

# Mechanism of Pain Tolerance in Mouse Model of Christianson Syndrome

Children born with Christianson syndrome (CS) suffer from various neurological ailments, including a hyposensitivity to pain

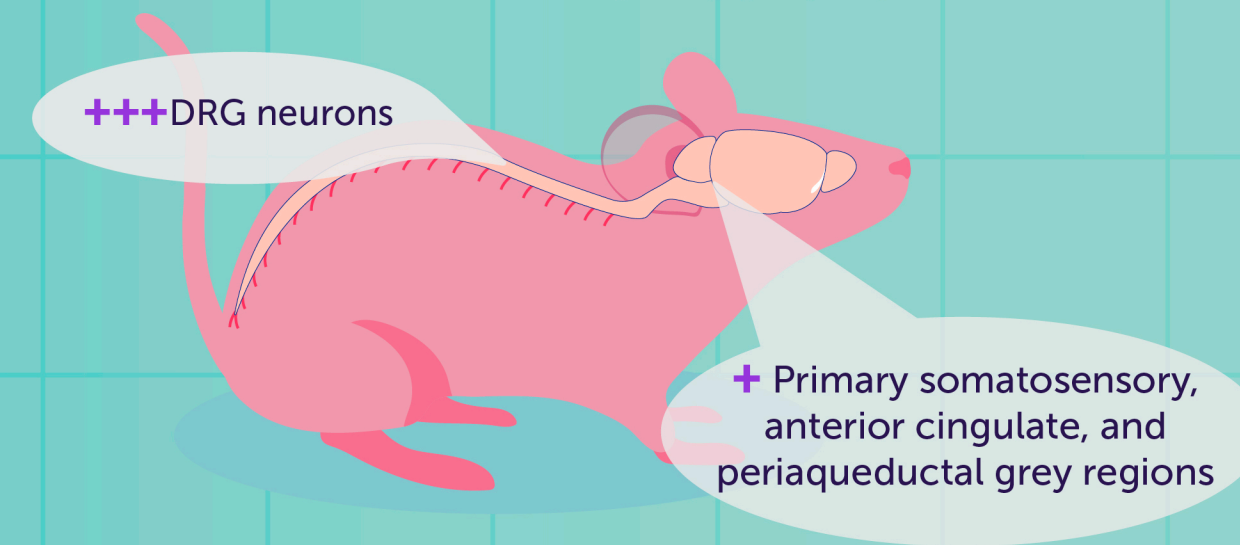


CS is caused by mutations in the *SLC9A6* gene which encodes the sodium-proton exchanger protein NHE6

**Does NHE6 determine nociceptor function and pain behavior?**

*Nhe6* knockout mice as mouse model of CS

Higher expression of NHE6 in small diameter DRG neurons



Reduced nociceptive function in DRG neurons

Nociceptor TRPV1 receptor expression

Low

High

Capsaicin-induced calcium response

Low

High

Immunolabelling—NHE6 and TRPV1 receptor

Nociceptive behavior tests

Calcium response in dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons

Reduced pain sensitivity

Nocifensive behavior  
Tolerant

Sensitive

**Absence of NHE6 protein in mouse nociceptors resulted in a pain-tolerant phenotype, similar to that seen in children with CS**

Loss of SLC9A6/NHE6 impairs nociception in a mouse model of Christianson Syndrome

Petitjean et al. (2020) | Pain

DOI: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000001961

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