Mitochondrial DNA Variation in Old Believer and Ethnic Russian Populations of Northern Siberia

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ABSTRACT: Although enduring much hardship during these years, many Old Believers have chosen to remain in their local villages. Quite recently, they have also been able to communicate with the outside world, and some villages are now able to support themselves by producing and selling goods to tourists. This major change in the Old Believers’ lives has been possible because of a few factors, including a decrease in persecution and the decision of the Russian Orthodox Church to re-establish itself in 1991. By 2003, the church had been re-established in the Trans-Baikal region, and the citizens of these villages have been able to practice their religion more freely. Today, many communities still live in almost complete isolation, and many others have begun to communicate with the outside world. However, they have achieved legal recognition, and churches have begun to reopen at a rapid rate, creating an atmosphere of hope for the future.

INTRODUCTION: The village of Primorsky (1642-1832), like many other Russian villages, was surrounded by a forest of trees which made it impossible for the villagers to leave their homes. The village had a population of about 120 people, and all of them lived within the forest. The village was located in the region of the Koria, a tribe that lived in the area around the village. The Koria people were known for their skill in hunting and fishing, and they were able to provide for the needs of the villagers. Today, the village is still surrounded by forests, and the people still live in the same way as their ancestors did.

METHODS: This study was conducted in the Primorsky region of the Koria tribe. The researchers visited the village and interviewed the residents, and they also collected samples of blood and tissue from the villagers. The samples were then analyzed using a variety of genetic markers to determine the population structure of the village.

RESULTS: The results of this study showed that the population of the Primorsky village is distinct from the populations of other villages in the region. The villagers have a high frequency of the genetic marker HVS-I, and they also have a high frequency of haplogroup C mtDNAs. These markers suggest that the villagers have a unique genetic makeup that is different from the populations of other villages in the region.

DISCUSSION: The results of this study suggest that the village of Primorsky is a unique population that has developed its own genetic makeup over time. The villagers have a high frequency of the genetic marker HVS-I, and they also have a high frequency of haplogroup C mtDNAs. These markers suggest that the villagers have a unique genetic makeup that is different from the populations of other villages in the region. The researchers suggest that the villagers have a unique genetic makeup that is different from the populations of other villages in the region.