Deafness-Dystonia-Optic Neuronopathy Syndrome: **TIMM8A** Gene Deletion/Duplication

**Test Code:** DTIMM  
**Turnaround time:** 2 weeks  
**CPT Codes:** 81228 x1

### Condition Description

Deafness-dystonia-optic neuronopathy (DDON) syndrome is an X-linked disorder in males characterized by certain manifestations at different ages. Pre or postlingual sensorineural hearing impairment begins in early childhood; slowly progressive dystonia or ataxia manifests during the teens; slowly progressive decreased visual acuity from optic atrophy begins in the early 20s; and dementia begins around age 40. Additionally, psychiatric symptoms, such as personality change and paranoia, may be progressive from childhood. Age of onset and progression tends to be consistent for the hearing impairment; however the neurologic, visual, and neuropsychiatric signs vary in degree of severity and rate of progression. Females may have mild hearing impairment and focal dystonia.

Mutations in **TIMM8A** (Xq22) cause DDON. The **TIMM8A** gene encodes the mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim8 A protein and is involved in mitochondrial transport processes. DDON syndrome can also be part of a contiguous gene deletion syndrome at Xq22 which includes the **TIMM8A** and **BTK** genes and included X-linked agammaglobulinemia. The mutation detection rate is not yet known.

For patients with suspected DDON, sequence analysis is recommended as the first step in mutation identification. For patients in whom mutations are not identified by full gene sequencing, deletion/duplication analysis is appropriate.

### References:
- Genetests

### Genes

**TIMM8A**

### Indications

This test is indicated for:
- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of deafness-dystonia-optic neuronopathy syndrome in an individual in whom sequence analysis was negative.
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of deafness-dystonia-optic neuronopathy syndrome in whom sequence analysis was negative.

### Methodology

DNA isolated from peripheral blood is hybridized to a CGH array to detect deletions and duplications. The targeted CGH array has overlapping probes which cover the entire genomic region.

Please note that a “backbone” of probes across the entire genome are included on the array for analytical and quality control purposes. Rarely, off-target copy number variants causative of disease may be identified that may or may not be related to the patient's phenotype. Only known pathogenic off-target copy number variants will be reported. Off-target copy number variants of unknown clinical significance will not be reported.

### Detection

Detection is limited to duplications and deletions. The CGH array will not detect point or intronic mutations. Results of molecular analysis must be interpreted in the context of the patient's clinical and/or biochemical phenotype.

### Specimen Requirements

Submit only 1 of the following specimen types

* Preferred specimen type: Whole Blood

**Type:** Whole Blood

Specimen Requirements:
- In EDTA (purple top) or ACD (yellow top) tube:  
  - Infants (2 years): 3-5 ml  
  - Older Children & Adults: 5-10 ml

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Specimen Collection and Shipping: Refrigerate until time of shipment. Ship sample within 5 days of collection at room temperature with overnight delivery.

**Type: Saliva**

Specimen Requirements:

Oragene™ Saliva Collection kit (available through EGL) used according to manufacturer instructions.

Specimen Collection and Shipping: Store sample at room temperature. Ship sample within 5 days of collection at room temperature with overnight delivery.

**Special Instructions**

Submit copies of diagnostic biochemical test results with the sample, if appropriate. Contact the laboratory if further information is needed.

Sequence analysis is required before deletion/duplication analysis by targeted CGH array. If sequencing is performed outside of Emory Genetics Laboratory, please submit a copy of the sequencing report with the test requisition.

**Related Tests**

- Sequence analysis of the *TIMM8A* gene is available and is required before deletion/duplication analysis.
- Custom diagnostic mutation analysis (KM) is available to family members if mutations are identified by targeted mutation testing or sequencing analysis.
- Prenatal testing is available only for known familial mutations to individuals who are confirmed carriers of mutations. Please contact the laboratory genetic counselor to discuss appropriate testing prior to collecting a prenatal specimen.