Sotos Syndrome: NSD1 Gene Deletion/Duplication

Condition Description

Sotos syndrome is characterized by the cardinal features of typical facial appearance, overgrowth (height and/or head circumference >2 SD above the mean), and learning disability ranging from mild (children attend mainstream schools and are likely to be independent as adults) to severe (lifelong care and support are required). Based on the analysis of more than 500 individuals, these cardinal features were shown to occur in at least 90% of affected individuals. Sotos syndrome is also associated in 15-89% of affected individuals with the major features of behavioral problems, congenital cardiac anomalies, neonatal jaundice, renal anomalies, scoliosis, and seizures.

Typical facial features include malar flushing, sparse frontotemporal hair, high bossed forehead, downslanting palpebral fissures, a long narrow face, and prominent narrow jaw; the head is said to resemble an inverted pear. The facial shape is retained into adulthood, but with time the chin becomes squarer in shape and more prominent. In older children and adults, the facial features, although still typical, can be more subtle. Approximately 90% of children have a height and/or head circumference two or more SD above the mean. Height may normalize in adulthood, but macrocephaly is usually present at all ages. Delay of early developmental milestones is very common and motor skills may appear particularly delayed because of the large size, hypotonia, and poor coordination. Language delay is also usually apparent. The great majority of affected individuals have some degree of intellectual impairment; the extent, however, is highly variable.

The diagnosis of Sotos syndrome is established by a combination of clinical findings and molecular genetic testing. NSD1 (5q35) is the only gene known to be associated with Sotos syndrome. About 80%-90% of individuals with Sotos syndrome have a demonstrable NSD1 abnormality. More than 95% of individuals have a de novo mutation. If neither parent of a proband has Sotos syndrome, the risk to sibs of the proband is low (<1%).

Among those with classic Sotos syndrome, about 50% of individuals of Japanese heritage and 10% of individuals of non-Japanese heritage have a 5q35 microdeletion that encompasses NSD1. Exonic/multiexonic gene deletions (i.e., deletion of one or more exons) are responsible for an estimated 5% of Sotos syndrome. Deletions encompassing exons 1 and 2 are most common, likely reflecting the high density of Alu repeats in the flanking sequences.

Sotos syndrome is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner.

For patients with suspected Sotos 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.

Click here for the GeneTests summary on this condition.

Genes

NSD1

Indications

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of Sotos syndrome in individuals 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.

Detection

Detection is limited to duplications and deletions. Among those with classic Sotos syndrome, about 50% of individuals of Japanese heritage and 10% of individuals of non-Japanese heritage have a 5q35 microdeletion that encompasses NSD1. Exonic/multiexonic gene deletions (i.e., deletion of one or more exons) are responsible for an estimated 5% of Sotos syndrome. 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

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 uncotted cord or cardiac blood

**Specimen Collection and Shipping:**
Ship sample at room temperature for receipt at EGL within 72 hours of collection. Do not freeze.

**Type:** DNA, Isolated

**Specimen Requirements:**
Microtainer
3µg
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.

**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 NSD1 gene is available and is required before deletion/duplication 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.

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