Noonan Syndrome: RAF1 Gene Sequencing

Test Code: SRAF1
Turnaround time: 4 weeks
CPT Codes: 81406 x1

**Condition Description**

Noonan syndrome (NS) is an autosomal dominant dysmorphology syndrome characterized by short stature, congenital heart defect, and developmental delay of variable degree. Other findings can include broad or webbed neck, unusual chest shape with superior pectus carinatum and inferior pectus excavatum, cryptorchidism, varied coagulation defects, lymphatic dysplasias, ocular abnormalities, and deafness. Characteristic facies include hypertelorism (74%), downward sloping palpebral apertures (38%), epicanthal folds (39%), ptosis (48%), and low-set posteriorly rotated ears. Early feeding difficulties such as poor suck or gastrointestinal dysfunction are also common. Although birth length is usually normal, final adult height approaches the lower limit of normal. Up to one-third of affected individuals have mild intellectual disability.

Congenital heart disease occurs in 50%-80% of individuals with NS. Pulmonary valve stenosis, often with dysplasia, is the most common heart defect and is found in 20%-50% of individuals. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is found in 20%-30% of individuals, and may be congenital or develop in infancy or childhood. Other structural defects include atrial and ventricular septal defects, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, and tetralogy of Fallot.

NS is clinically diagnosed. Affected individuals have normal chromosome studies. Molecular genetic testing identifies mutations in PTPN11 in over 50% of affected individuals. Other genes known to be involved include KRAS in fewer than 5% of affected individuals, SOS1 in approximately 13%, and RAF1 in 3%-17%. Mutations in the NRAS, BRAF, and MAP2K1 genes have been reported in less than 1% of cases.

Mutations in the RAF1 gene (3p25) has been correlated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, with 95% of affected individuals with RAF1 mutations showing this feature, in comparison with the overall prevalence in NS of 18%. This suggests that pathologic cardiomyocyte hypertrophy occurs because of increased Ras signaling.

Many affected individuals have de novo mutations; however, an affected parent is recognized in 30%-75% of families. When the parents are clinically unaffected, the risk to the sibs of a proband appears to be low (<1%). Noonan syndrome has an estimated incidence of 1 in 1,000 to 2,500 live births.

LEOPARD syndrome can also be caused by mutations in the RAF1 gene. LEOPARD is an acronym for multiple lentigines, electrocardiographic conduction abnormalities, ocular hypertelorism, pulmonic stenosis, abnormal genitalia, retardation of growth, and sensorineural deafness. LEOPARD syndrome is caused by gain-of-function mutations in RAF1. About one-third of families affected with LEOPARD syndrome without PTPN11 mutations have a mutation in RAF1.

For patients with suspected RAF1-related Noonan 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.

**Genes**

**RAF1**

**Indications**

This test is indicated for:
- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of Noonan syndrome

**Methodology**

PCR amplification of 16 exons contained in the RAF1 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: RAF1 mutations are found in 3%-17% of individuals clinically diagnosed with Noonan syndrome. 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 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.

**Special Instructions**

Submit copies of diagnostic biochemical test results 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 Emory Genetics Laboratory, please submit a copy of the sequencing report with the test requisition.

**Related Tests**

- Deletion/duplication analysis of the **RAF1** gene by CGH array is available for those individuals in whom sequence analysis is negative.
- Sequence and deletion/duplication analysis of the **PTPN11, RAF1, SOS1, NRAS and KRAS** genes are also available.
- **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 to adults who are confirmed carriers of mutations. Please contact the laboratory genetic counselor to discuss appropriate testing prior to collecting a prenatal specimen.