Aarskog-Scott Syndrome: FGD1 Gene Sequencing

**Condition Description**
Aarskog-Scott syndrome (faciogenital dysplasia) is an X-linked disorder characterized by facial, skeletal, and genital anomalies, although expressivity is highly variable. The main features are:

- Short stature
- Ocular hypertelorism
- Anteverted nostrils
- Broad upper lip
- Brachydactyly
- "Shawl scrotum" in males.

Other symptoms can include ligamentous laxity manifested by hyperextensibility of the fingers, genu recurvatum, and flat feet. Congenital heart defects have been demonstrated in some patients. A spectrum of behavioral disorders and intellectual disability may also be part of the Aarskog-Scott syndrome phenotype. Female carriers may show some minor manifestations of the disorder, especially in the face and hands.

Mutations in the FGD1 gene (Xp11.21) have been associated with both Aarskog-Scott syndrome and non-syndromic X-linked intellectual disability. One study identified FGD1 mutations in 8 of 46 male patients with a clinical diagnosis of Aarskog-Scott syndrome, including 4 deletions, 1 insertion, and 3 missense mutations. The mutations were scattered over the entire coding sequence, and there were no apparent genotype/phenotype correlations. No global differences in clinical findings were found between probands with or without mutations, but those with mutations presented with a fuller clinical spectrum of the phenotype. Mutations have also been found in a male with attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and low intelligence quotient with dysmorphic features reminiscent of Aarskog-Scott syndrome, and in three brothers with non-syndromal X-linked mental retardation who lacked distinct craniofacial, skeletal, or genital findings, suggestive of Aarskog-Scott syndrome.

For patients with suspected Aarskog-Scott syndrome, 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.

Please click here for the OMIM summary on this condition.

**Genes**

- FGD1

**Indications**
This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical/biochemical diagnosis of Aarskog-Scott syndrome.
- Carrier testing in adult females with a family history of Aarskog-Scott syndrome.

**Methodology**

**Next Generation Sequencing:** In-solution hybridization of all coding exons is performed on the patient's genomic DNA. Although some deep intronic regions may also be analyzed, this assay is not meant to interrogate most promoter regions, deep intronic regions, or other regulatory elements, and does not detect single or multi-exon deletions or duplications. Direct sequencing of the captured regions is performed using next generation sequencing. The patient's gene sequences are then compared to a standard reference sequence. Potentially causative variants and areas of low coverage are Sanger-sequenced. Sequence variations are classified as pathogenic, likely pathogenic, benign, likely benign, or variants of unknown significance. Variants of unknown significance may require further studies of the patient and/or family members.

**Detection**
Clinical Sensitivity:
One study identified FGD1 mutations in 8 of 46 male patients with a clinical diagnosis of Aarskog-Scott syndrome. Mutations in the promoter region, some mutations in the introns, other regulatory element mutations and large deletions will not be detected by this analysis.

Analytical Sensitivity: ~99%.

Results of molecular analysis should be interpreted in the context of the patient's 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) tube:
Infants (2 years): 3-5 ml
Older Children & Adults: 5-10 ml

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**

Please submit copies of diagnostic biochemical test results along 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 EGL Genetics, please submit a copy of the sequencing report with the test requisition.

**Related Tests**

- *FGD1* Gene Deletion/Duplication (TH) is available for those individuals in whom sequence analysis is negative.
- X-Linked Intellectual Disability panels are available for 30, 60, and 90+ genes.
- Known Mutation Analysis (KM) is available to family members if mutations are identified by targeted mutation testing or sequencing analysis.
- Prenatal Custom Diagnostics is available to adult females who are confirmed carriers of mutations. Please contact the laboratory genetic counselor to discuss appropriate testing prior to collecting a prenatal specimen.