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#### Perinatal, Metabolic and Reproductive Features in PPARG-related Lipodystrophy

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- 50

#### 51 Abstract

52 Objective: The adipogenic *PPARG*-encoded PPARγ nuclear receptor also displays essential
53 placental functions. We evaluated metabolic, reproductive and perinatal features of patients
54 with *PPARG*-related lipodystrophy.

55 Methods: Current and retrospective data were collected in patients referred to a National
56 Rare Diseases Reference Centre.

Results: 26 patients from 15 unrelated families were studied (18 women, median age 43 57 58 years). They carried monoallelic PPARG variants except a homozygous patient with 59 congenital generalized lipodystrophy. Among heterozygous patients aged 16 or more (n=24), 92% had diabetes, 96% partial lipodystrophy (median age at diagnosis 24 and 37 years, 60 61 respectively), 78% hypertriglyceridemia, 71% liver steatosis and 58% hypertension. Mean BMI was  $26 \pm 5.0$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. Women (n=16) were frequently affected by acute pancreatitis (n=6) 62 63 and/or polycystic ovary syndrome (n=12). Eleven women obtained one or several 64 pregnancies. all complicated diabetes (n=8), hypertension by (n=4) and/or 65 hypertriglyceridemia (n=10). We analysed perinatal data of patients according to the presence 66 (n=8) or absence (n=9) of maternal dysmetabolic environment. The median gestational age at 67 birth was low in both groups (37 and 36 weeks of amenorrhea, respectively). As expected, birth weight was higher in patients exposed to a fetal dysmetabolic environment of maternal 68 69 origin. In contrast, 85.7% of non-exposed patients, in whom the variant is, or is very likely to 70 be, paternally-inherited, were small for gestational age.

71 Conclusions: Lipodystrophy-related *PPARG* variants induce early metabolic complications.
72 Our results suggest that placental expression of *PPARG* pathogenic variants carried by
73 affected fetuses could impair prenatal growth and parturition.—This justifies careful pregnancy
74 monitoring in affected families.

75

#### 76 Significance Statement

*PPARG*-related lipodystrophy is a rare disease due to variants in *PPARG* encoding a major
 regulator of adipocyte differentiation, also involved in placenta formation.

79 We show, in the largest cohort of patients with *PPARG*-related lipodystrophy reported to date 80 (n=26), that the disease is associated with early and severe metabolic complications and 81 decreased gestational age at birth. In affected women, metabolic complications during 82 pregnancy lead to increased newborns' birth weight. However, 85.7% of patients not exposed 83 to fetal dysmetabolic environment (with a very likely paternally-inherited disease), were born small-for-gestational age. Placental PPARG variants originating from the fetus may thus 84 85 impair fetal growth and parturition. Close metabolic follow-up of patients and monitoring of 86 fetal growth in their descendants, are needed in PPARG-related lipodystrophy.

87

#### 88 INTRODUCTION

89

90 Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPAR $\gamma$ ) is a nuclear receptor that controls 91 the expression of genes involved in numerous physiological pathways. PPARy modulates 92 adipocyte differentiation and function, energy homeostasis and insulin sensitivity, and is the 93 target of the antidiabetic drugs such as thiazolidinediones (1). Pathogenic variants of PPARG are responsible for familial partial lipodystrophy type 3 (FPLD3), an autosomal dominant rare 94 95 disease characterized by a limited capacity of peripheral adipose tissue to store excess energy 96 as triglycerides, leading to the progressive development of severe insulin resistance, 97 hypertriglyceridemia, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and frequent hypertension (2, 3). 98 Nevertheless, the natural history of the disease, regarding metabolic complications and 99 reproductive consequences of insulin resistance, remains largely unknown, since large cohorts 100 of patients have not been described.

101

102 Besides its well-known role in adipogenesis, PPARy has been shown to play an essential role 103 in the formation of the placenta, a transitional organ essential for embryo implantation, 104 pregnancy maintenance and outcome, and fetal development and growth. The placenta is a 105 post-zygotic organ, and is therefore genetically identical to the fetus. PPARG, the human 106 PPARy-encoding gene, is expressed by both the villous and extravillous cytotrophoblasts of 107 the chorionic villi, *i.e.* the structural and functional unit of the placenta (4). PPARy is 108 activated during the differentiation of villous cytotrophoblasts into syncytiotrophoblasts (5, 109 6), which ensure placental endocrine functions. PPARy also controls the migration and 110 invasion of extravillous cytotrophoblasts and is therefore essential for the anchorage of 111 chorionic villi into the uterine wall (7) - a major pre-requisite for embryo implantation and 112 growth -, remodeling of uterine spiral arteries, and immune tolerance during pregnancy. 113 However, only a few and conflicting results are available regarding the pathophysiological 114 role of *PPARG* in pregnancy outcomes in humans (8, 9, 10).

115 Two case reports of pregnancies complicated by premature birth and placental anomalies 116 were reported in women with FPLD3 (11, 12), but whether this could be due to severe 117 maternal lipodystrophy-linked metabolic complications and/or to the effects of placental 118 expression of *PPARG* variants carried by the fetus remains unknown.

119

120 The cohort of patients and families referred to our reference centre provides a unique 121 opportunity to study the consequences of FPLD3-related *PPARG* variants on metabolic 122 characteristics, reproductive phenotype of affected women, and perinatal features. In addition 123 to the characterisation of the FPLD3 phenotype in an important cohort of patients, our results 124 bring data in favor of a deleterious role of placental expression of lipodystrophy-associated 125 *PPARG* variants on the course of pregnancy and on fetal growth. 126

#### 127 METHODS

128 This study includes 26 patients from 15 unrelated families referred in our French Reference 129 Centre for Rare Diseases of Insulin Secretion and Insulin Sensitivity (PRISIS) for 130 lipodystrophy and/or insulin resistance, and diagnosed with PPARG-related lipodystrophy. 131 PPARG variants were identified using a lipodystrophy-dedicated diagnostic gene panel. 132 Capture (SeqCapEZ enrichment protocol, Roche NimbleGen) of exons and flanking intronic 133 sequences of 23 genes was followed by massively parallel sequencing on a MiSeq platform 134 (Illumina Inc, San Diego, CA, USA). Data were analysed using the Sophia Genetics DDM 135 pipeline<sup>®</sup>. PPARG variants were confirmed by Sanger sequencing and described based on the 136 isoform NM\_015869.4. Written informed consents were collected according to legal 137 procedures for molecular investigations. This study was approved by the Comité de Protection des Personnes Ile-de-France 5 (Paris, France) and conducted in accordance with 138 139 the Declaration of Helsinki and the Guideline for Good Clinical Practice.

140

141 Current metabolic data, as well as obstetrical and neonatal retrospective data, were collected 142 through analysis of medical records and patient interviews after written informed consent. 143 Collected data included gender and age, age at clinical and molecular diagnosis of lipodystrophy and at diagnosis of complications, type and parental origin of the variant when 144 145 available, physical characteristics (clinical lipodystrophy and body fat distribution, presence 146 of muscle hypertrophy, acanthosis nigricans and hyperandrogenism in women). Weight, 147 height, triglyceride, aspartate transaminase, alanine transaminase, and leptin serum levels, 148 HbA1c, presence of diabetes and/or hypertension, liver steatosis assessed by echography, 149 history of acute pancreatitis and use of insulin therapy were recorded, as well as, in women, 150 age at menarche, presence of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) as defined by the Rotterdam

criteria (13), antecedent of treatment for impaired fertility, number and outcomes of pregnancies. Patients' perinatal data were collected, including prenatal metabolic environment (maternal hypertriglyceridemia before pregnancy, diagnosis of hypertension or diabetes during pregnancy, or pre-eclampsia), exposure to maternal smoking during pregnancy, diagnosis of oligo/polyhydramnios, and neonatal data (gestational age at birth, birth weight and height, neonatal hypoglycemia).

157

Data are expressed as mean/SD and/or median/25<sup>th</sup> quartile (Q25). Differences between
groups were analyzed with non parametric Mann-Whitney-Wilcoxon test or Fisher exact tests.
Statistical analyses were performed with using GraphPad Prism version 8 (GraphPad
softwear, San Diego, CA, USA). Values of p<0.05 were considered significant.</li>

162

#### 163 **RESULTS**

#### 164 Patients, molecular diagnosis and parental inheritance of *PPARG* variants

*PPARG* variants associated with a typical familial partial lipodystrophy (FPLD) phenotype were observed in 19 independent families (31 patients), referred to our Reference Center. Five patients were excluded from the analysis: three patients died before the inclusion, a patient did not wish to participate and a patient was lost to follow-up. We therefore studied 26 patients (18 women and 8 men) from 15 families. Their mean age was 40.1 years old (SD 19.1, range 0-83) at investigation and 33.3 years old (SD 19.2, range 0-83) at molecular diagnosis (Table 1).

172

173 All patients carry a heterozygous *PPARG* variant except Patient 17, issued from an endogamy 174 marriage, who is homozygous for the *PPARG* (p.Tyr173Cys) variant. Patients from two 175 unrelated families were diagnosed with the same *PPARG* (p.Arg425Cys) variant, whereas

176 other families all harbored different PPARG variants. Three variants are located in exons encoding the DNA binding domain and 11 variants in exons encoding the ligand binding 177 178 domain of PPARy. The PPARG variants p.Arg165Thr, p.Gly211Glu, p.Arg240Trp, 179 p.Arg262Gly, p.Val318Met, p.Leu339\*, p.Glu352Gln, p.Arg425Cys, p.Gln443\*, and 180 p.Pro495Leu were considered as pathogenic based on ACMG criteria, ClinVar database, or 181 cosegregation and/or functional studies (2, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19). The PPARG variants 182 p.Tyr173Cys, p.Cys180Tyr, p.Pro234Thr and p.Ile434Thr are considered as deleterious, 183 probably or possibly damaging by the SIFT and/or Polyphen-2 prediction softwares. Patients 184 were not found to carry any additional pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant in the complete 185 coding sequence and intronic junctions of PPARG, nor in 22 other genes known to be 186 involved in lipodystrophic and/or insulin resistance syndromes (i.e. AGPAT2, AKT2, BSCL2, 187 CAV1, CIDEC, DYRK1B, INSR, LIPE, LMF1, LMNA, LMNB2, NSMCE2, PCYT1A, PIK3R1, 188 PLD3, PLIN1, POC1A, POLD1, PSMB8, PTRF, TBC1D4, ZMPSTE4).

189

The parental origin of the *PPARG* variant was confirmed by molecular analyses in ten among
25 heterozygous patients : 6 of them carried a maternally-inherited, and 4 a paternallyinherited *PPARG* variant (Table 1).

193

# 194 Lipodystrophy and metabolic phenotype of patients carrying heterozygous *PPARG*195 variants

Table 2 presents the main metabolic features of the patients carrying heterozygous *PPARG* variants, with the exception of Patient 15, a premature newborn who died 24 hours after birth (12). Their median age at investigation was 45 years. Patient 8, a 83 years old man, was diagnosed after familial screening. He presented with high blood pressure, diabetes and hypertriglyceridemia diagnosed in the elderly, but did not present with obvious clinical 201 lipodystrophy. All other patients with a heterozygous *PPARG* variant present with a clinical
202 lipodystrophy, associating in most of them limb lipoatrophy, muscular hypertrophy, android
203 fat distribution and acanthosis nigricans.

204 Most patients (73.9%) have an increased BMI (median value: 25.8 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, Q25: 22.25) : 205 eleven patients are overweight (BMI 25 to 30), and three are obese (BMI  $\geq$  30). Serum leptin 206 levels are low-to-normal with regards to BMI (median 8.4 ng/ml). Diabetes is reported in all 207 patients except a 16-year-old man (Patient 3) and a 55-year-old woman (Patient 12), both 208 diagnosed with hypertriglyceridemia, hepatic steatosis and insulin resistance. Most patients 209 with diabetes are treated with insulin (56.5%), with non-optimal glucose control (median 210 HbA1c 8.1%). Diabetes developed early in life (median age at diagnosis 24 years), and 211 lipodystrophy later on (median age at diagnosis 37 years old), without any statistical 212 difference between females and males regarding prevalence and age at diagnosis of diabetes 213 and lipodystrophy. Hypertension is frequent (58.3% of the patients), diagnosed early in the 214 course of the disease (at a median age of 28 years old). Most patients (78.2%) present with 215 hypertriglyceridemia (median triglycerides 5.6 mmol/L). Six of them, all women (25% of the 216 whole cohort and 37.3% of the female patients) have experienced at least one episode of acute pancreatitis. Hepatic cytolysis is observed in 70.8% of the patients, all of them being 217 218 diagnosed with hepatic steatosis by echography.

219

#### 220 **Reproductive phenotype of women with FPLD3**

Seventeen adult women with FPLD3, due to heterozygous *PPARG* variants, were studied, with a median age at investigation of 48 years old (Table 2). Their median age at first menstruation was 12 years. After clinical, biological and ultrasound examination, PCOS was diagnosed in 12 among 16 patients (75%) using the Rotterdam criteria (20). Eleven among 12 women trying to conceive obtained pregnancy, two of them through medically-assisted 226 procreation (ovarian stimulation in Patient 7, in vitro fertilization in Patient 6). Six pregnancies among 25 did not lead to a live birth : one was interrupted by abortion, four by 227 228 early miscarriages (two in the context of diabetes), and one by fetal death (occuring in a 229 patient with diabetes). Among the 11 women who had at least one pregnancy, all had 230 metabolic alterations, either diabetes (n=5), hypertension i.e. (n=4), and/or 231 hypertriglyceridemia (n=10) diagnosed before pregnancy, and/or developed gestational 232 diabetes (n=3). Preeclampsia was diagnosed in three patients.

233

#### 234 Perinatal characteristics of patients with FPLD3

Perinatal data were available in 17 patients with heterozygous PPARG variants (Table 3 and 235 236 Supplemental Table). A majority of them (9 among 17, 52.9%) was born premature (< 37 237 weeks of amenorrhea). The median gestational age at birth was 36 weeks of amenorrhea 238 (range 31-41). The median birth weight of patients was 2200g (range 1200-4000g). Six 239 patients (42.9%) were small for gestational age and five patients (35.7%) were large for 240 gestational age. Two newborns experienced neonatal hypoglycemia: Patient 2 was born from 241 a mother with diabetes during pregnancy, and Patient 4 was born premature and small for gestational age without dysmetabolic maternal context. Amniotic fluid disorders were 242 243 reported in three cases. Oligohydramnios was diagnosed during the fetal life of Patient 3, 244 Patient 6 and Patient 15 (in the context of maternal diabetes for Patient 6 and 15). 245 Polyhydramnios was diagnosed during the prenatal life of Patient 15, who was born 246 premature and died in the neonatal period (12). Patient 25 was born in a context of maternal 247 diabetes, hypertension, and preeclampsia (Table 3 and Supplemental Table).

248

Both the maternal dysmetabolic environment, or the placental expression of a *PPARG* variant carried by the fetus, could contribute to perinatal deleterious outcomes. Therefore, we 251 compared the perinatal characteristics of patients with heterozygous PPARG variants 252 according to the presence or absence of fetal exposure to a maternal dysmetabolic 253 environment. Data from 17 patients were available (Table 4). Patients whose mothers were and/or high blood pressure during pregnancy and/or 254 diagnosed with diabetes, hypertriglyceridemia before pregnancy were considered as exposed to a dysmetabolic 255 256 environment during fetal life (n=8). All heterozygous patients carrying a maternally-inherited 257 variant (n=6), but none of those carrying a paternally-inherited variant (n=4), reach the 258 criteria to be classified in this group (Table 4 and Supplemental Table).

259

260 The maternal age at delivery (median 25 years) was similar in patients exposed or not to a 261 dysmetabolic intrauterine environment (Table 4). Importantly, the median gestational age at 262 birth was low, and the prevalence of prematurity was high, both in patients exposed to 263 maternal metabolic alterations (37 weeks of amenorrhea, and 37.5% of prevalence, respectively), and in patients not exposed (36 weeks of amenorrhea, and 66.7% of 264 265 prevalence), without any statistical difference between the two groups. Newborns were 266 frequently large for gestational age in the group exposed to maternal dysmetabolic 267 environment, as expected (71.4% of them, versus 0% in the non-exposed group, p=0.02). In 268 contrast, the great majority of patients with PPARG variants who developed in a favorable 269 metabolic intrauterine environment was born small for gestational age (n=6, 85.7%, versus 270 0% in the dysmetabolic group, p=0.005). To note, patients born small for gestational age were 271 preserved from maternal smoking during their fetal life, which is a known cause of low birth weight. 272

273

274 Perinatal and metabolic features of the patient carrying the homozygous *PPARG*275 (p.Tyr173Cys) variant

276 Patient 17, born from parents originating from the same island of the New Caledonia archipelago, carried a homozygous PPARG variant. She was born preterm and small for 277 278 gestational age (610g, 28 weeks of amenorrhea), after cesarean delivery for fetal distress in the context of retro-placental hematoma. Diabetes, severe acanthosis nigricans and 279 280 hypertriglyceridemia were diagnosed before pregnancy in her mother. Her father was known 281 to suffer form severe hypertension with renal insufficiency without other information. Patient 282 17 presented at birth with generalized lipoatrophy, muscular hypertrophy, 283 hepatosplenomegaly, signs of virilization, and major hypertriglyceridemia (Suppl Figure). 284 Hyperinsulinemia and hypoleptinemia were reported at the age of 2, and diabetes was diagnosed at the age of 6 years and 10 months. She showed severe developmental delay 285 286 secondary to perinatal brain damage, with growth retardation and signs of bone dysplasia. 287 Molecular investigations were performed for congenital generalized lipoatrophy at the age of 288 3. The *PPARG* (p.Tyr173Cys) variant was present in the heterozygous state in her parents.

289

#### 290 **DISCUSSION**

291 Our project aimed to characterize the multi-tissular phenotype associated with *PPARG*-related 292 lipodystrophy in the largest series reported to date, involving 26 patients originating from 15 293 unrelated families. Given the importance of PPARy not only in the regulation of adipogenesis 294 and metabolism (1, 21), but also in placental formation and functions (4, 22), we studied 295 metabolic features, reproductive functions in women, and perinatal characteristics of the 296 patients. We enlarge the knowledge of the FPLD3 phenotype by showing that the disease is 297 associated with severe and early metabolic complications, including PCOS in women, and 298 could involve growth retardation and increased risk of prematurity during the prenatal life. 299 Based on our results, we recommend that the multidisciplinal care of patients with FPLD3

300 should also include prenatal monitoring of offspring in affected families, in either case of301 maternal or paternal potential transmission of the disease.

302

303 Our data suggest that early diabetes is a major characteristic of FPLD3, and is frequently 304 reported before the diagnosis of clinical lipodystrophy. In addition, and in contrast to what is 305 observed in most forms of lipodystrophic syndromes (23), the majority of the patients with *PPARG*-related lipodystrophy presented with a BMI greater than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. This could result 306 307 from increased lean rather than fat mass, since muscular hypertrophy is a prominent feature of 308 the disease, and serum leptin values are lower than expected with regards to BMI. However, a 309 recent study reported that patients with PPARG-related lipodystrophy have a greater amount 310 of adipose tissue than patients with LMNA-related lipodystrophy (24). The metabolic 311 phenotype of FPLD3 could be related not only to the consequences of lipodystrophy and 312 adipocyte dysfunction, but also, at least in part, to deleterious roles of PPARG pathogenic 313 variants on other insulin-sensitizing pathways. In addition to its major role on adipogenesis, 314 PPARy is involved in the regulation of multiple pathways modulating energy homeostasis and 315 inflammation (25). High blood pressure, which can also develop early in patients with 316 FPLD3, could be related to the dysregulation of PPARy-mediated vascular functions, 317 including angiogenesis, vascular tone and cellular renin-angiotensin system (18, 26, 27). 318 Patients with FPLD3 are also frequently affected with hepatic steatosis, which is a typical 319 feature of lipodystrophic syndromes, and with hypertriglyceridemia, which can be severe, 320 leading to the risk of acute pancreatitis, especially in women.

321

Adipose tissue homeostasis and insulin response are important determinant of reproductive fonction in women. However, a few studies have described the reproductive phenotype in women with lipodystrophy syndromes (21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32). In our cohort, 75% of women 325 with PPARG heterozygous variants present with PCOS and 81.2% with hirsutism. Nevertheless, our data suggest that fertility is preserved in most cases, the requirement to 326 327 medically-assisted procreation being comparable to the general population in women with 328 FPLD3 from our study. When pregnant, all women with FPLD3 present with diabetes, 329 hypertension, and/or hypertriglyceridemia. Almost 50% of women with FPLD3 had diabetes 330 before pregnancy and more than 25% developped a gestationnel diabetes. This is in 331 accordance with previous results based on a model of pregnancy in PPARy2 knockout mice, 332 showing that *PPARG*-dependent healthy adipose tissue expansion and function are mandatory 333 for physiological metabolic adaptations during pregnancy (33).

334

335 In vitro and in vivo studies showed an essential role of PPARG in placental development in 336 mice (22, 34, 35). Strikingly, PPARG inactivation in mice results in defects in trophoblast 337 differentiation and uterine vascular remodeling leading to embryonic lethality (36, 37), which 338 is prevented by trophoblastic re-expression of PPARG (22). PPARG was shown to control 339 major processes allowing the vascular exchange interface between maternal and fetal blood in 340 humans (8, 34, 35). Some PPARG variants have been associated with an increased genetic susceptibility of abruptio placentae (38) and preterm birth (39) in the general population. In 341 342 addition, gene expression of *PPARG* in placentas from women who gave birth to babies born 343 small for gestational age was reported to be two-fold lower as compared to controls, and to be 344 associated to fetal and placental weights (10). Nevertheless, the pathophysiological role of 345 PPARG during human pregnancy is largely unknown. As the placenta is a post-zygotic organ, 346 it shares with the fetus the same genetic heritage. In an attempt to study the placental 347 consequences of the lipodystrophy-related PPARG variants, we collected the perinatal data of 348 18 patients recruited in our national reference center for lipodystrophic diseases. Our results 349 took into account the prenatal metabolic environment, which depends on the maternal PPARG 350 genetic status, and impacts the perinatal outcomes. All patients known to carry a maternally-351 inherited variant, but none of the patients carrying a paternally-inherited variant, were 352 exposed to an intrauterine dysmetabolic environment. However, the prevalence of prematurity 353 was high in patients carrying a heterozygous PPARG variant (52.9%), and did not differ 354 according to the prenatal metabolic environment. In addition, while maternal metabolic 355 alterations were, as expected, major risk factors for increased birth weight with regards to 356 gestational age, 85.7% of patients without dysmetabolic prenatal exposure were small for 357 gestationnel age. Taken together, our results suggest that growth restriction and prematurity 358 could be linked to defective placental development and functions induced by lipodystrophyrelated PPARG variants. They are in line with our previous in vitro study, which showed that 359 360 the lipodystrophy-associated PPARG (p.Glu352Gln) variant, expressed in human trophoblast 361 cells, inhibits the differentiation of villous cytotrophoblasts into syncytiotrophoblasts (19). In 362 addition, PPARy was shown to promote uteroplacental perfusion by increasing nitric oxide 363 and decreasing downregulating endothelin-1 production (8). Defects in foetal vascularization 364 impairing availability of nutrients could thus play a role in FPLD3-associated growth 365 restriction and prematurity. Whatever the mechanism involved, our results underline the 366 importance of a close metabolic and obstetrical follow-up of pregnant women either 367 diagnosed with FPLD3, or susceptible to bear a child with a paternally-transmitted PPARG 368 variant.

369

Our cohort includes the first reported patient carrying an homozygous lipodystrophyassociated *PPARG* variant. She presented with congenital generalized lipodystrophy, as reported in the only case previously described with biallelic *PPARG* pathogenic variants (40). The *PPARG* variant identified in the patient from our study affects the DNA binding domain of the protein (p.Tyr173Cys), which was also the case for the two variants previously reported in the compound heterozygous state [*PPARG* (p.Glu138Valfs\*168) and (p.Arg164Trp)]. Metabolic complications appeared early in life with hypertriglyceridemia and hepatosplenomegaly at birth, and diabetes diagnosed at the age of 6 years. Biallelic lipodystrophy-associated *PPARG* variants probably induce important prenatal adverse effects, since the patient described here was born preterm and small for gestational age (610g, 28 weeks of amenorrhea), and the previous case also suffered from intrauterine growth restriction (birthweight of 940g at 32 weeks) (40).

382

383 We present here the largest cohort of patient carrying a PPARG variant with study of 384 lipodystrophy, metabolic, reproductive and perinatal aspects. Our results hightlight specific 385 features of the disease, with early onset of diabetes, before the clinical recognition of 386 lipodystrophy, which could contribute to disease underdiagnosis, especially since patients are 387 frequently overweighted. Precocious high blood pressure, muscular hypertrophy, 388 hypertriglyceridemia and familial history are important signs to help diagnosis. For the first 389 time, we show that lipodystrophy-related PPARG variants are likely to impact fetal 390 development and parturition, with risk of impaired fetal growth and prematurity. This justifies 391 a close metabolic and obstetrical follow-up of women with FPLD3, and the monitoring of 392 fetal growth of the descendants of all subjects, male or female, bearing PPARG pathogenic 393 variants. This study also justifies further investigations regarding the pathophysiological role 394 and potential therapeutic modulation of PPAR $\gamma$  in human pregnancy.

395

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398

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16

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404

#### 405 Author Contribution

406 CG, CVi and CVa designed and conducted the research, analysed the data and wrote the 407 manuscript. All authors made substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of 408 data, data analyses and data interpretation. OL, IL and CVi generated and/or analyzed the 409 genetic data. IM, FA, XD, CD, BF, SG, BG, SH, YH, EN, CPi, CPo, JPT referred some patients and contribute to the phenotypic description. All authors revised the manuscript 410 411 critically for important intellectual content and gave their approval of the final version to be 412 published.. CVa and CVi are the guarantor of this work and takes responsibility for the 413 integrity of the data and the accuracy of data analysis.

414

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#### 422 Data sharing/ availability statement

- 423 The datasets presented in this article are not readily available because of the sensitive nature
- 424 of the data and possible high risks associated with patient confidentiality. Requests to access
- 425 the datasets should be directed to <u>camille.vatier@aphp.fr</u>.
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