



Molecular Testing for Lissencephaly

Clinical Features:

Classic Lissencephaly (LIS) or Lissencephaly Type 1 is a smooth or nearly smooth cerebral surface caused by deficient neuronal migration. The spectrum of malformations ranges from complete agyria (absent gyri) to regional pachygyria to subcortical band heterotopia (SBH).

- Lissencephaly—“smooth brain” with absent (agyria) or abnormally wide gyri (pachygyria)
- SBH—“double cortex”; band of heterotopic gray matter below the cortex separated by a thin zone of normal white matter
- Miller-Dieker syndrome—lissencephaly, characteristic facial features and severe neurologic abnormalities
- X-linked lissencephaly with abnormal genitalia (XLAG)—lissencephaly and moderately increased thickness of the cortex, absence of the corpus callosum, infantile spasms, hypothalamic dysfunction including deficient temperature regulation, and ambiguous genitalia in males.

Lissencephaly and SBH are classified by anterior-posterior gradient and severity. This classification may help determine the best order for genetic testing.

Dr. William Dobyns at the Seattle Children’s Research Institute is available to review MRI scans and give recommendations regarding genetic testing. Please contact Dr. Dobyns (wbd@uw.edu) to arrange this, if desired.

Our Lissencephaly Panel includes mutation analysis of all 45 genes listed below.

Lissencephaly Panel				
ACTB	CRADD	ISPD	PIK3R2	SRD5A3
ACTG1	DAG1	KATNB1	POMGNT1	TMEM5
ARX	DCX	KIF5C	POMGNT2	TMTC3
ATP6V0A2	DMRTA2	LAMA2	POMK	TUBA1A
B3GALNT2	DYNC1H1	LAMB1	POMT1	TUBB
B3GNT1	FKRP	LARGE	POMT2	TUBB2B
CDK5	FKTN	NDE1	RELN	TUBB3
CIT	GMPPB	PAFAH1B1	RTTN	TUBG1
COL3A1	GPR56	PHGDH	SNAP29	VLDLR

Molecular Genetics:

The genetic causes of lissencephaly are complex, and may result from abnormalities in one of the genes below:

Gene / Condition	Inheritance Pattern	Clinical Features and Molecular Pathology
ACTB ACTG1	AD	Baraitser-Winter syndrome is a developmental disorder characterized by congenital ptosis, high-arched eyebrows, hypertelorism, ocular colobomata and anterior-predominant lissencephaly. Other features include postnatal short stature, microcephaly, ID, seizures and hearing loss ¹ . Mutations in both <i>ACTB</i> and <i>ACTG1</i> , which code for cytoplasmic actin, have been identified in patients with Baraitser-Winter syndrome.
ARX	X-linked	<i>ARX</i> mutations cause various phenotypes including XLAG, X-linked infantile spasms, and non-syndromic X-linked mental retardation ²⁻⁴ . Females with more severe mutations may be affected as well, and have agenesis of the corpus callosum and seizures ⁵ .
ATP6V0A2	AR	Homozygous or compound heterozygous mutations in the <i>ATP6V0A2</i> gene cause autosomal recessive cutis laxa type IIA (ARCL2A). This condition is characterized by overfolding and wrinkling of the skin and dysmorphic craniofacial features. Individuals with ARCL2A have early developmental delays, and seizures associated with a neurodegenerative course ⁶ . Van Maldergem <i>et al.</i> (2008) reported cortical malformations reminiscent of Walker-Warburg syndrome in 8 patients with ARCL2A ⁶ .

<i>B3GALNT2</i> <i>B3GNT1</i> <i>DAG1</i> <i>FKTN</i> <i>FKRP</i> <i>GMPPB</i> <i>LARGE</i> <i>POMGNT1</i> <i>POMGNT2</i> <i>POMK</i> <i>POMT1</i> <i>POMT2</i> <i>ISPD</i> <i>TMEM5</i>	AR	Congenital muscular dystrophy-dystroglycanopathy with brain and eye anomalies type A (MDDGA) is a genetically heterogeneous group of autosomal recessive conditions caused by defective glycosylation of DAG1, including Walker-Warburg syndrome, muscle-eye-brain and Fukuyama muscular dystrophy. Features of these conditions include brain and eye malformations, cognitive impairment, and congenital muscular dystrophy. Brain malformations seen in MDDGA include cobblestone lissencephaly, polymicrogyria, hydrocephalus, and cerebellar hypoplasia. Cobblestone lissencephaly (COB, previously designated as lissencephaly "type 2"), is a brain malformation consisting of a complex cortical dysplasia with glioneuronal heterotopia on the brain surface, moderate to severe lissencephaly, dysmyelination, hypoplastic brainstem, and dysplastic cerebellum with cysts. Mutations in <i>FKTN</i> , <i>FKRP</i> , <i>LARGE</i> , <i>POMGNT1</i> , <i>POMT1</i> and <i>POMT2</i> account for approximately 32-50% of patients with cobblestone lissencephaly ⁷ . Mutations in <i>TMEM5</i> and <i>ISPD</i> account for approximately 20% of patients with cobblestone lissencephaly ⁸ .
<i>CDK5</i>	AR	In a consanguineous family with individuals affected by severe lissencephaly, cerebellar hypoplasia and agenesis of the corpus callosum, Magen <i>et al</i> (2015) identified a homozygous truncating variant in the <i>CDK5</i> gene ⁹ .
<i>CIT</i>	AR	Biallelic mutations in the <i>CIT</i> gene have been reported in individuals with severe congenital microcephaly, and variable abnormalities on brain MRI including lissencephaly, simplified gyral pattern, and cerebellar/brainstem hypoplasia ^{10,11} .
<i>COL3A1</i>	AR	Biallelic variants in <i>COL3A1</i> have been described in individuals with a cobblestone-like cortical malformation on brain MRI, white matter changes and cerebellar dysplasia. Additional findings may include developmental delay, easy bruising, arterial dissections and joint hypermobility ¹² .
<i>CRADD</i>	AR	A "thin" lissencephaly variant characterized by megalencephaly, frontal predominant pachygyria, intellectual disability, and seizures has been described in patients with biallelic mutations in the <i>CRADD</i> gene ¹³ .
<i>DCX</i>	X-linked	<i>DCX</i> abnormalities result in severe lissencephaly or SBH in boys, but a less severe SBH in girls ¹⁴ . <i>DCX</i> abnormalities are generally associated with an a>p gradient. In males, <i>DCX</i> mutations are present in approximately 30% with SBH and approximately 10% with lissencephaly. In females, <i>DCX</i> mutations are present in approximately 80% with SBH, especially those with diffuse bands or bilateral frontal only bands. Intragenic deletions of the <i>DCX</i> gene are present in approximately 10% of female patients with SBH in whom no mutations were identified by <i>DCX</i> sequencing ^{15,16} .
<i>DYNC1H1</i>	AD	Heterozygous mutations in <i>DYNC1H1</i> are associated with cortical malformations including pachygyria, polymicrogyria and nodular heterotopia ¹⁷ .
<i>DMRTA2</i>	AR	A homozygous truncating variant in <i>DMRTA2</i> has been described in affected individuals from a consanguineous family with a severe prenatal neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by fronto-parietal pachygyria/ lissencephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum and progressive severe microcephaly ¹⁸ .
<i>GPR56</i>	AR	Biallelic mutations in <i>GPR56</i> have been associated with a range of phenotypes, from bilateral bifrontoparietal polymicrogyria, to cobblestone-like lissencephaly ¹⁹ .
<i>KATNB1</i>	AR	Homozygous mutations in <i>KATNB1</i> have been identified in multiple unrelated consanguineous families with variable malformations in cortical development, including lissencephaly, pachygyria, and hypoplasia of the corpus callosum ²⁰ .
<i>KIF5C</i>	AD	Heterozygous mutations in <i>KIF5C</i> have been associated with severe cortical malformations including gyral simplification and polymicrogyria ¹⁷ .
<i>LAMA2</i>	AR	<i>LAMA2</i> -related muscular dystrophy is an autosomal recessive group of conditions ranging from late-onset proximal weakness and motor delays to profound neonatal hypotonia, failure to thrive, ophthalmoparesis, and respiratory failure. A small proportion of individuals with early-onset <i>LAMA2</i> -related muscular dystrophy have brain malformations, including pachygyria and cortical dysplasia ²¹ . The majority of affected individuals have normal cognitive abilities and cognitive development is not consistently correlated with brain MRI findings ²² .
<i>LAMB1</i>	AR	In two consanguineous families with cobblestone lissencephaly, Radmanesh <i>et al</i> (2013) identified two different homozygous loss-of-function mutations in the <i>LAMB1</i> gene ²³ . Radmanesh <i>et al.</i> noted that although the brain malformations were similar to those identified in patients with muscular-dystrophy-dystroglycanopathies, these patients did not have significant eye or muscle disease.
<i>NDE1</i>	AR	Mutations in <i>NDE1</i> have been reported in children with severe congenital microcephaly, with brains smaller than 10 SD below the mean, with simplified gyri, and profound developmental handicap with normal body growth. Patients may also have lissencephaly or microhydrancephaly. Paciorkowski, <i>et al.</i> (2013) reported a patient with a full gene deletion and a truncating mutation in <i>NDE1</i> who had severe microcephaly, agenesis of the corpus callosum, and a cortical dysplasia with a polymicrogyria-like appearance ²⁴ . <i>NDE1</i> is highly expressed in the developing human and mouse cerebral cortex, particularly at the centrosome, and has a role in mitotic spindle assembly during early

		neurogenesis. Deficiency of NDE1 therefore appears to cause failure of neurogenesis and a deficiency of cortical lamination.
<i>PAFAH1B1 (LIS1)</i>	AD	<i>PAFAH1B1 (LIS1)</i> abnormalities cause the most severe form of lissencephaly and are generally associated with a p>a gradient ²⁵ . <i>PAFAH1B1</i> mutations are present in approximately 30% of patients with <i>PAFAH1B1</i> -related lissencephaly and rarely in patients with SBH. Microdeletions involving 17p13.3 are present in 100% of patients with MDS and approximately 50% of patients with lissencephaly. Intragenic deletions of one or more exons of <i>LIS1</i> are present in approximately 15% of patients with <i>PAFAH1B1</i> -related lissencephaly ²⁶ .
<i>PHGDH</i>	AR	Biallelic mutations in the <i>PHGDH</i> gene have been reported in individuals with Neu-Laxova Syndrome 1 (NLS-1) and PHGDH deficiency ^{27,28} . PHGDH deficiency is a serine biosynthesis disorder characterized by reduced L-serine concentrations, congenital microcephaly, intractable seizures and delayed psychomotor development. Neu-Laxova Syndrome 1 is a multiple congenital anomaly syndrome characterized by intrauterine fetal growth restriction, reduced fetal mobility, distinctive facial features, skeletal/limb malformations, ichthyosis, brain developmental abnormalities (including microcephaly, lissencephaly, hypoplastic cerebellum, absent cerebellum vermis, etc) and perinatal lethality. It has been hypothesized that NLS represents the severe end of the spectrum for the serine metabolism deficiency ^{28,29} .
<i>PIK3R2</i>	AD	Heterozygous mutations in the <i>PIK3R2</i> gene have been identified in patients with megalencephaly related overgrowth disorder called as megalencephaly-polymicrogyria-polydactyly-hydrocephalus syndrome 1(MPPH) ³⁰ . The reported spectrum of brain malformations includes megalencephaly, perisylvian polymicrogyria, mega corpus callosum, cerebellar tonsillar ectopia (Chiari 1 malformation), hydrocephalus and dysmyelination. Other characteristic features are absence of vascular malformations, postaxial polydactyly, abnormal muscle tone, spasticity, epilepsy, mild dysmorphic features, developmental delays and intellectual disability ³⁰⁻³² . Mosaic variants have also been described in patients with these phenotypes ³³ . <i>Our sequencing assay is designed to detect germline variants; variants present in the mosaic state may not be detected by this assay.</i>
<i>RELN VLDLR</i>	AR	<i>RELN</i> mutations have been identified in patients with a less severe form of lissencephaly with cerebellar hypoplasia (LCH) ³⁴ . <i>VLDLR</i> -associated cerebellar hypoplasia (<i>VLDLR</i> -CH) falls within the LCH spectrum, and is characterized by non-progressive congenital ataxia, ID, dysarthria, strabismus and seizures. These patients have mild lissencephaly as well. <i>VLDLR</i> is part of the reelin (<i>RELN</i>) signaling pathway, which guides neuroblast migration in the cerebral cortex and cerebellum. LCH is distinguished from <i>VLDLR</i> -CH by more severe lissencephaly with an a>p gradient, a small and malformed hippocampus, and profound cerebellar hypoplasia with complete absence of detectable folia ³⁵ .
<i>RTTN</i>	AR	Kheradmand Kia <i>et al</i> (2012) identified a homozygous mutation in <i>RTTN</i> in three members of a consanguineous family with polymicrogyria and seizures ³⁶ . The polymicrogyria in these affected individuals was asymmetric, extending from the frontal lobes to the temporal, parietal and occipital lobes on brain MRI. The <i>RTTN</i> protein is required for the early development of left-right specification and axial rotation and may play a role in notochord development.
<i>SNAP29</i>	AR	Sprecher <i>et al</i> (2005) identified a homozygous truncating mutation in two unrelated consanguineous Arab Muslim families with cerebral dysgenesis, neuropathy, ichthyosis, and palmoplantar keratoderma (CEDNIK) syndrome. Individuals with CEDNIK syndrome have progressive microcephaly in conjunction with a range of brain malformations, including cortical dysplasia, pachygyria, absence of the corpus callosum, and perisylvian polymicrogyria. Additional features include dysmorphic facies, palmoplantar keratosis and ichthyosis, severe developmental delays, optic disc hypoplasia, and sensorineural hearing loss ³⁷ .
<i>SRD5A3</i>	AR	Mutations in <i>SRD5A3</i> are associated with congenital disorder of glycosylation type Iq (CDG1Q). CDG1Q is a rare autosomal recessive condition characterized by abnormal type 1 glycosylation in association with congenital eye malformations including ocular colobomas and optic disc hypoplasia, intellectual disabilities, and variable brain malformations. Al-Gazali <i>et al.</i> (2008) reported a consanguineous family with multiple affected individuals. Brain malformations seen in affected individuals included cerebellar vermis hypoplasia, hypoplasia of the corpus callosum, absent septum pellucidum, and bilateral frontal polymicrogyria ³⁸ . Cantagrel <i>et al.</i> (2010) subsequently identified a homozygous mutation in <i>SRD5A3</i> in affected individuals in this family, as well as homozygous or compound heterozygous <i>SRD5A3</i> mutations in 5 other individuals ³⁹ .
<i>TMTC3</i>	AR	Jerber <i>et al.</i> (2016) identified biallelic mutations in <i>TMTC3</i> in six unrelated consanguineous families with cobblestone lissencephaly and other brain malformations such as ventriculomegaly, brainstem and cerebellar hypoplasia. Other most commonly reported features are delayed psychomotor development with truncal hypotonia, variable

		appendicular spasticity, intellectual disability and seizures. Only a minority of patients presented with ocular defects or elevated muscle creatine phosphokinase (CPK) which are one of the prominent features of other known congenital dystroglycanopathies ⁴⁰ .
<i>TUBA1A</i>	AD	<i>TUBA1A</i> mutations have been identified in patients with gyral malformations and are associated with two forms of lissencephaly. The first is lissencephaly with a p>a gradient similar to <i>LIS1</i> -associated lissencephaly, although this is rare cause of typical lissencephaly. The second is a severe form of lissencephaly associated with severe cerebellar hypoplasia (LCH) and often underdevelopment of the corpus callosum. About 30-40% of children with LCH have mutations in <i>TUBA1A</i> ⁴¹ .
<i>TUBB</i> <i>TUBB3</i>	AD	Pathogenic variants in <i>TUBB</i> (previously known as <i>TUBB5</i>) and <i>TUBB3</i> have been associated with cortical malformations including simplified gyral patterns ⁴² .
<i>TUBB2B</i>	AD	<i>De novo</i> mutations in the <i>TUBB2B</i> gene have been associated with a range of cortical malformations, including polymicrogyria and lissencephaly ⁴³ .
<i>TUBG1</i>	AD	Heterozygous mutations in <i>TUBG1</i> have been associated with moderate to severe lissencephaly and subcortical band heterotopia ⁴² .

Test methods:

Comprehensive sequence coverage of the coding regions and splice junctions of all genes in this panel is performed. Targets of interests are enriched and prepared for sequencing using the Agilent SureSelect system. Sequencing is performed using Illumina technology and reads are aligned to the reference sequence. Variants are identified and evaluated using a custom collection of bioinformatic tools and comprehensively interpreted by our team of directors and genetic counselors. All pathogenic and likely pathogenic variants are confirmed by Sanger sequencing. The technical sensitivity of this test is estimated to be >99% for single nucleotide changes and insertions and deletions of less than 20 bp.

Our CNV detection algorithm was developed and its performance determined for the sole purpose of identifying deletions and duplications within the coding region of the gene(s) tested. Partial exonic copy number changes and rearrangements of less than 400 bp may not be detected by this methodology. Regions of high homology and repetitive regions may not be analyzed. This methodology will not detect low level mosaicism, balanced translocations, inversions, or point mutations that may be responsible for the clinical phenotype. The sensitivity of our deletion/duplication assay may be reduced when DNA extracted by an outside laboratory is provided.

Lissencephaly Panel (36 genes)

Sample specifications: 3 to 10 cc of blood in a purple top (EDTA) tube
 Cost: \$4000
 CPT codes: 81406, 81407
 Turn-around time: 8 weeks

Note: We cannot bill insurance for the above test.

Cobblestone Lissencephaly panel (21 genes)

Sample specifications: 3 to 10 cc of blood in a purple top (EDTA) tube
 Cost: \$2500
 CPT codes: 81406
 81406, 81407
 Turn-around time: 8 weeks

Note: We cannot bill insurance for the above test.

Results:

Results, along with an interpretive report, will be faxed to the referring physician. Additional reports will be provided as requested. All abnormal results will be reported by telephone.

For more information about our testing options, please visit our website at dnatesting.uchicago.edu or contact us at 773-834-0555.

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