Neurodegeneration due to Cerebral Folate Transport Deficiency: *FOLR1* Gene Sequencing

**Test Code:** SFOLR  
**Turnaround time:** 4 weeks  
**CPT Codes:** 81479 x1

### Condition Description

Loss-of-function mutations in the *FOLR1* gene (11q13.4) cause an inherited disorder of brain-specific folate deficiency. The *FOLR1* gene encodes the folate receptor alpha (FRα), one of two GPI-anchored receptors that mediate cellular uptake of 5-methyltetrahydrofolate (MTHF). Mutations in the *FOLR1* gene impair the cerebral folate transport function. Features of this autosomal recessive disorder begin in late infancy and include severe developmental regression, movement disturbances, epilepsy, and leukodystrophy.

**References:**

- OMIM #613068: Neurodegeneration due to cerebral folate transport deficiency  
- OMIM #136430: *FOLR1* gene

### Genes

**FOLR1**

### Indications

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of Neurodegeneration due to Cerebral Folate Transport Deficiency.  
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of Neurodegeneration due to Cerebral Folate Transport Deficiency.

### Methodology

PCR amplification of 4 exons contained in the *FOLR1* gene is performed on the patient's genomic DNA. Direct sequencing of amplification products is performed in both forward and reverse directions, using automated fluorescence dideoxy sequencing methods. The patient's gene sequences are then compared to a normal reference sequence. Sequence variations are classified as mutations, benign variants unrelated to disease, or variations of unknown clinical significance. Variants of unknown clinical significance may require further studies of the patient and/or family members. This assay does not interrogate the promoter region, deep intronic regions, or other regulatory elements, and does not detect large deletions.

### Detection

**Clinical Sensitivity:** Unknown. Mutations in the promoter region, some mutations in the introns and other regulatory element mutations cannot be detected by this analysis. Large deletions will not be detected by this analysis. Results of molecular analysis should be interpreted in the context of the patient's clinical and/or biochemical phenotype.

**Analytical Sensitivity:** ~99%

### 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

**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.

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Related Tests

- Deletion/duplication analysis of the FOLR1 gene by CGH array is available for those individuals in whom sequence analysis is negative.
- 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.