Cornelia de Lange Syndrome: SMC1A Gene Sequencing

Test Code: SSMC1  
Turnaround time: 6 weeks  
CPT Codes: 81479 x1

Condition Description

Intellectual disability (ID) is a nonprogressive cognitive impairment affecting 1-3% of the Western population. It is estimated that up to 50% of moderate-severe cases have genetic causes and approximately 10% are due to X-linked intellectual disability disorders (XLID). XLID can be syndromic or nonsyndromic and is observed in all ethnic groups. More than 100 XLID syndromes have been described in the literature to date. Fragile X is the most common XLID syndrome (~1 in 4000 males) while others can be quite rare with only a few patients reported in the literature. Males can have moderate to severe intellectual disability depending on the syndrome, and carrier females can also be affected, but typically have milder clinical symptoms.

Mutations in three genes, NIPBL, SMC1A (Xp11.22-p11.21), and SMC3 are currently reported to cause Cornelia de Lange syndrome (CdLS). Mutations in the NIPBL gene more often cause the classical form of CdLS, while mutations in the SMC1A and SMC3 genes often cause a more mild form of CdLS. Classical CdLS is characterized by distinctive facial features (including microbrachycephaly, arched eyebrows, long, thick eyelashes, low-set posteriorly rotated and/or hirsute ears with thickened helices, depressed or broad nasal bridge, long smooth philtrum, high arched or cleft palate, small widely-spaced teeth, micrognathia, and a short neck), growth retardation, hirsutism, and upper limb reduction deficits. Additional features include intellectual disability, cardiac defects, gastrointestinal dysfunction, hearing loss, myopia, and hypoplastic genitalia. Individuals with a milder phenotype have less severe growth, cognitive, and limb involvement but usually have the classical facial features associated with CdLS.

Please note that this test if for the SMC1A gene only.


References:

- GeneReviews  
- OMIM #300040: SMC1A gene  
- OMIM #300590: CdLS

Genes

SMC1A

Indications

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of Cornelia de Lange syndrome.  
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of Cornelia de Lange 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: 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.

**Related Tests**

- Deletion/duplication analysis of the SMC1A 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.
- X-Linked Intellectual Disability panels are available for 30, 60, and 90+ genes.