**Condition Description**

Mutations and deletions of the *FOXG1* gene (14q13) cause a developmental disorder known as a Congenital Variant of Rett syndrome. Common features include severe postnatal microcephaly, severe intellectual disability with absent language, apraxia, hypogenesis of the corpus callosum, jerky movements and generalized seizures. These individuals have normal body measurements at birth but then have slow growth after leading to low weight and low normal stature. Sleep was reported to be disrupted starting in infancy and stereotypical hand movements were observed. Unlike Rett syndrome, individuals with a *FOXG1* mutation do NOT have any periods of normal development.

Duplications of the *FOXG1* gene have been associated with developmental epilepsy, intellectual disability, and severe speech impairment.

For patients with suspected Congenital Variant of Rett 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.

**References:**
- OMIM #613454: Congenital Variant Rett syndrome
- OMIM #164874: *FOXG1* gene

**Genes**

*FOXG1*

**Indications**

This test is indicated for:
- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of Congenital Variant Rett syndrome.
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of Congenital Variant Rett syndrome.

**Methodology**

PCR amplification of 1 exon contained in the *FOXG1* 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) 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 FOXG1 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.