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Ain't got rhythm

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In the February 6 Nature Mohler *et al.* report the discovery of mutations in the gene encoding ankyrin-B (known as ankyrin 2) in patients suffering from cardiac arrhythmia and inherited long-QT syndrome (*Nature* 2003, **421:**634-639). An A-to-G transition results in a glutamic acid-to-glycine substitution. Mice heterozygote for a null mutation in *ANKB* also displayed cardiomyocyte defects, cardiac arrythmia and sudden death after exercise. The ankyrin-B protein appears to be important for regulating expression of the sodium pump, the sodium/calcium exchanger, inositol-1,4,5-triphospate receptors, as well as Ca^{2+} signalling. This is the first report of a mutation in congenital long-QT syndrome that affects a protein other than an ion channel or channel subunit.

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2. Ankyrins.

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