Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy (LGMD) Type 2B: DYSF Gene Deletion/Duplication

Condition Description

Limb-girdle muscular dystrophy (LGMD) is a descriptive term applied to a clinically and genetically heterogeneous group of childhood- or adult-onset muscular dystrophies. LGMD is characterized by weakness and wasting restricted to the limb musculature, proximal greater than distal. Most individuals with LGMD show relative sparing of the heart and bulbar muscles, although exceptions occur, depending on the genetic subtype. Onset, progression, and distribution of the weakness and wasting vary considerably among individuals and genetic subtypes. Serum creatine kinase (CK) levels in individuals with LGMD are usually elevated, and muscle biopsy reveals dystrophic changes. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing of a muscle biopsy sample can be used to determine the presence or absence of specific proteins, and confirmatory genetic testing is available in some cases. LGMDs are distinct from the much more common X-linked dystrophinopathies, which include Duchenne and Becker muscular dystrophy (DMD/BMD).

Mutations in the DYSF gene (2p13.3-p13.1) cause two main phenotypes: LGMD 2B with primary proximal weakness and Miyoshi myopathy with primary distal weakness.

LGMD 2B is characterized by early weakness and atrophy of the pelvic and shoulder girdle muscles in adolescence or young adulthood, with slow progression. Respiratory and cardiac muscles are not involved. Other characteristics include inability to walk on the toes and difficulty running or walking.

Miyoshi myopathy is characterized by muscle weakness and atrophy in young adults, most marked in the distal parts of the legs. Over a period of years, the weakness and atrophy spread to the thighs and gluteal muscles. Intra- and interfamilial variability is significant.

Age of onset for these conditions is approximately 18 years. The conditions are slowly progressive, resulting in wheelchair dependency approximately 20 years after onset. Serum CK levels are usually excessively elevated (> 100 times normal) and dysferlin is absent or partially absent on IHC. LGMD 2B and Miyoshi myopathy are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner.

For patients with suspected LGMD 2B or Miyoshi myopathy, 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:

Genes

DYSF

Indications

This test is indicated for:
- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of LGMD 2B in individuals who have tested negative for sequence analysis
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of LGMD 2B who have tested negative for sequence analysis

Methodology

DNA isolated from peripheral blood is hybridized to a CGH array to detect deletions and duplications. The targeted CGH array has overlapping probes which cover the entire genomic region.

Please note that a “backbone” of probes across the entire genome are included on the array for analytical and quality control purposes. Rarely, off-target copy number variants causative of disease may be identified that may or may not be related to the patient’s phenotype. Only known pathogenic off-target copy number variants will be reported. Off-target copy number variants of unknown clinical significance will not be reported.

Detection

Detection is limited to duplications and deletions. The CGH array will not detect point or intronic mutations. Results of molecular analysis must be interpreted in the context of the patient’s clinical and/or biochemical phenotype.

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 EGL Genetics, please submit a copy of the sequencing report with the test requisition.

Related Tests

- Sequence analysis of the DYSF gene is available and is required before deletion/duplication analysis.
- Sequence and deletion/duplication analysis panels are available for 11 LGMD genes.
- Prenatal testing is available to couples who are confirmed carriers of mutations. Please contact the laboratory genetic counselor to discuss appropriate testing prior to collecting a prenatal specimen.