Mental Retardation, Stereotypic Movements, Epilepsy, and/or Cerebral Malformations: MEF2C Gene Sequencing

**Condition Description**

Le Meur et al. (2010) describe six unrelated children with a deletion or mutation of the MEF2C gene (5q14). All six patients had a similar phenotype including severe intellectual disability, developmental delay, hypotonia, absent speech, and the inability to walk unaided. Variable features include stereotypic movements, epilepsy and/or cerebral malformations, and dysmorphic features. Mutation of the MEF2C gene causes autosomal dominant mental retardation, stereotypic movements, epilepsy, and/or cerebral malformations.

For patients with suspected mental retardation, stereotypic movements, epilepsy, and/or cerebral malformations, 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 #600662: MEF2C gene
- OMIM #613443: Mental retardation, stereotypic movements, epilepsy, and/or cerebral malformations

**Genes**

MEF2C

**Indications**

This test is indicated for:

- Confirmation of a clinical diagnosis of mental retardation, stereotypic movements, epilepsy, and/or cerebral malformations.
- Carrier testing in adults with a family history of mental retardation, stereotypic movements, epilepsy, and/or cerebral malformations.

**Methodology**

PCR amplification of 10 exons contained in the MEF2C 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: Unknown. 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 clinical and/or biochemical phenotype.

Analytical Sensitivity: ~99%

**Specimen Requirements**

*Submit only 1 of the following specimen types*

**Type: DNA, Isolated**

**Specimen Requirements:**

- Microtainer 8µg
- Isolation using the Perkin Elmer™Chemagen™ 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.

**Type: Saliva**

**Specimen Requirements:**

- Orangene™ Saliva Collection Kit
  - Orangene™ Saliva Collection Kit used according to manufacturer instructions. Please contact EGL for a Saliva Collection Kit for patients that cannot
provide a blood sample.

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

**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 72 hours of collection. Do not freeze.

### Related Tests

- Deletion/duplication analysis of the *MEF2C* 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.