Childhood Absence Epilepsy: **GABRB3** Gene Sequencing

**Test Code:** SGABR  
**Turnaround time:** 4 weeks  
**CPT Codes:** 81479 x1

### Condition Description

Childhood absence epilepsy (CAE), which is a common idiopathic generalized epilepsy, accounts for 10-20% of all epilepsy in children under the age of 16 years. Absence seizures are characterized by a brief loss of consciousness lasting between three and ten seconds and can occur up to 200 times a day. Tanaka et al. (2008) identified three missense mutations in the **GABRB3** gene (15q11.2-q12) in four out of 48 families (8%) with remitting CAE.

For patients with suspected childhood absence epilepsy, 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 #137192: GABRB3 gene  
- OMIM #612269: CAE

### Genes

**GABRB3**

### Indications

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of childhood absence epilepsy.  
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of childhood absence epilepsy.

### Methodology

PCR amplification of 9 exons contained in the **GABRB3** 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: Tanaka et al. (2008) identified missense mutations in the **GABRB3** gene in 4 out of 48 families (8%) with remitting CAE. Mutations in the promoter region, some mutations in the introns and other regulatory elements 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**

**Type: Whole Blood (EDTA)**

**Specimen Requirements:**  
EDTA (Purple Top)  
Infants and Young Children (2 years of age to 10 years old): 3-5 ml  
Older Children & Adults: 5-10 ml  
Autopsy: 2-3 ml unclotted cord or cardiac blood

**Specimen Collection and Shipping:**  
Ship sample at room temperature for receipt at EGL within 24 hours of collection. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

**Type: Saliva**

**Specimen Requirements:**  
Oragene™ Saliva Collection Kit  
Oragene™ Saliva Collection Kit used according to manufacturer instructions. Please contact EGL for a Saliva Collection Kit for patients that cannot provide a blood sample.

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Specimen Collection and Shipping:
Please do not refrigerate or freeze saliva sample. Please store and ship at room temperature.

Type: DNA, Isolated

Specimen Requirements:
Microtainer
8µg
Isolation using the Perkin Elmer™ Chemagen™ Automated Extraction method or Qiagen™ Puregene kit for DNA extraction is recommended.

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

Related Tests

- Deletion/duplication analysis of the GABRB3 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.