Abstract. Four and a half LIM domain protein 1 (FHL1) was initially described as an abundant skeletal muscle protein with four LIM domains and a GATA like zinc finger. FHL1 was shown to be expressed in skeletal muscle as well as in a variety of other tissues. Recently, alternatively spliced FHL1 mRNAs were identified coding for C-terminal truncated proteins. The tissue distribution of these variants is more restricted and their functional properties seem to be different. We have isolated and characterized a new variant of FHL1 from porcine skeletal muscle (FHL1C). FHL1C is characterized by a newly identified start codon resulting in a 16 amino acids longer N- terminal region. We have isolated and characterized the porcine FHL1C gene spanning approximately 14 kb and harboring six exons. Using primer extension analysis, the transcription start site of FHL1C was mapped, indicating that FHL1C is regulated by an alternative promoter. The tissue distribution of FHL1C expression was studied by RT-PCR. The porcine FHL1C gene was assigned to the distal part of the long arm of the X chromosome by fluorescence in situ hybridization and screening of a somatic porcine/rodent cell hybrid panel. Copyright © 2000 S. Karger AG, Basel