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**ABBREVIATIONS**

Ac	Acetate
acc. no.	Accession number
AD	Activation domain
AER	Apical ectodermal ridge
Ala	Alanine
AP	Anteroposterior
3-AT	3-amino-1,2,4-triazole
BAC	Bacterial artificial chromosome
BD	DNA binding domain
BMP	Bone morphogenetic protein
DAPI	4',6-Diamidino-2-phenylindole
DBCR	Disease-associated balanced chromosomal rearrangements
DEPC	Diethylpyrocarbonate
DIG	Digoxigenin
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DO	Dropout supplement
DV	Dorsoventral
ELCR	Early limb control region
FGF	Fibroblast growth factor
FISH	Fluorescence <i>in situ</i> hybridisation
GCR	Global control region
Gli3	Transcription factor, GLI-Kruppel family member
Gli3R	Repressor form of Gli3
HISS	Heat inactivated sheep serum
<i>HOX</i>	Homeodomain-containing genes
Hoxd13-HD	Hoxd13 protein lacking homeodomain
Hoxd13+14Ala	Hoxd13 protein with an expanded Ala stretch for 14 Ala residues
Hoxd13_2Ala	Hoxd13 protein with the reduced Ala stretch to 2 Ala residues
Ig	Immunoglobulin
LPM	Lateral plate mesoderm
Meis	Myeloid ecotropic viral integration site 1 homologues

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NCBI	National Center for Biotechnology Information
NLS	Nuclear localisation signal
OD <sub>600</sub>	Optical density at the wave length 600 nm
ORF	Open reading frame
PBS	Phosphate Buffered Saline
Pbx	Pre B-cell leukemia transcription factors
PD	Proximodistal
Peg10	Paternally expressed 10
PFA	Paraformaldehyde
RA	Retinoic acid
RARE	Retinoic acid responsive element
SDS-PAGE	SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
SD –T	SD medium lacking tryptophane
SD –THULL	SD medium lacking tryptophane, histidine, uracil, lysine and leucine
SD –TL	D medium lacking tryptophane and leucine
SD –L	SD medium lacking leucine
Shh	Sonic hedgehog
SPD	Synpolydactyly
TGF- $\beta$	Transforming growth factor $\beta$
UTR	Untranslated region
Wnt	Family of highly conserved secreted signalling molecules
w/v	Weight per volume
YAC	Yeast artificial chromosome