

1 **Title:** Expanding the clinical phenotype in patients with disease causing variants associated with  
2 atypical Usher syndrome

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46 **Abstract**

47 **Background:** Atypical Usher syndrome (USH) is poorly defined with a broad clinical spectrum.

48 Here we characterize the clinical phenotypic of disease caused by variants in *CEP78*, *CEP250*,  
49 *ARSG*, and *ABHD12*.

50 **Materials and Methods:** Chart review evaluating demographic, clinical, imaging, and genetic  
51 findings of 19 patients from 18 families with a clinical diagnosis of retinal disease and confirmed  
52 disease causing variants in *CEP78*, *CEP250*, *ARSG*, or *ABHD12*.

53 **Results:** *CEP78*-related disease included sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) in 6/7 patients and  
54 demonstrated a broad phenotypic spectrum including: vascular attenuation, pallor of the optic  
55 disc, intraretinal pigment, retinal pigment epithelium mottling, areas of mid-peripheral hypo-  
56 autofluorescence, outer retinal atrophy, mild pigmentary changes in the macula, foveal hypo-  
57 autofluorescence, and granularity of the ellipsoid zone. Nonsense and frameshift variants in  
58 *CEP250* showed mild retinal disease with progressive, non-congenital SNHL. *ARSG* variants  
59 resulted in a characteristic pericentral pattern of hypo-autofluorescence with one patient  
60 reporting non-congenital SNHL. *ABHD12* related disease showed rod-cone dystrophy with  
61 macular involvement, early and severe decreased best corrected visual acuity, and non-  
62 congenital SNHL ranging from unreported to severe.

63 **Conclusions:** This study serves to expand the clinical phenotypes of atypical USH. Given the  
64 variable findings, atypical USH should be considered in patients with peripheral and macular  
65 retinal disease even without the typical RP phenotype especially when SNHL is noted.

66 Additionally, genetic screening may be useful in patients that have clinical symptoms and  
67 retinal findings even in the absence of known SNHL given the variability of atypical USH.

68

69 **Keywords:** Atypical Usher syndrome, CEP78, CEP250, ARSG, ABHD12

70 **Introduction**

71 Usher Syndrome (USH) is an autosomal recessively inherited condition that is the leading cause  
72 of deaf-blindness with a prevalence ranging from 1 to 4 people per 25,000 (1). USH is classically  
73 characterized by congenital sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL), retinitis pigmentosa (RP), and  
74 sometimes vestibular dysfunction. USH is further divided into three types depending on the  
75 severity and the age of onset of auditory and visual pathology. USH Type 1 (USH1) is the most  
76 severe with an onset of RP within the first decade of life, severe congenital SNHL requiring a  
77 cochlear implant, and frequently with concomitant congenital vestibular dysfunction. USH Type  
78 2 (USH2) generally has an onset of RP in the second decade of life and moderate to severe  
79 congenital SNHL without vestibular dysfunction. USH Type 3 (USH3) presents with later onset  
80 RP, progressive SNHL, and variable vestibular dysfunction. Atypical USH is a poorly defined with  
81 significant overlap with other conditions such PHARC (polyneuropathy, hearing loss, ataxia,  
82 retinitis pigmentosa, early-onset cataract) and is described as an USH-like phenotype that does  
83 not directly fit into either the USH1, USH2, or USH3 phenotypes with a high variability including  
84 cases without congenital SNHL, variable relative effects on cones vs rods, and presence of  
85 macular disease (2-5).

86

87 *MYO7A* and *CHD23* are the most common genes responsible for USH1 accounting for 70-80% of  
88 cases (6). USH2 is known to be caused by variants in several genes including *USH2A*, *GPR98*, and  
89 *WHRN* with variants in *USH2A* accounting for 79% of families with USH2 (7-10). USH3 is often  
90 associated with variants in the *CLRN1* and *HARS* genes (11-13). *MYO7A*, while commonly  
91 associated with USH1, has been reported to cause nonsyndromic recessive deafness,

92 nonsyndromic dominant deafness, and atypical USH (1). Additionally, variants in *USH2A* have  
93 been shown to cause non-syndromic RP. It is unclear whether these patients will develop SNHL  
94 later in life leading to an atypical USH phenotype (14).

95  
96 Centrosomal protein 78 (*CEP78*), Centrosomal protein 250 (*CEP250*), arylsulfatase G (*ARSG*),  
97 and  $\alpha/\beta$ -hydrolase domain containing 12 (*ABHD12*) have been previously reported as causal for  
98 atypical USH (2, 4, 15-25). *CEP78* and *CEP250* are ciliary proteins important for the Usher  
99 protein network in retinal photoreceptor cells; *CEP78* acts in ciliogenesis and *CEP250* is  
100 expressed on cilia and interacts with *CEP78* (4, 16-22). Separate from the cilia are *ARSG* and  
101 *ABHD12*. *ARSG* encodes a sulfatase enzyme and contains a highly conserved catalytic site (15).  
102 Only two variants in *ARSG* in six patients have been associated with atypical USH in the  
103 literature (23, 26). *ABHD12* encodes a membrane-embedded serine hydrolase that hydrolyzes  
104 oxidized phosphatidylserine which is produced in inflammatory conditions and functions as a  
105 major lysophosphatidylserine (LPS) lipase in the nervous system (27). Here we describe the  
106 clinical, imaging, and genetic findings in 19 patients in 18 families with bi-allelic variants in  
107 *CEP78*, *CEP250*, *ARSG*, and *ABHD12* to help characterize these rare conditions.

108

## 109 **Materials and Methods**

110 This retrospective multicenter study was conducted at the Casey Eye Institute (CEI) and  
111 included cases from CEI, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute (BPEI), Moorfields Eye Hospital (MEH),  
112 Helsinki University Eye Hospital (HUEH), University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Hospital  
113 for Sick Children (HSC), Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP), the National Eye Institute

114 (NEI), Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC), and the University of Kentucky (UK). This  
115 study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Oregon Health & Science University  
116 and met the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

117

### 118 Case Identification

119 Given the poorly defined nature of atypical USH, the significant overlap with other conditions,  
120 and the aim of this paper to move away from a clinical diagnosis and towards a genetic  
121 diagnosis, the following inclusion and exclusion criteria were used to query institutional  
122 databases for cases. Cases with two known variants in a gene of interest (*CEP78*, *CEP250*, *ARSG*,  
123 or *ABHD12*) and retinal disease with or without known SNHL including but not limited to cone-  
124 rod dystrophy, rod-cone dystrophy, cone dystrophy, and rod dystrophy were included. Cases  
125 that had a clinical phenotype consistent with either USH1, USH2, or USH3 were excluded. The  
126 authors reviewed the records of the select patients from their respective institutions and  
127 shared data including genetic testing results, demographics, presence and description of  
128 possible known consanguinity, presence or absence of SNHL and/or vestibular disease, best  
129 corrected visual acuity (BCVA), visual symptoms (e.g. nyctalopia, photophobia), fundoscopic  
130 description, and full-field electroretinogram (ffERG). Deidentified color fundus photos, fundus  
131 autofluorescence (FAF), ocular coherence tomography (OCT), and kinetic visual fields (KVF)  
132 were reviewed, when available, at a single center by the authors at CEI.

133

### 134 Image assessment

135 Authors at CEI (ADI, CK, MMP, PY, MEP) evaluated color fundus photos, FAF, and OCT images  
136 and described the findings. Images from 38 eyes from 19 patients including 12 females (63%)  
137 were reviewed in this study for detailed phenotyping. Due to the multi-institutional and  
138 retrospective nature of the study, the availability, instrument model, and quality of images  
139 varied between cases.

140

#### 141 Genetic testing

142 Genetic testing was performed via a variety of laboratories and specific variant data were  
143 collected. Nucleotide and protein changes were reported as recommended by the Human  
144 Genome Variation Society. Variations were searched in ClinVar, Varsome, and PubMed.  
145 Varsome was used to determine intronic location. The genotype of CEP78-5 was previously  
146 evaluated and reported by Sanchis-Juan et al (28).

147

#### 148 **Results**

149 Demographic and ophthalmic features are summarized in table 1 and clinical and genetic  
150 features are summarized in table 2.

151

#### 152 CEP78

153 The age of onset of the six individuals with *CEP78* variants ranged from 11 to 46 years. BCVA at  
154 the most recent visit ranged from 20/40 to HM. Patients with longitudinal BCVA data included  
155 CEP78-2, CEP78-3, CEP78-5, and CEP78-7 and all but CEP78-2 had progressive worsening of  
156 BCVA although CEP78-2 was only seen over 1 year. Two patients (CEP78-18807, CEP78-4) had a

157 cataract noted and two had macular atrophy noted on fundoscopy (CEP78-2, CEP78-4). All but  
158 one (CEP78-7) patient had SNHL and one patient (CEP78-18807) had vestibular symptoms. The  
159 ffERG of CEP78-87042 had severe rod dysfunction and moderate cone dysfunction although  
160 both were abnormal; clinically, they had photophobia and denied nyctalopia. All other patients  
161 with reported ffERG results (CEP78-7, CEP78-5, CEP78-4) had cone dysfunction greater than rod  
162 dysfunction. Both CEP78-4 and CEP78-5 had a severe rod-cone dystrophy whereas CEP78-7 had  
163 a severe cone dystrophy. All reported ffERGs showed cone dysfunction and all of these patients  
164 also presented with blurred vision. There was no correlation to ffERG findings and the presence  
165 or absence of SNHL. KVF was available only for CEP78-18807 and showed an approximately 40-  
166 degree ring scotoma with foveal sparing of the central 10 degrees to a III 4e target along the  
167 horizontal meridian for both eyes.

168

169 Figure 1 shows representative images of all patients with *CEP78* variants. Imaging of the *CEP78*  
170 patients revealed a broad phenotypic spectrum. Color fundus findings included intraretinal  
171 pigment, vascular attenuation, pallor of the optic disc, and RPE mottling. FAF showed areas of  
172 mid peripheral hypo-autofluorescence ranging from mild to severe with some small zones of  
173 macular and foveal hypo-autofluorescence. OCT revealed outer retinal atrophy including  
174 granularity of the ellipsoid zone (EZ) (seen in CEP-87042 and CEP78-7) and a spectrum of ONL  
175 thinning that spared the fovea until severe disease as illustrated by CEP78-5. Overall, these  
176 findings show peripheral greater than central degeneration.

177

178 CEP78-87042 and CEP78-7 had biallelic missense variants while all other patients had at most  
179 one missense variant. Four of seven patients had homozygous or compound heterozygous  
180 variants that likely led to protein truncation of both alleles (CEP78-18807, CEP78-3, CEP78-4,  
181 CEP78-5). All intronic variants were canonical splice variants.

182

### 183 CEP250

184 Age of onset ranged from 13 to 30 years. BCVA at the most recent visit ranged from 20/60 to  
185 20/200. All patients demonstrated progressive SNHL with an age of onset from <10 to 24 years.  
186 There were no reports of vestibular symptoms. CEP250-2 and CEP250-3 are siblings with the  
187 same homozygous variant. ffERG was obtained on one of the three patients (CEP250-1) which  
188 showed a mild cone dystrophy with normal rod function (table 1). KVF was available for  
189 CEP250-2 and CEP250-3 which showed fields to approximately 100 degrees along the horizontal  
190 meridian to a V 4e target in both eyes. CEP250-3 showed constricted fields to approximately 20  
191 degrees along the horizontal meridian to a V 4e target in both eyes.

192

193 Representative images of patients with *CEP250* variants are shown in figure 2. Color fundus  
194 analysis revealed normal findings in all patients. FAF demonstrated areas of subtle hyper-  
195 autofluorescence in the periphery (CEP250-1) and in the peripapillary region (CEP250-3).  
196 CEP250-2 had normal FAF findings. OCT findings showed outer retinal atrophy in all three  
197 patients including thinning of the outer nuclear layer (ONL) (CEP250-1) and subtle disruption of  
198 the EZ and interdigitation zone (IZ) (CEP250-3).

199

200 All variations in *CEP250* were novel and all were nonsense or frameshift variants.

201

202 ARSG

203 Ophthalmologic evaluations of the three patients with *ARSG* variants are summarized in table 1.

204 The age of onset ranged from early 30s to 65 years. ARSG-1 did not have documented SNHL

205 while ARSG-2 and ARSG-29692 had SNHL noted at 50 years old. BCVA at the most recent visit

206 ranged from ARSG-1 reporting BCVA of 20/20 in the right eye and 20/25 in the left to ARSG-

207 29692 with a BCVA at the of 20/800 in her right eye and 20/1000 in her left. Longitudinal BCVA

208 data was only available for ARSG-1 and showed mild relative stability from 20/20 in both eyes

209 to 20/20 in the right eye and 20/25 in the left eye over 8 years. Macular atrophy was noted on

210 funduscopy in ARSG-2 and ARSG-29692 with the atrophy in ARSG-2 reported to be foveal

211 sparing. ffERG was obtained on one of the three patients (ARSG-2) which showed a moderate

212 rod-cone dystrophy (table 1). KVF was available only for ARSG-29692 which showed a central

213 scotoma to approximately 75 degrees along the horizontal meridian to a III 4e target in both

214 eyes.

215

216 Representative from these patients are shown in figure 3. Color fundus analysis showed

217 parafoveal and mid-peripheral RPE atrophy, optic disc pallor, and intraretinal pigment. FAF of

218 all patients demonstrated near mid-peripheral and pericentral hypo-autofluorescence.

219 Additionally, ARSG-29692 showed advanced disease and severe macular involvement with

220 central hypo-autofluorescence, ARSG-2 displayed milder macular involvement including a hypo-

221 autofluorescent parafoveal ring, and ARSG-1 demonstrated foveal sparing disease and a

222 parafoveal hyper-autofluorescent ring. This range was highlighted in OCT with extensive outer  
223 retinal atrophy affecting the fovea in ARSG-29692, whereas ARSG-1 and ARSG-2 showed foveal  
224 sparing atrophy.

225

226 The patient with the most severe disease, ARSG-29692, had homozygous missense variants  
227 while the other two patients had one missense variant and either one intronic splice site (ARSG-  
228 1) or frame shift (ARSG-2) variant.

229

### 230 ABHD12

231 Age of onset of the six patients with *ABHD12* disease ranged from 16 years to early the 30s .

232 Four presented with central blurring. None reported vestibular dysfunction and three had  
233 progressive SNHL with an age of onset ranging from 20-44 years. Of the four patients with  
234 longitudinal BCVA data, all but one (ABHD12-2) had progressive worsening. Four patients had  
235 BCVA of 20/200 or worse in both eyes. While these patients had severely decreased BCVA at an  
236 early age, ABHD12-1 showed 20/25 BCVA at age 48 years. ffERG was obtained on four patients;  
237 three (ABHD12-2, ABHD12-3, ABHD12-4) were suggestive of rod-cone dystrophy and one  
238 (ABHD12-1) was undetectable for both rods and cones. All three patients with a rod-cone  
239 dystrophy had mild cone dysfunction but rod dysfunction included mild (ABHD12-3), moderate  
240 (ABHD12-4), and severe (ABHD12-2). KVF was obtained only on ABHD12-1 and showed  
241 constricted visual fields to 50 degrees with a central scotoma of 10 degrees along the horizontal  
242 meridian to a V 4e target.

243

244 All patients with *ABHD12* variants showed macular findings with funduscopy revealing atrophy  
245 of the macula in four patients. Additionally, color fundus showed macular changes in all  
246 patients ranging from mild granular changes in ABHD12-2 to significant RPE atrophy in ABHD12-  
247 6. Color fundus photos also showed a variety of changes including vascular attenuation  
248 (ABHD12-1, ABHD12-4, ABHD12-5, ABHD12-6) and intraretinal pigment (ABHD12-1, ABHD12-5,  
249 ABHD12-6). FAF revealed a range of phenotypes; however, all images revealed macular  
250 involvement ranging from central hypo-autofluorescence (ABHD12-3, ABHD12-4) to severe  
251 global hypo-autofluorescence (ABHD12-6). OCT revealed fovea-involving outer retinal atrophy  
252 in all patients as well as sub-retinal deposits in four patients (ABHD12-1, ABHD12-2, ABHD12-3,  
253 ABHD12-4). Figure 4 shows color fundus photos, FAF, and OCT images of each affected patient.

254

255 ABHD12-3 was homozygous for a truncating variant and ABHD12-4 and ABHD12-6 had  
256 homozygous or compound heterozygous variants that likely lead to protein truncation on both  
257 alleles. All intronic variants were splicing variants. None of the patients in this study had ataxia  
258 noted however no formal evaluation was conducted.

259

## 260 **Discussion**

261 While USH1, USH2, and USH3 are well categorized, atypical USH is inherently a group of highly  
262 variable conditions that are primarily defined by their divergence from the three major  
263 subcategories of USH. The clinical phenotypes associated with *CEP78*, *CEP250*, *ARSG*, and  
264 *ABHD12* are not well characterized (4, 21, 23, 25, 26).

265

266 *CEP78* is a ciliary/centrosomal protein present in both the inner ear and retina. In the retina, it  
267 is localized to the base of the photoreceptor connecting cilium particularly in cone  
268 photoreceptors (2, 21). Two of our reported missense variants (p.Leu108Trp and p.Ser147Leu)  
269 are predicted to disrupt the leucine rich repeat motif (LRR) found in the *CEP78* protein. Other  
270 variants recorded included two whole deletions, a nonsense, an inversion, two splicing, and one  
271 variant after the LRR. While there was no correlation between variants in the LRR and retinal  
272 phenotypic subtype, all patients with subtype 2 had biallelic missense variants and none of the  
273 patients with subtype 1 had biallelic missense variants suggesting a possible relationship.

274

275 Analysis of the patients with *CEP78* related disease showed a preponderance for SNHL with 6/7  
276 patients being affected by their last visit which is consistent with previous reports of CRD with  
277 SNHL (20, 21, 28). Most patients affected had an early onset SNHL while only one (CEP78-5) had  
278 an onset later than the second decade of life. While CEP78-7 did not have recorded SNHL, it is  
279 possible that they have not been tested recently or that it has not yet manifested as they were  
280 25 years old at the last appointment.

281

282 Previous reports of *CEP78* related retinal disease often describe a cone rod dystrophy (CRD)  
283 phenotype (20, 21). Our patients showed a CRD clinical phenotype similar to previously  
284 reported literature and all reported ffERGs besides CEP78-87042 had cone greater than rod  
285 dysfunction. Despite this ffERG finding, CEP78-87042 still reported clinical symptoms more  
286 associated with a CRD such as photophobia supporting the association of CRD with *CEP78*  
287 variants.

288

289 The retinal findings show a broad phenotypic spectrum. Some of the reported findings are  
290 similar to previous cases of CEP78 related retinal disease described in the literature which have  
291 shown disappearance of the ellipsoid zone (EZ) on OCT and mid-peripheral hypo-  
292 autofluorescence along the vascular arcades (4, 20). There was a range in severity especially  
293 with regards to the hypo-autofluorescence ranging from small, mild areas (CEP78-3) to a  
294 confluent ring in the midperiphery (CEP78-5). Other findings were such as the granularity of the  
295 EZ were different than the previously reported cases of *CEP78* related retinal disease. This  
296 suggests that the phenotypic spectrum of *CEP78* disease is broad and this study serves to  
297 broaden our understanding in patients with biallelic missense variants.

298

299 Our patients with *CEP250* variants exhibited nonsense and frameshift variants suggesting that  
300 this phenotype of mild RP with progressive SNHL may be specific for biallelic *CEP250* nonsense  
301 or frameshift variants that lead to defective proteins in the absence of pathogenic variants in  
302 other genes. *CEP250* is involved in centrosomal and ciliary function and a knock-in nonsense  
303 variant mouse model showed decreased scotopic and photopic ERG responses with a larger  
304 decrease in scotopic responses. This mouse study also showed decreased retinal thickness due  
305 to changes in the ONL (29).

306

307 Kubota et al. reported heterozygous truncating variants (c.361C>T, p.R121\* and c.562C>T,  
308 p.R188\*) in *CEP250* that lead to atypical USH with minimal but present SNHL and RP (25).

309 Another study showed a homozygous nonsense variant in *CEP250* and a single variant in *PCARE*

310 led to a phenotype that was similar to that described by Kubota et al. and are consistent with  
311 our findings which showed FAF ranging from normal to demonstrating areas of mild hyper-  
312 autofluorescence, normal color fundus findings, disruption of the IZ and EZ on OCT, and  
313 progressive SNHL by their mid 20s.

314

315 Three patients had *ARSG* variants in this study. Imaging from all patients showed a pericentral  
316 pattern of hypo-autofluorescence highly characteristic of previous reports (23, 26). Similar to  
317 other studies, there may be progressive macular involvement with initial foveal sparing  
318 progressing to severe outer retinal atrophy involving the entire macula as in ARSG-29692 (23).  
319 Moderate to severe SNHL has also been reported in the literature corroborating the severe  
320 SNHL in ARSG-29692 and moderate SNHL in ARSG-2. ARSG-1 showed no SNHL, however, they  
321 may develop it later in life as both ARSG-2 and ARSG-29692 did not develop SNHL until 50 years  
322 old. While the most advanced patient was the only patient with homozygous missense variants,  
323 they also presented at the latest age (69 years) making it difficult to ascertain whether the  
324 severity is due to specific variants or the age of the patient.

325

326 An *ARSG* knockout (KO) mouse model demonstrated significant (ONL) thinning suggesting  
327 photoreceptor degeneration. Cone density appeared to be unaffected in this study implying rod  
328 specific disease (30). No ERG data was available for our patients to evaluate cone vs rod  
329 function. Given that *ARSG* expression appears to be restricted to the murine RPE, it is possible  
330 that the photoreceptor degeneration is due to RPE dysfunction although the specific  
331 mechanism has not yet been elucidated in this model (30).

332

333 Patients with *ABHD12* variants showed early severe decreased BCVA with several patients  
334 experiencing 20/200 BCVA or worse in their third or fourth decade of life similar to a previous  
335 report (31). Additionally, macular atrophy was common and FAF often showed atrophic areas of  
336 hypo-autofluorescence. Some patients showed parafoveal hyper-autofluorescence indicating  
337 injured RPE which has been reported before in *ABHD12* disease (32). Severe macular findings  
338 on FAF and OCT including outer retinal atrophy and sub-retinal deposits largely correspond to  
339 the severity of BCVA loss. Specifically, *ABHD12-5* and *ABHD12-1* showed significant FAF changes  
340 and reported BCVAs of HM and LP respectively. These findings suggest that *ABHD12* related  
341 disease may be more severe than that caused by variants in *CEP78*, *CEP250*, and *ARSG*.

342

343 *ABHD12* variants have been implicated in PHARC (polyneuropathy, hearing loss, ataxia, retinitis  
344 pigmentosa, early-onset cataract) and a KO *ABHD12* mouse model has led to a PHARC-like  
345 phenotype (31, 33-35). This mouse model suggests that *ABHD12* dysfunction leads to changes  
346 in LPS metabolism resulting in elevated levels of proinflammatory lipids and neurologic  
347 abnormalities. Cataracts and SNHL were observed in *ABHD12-4* and *ABHD12-5*, however, no  
348 formal neurologic assessments were conducted. SNHL was also not reported in three of the six  
349 patients. The homozygous variants in *ABHD12-3* has been previously reported by Eisenberger et  
350 al. in two siblings both with hearing loss noted at age 14 years old, cataract surgery in the third  
351 decade of life, retinal changes and BCVA of finger counting by ages 38 and 55 years old (31).  
352 One patient reported by Eisenberger et al. had an ataxic gait but no cerebellar atrophy a  
353 common finding in PHARC, noted on CT while the sibling had no reported ataxia or balance

354 problems (31). *ABHD12*-3 has no reported cataract, SNHL, or ataxia. The cataracts in PHARC  
355 were reported as posterior subcapsular which are common in RP further suggesting a spectrum  
356 rather than distinct conditions (31). There was no noted association between variant type and  
357 severity in this study.

358

359 Most reports of *ABHD12* related retinal disease diagnose patients with PHARC, although all  
360 symptoms are not uniformly present and some consider *ABHD12* a rare USH gene highlighting  
361 the heterogeneity of retinal disease and syndromes related to genes indicated in USH (31-34,  
362 36).

363

364 Our study highlights that *ABHD12*-related retinal disease, characterized by severe BCVA loss  
365 and macular involvement, may be more commonly unassociated with a PHARC diagnosis than  
366 previously thought, although long term follow-up would be needed to determine this  
367 conclusively.

368

369 While the retrospective nature and the variation in follow-up, imaging, and other diagnostic  
370 testing make the characterizations that can be drawn from this study uncertain, several  
371 conclusions are supported by these findings.

372

373 The peripheral retina is affected first in typical USH and macular disease leading to decreased  
374 BCVA occurs later in the process. Congenital hearing loss is one of the defining features across  
375 the typical USH groups. The phenotype of atypical USH, however, is highly variable and our

376 study demonstrated a broad range of retinal phenotypes including some with early macular  
377 involvement and others with a more typical RP presentation. Our study included patients with  
378 congenital SNHL, non-congenital SNHL, and no reported SNHL at the time of the last visit  
379 suggesting that, even within genotypes, the age of onset of SNHL is variable. Given the variable  
380 findings described here, atypical USH should be considered in patients with peripheral and/or  
381 macular retinal degeneration with late onset SNHL even without the classic RP phenotype.  
382 Additionally, genetic screening for atypical USH genes may be useful in patients that have  
383 retinal findings and clinical symptoms even without documented SNHL given the variability of  
384 expression. Patients with rare conditions such as atypical USH can often be misdiagnosed with  
385 more common conditions such as non-syndromic RP. While there are currently no approved  
386 treatments for atypical USH, genetic testing is crucial to give patients and clinicians a better  
387 understanding of prognosis and is almost always required for enrollment in future clinical trials.

388

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394

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- 515

516 **Figure Legends**

517

518 **Figure 1: Representative multimodal imaging of patients with *CEP78*-related disease**

519 CEP78-18807 (A – C), CEP78-2 (D, E), CEP78-3 (F – H), CEP78-4 (I – K), CEP78-5 (L – N), CEP78-  
520 87042 (O – Q) CEP78-7 (R – T). CFP (A, D, F, I, L, O, R), FAF (B, G, J, M, P, S), OCT sections (C, E, H,  
521 K, N, Q, T) demonstrating the spectrum of disease. Subtype 1 depicts an RP like phenotype  
522 including vascular attenuation, pallor of the optic disc, and RPE mottling on CFP (A, D, F, I, L),  
523 areas of mid peripheral hypo- autofluorescence ranging from mild to severe on FAF (B, G, J, M),  
524 and outer retinal atrophy on OCT (C, E, H, K). Common findings in subtype 1 include foveal  
525 hypo-autofluorescence (P, S) and granularity of the ellipsoid zone (Q, T). Abbreviations: CFP,  
526 color fundus photos; FAF, fundus auto-fluorescence; OCT, optical coherence tomography; ERM,  
527 epiretinal membrane.

528

529 **Figure 2: Representative multimodal imaging of patients with *CEP250*-related disease**

530 CEP250-1 (A – C), CEP250-2 (D – F), CEP250-3 (G – I). CFP (A, D, G), FAF (B, E, H), OCT sections  
531 (C, F, I) demonstrating the spectrum of disease. CFP revealed normal findings in all patients (A,  
532 D, G). FAF ranged from normal (E) to areas of subtle hyper-autofluorescence in the periphery  
533 (B) and in the peripapillary region (H). OCT findings showed outer retinal atrophy in all three  
534 patients including thinning of the outer nuclear layer (C) and subtle disruption of the ellipsoid  
535 zone and interdigitation zone (I). Abbreviations: CFP, color fundus photos; FAF, fundus auto-  
536 fluorescence; OCT, optical coherence tomography.

537

538 **Figure 3: Representative multimodal imaging of patients with ARSG-related disease**

539 ARSG-1 (A – C), ARSG-2 (D – F). ARSG-29692 (G – I). CFP (A, D, G), FAF (B, E, H), OCT sections (C,  
540 F, I) demonstrating the spectrum of disease. CFP showed parafoveal and mid-peripheral RPE  
541 atrophy, intraretinal pigment, and optic disc pallor (A, D, G). FAF of all patients demonstrated  
542 pericentral and mid-peripheral hypo-autofluorescence (B, E, H). ARSG-29692 revealed advanced  
543 disease and macular involvement with central hypo-autofluorescence (H), ARSG-2 showed a  
544 parafoveal ring of hypo-autofluorescence (E), and ARSG-1 demonstrated a parafoveal hyper-  
545 autofluorescent ring (B). OCT revealed extensive outer retinal atrophy involving the foveal in  
546 ARSG-29692 (I), and foveal sparing atrophy in ARSG-1 and ARSG-2 (C, F). Abbreviations: CFP,  
547 color fundus photos; FAF, fundus auto-fluorescence; OCT, optical coherence tomography.

548

549 **Figure 4: Representative multimodal imaging of patients with ABHD12-related disease**

550 ABHD12-1 (A – C), ABHD12-2 (D – F), ABHD12-3 (G – I), ABHD12-4 (J – L), ABHD12-5 (M – O),  
551 ABHD12-6 (P – RCFP (A, D, G, J, M, P), FAF (B, E, H, K, N, Q), OCT sections (C, F, I, L, O, R)  
552 demonstrating the spectrum of disease. CFP showed macular changes in all patients ranging  
553 from mild granular changes (D) to significant RPE atrophy (P). FAF revealed macular  
554 involvement ranging from central hypo-autofluorescence (H, K) to severe global hypo-  
555 autofluorescence (Q). OCT showed fovea-involving outer retinal atrophy and as sub-retinal  
556 deposits. Abbreviations: CFP, color fundus photos; FAF, fundus auto-fluorescence; OCT, optical  
557 coherence tomography.