as  
10 opposed to a direct effect on visual transduction. High myopia appears to be a  
11 fully penetrant phenotype associated with mutations in *RBP3* and targeted  
12 screening of this gene may be considered in patients with high myopia and  
13 retinal dystrophy.

14

## 15 **Conclusion**

16

17 This study describes the clinical phenotypes in four patients from two families  
18 with novel homozygous nonsense mutations in *RBP3* initially detected by  
19 exome sequencing. This represents only the second report of mutations in  
20 *RBP3* causing human disease. A novel phenotype is described which is  
21 associated with null *RBP3* mutations. The initial impairment of photoreceptor  
22 function with limited structural change on OCT suggests a window of  
23 opportunity for photoreceptor rescue in childhood.

24

## 25 **Acknowledgements**

1

2 The authors thank the family members for their cooperation and help in this  
3 study. We are grateful to colleagues who referred affected individuals to us at  
4 Moorfields Eye Hospital and to those who contributed to the assembly of the  
5 early onset retinal dystrophy database, particularly Panos Sergouniotis, Alice  
6 Davidson, Alan Bird, Michel Michaelides, Genevieve Wright, Sophie Devery,  
7 Ravinder Chana, Beverley Scott, and Naushin Waseem. Additionally, we  
8 thank the UCL-exome consortium for access to control data.

9

10 Supported by grants from The National Institute for Health Research and  
11 Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the UCL Institute  
12 of Ophthalmology (London, UK), The Foundation Fighting Blindness (Owings  
13 Mills, MD, USA), Fight For Sight (London, UK), Moorfields Eye Hospital  
14 Special Trustees (London, UK) and Rosetrees Trust (Edgware, UK).

15

16

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24

## 25 **Figure legends**

26

27 **Figure 1:** Pedigrees of 2 families with mutation segregation

28

29 **Figure 2:** Full-field and pattern ERGs (PERG) in patients 1 (age 10 years), 2  
30 (age 9 years), 3 (age 5 years) and 4 (age 7 years) and a normal control. No  
31 significant inter-ocular asymmetries were present and data are shown for one  
32 eye only. Dark-adapted ERGs are shown for white flash strengths of 0.01 (DA  
33 0.01) and 10.0 cd.s.m<sup>-2</sup> (DA 10.0); Light-adapted ERGs use a 3.0 cd.s.m<sup>-2</sup>

1 flash strength at 30Hz (LA 30Hz) and 2Hz (LA 3.0). ERGs in case 4 have a  
2 20ms pre-stimulus delay, other than the 30Hz response. Broken lines replace  
3 blink artefacts. All patients have delayed and subnormal cone flicker ERGs in  
4 keeping with generalized cone system dysfunction. There is also marked rod  
5 photoreceptor dysfunction as shown by the subnormal DA 10.0 a-wave  
6 amplitude and subnormal DA 0.01 ERGs, with patient 4 being particularly  
7 severely affected. The loss of PERG in patients 1 and 2 indicates severe  
8 macular involvement; there is macular sparing in case 3 and relative sparing  
9 in case 4. See text for further details.

10

11 **Figure 3:** Retinal imaging: 1a-d patient 2 left eye, (1a) color fundus  
12 photograph montage from 30 degree photographs, demonstrating a  
13 tessellated, myopic fundus only (1b) 55 degree fundus autofluorescence  
14 (FAF) imaging with a patchy ring of increased autofluorescence in the region  
15 of the vascular arcades, (1c) optical coherence tomography (OCT) scan  
16 through the central macula, no abnormalities found (1d) OCT scan of superior  
17 macula with disrupted inner segment ellipsoid (ISe) band, and absent ISe  
18 band nasal to arrow; 2a-d patient 4 right eye, (2a) 35 degree color fundus  
19 photograph of posterior pole, no abnormalities found (2b) 30 degree FAF  
20 imaging with multiple foci of reduced autofluorescence, (2c) OCT scan  
21 through the central macula, no abnormalities found (2d) OCT scan of superior  
22 macula with disrupted ISe band, and absent ISe band nasal to arrow.

23 Key: RPE, retinal pigment epithelium; DS, dioptre sphere

24

| Patient Family (gender) | Mutation details        | Ages of review | Fundus         | Age at last electrophysiology, key findings   | Latest visual acuity, logMAR (Snellen equivalent) | Latest refractive error                      | Strabismus  |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1<br>GC17452<br>(m)     | c.3454G>T ;<br>p.E1152* | 5-13 years     | Myopic changes | 10 years; cone>rod dysfunction with marked macular involvement  | R 0.44 (20/50)<br>L 0.42 (20/50)                  | R -23.00/-2.50 x 100<br>L -23.00/-2.50 x 170 | Slight exophoria  |
| 2<br>GC17452<br>(f)     |                         | 4-12 years     | Myopic changes | 9 years; as above but more marked rod system involvement  | R 0.26 (20/40)<br>L 0.26 (20/40)                  | R -12.50/-2.00 x 20<br>L -1.00/-1.75 x 170   | Small left convergent squint, Left strabismic amblyopia treated with patching |
| 3<br>GC19774<br>(m)     | c.1530T>A ;<br>p.Y510*  | 2-14 years     | Myopic changes | 13 years; marked deterioration into cone>rod dysfunction with macular involvement; at age 5 years there was a rod>cone abnormality with macular sparing | R 0.12 (20/25)<br>L 0.02 (20/20)                  | R -12.25/-1.00 x 50<br>L -13.00/-2.00 x 140  | Small exophoria   |
| 4<br>GC19774<br>(m)     |                         | 2-8 years      | Myopic changes | 7 years, rod>cone abnormality with relative macular sparing   | R 0.42 (20/50)<br>L 0.44 (20/50)                  | R -6.25/-1.25 x 180<br>L -6.75/-1.00 x 5     | Small left/alternating esotropia  |

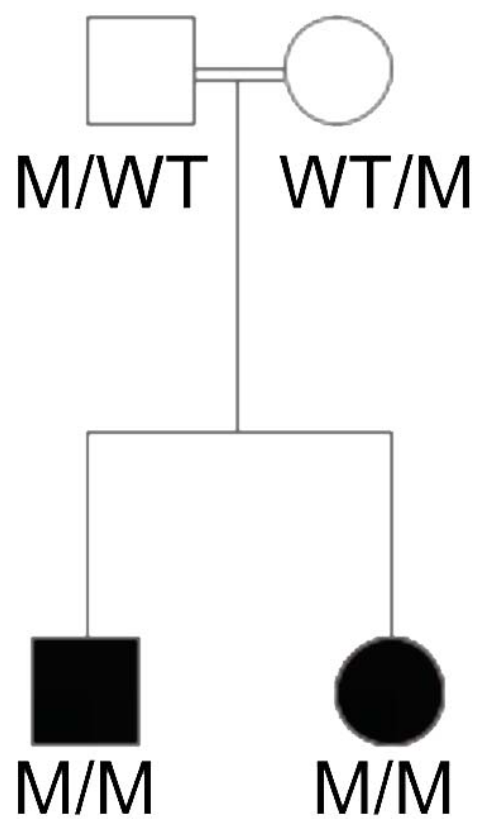
1 **Table 1:** Clinical summary.

|   | Number of variants |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>Total</b>  | >100,000           |
| <b>Post quality filtering, exonic ± 5 nucleotides</b>   | 25,799             |
| <b>Variants with MAF &lt;0.001 in control datasets*</b> | 623                |
| <b>Homozygous</b>                                       | 27                 |
| <b>Loss of function</b>                                 | 2                  |

2 \*UCL-exomes dataset and ESP database

3 **Table 2:** WES variant filtering strategy

GC17452



GC19774

