Genetics of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of neurodevelopmental disorders which include autism, pervasive developmental delay-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. ASDs are characterized by impairments in social relationships, variable degrees of language and communication deficits, and repetitive behaviors and/or a narrow range of interests. The age of onset is prior to age 3 with a variable clinical presentation, ranging in severity both amongst individuals as well as amongst the various subtypes of ASDs. Additional clinical features may also be observed in individuals with an ASD, such as intellectual disability (up to ~50%) and seizures (~25%).

Known genetic causes of autism include cytogenetically visible chromosome abnormalities (3-5%), copy number variants – which include submicroscopic deletions and duplications (~6-7%), and single gene disorders (~5%).

EGL Genetics’s integrated testing strategy allows for a comprehensive cytogenetics, metabolic, and molecular analysis of ASD in your patient. For a summary of autism testing at EGL, please click here.

*Please note that some genes on this panel are associated with additional phenotypes.

All components of the Autism Panel can be ordered separately.

References:


Genes

- ADSL, AFF2, ALDHS1A, AP1S2, ARX, ATRX, BCKDK, BRAF, CACNA1C, CASK, CDKL5, CHD7, CHD8, CNTNAP2, CREB5, CYP27A1, DHCR7, DMD, EHM13, FG1D, FMR1, FOLR1, FOX1, FOXP1, FOXP2, HPRT1, KDM3C, L1CAM, MAGEL2, MBD5, MECP2, MED12, MEF2C, MID1, NHS, NIPBL, NLGN3, NLGN4X, NR1I3, NRXN1, NSD1, OPHN1, PAFAH1B1, PCDH19, PHE6, PKNK, POBP1, PTCCHD1, PTEN, PTPN11, RAB39B, RA1, RELN, SCN1A, SLC2A1, SLC9A6, SMARCBI, SMCA1, TCF4, UBE2A, UBE3A, VPS13B, ZEB2

Indications

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of autism or an autism spectrum disorder.
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of autism or an autism spectrum disorder.

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 promotor 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

Next Generation Sequencing: 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/duplications will not be detected by this analysis. Results of molecular analysis should be interpreted in the context of the patient’s clinical/biochemical phenotype. Analytical Sensitivity: ~99%.

Reference Range

Next Generation Sequencing: NA
## Specimen Requirements

Submit only 1 of the following specimen types

### 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: Ship sample at room temperature with overnight delivery.

### Type: Isolated DNA

**Specimen Requirements:**

In microtainer: 60 ug

Isolation using the Qiagen™ Puregene kit for DNA extraction is recommended.

Specimen Collection and Shipping: Refrigerate until time of shipment in 100 ng/ul of TE buffer. Ship sample at room temperature with overnight delivery.

## Related Tests

- Autism Spectrum Disorders Panel: Complete Tier 1
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Panel: Tier 1 Cytogenetics and Molecular
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Panel: Tier 1 Biochemical
- Autism Spectrum Disorders: Deletion/Duplication Analysis