

	Page
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Restless legs syndrome.....	1
1.2 Genetics of restless legs syndrome.....	3
1.3 Preliminary investigations.....	6
1.4 Purpose of the present research	7
2. Patients, Materials, and Methods.....	8
2.1 Patients.....	8
2.2 Materials.....	11
2.2.1 Chemical reagents.....	11
2.2.2 Solutions and buffers.....	12
2.2.3 Equipment.....	12
2.3 Methods.....	13
2.3.1 DNA extraction from human whole blood.....	13
2.3.2 Polymerase chain reaction.....	14
2.3.3 Agarose gel electrophoresis.....	18
2.3.4 Purification of PCR products.....	18
2.3.5 Direct DNA sequence analysis.....	20
2.3.6 Specific tests for analyzing controls for possible disease-associated variants.....	22
3. Results.....	26
3.1 Genes at the <i>RLS5</i> locus on chromosome 9p21.....	26
3.2 DNA sequencing results of candidate genes.....	27
3.3 Test results in controls for variants of unknown relevance.....	29
3.3.1 Testing controls for single base pair deletions.....	29
3.3.2 Testing controls for single base pair substitution.....	31
4. Discussion.....	33
4.1 Mutations and polymorphisms.....	33
4.2 Ideal RLS family with an autosomal dominant inheritance.....	34
4.3 Method of mutational analysis.....	35
4.4 Reasons for negative results.....	35
4.5 Future investigations.....	37
5. Summary.....	38

Contents

6. References.....	40
7. Appendix.....	46
7.1 Abbreviations.....	46
7.2 The information of the genes at the <i>RLS5</i> locus.....	48
7.3 The sequence results of genes on chromosome 9p21.....	57
7.4 Frequency of reported polymorphisms.....	64
7.5 Primers.....	68
8. Acknowledgements.....	77
9. Curriculum Vitae.....	78