

# NEWBORN SCREENING FOR SCID IN BRAZIL

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## Attending to Warning Signs of Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases Across the Range of Clinical Practice

Beatriz Tavares Costa-Carvalho • Anete Sevciovic Grumach • José Luis Franco •  
Francisco Javier Espinosa-Rosales • Lily E. Leiva • Alejandra King • Oscar Porras •  
Liliana Bezrodnik • Mathias Oleastro • Ricardo U. Sorensen • Antonio Condino-Neto

**A group of > 420 monogenic diseases presenting with: recurrent infections, autoimmunity, inflammation, allergy, and cancer**

## The relevance of collaborative work: the Latin American Society for Immunodeficiencies (LASID) registry model

© 2014 British Society for Immunology, *Clinical and Experimental Immunology*, **178**: 16–17

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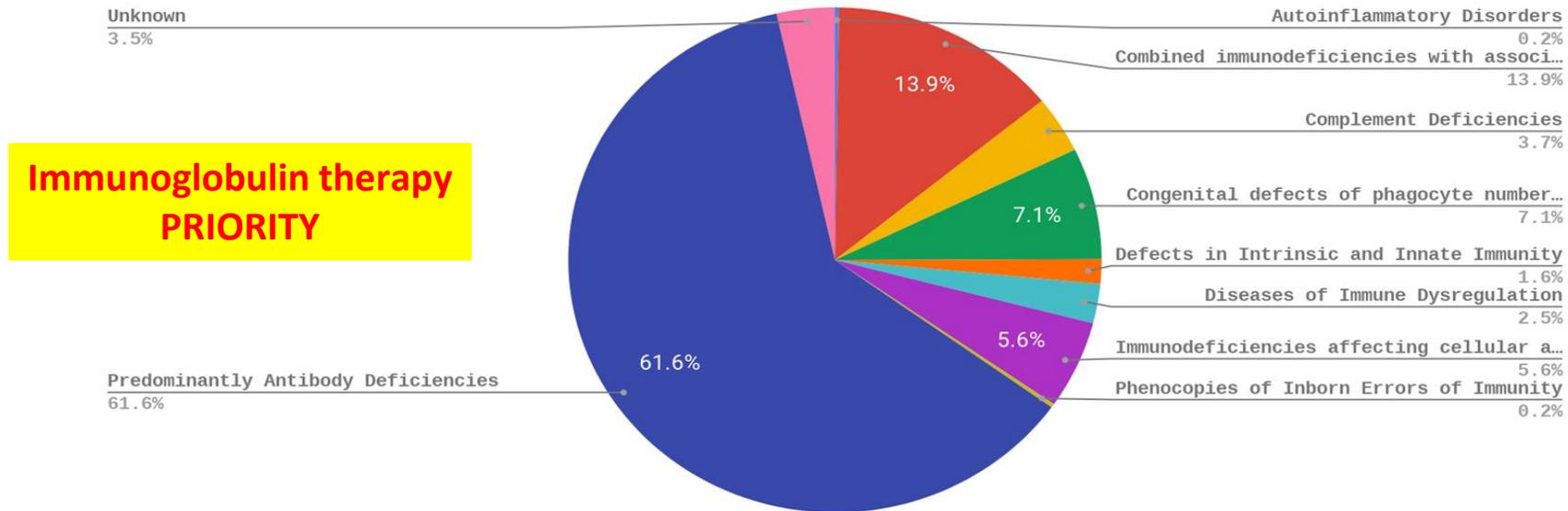
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**EDUCATION  
10 YEARS !  
~ 8000 CASES !**



Latin American Society for Immunodeficiencies  
Sociedad Latinoamericana de Inmunodeficiencias

# PIDD LATAM



Autoinflammatory Disorders	18
Combined immunodeficiencies with associated or syndromic features	1071
Complement Deficiencies	282
Congenital defects of phagocyte number or function	548
Defects in Intrinsic and Innate Immunity	121
Diseases of Immune Dysregulation	194
Immunodeficiencies affecting cellular and humoral immunity	433
Phenocopies of Inborn Errors of Immunity	19
Predominantly Antibody Deficiencies	4738
Unknown	271
<b>Total</b>	<b>7695</b>



***90% PIDs without diagnosis***



**Diagnosis delay 7 - 10 years**





# Severe Combined Immunodeficiency - SCID

- **Most severe form of PID**
- Newborns usually appear healthy at birth
- **Absence or low number of T cells that can be accompanied by** B or NK cell deficiency in number and function
- Recurrent infections
- Frequent diarrhea and failure to thrive
- Severe, sometimes fatal reactions to vaccination  
( **BCG vaccination** in mandatory in the 1<sup>st</sup> mo of life in Br)
- **Fatal without immune reconstitution**



**PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY**



## SCID – treatment

- Antibiotics, Antifungals, Antiviral
- Anti-BCG
- Immunoglobulin replacement
- Enzyme replacement (ADA) as indicated
- **Hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation (majority is haploidentical)**
- Gene therapy – sent abroad (US)



# SCID – pediatric emergency



*Klebsiella pneumoniae*



# SCID – pediatric emergency



*Klebsiella pneumoniae*



JPL: received BCG **twice!**



# SCID – pediatric emergency



Klebsiella pneumoniae





# SCID – pediatric emergency



Omenn Syndrome / SCID  
Died before BMT



# SCID – pediatric emergency

Omenn / SCID – Pre-Transplant



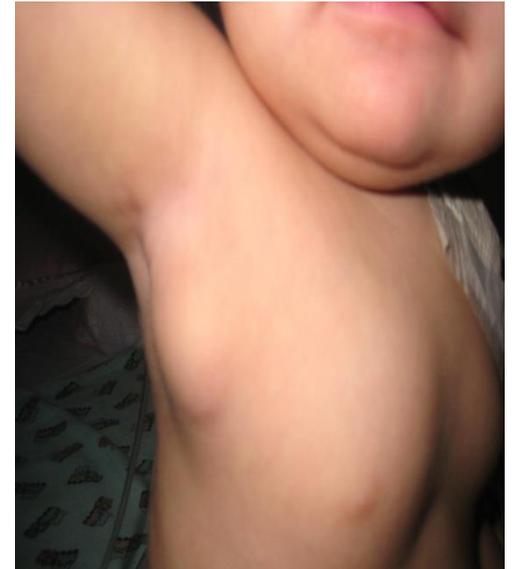
Post-transplant





# SCID – pediatric emergency

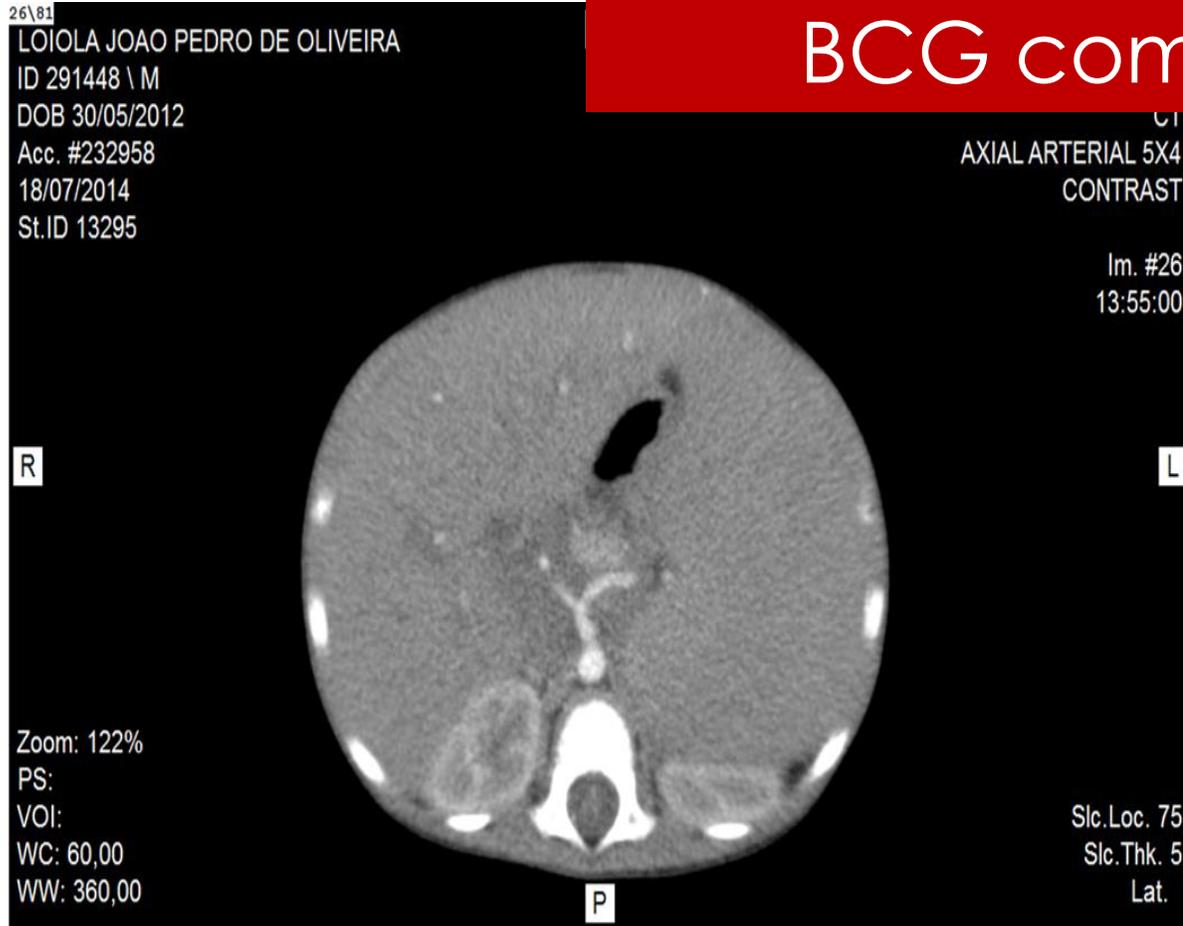
## BCG complications





# SCID – pediatric emergency

## BCG complications



**JPL: BCG isolated in the lungs, brain and bone marrow**



# SCID – pediatric emergency



Leaky SCID  
Moluscum



SCID / death post-transplantation

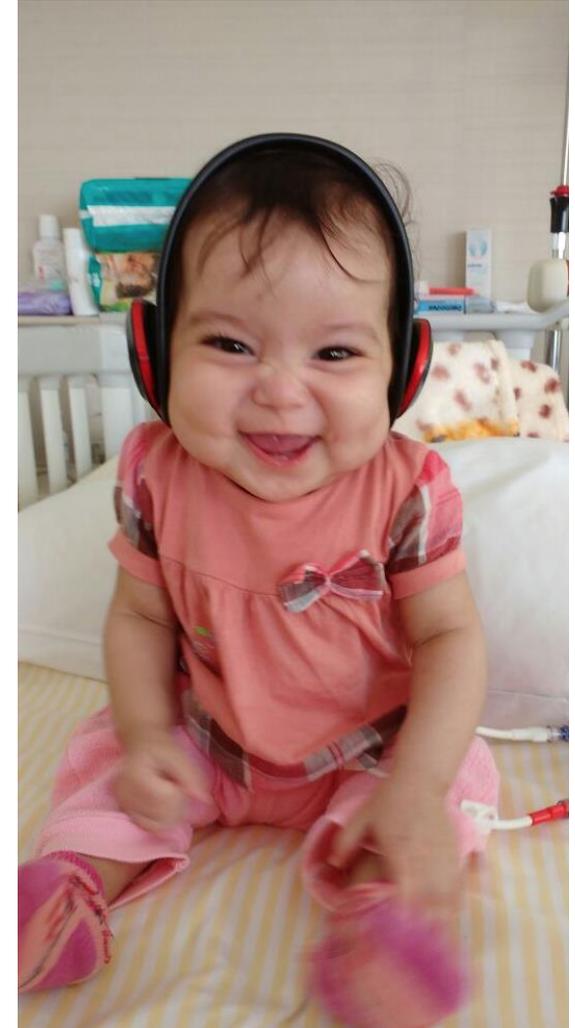




# SCID – pediatric emergency

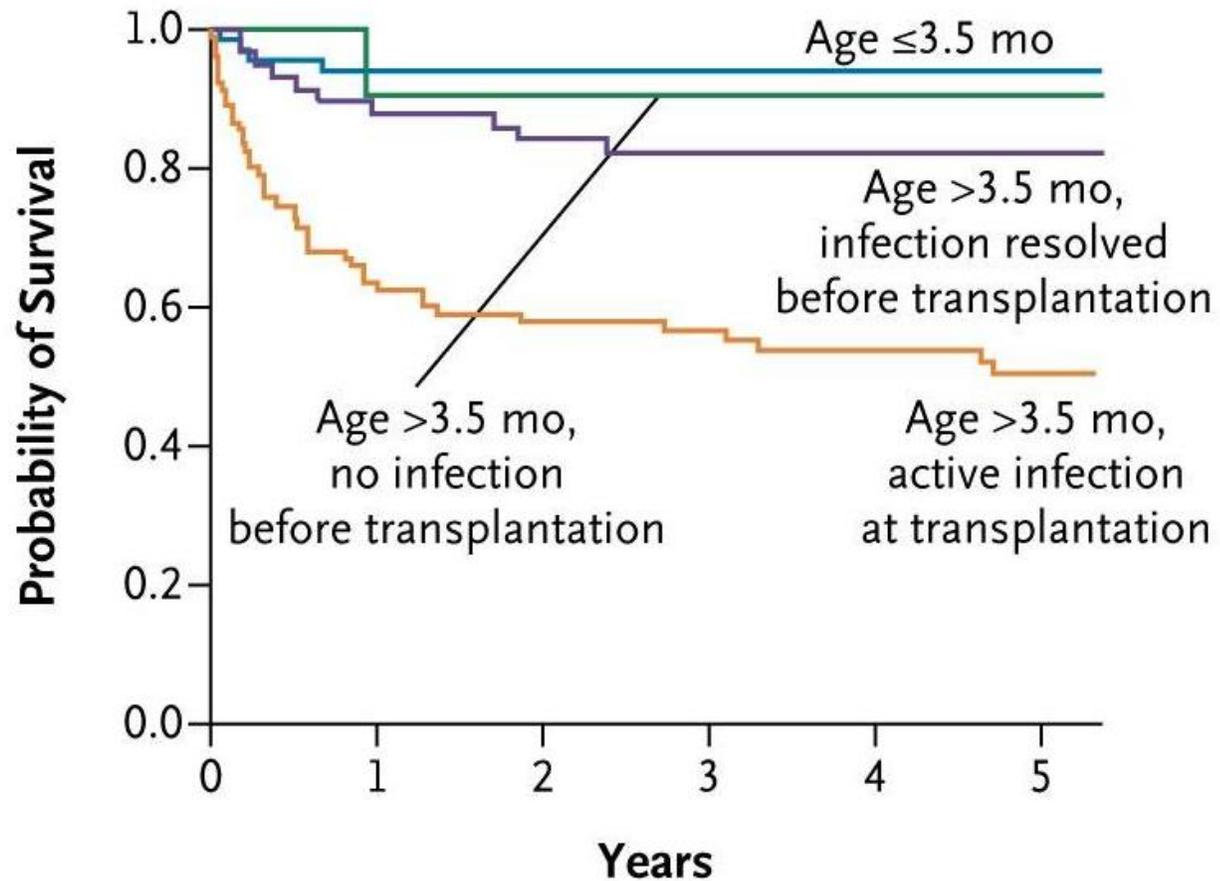


Omenn Syndrome  
PRE x POST-TRANSPLANT





# SCID – pediatric emergency

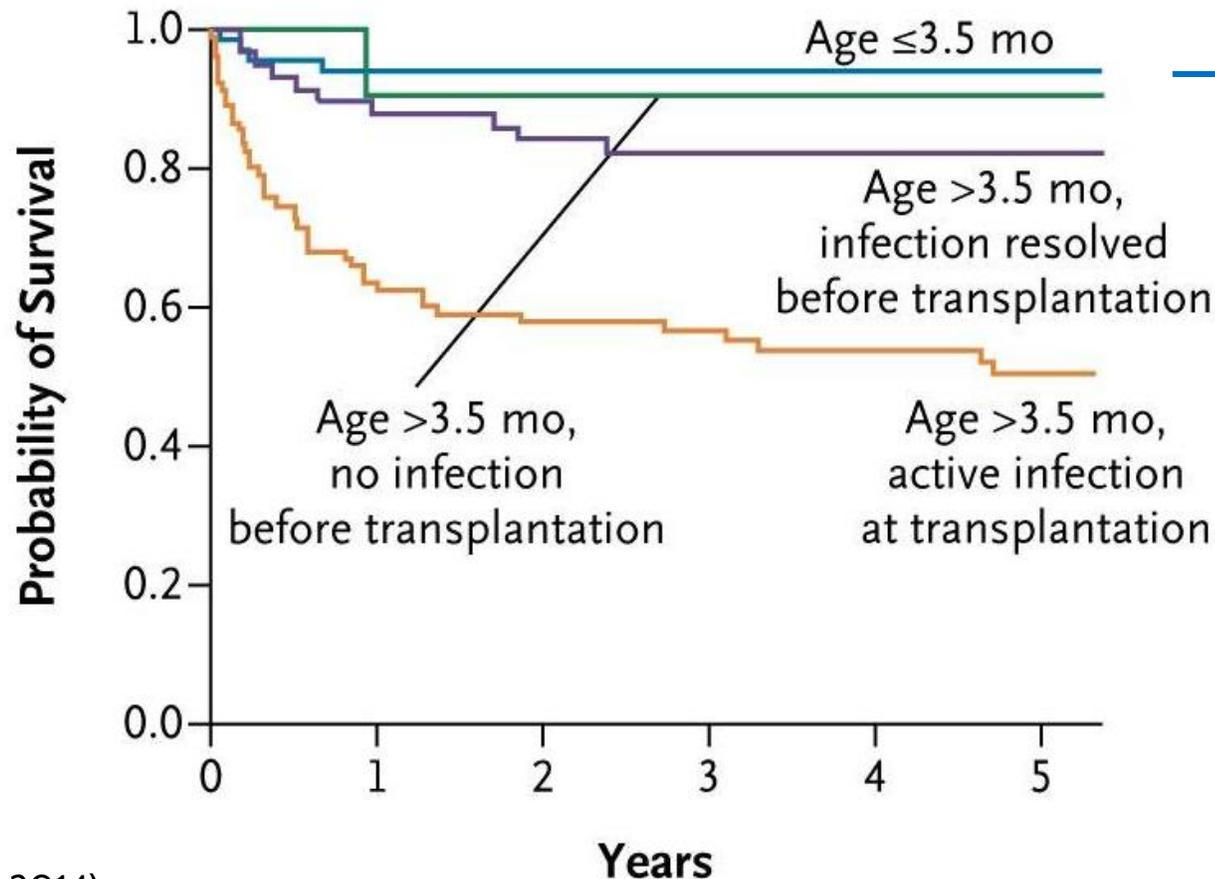


240 SCID transplanted  
2000 - 2009  
25 centers



# SCID – pediatric emergency

240 SCID transplanted (2000 – 2009) - 25 centers



**Higher success (> 95%)**

- before 3.5 months
- without active infections

**> 3.5 m and with active infections**

**Survival drops to ~ 50%**



# Newborn screening for SCID

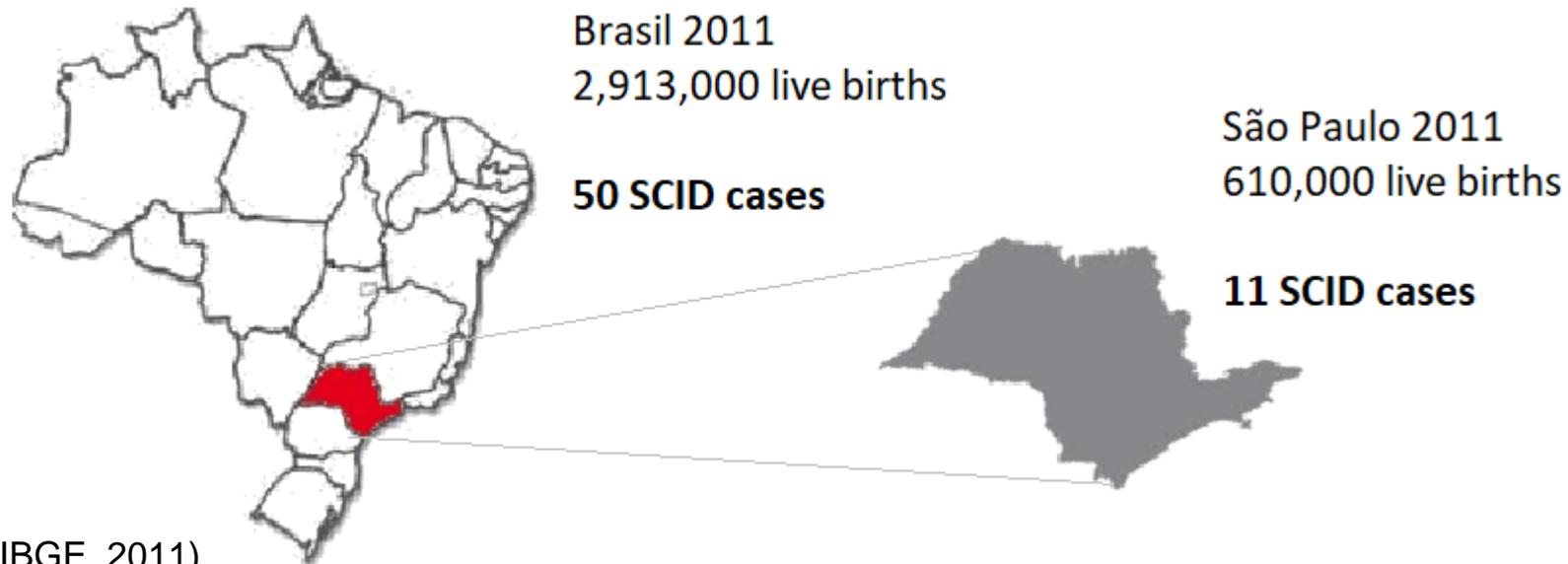
- **2005:** Chan and Puck described TREC quantification as a technique for NBS for SCID
- **2007:** SCID was nominated for addition to the screening panel in the USA
- **2008:** first NBS pilot for SCID in Wisconsin
- **2010:** start of NBS pilot in São Paulo
- **2014:** start of NBS pilot in Curitiba (Parana, Rondonia, RJ and SP)
- **2016:** beginning of the PRONAS SABARA / PENSI / USP pilot program



# SCID: current scenario in Brazil

- Retrospective study with **patients suspected of SCID 1996-2010 (= 14 years)**
- **70** possible cases in 65 families
  - Only 7 confirmed cases
  - 50% of patients died and 23 of those did not undergo BMT

(Mazzucchelli et al., 2014)



**For 3 million births /  
year: 750 cases in 15 y  
(90% of pt. were  
missed!)**

(IBGE, 2011)

Using incidence for the US: 1: **58,000** live births



# HSCT for PIDs: current scenario in Brazil

Journal of Clinical Immunology (2018) 38:917–926  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10875-018-0564-1>

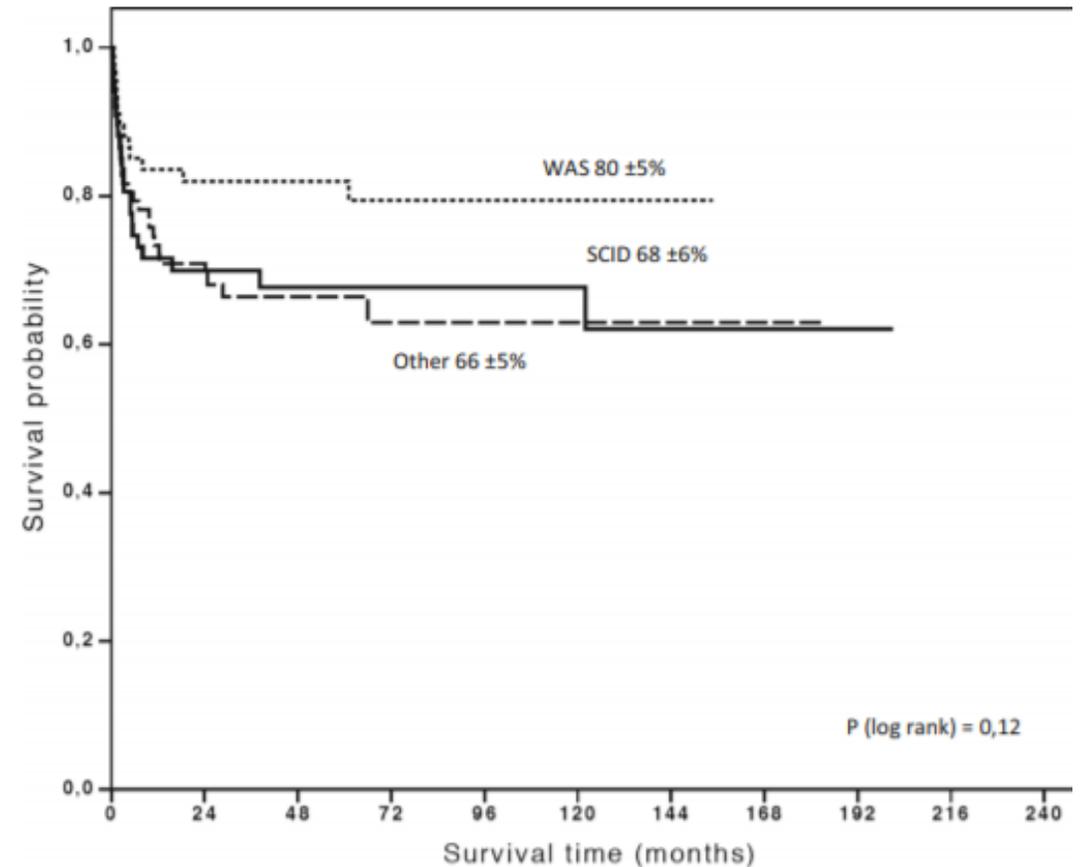
ORIGINAL ARTICLE



## Transplantation of Hematopoietic Stem Cells for Primary Immunodeficiencies in Brazil: Challenges in Treating Rare Diseases in Developing Countries

Juliana Folloni Fernandes<sup>1,2</sup>  · Samantha Nichele<sup>3</sup> · Liane E. Daudt<sup>4</sup> · Rita B. Tavares<sup>5</sup> · Adriana Seber<sup>6</sup> · Fábio R. Kerbauy<sup>2</sup> · Adriana Koliski<sup>3</sup> · Gisele Loth<sup>3</sup> · Ana K. Vieira<sup>7</sup> · Luiz G. Darrigo-Junior<sup>8</sup> · Vanderson Rocha<sup>9,10</sup> · Alessandra A. Gomes<sup>9</sup> · Vergílio Colturato<sup>11</sup> · Luiz F. Mantovani<sup>1,2</sup> · Andreza F. Ribeiro<sup>2</sup> · Lisandro L. Ribeiro<sup>3,12</sup> · Cilmara Kuwahara<sup>13</sup> · Ana L. M. Rodrigues<sup>13</sup> · Victor G. Zecchin<sup>6</sup> · Beatriz T. Costa-Carvalho<sup>14</sup> · Magda Carneiro-Sampaio<sup>1,15</sup> · Antonio Condino-Neto<sup>16</sup> · Anders Fasth<sup>17</sup> · Andrew Gennery<sup>18</sup> · Ricardo Pasquini<sup>3,12</sup> · Nelson Hamerschlak<sup>2</sup> · Carmem Bonfim<sup>3,12,13</sup>

- 1990-2015: **221 patients** from 11 centers (**only 67 SCIDs – 30%**)
- Median age at transplantation: **22m**
- **HVGD – 33%**
- **5y OS: 71.6%**
- **Deaths were 24% due to infection (55%) or GVHS (13%)**



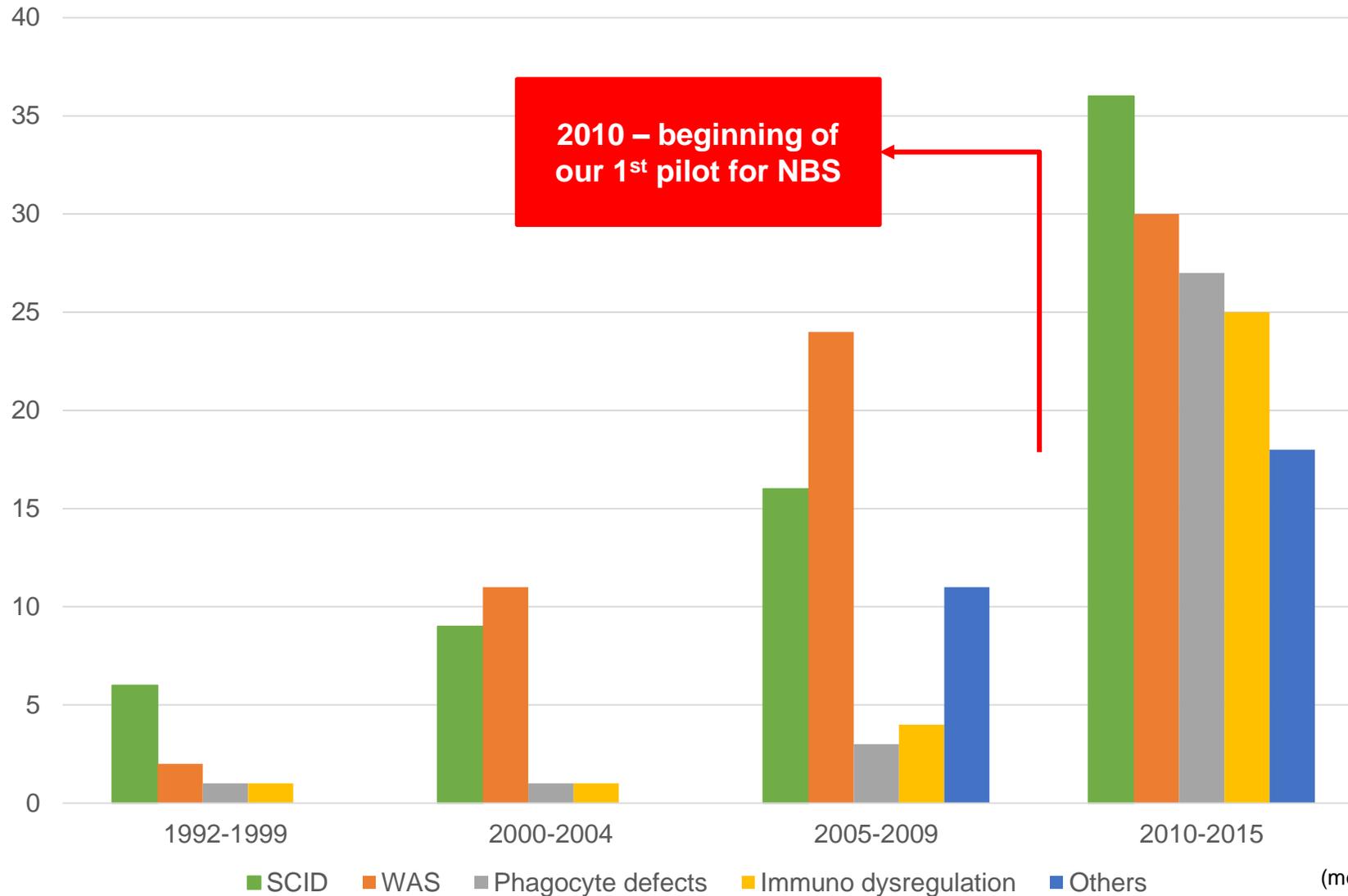


# HSCT for PIDs: current scenario in Brazil

- SCIDs = 67
  - **Genetic diagnosis: 27%** (18/67)
  - Data on BCG vaccination: 53 were vaccinated out of 60 (88%)
  - **53% (28/53) – disseminated BCG infections**
  - **Majority was transplanted after 6 months of age**
    - Diagnostic delay
    - Late referral to a transplant unit
    - Long time to find a compatible donors
    - Lack of beds in the few public hospitals that perform this type of transplant



# HSCT for PIDs: current scenario in Brazil

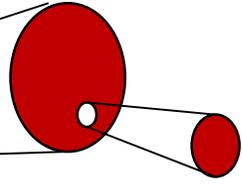
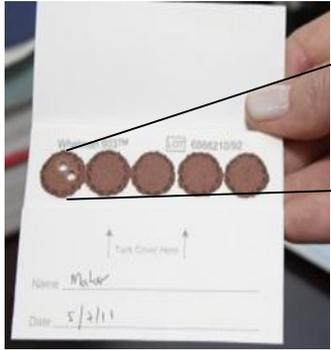


(modified from Fernandes et al., 2018)

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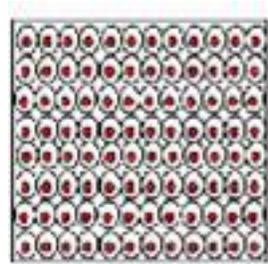
# How was newborn screening for PIDD established in Brazil?





3.2mm

Punch

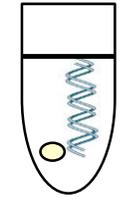


96 well plate

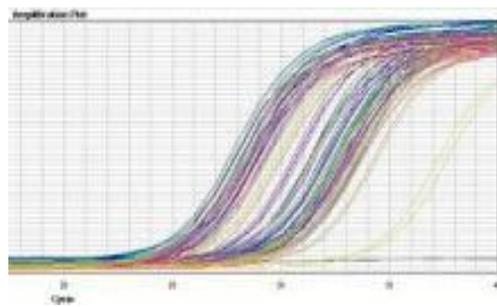
DNA elution



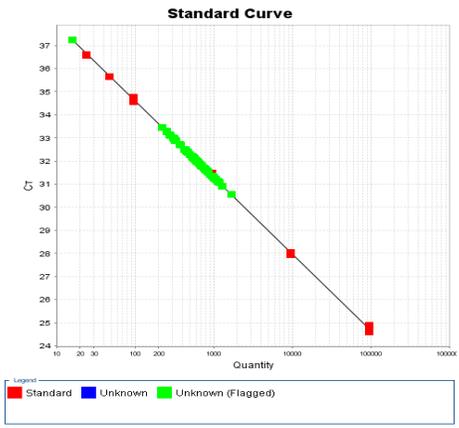
Plasmid w/ TREC/KREC/ACTB sequences (no kits)



qPCR



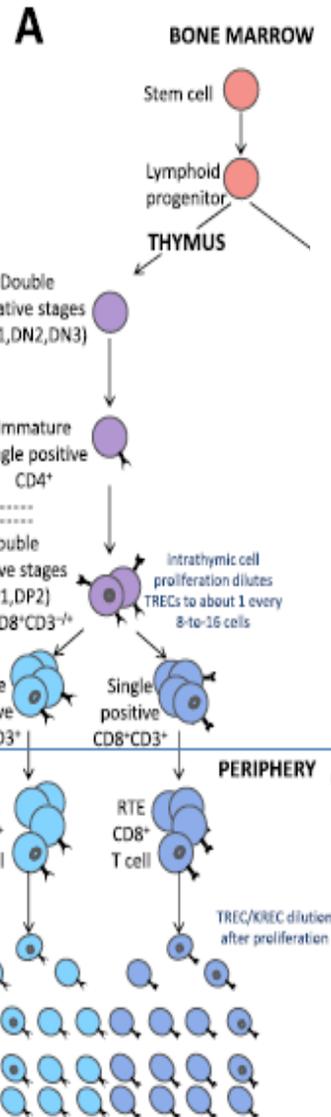
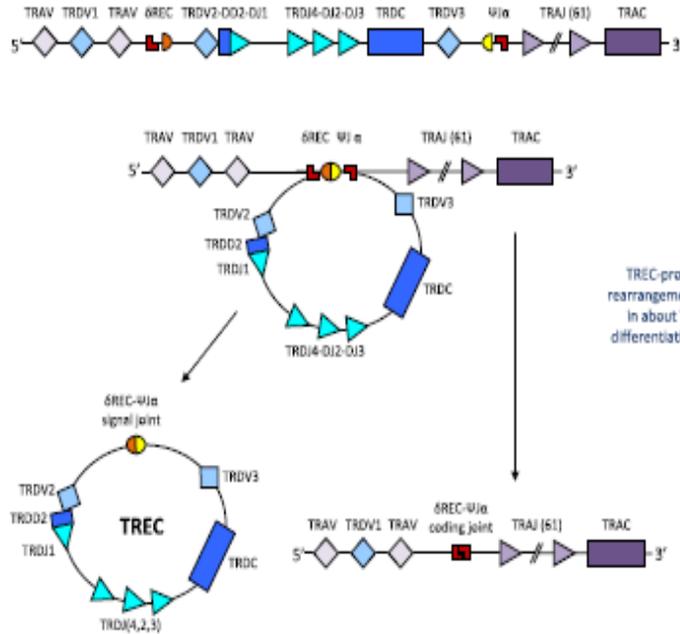
Analysis





# TRECs – T cell Receptor Excision Circles

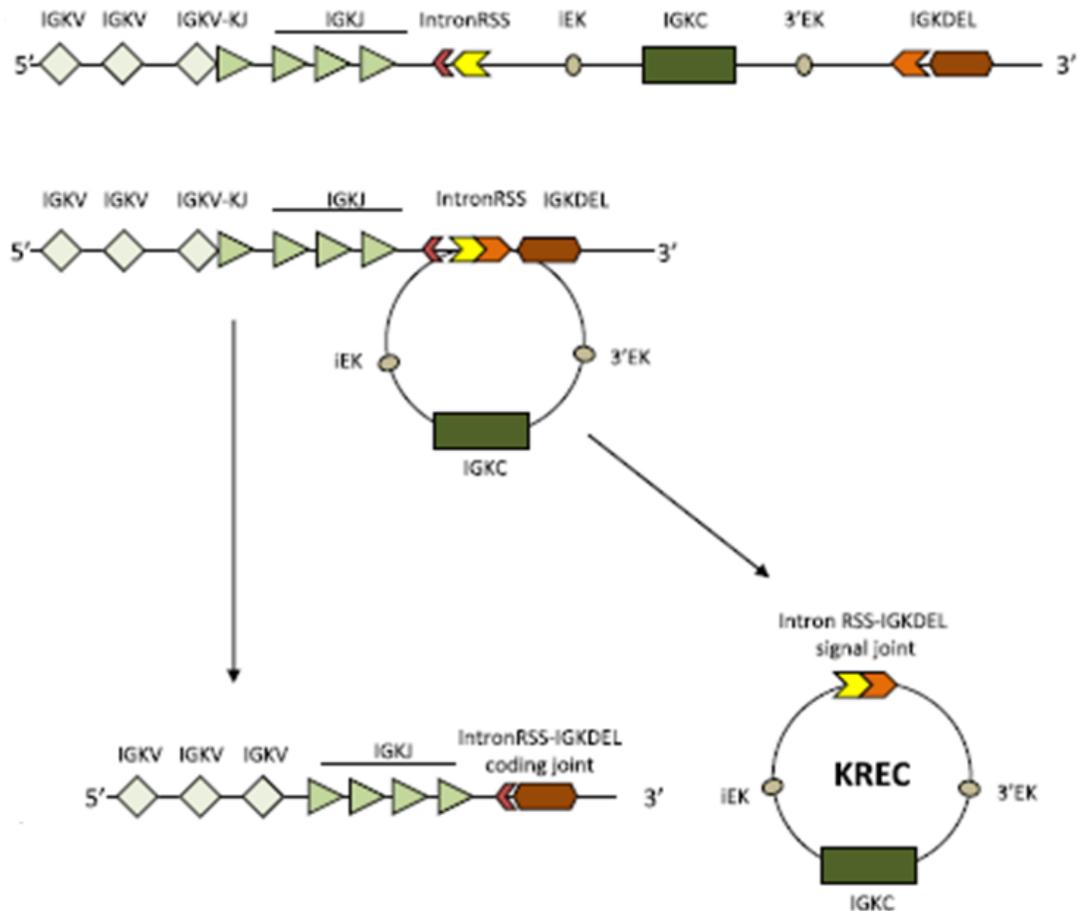
T-cell differentiation and TREC formation



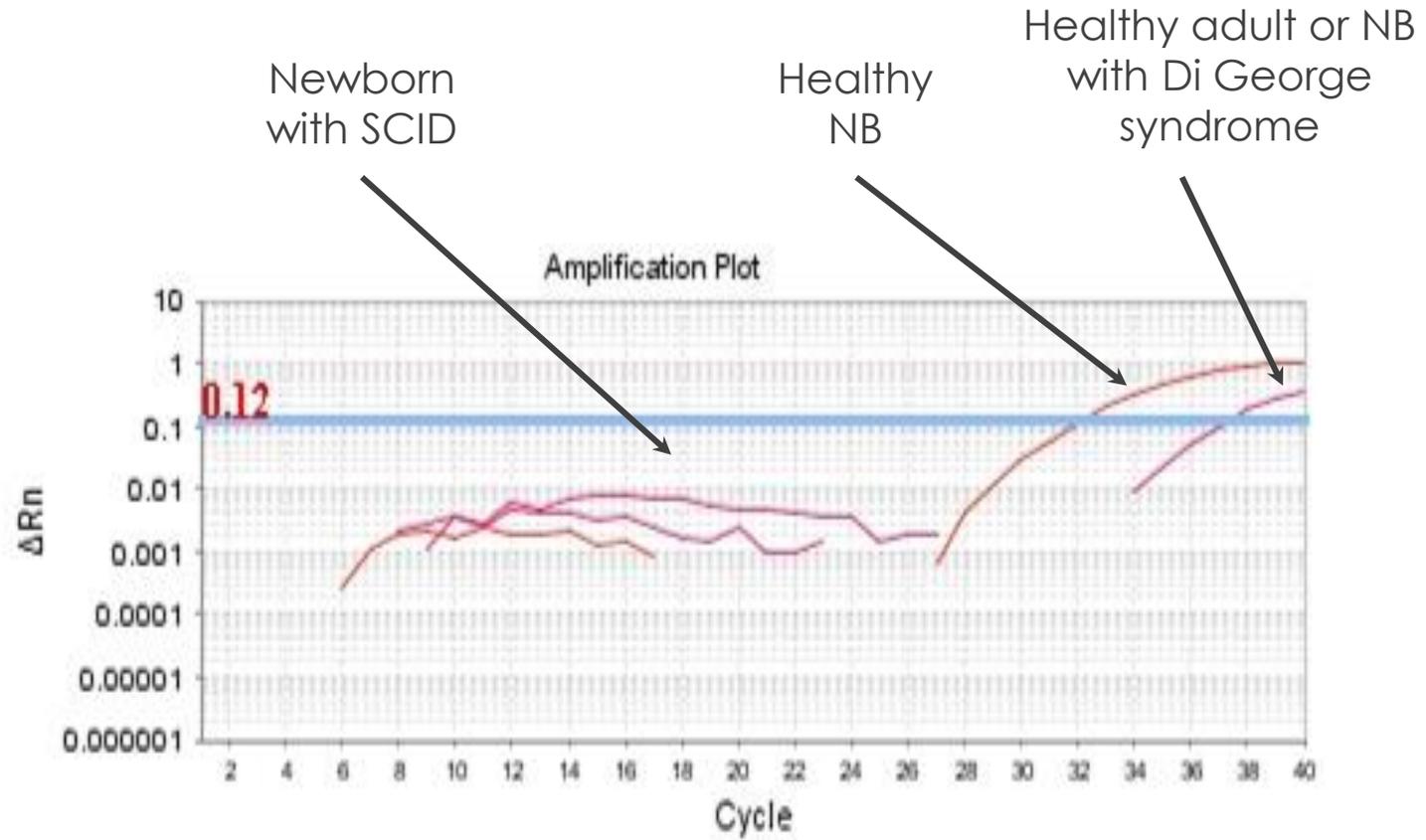
- Produced in the **thymus** during the process of genetic recombination needed for development of the **T cell receptor (TCR)**
- Does not undergo clonal expansion
- Approximately **1 TREC = 1 naive T cell**



# KREC - K-deleting recombination excision circles

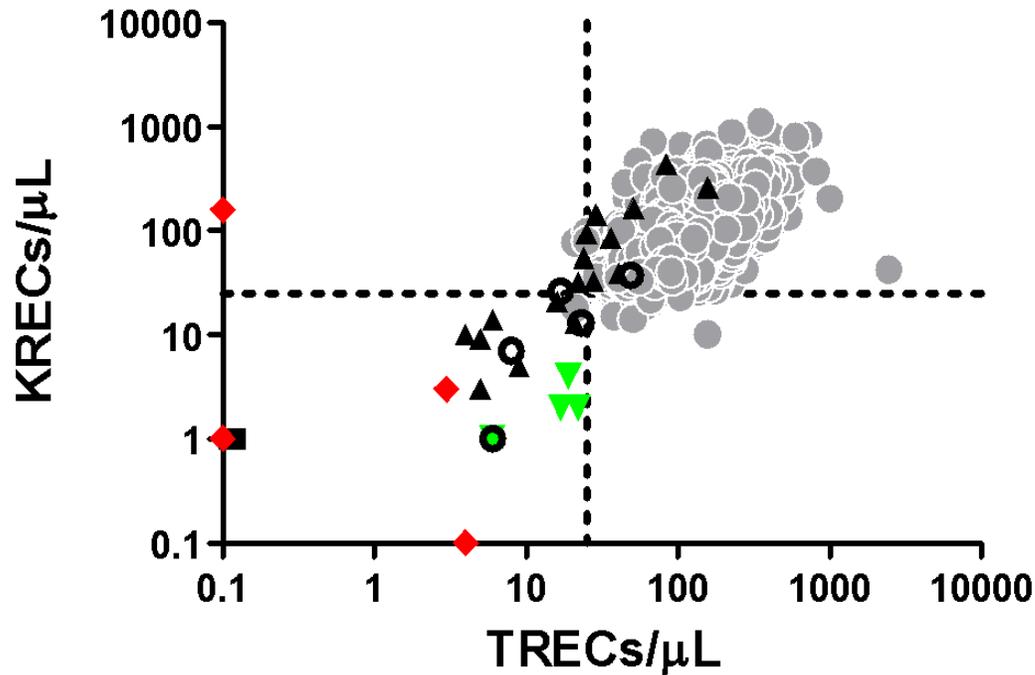


- Produced in the bone marrow during the genetic recombination needed for the development of the **B cell receptor** (BCR)
- Does not undergo clonal expansion
- approximately: **1 KREC = 1 naive B cell**
- Allows the detection of **agamaglobulinemia** and also guides SCID genetic investigation





# TRECs x KRECs



- Ataxia-telangiectasia
- ▲ Amostras encaminhadas
- ▼ Agamaglobulinemia
- ◆ SCID
- Hipogamaglobulinemia

**Cutoff values chosen to detect not only classic SCID, but also other diseases**

Cutoff:  
 TREC < 25 molecules / uL of blood  
 KREC < 20 molecules / uL of blood

**TREC and KREC values for 4,490 different samples**

J Pediatr (Rio J). 2016;92(4):374-380



Jornal de  
**Pediatria**

www.jpod.com.br



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**Neonatal screening for severe combined immunodeficiency in Brazil**<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6</sup>

Marília Pyles Patto Kanegae<sup>a</sup>, Lucila Akune Barreiros<sup>a</sup>, Juliana Themudo Lessa Mazzucchelli<sup>b</sup>, Sonia Marchezi Hadachi<sup>c</sup>, Laura Maria de Figueiredo Ferreira Gullhoto<sup>c</sup>, Ana Lúcia Acquesta<sup>d</sup>, Isabel Rugue Genov<sup>b,e</sup>, Sílvia Maia Holanda<sup>f</sup>, Regina Sumiko Watanabe Di Gesu<sup>g</sup>, Ana Lucia Goulart<sup>h</sup>, Amélia Miyashiro Nunes dos Santos<sup>b</sup>, Newton Bellesi<sup>h</sup>, Beatriz Tavares Costa-Carvalho<sup>b</sup>, Antonio Condino-Neto<sup>a,h</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Immunology, Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas, Universidade de São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil  
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<sup>f</sup> Amparo Maternal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil  
<sup>g</sup> Hospital Nossa Senhora da Conceição, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil  
<sup>h</sup> Clínica de Medicina Preventiva do Pará (CLIMEP), Belém, PA, Brazil

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1984-0462/2017;35;1;00013>

**NEWBORN SCREENING FOR SEVERE COMBINED IMMUNODEFICIENCIES USING TRECS AND KRECS: SECOND PILOT STUDY IN BRAZIL**

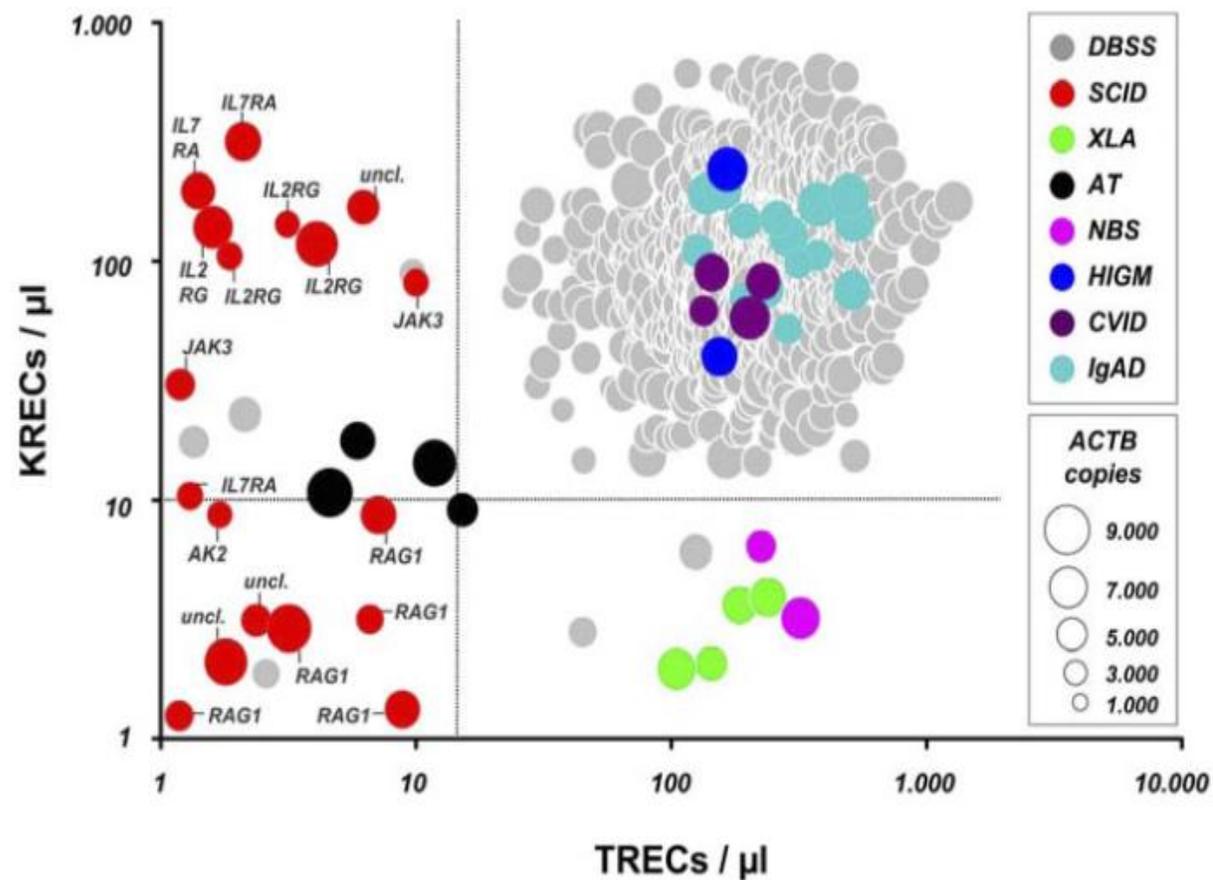
Triagem neonatal de imunodeficiências graves combinadas por meio de TRECs e KRECs: segundo estudo piloto no Brasil

Marília Pyles P. Kanegae<sup>a</sup>, Lucila Akune Barreiros<sup>a</sup>, Jusley Lira Sousa<sup>a</sup>, Marco Antônio S. Brito<sup>a</sup>, Edgar Borges de Oliveira Junior<sup>a</sup>, Lara Pereira Soares<sup>b</sup>, Juliana Themudo L. Mazzucchelli<sup>c</sup>, Débora Quiorato Fernandes<sup>d</sup>, Sonia Marchezi Hadachi<sup>e</sup>, Sílvia Maia Holanda<sup>f</sup>, Flávia Alice T. M. Guimarães<sup>g</sup>, Maura Aparecida P. V. V. Boacnin<sup>h</sup>, Marley Aparecida L. Pereira<sup>i</sup>, Joaquina Maria C. Bueno<sup>j</sup>, Anete Sevciovic Grunack<sup>k</sup>, Regina Sumiko W. Di Gesu<sup>l</sup>, Amélia Miyashiro N. dos Santos<sup>m</sup>, Newton Bellesi<sup>n</sup>, Beatriz T. Costa-Carvalho<sup>o</sup>, Antonio Condino-Neto<sup>a</sup>



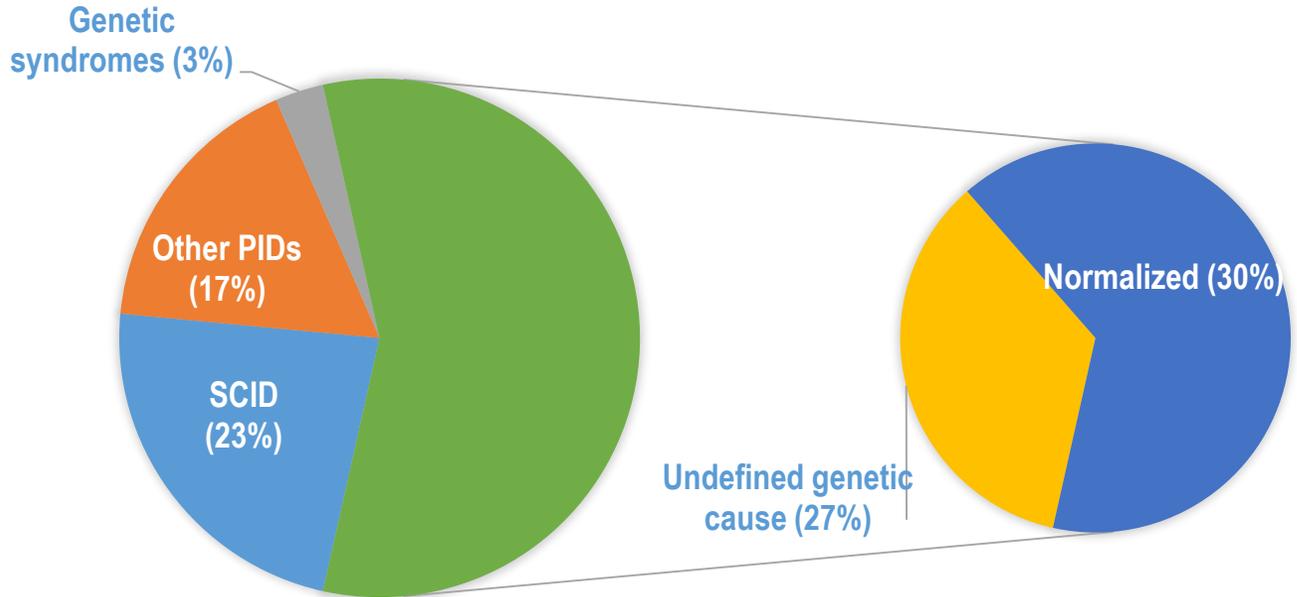
## Neonatal screening for severe primary immunodeficiency diseases using high-throughput triplex real-time PCR

Stephan Borte, Ulrika von Döbeln, Anders Fath, Ning Wang, Magdalena Janzi, Jacek Winiarski, Ulrich Sack, Qiang Pan-Hammarström, Michael Borte and Lennart Hammarström





# Possible causes for low TRECs worldwide



(Maraucher et al., 2017)

(Dorsey & Puck, 2017)

## Syndromes with T cell deficiency

DiGeorge / 22q11.2 deletion	57%
Trisomy 21	13%
Ataxia Telangectasia	3%
CHARGE syndrome	2%

## Secondary T lymphopenia

Congenital heart defect.	25%
Other congenital abnormalities	38%
Fetal hidropsy	13%
Neonatal Leukemia	3%
Maternal immunosuppressive drugs	3-5%
Extreme preterm birth	7%
Idiopathic T lymphopenia	3%



# LIH – NBS in Brazil from 2011 to 2019

- **Curently: 4th Pilot Project (PRONAS – 2016-2019)**

- N. samples: 20.457
- TRECs and/or KRECs below 10 molecules/uL of blood = 51 (0.24%)



- Total samples for NBS from 2011 to 2019: ~ **76,000**

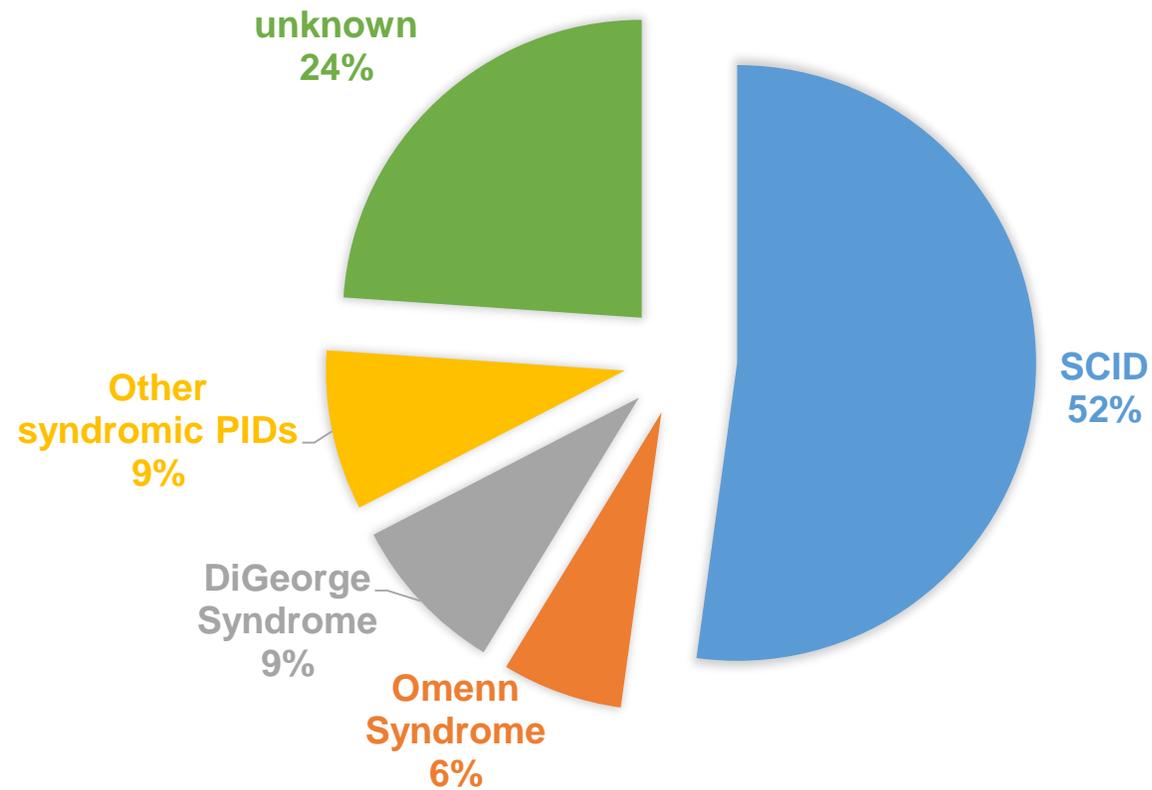
- **57 altered TRECs from NBS (0.16%) – 2 were SCID detected at birth**

(preterms whose values normalized later are not included in this number)

- **30 pt. with genetic investigation finalized -> genetic variant found in 20 pt. (~67%)**



# Identified causes of low TRECs in Brazil



(normalized TRECs are not included in this result)



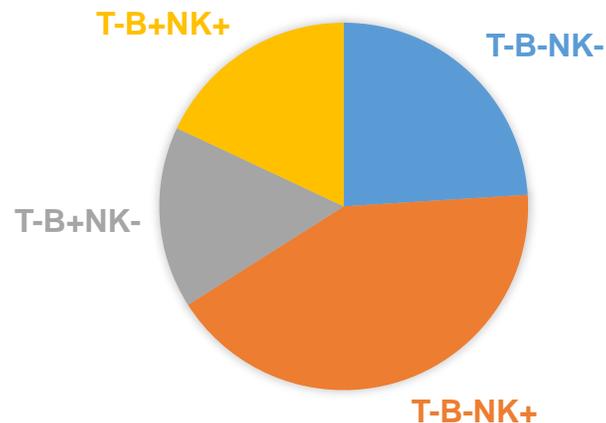
# LIH – SCID cases (2011-2019)

- **49 suspected SCID patients (symptomatic or referred due to positive Family history of SCID/PID)**

(investigated in 2 different institutions – USP and UNIFESP)

- 39% female and 61% males

- Immunophenotypes:



- 61% with known outcome

- **Survival post BMT: 47% (14/30)**

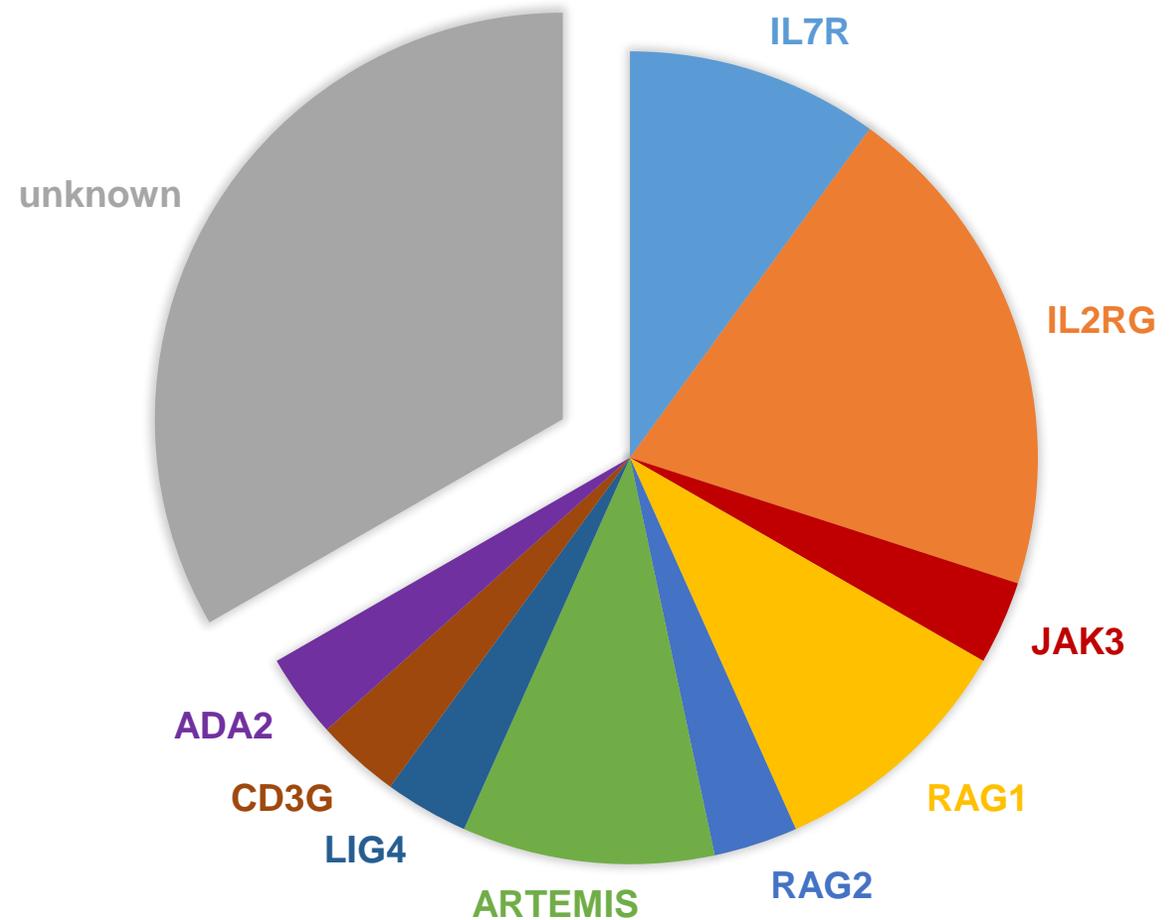
**Need to improve communication among investigators, physicians and transplant team**



# LIH – SCID cases (2011-2019)

## Genetic investigation

- 30/49 pt. = 65% (Sanger or WES)
- Genetic variant identified: 20/30 (67%)
- 33% are still unknown





# From screening to genetic counseling



- Primary investigation- simple exams (blood cell count, Igs)
- Relevance of supporting the family throughout the process

# TRIAGEM PARA SCID e AGAMA

Imunodeficiência Combinada Grave  
e Agamaglobulinemia



Laboratório APAE DE SÃO PAULO

## VOCÊ TEM 50 MOTIVOS PARA INDICAR O MELHOR E MAIS COMPLETO TESTE DO PEZINHO



O Teste do Pezinho SUPER + SCID e AGAMA  
detectam juntos cinquenta doenças.

Este material é destinado a profissionais de saúde.



Laboratório APAE DE SÃO PAULO

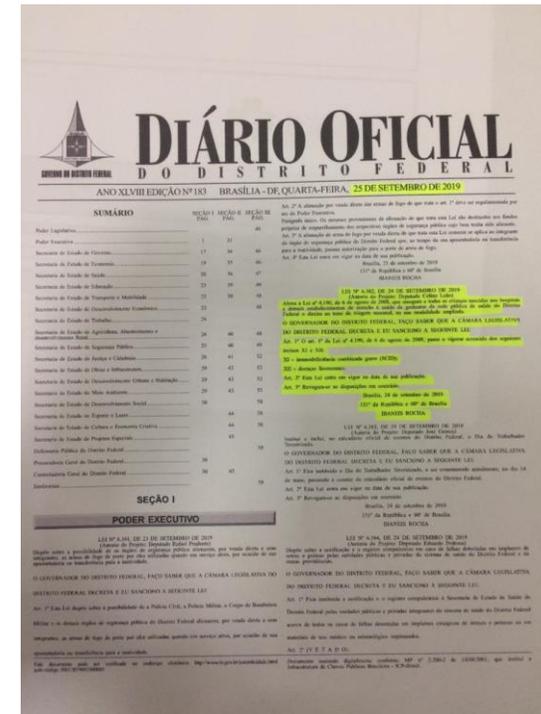
Rua Loeffgren, 2109 – Vila Clementino  
04040-033 – São Paulo/SP  
Tel.: (11) 5080 7023  
e-mail: [testedopezinho@apaesp.org.br](mailto:testedopezinho@apaesp.org.br)  
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## PERSPECTIVES



NÃO JUBILEE ESTE IMPRESSO DE NA A PÚBLICA

NÃO JUBILEE ESTE IMPRESSO DE NA A PÚBLICA





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Neonatal screening for severe combined immunodeficiency in Brazil ☆☆☆



Marília Pyles Patto Kanegae<sup>a</sup>, Lucila Akune Barreiros<sup>a</sup>, Juliana Themudo Lessa Mazzucchelli<sup>b</sup>, Sonia Marchezi Hadacht<sup>c</sup>, Laura Maria de Figueiredo Ferreira Guilhoto<sup>c</sup>, Ana Lúcia Acquesta<sup>d</sup>, Isabel Rugue Genov<sup>b,e</sup>, Sílvia Maia Holanda<sup>f</sup>, Regina Sumiko Watanabe Di Gesu<sup>g</sup>, Ana Lucia Goulart<sup>b</sup>, Amélia Miyashiro Nunes dos Santos<sup>b</sup>, Newton Bellest<sup>h</sup>, Beatriz Tavares Costa-Carvalho<sup>b</sup>, Antonio Condino-Neto<sup>a,h</sup>

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KEYWORDS

SCID;  
Neonatal screening;  
TREC;  
T lymphocytes;  
Combined immunodeficiency;  
Primary immunodeficiency

Abstract

**Objective:** To apply, in Brazil, the T-cell receptor excision circles (TRECs) quantification technique using real-time polymerase chain reaction in newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiency and assess the feasibility of implementing it on a large scale in Brazil. **Methods:** 8715 newborn blood samples were collected on filter paper and, after DNA elution, TRECs were quantified by real-time polymerase chain reaction. The cutoff value to determine whether a sample was abnormal was determined by ROC curve analysis, using SSPS. **Results:** The concentration of TRECs in 8,682 samples ranged from 2 to 2,181 TRECs/ $\mu$ L of blood, with mean and median of 324 and 259 TRECs/ $\mu$ L, respectively. Forty-nine (0.56%) samples were below the cutoff (30 TRECs/ $\mu$ L) and were reanalyzed. Four (0.05%) samples had abnormal results (between 16 and 29 TRECs/ $\mu$ L). Samples from patients previously identified as having severe combined immunodeficiency or DiGeorge syndrome were used to validate the assay and

☆ Please cite this article as: Kanegae MP, Barreiros LA, Mazzucchelli JT, Hadacht SM, Guilhoto LM, Acquesta AL, et al. Neonatal screening for severe combined immunodeficiency in Brazil. J Pediatr (Rio J). 2016;92:374-80.

☆☆ This study was carried out at the Department of Immunology, Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas, Universidade de São Paulo (USP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

☆☆☆ Corresponding author.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpod.2015.10.006>

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ARTIGO ORIGINAL

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/1984-0462/2017;35;1;00013>

TRIAGEM NEONATAL DE IMUNODEFICIÊNCIAS GRAVES COMBINADAS POR MEIO DE TRECS E KRECS: SEGUNDO ESTUDO PILOTO NO BRASIL

Newborn screening for severe combined immunodeficiencies using TRECs and KRECs: second pilot study in Brazil

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RESUMO

**Objetivo:** Validar a quantificação de T-cell receptor excision circles (TRECs) e kappa-deleting recombination excision circles (KRECs) por reação em cadeia de polimerase (polymerase chain reaction, PCR) em tempo real (qRT-PCR), para triagem neonatal de imunodeficiências primárias que cursam com defeitos nas células T e/ou B no Brasil. **Métodos:** Amostras de sangue de recém-nascidos (RN) e controles foram coletadas em papel-filtro. O DNA foi extraído e os TRECs e KRECs foram quantificados por reação duplex de qRT-PCR. O valor de corte foi determinado pela análise de Receiver Operating Characteristics Curve, utilizando-se o programa Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) (IBM®, Armonk, NY, EUA).

ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To validate the quantification of T-cell receptor excision circles (TRECs) and kappa-deleting recombination excision circles (KRECs) by real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) for newborn screening of primary immunodeficiencies with defects in T and/or B cells in Brazil. **Methods:** Blood samples from newborns and controls were collected on filter paper. DNA was extracted and TRECs, and KRECs were quantified by a duplex real-time PCR. The cutoff values were determined by receiver operating characteristic curve analysis using SPSS software (IBM®, Armonk, NY, USA).

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## Partners:





# Diagnosis, treatment and genetic counseling

- **Find** the patient for confirmatory exams
- **Lymphocyte immunophenotyping with memory subsets**
  - Challenge in Brazil - very few labs perform the full phenotyping (neither public or health insurance cover )
- Referral to BMT – there are still few beds reserved to PID pt. in public hospitals
- Genetic investigation and counseling of the family

**Obs.: atypical SCIDs might need additional exams**, such as lymphoproliferative response to mitogens and TCR repertoire analysis → very hard to find in Br

# Newborn screening for SCID



More cases of low TRECs that are not classic SCID!

