

Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia / Glycine Encephalopathy Panel

Test code: ME2601

Is ideal for patients with a clinical suspicion of nonketotic hyperglycinemia (glycine encephalopathy). The genes on this panel are included in the Comprehensive Metabolism Panel.

About Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia / Glycine Encephalopathy

Glycine encephalopathy, also known as nonketotic hyperglycinemia (NKH), is an inborn error of glycine metabolism defined by deficient activity of the glycine cleavage enzyme leading to the accumulation of large quantities of glycine in all body tissues including the brain. Most cases of glycine encephalopathy present in the neonatal period (85% as the neonatal severe form and 15% as the neonatal attenuated form). Of those presenting in infancy, 50% have the infantile attenuated form and 50% have the infantile severe form. The most common form of glycine encephalopathy, called the classical type or neonatal type, appears shortly after birth. Affected infants experience a progressive lack of energy (lethargy), feeding difficulties, weak muscle tone (hypotonia), abnormal jerking movements, and life-threatening problems with breathing. Most children who survive these early signs and symptoms develop profound intellectual disability and seizures that are difficult to treat. Atypical glycine encephalopathy indicates hyperglycinemic patients whose clinical presentations are different from those of neonatal or infantile form, for example, transient or late-onset hyperglycinemia and patients with spastic paraparesis. The three genes in which biallelic pathogenic variants are known to cause glycine encephalopathy are: *GLDC* (encoding the P-protein component of the GCS complex and accounting for 70%-75% of disease), *AMT* (encoding the T-protein component of the GCS complex and accounting for ~20% of disease), and *GCSH* (encoding the H-protein component of the GCS complex and accounting for <1% of disease). Approximately 20% of *GLDC* mutated alleles are (multi)exon deletions or duplications. Enzymatic confirmation of the diagnosis relies on measurement of glycine cleavage system (GCS) enzyme activity in liver biopsy sample. The majority of affected individuals have no detectable enzyme activity. About 5% of individuals with enzyme-proven glycine encephalopathy do not have a pathogenic variant in any of these three genes and have a variant form of glycine encephalopathy. In Finland, an incidence at birth of 1/55,000 is reported and in British Columbia, Canada, 1/63,000, with a calculated carrier rate of 1/125.

Availability

Results in 3-4 weeks

Gene set description

Genes in the Nonketotic Hyperglycinemia / Glycine Encephalopathy Panel and their clinical significance

Gene	Associated phenotypes	Inheritance	ClinVar	HGMD
AMT	Glycine encephalopathy	AR	42	95
BOLA3	Multiple mitochondrial dysfunctions syndrome 2	AR	3	6
GCSH	Glycine encephalopathy	AR	4	2
GLDC	Glycine encephalopathy	AR	139	425
GLRX5	Spasticity, childhood-onset, with hyperglycinemia	AR	5	6
LIAS	Pyruvate dehydrogenase lipoic acid synthetase deficiency	AR	11	8
LIPT1	Lipoyltransferase 1 deficiency	AR	9	9
NFU1	Multiple mitochondrial dysfunctions syndrome 1	AR	6	15

SLC6A9 Glycine encephalopathy with normal serum glycine AR 6 3

*Some regions of the gene are duplicated in the genome. [Read more.](#)

The gene has suboptimal coverage (means <90% of the gene's target nucleotides are covered at >20x with mapping quality score (MQ>20) reads), and/or the gene has exons listed under Test limitations section that are not included in the panel as they are not sufficiently covered with high quality sequence reads.

The sensitivity to detect variants may be limited in genes marked with an asterisk (*) or number sign (#)

Gene refers to the HGNC approved gene symbol; Inheritance refers to inheritance patterns such as autosomal dominant (AD), autosomal recessive (AR), mitochondrial (mi), X-linked (XL), X-linked dominant (XLD) and X-linked recessive (XLR); ClinVar refers to the number of variants in the gene classified as pathogenic or likely pathogenic in this database ([ClinVar](#)); HGMD refers to the number of variants with possible disease association in the gene listed in Human Gene Mutation Database ([HGMD](#)). The list of associated, gene specific phenotypes are generated from [CGD](#) or Mitomap databases.

Non-coding disease causing variants covered by the panel

Gene	Genomic location HG19	HGVS	RefSeq	RS-number
AMT	Chr3:49459938	c.-55C>T	NM_000481.3	rs386833677

Test Strengths

The strengths of this test include:

- CAP accredited laboratory
- CLIA-certified personnel performing clinical testing in a CLIA-certified laboratory
- Powerful sequencing technologies, advanced target enrichment methods and precision bioinformatics pipelines ensure superior analytical performance
- Careful construction of clinically effective and scientifically justified gene panels
- Some of the panels include the whole mitochondrial genome (please see the Panel Content section)
- Our Nucleus online portal providing transparent and easy access to quality and performance data at the patient level
- Our publicly available analytic validation demonstrating complete details of test performance
- ~2,000 non-coding disease causing variants in our clinical grade NGS assay for panels (please see 'Non-coding disease causing variants covered by this panel' in the Panel Content section)
- Our rigorous variant classification scheme
- Our systematic clinical interpretation workflow using proprietary software enabling accurate and traceable processing of NGS data
- Our comprehensive clinical statements

Test Limitations

This test does not detect the following:

- Complex inversions
- Gene conversions
- Balanced translocations
- Some of the panels include the whole mitochondrial genome but not all (please see the Panel Content section)
- Repeat expansion disorders unless specifically mentioned
- Non-coding variants deeper than ± 20 base pairs from exon-intron boundary unless otherwise indicated (please see above Panel Content / non-coding variants covered by the panel).

This test may not reliably detect the following:

- Low level mosaicism in nuclear genes (variant with a minor allele fraction of 14.6% is detected with 90% probability)

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- Stretches of mononucleotide repeats
- Low level heteroplasmy in mtDNA (>90% are detected at 5% level)
- Indels larger than 50bp
- Single exon deletions or duplications
- Variants within pseudogene regions/duplicated segments
- Some disease causing variants present in mtDNA are not detectable from blood, thus post-mitotic tissue such as skeletal muscle may be required for establishing molecular diagnosis.

The sensitivity of this test may be reduced if DNA is extracted by a laboratory other than Blueprint Genetics.

For additional information, please refer to the Test performance section and see our Analytic Validation.

Test performance

The Blueprint Genetics nonketotic hyperglycinemia / glycine encephalopathy panel covers classical genes associated with glycine encephalopathy, lipoyltransferase 1 deficiency, Multiple mitochondrial dysfunctions syndrome 1 and pyruvate dehydrogenase lipoic acid synthetase deficiency. The genes on the panel have been carefully selected based on scientific literature, mutation databases and our experience.

Our panels are sliced from our high-quality whole exome sequencing data. Please see our sequencing and detection performance table for different types of alterations at the whole exome level (Table).

Assays have been validated for different starting materials including EDTA-blood, isolated DNA (no FFPE), saliva and dry blood spots (filter card) and all provide high-quality results. The diagnostic yield varies substantially depending on the assay used, referring healthcare professional, hospital and country. Blueprint Genetics' Plus Analysis (Seq+Del/Dup) maximizes the chance to find a molecular genetic diagnosis for your patient although Sequence Analysis or Del/Dup Analysis may be a cost-effective first line test if your patient's phenotype is suggestive of a specific mutation type.

The genes on the panel have been carefully selected based on scientific literature, mutation databases and our experience.

Our panels are sectioned from our high-quality, clinical grade NGS assay. Please see our sequencing and detection performance table for details regarding our ability to detect different types of alterations (Table).

	Sensitivity % (TP/(TP+FN))	Specificity %
Single nucleotide variants	99.89% (99,153/99,266)	>99.9999%
Insertions, deletions and indels by sequence analysis		
1-10 bps	96.9% (7,563/7,806)	>99.9999%
11-50 bps	99.13% (2,524/2,546)	>99.9999%
Copy number variants (exon level dels/dups)		
1 exon level deletion (heterozygous)	100% (20/20)	NA
1 exon level deletion (homozygous)	100% (5/5)	NA
1 exon level deletion (het or homo)	100% (25/25)	NA
2-7 exon level deletion (het or homo)	100% (44/44)	NA
1-9 exon level duplication (het or homo)	75% (6/8)	NA
Simulated CNV detection		
5 exons level deletion/duplication	98.7%	100.00%

Microdeletion/-duplication sdrs (large CNVs, n=37)

Size range (0.1-47 Mb) 100% (37/37)

The performance presented above reached by Blueprint Genetics high-quality, clinical grade NGS sequencing assay with the following coverage metrics

Mean sequencing depth 143X

Nucleotides with >20x sequencing coverage (%) 99.86%

Performance of Blueprint Genetics Mitochondrial Sequencing Assay.

	Sensitivity % (TP/(TP+FN))	Specificity
ANALYTIC VALIDATION (NA samples; n=4)		
Single nucleotide variants		
Heteroplasmic (45-100%)	100.0% (50/50)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (35-45%)	100.0% (87/87)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (25-35%)	100.0% (73/73)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (15-25%)	100.0% (77/77)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (10-15%)	100.0% (74/74)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (5-10%)	100.0% (3/3)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (<5%)	50.0% (2/4)	100.0%
CLINICAL VALIDATION (n=76 samples)		
All types		
Single nucleotide variants n=2084 SNVs		
Heteroplasmic (45-100%)	100.0% (1940/1940)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (35-45%)	100.0% (4/4)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (25-35%)	100.0% (3/3)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (15-25%)	100.0% (3/3)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (10-15%)	100.0% (9/9)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (5-10%)	92.3%(12/13)	99.98%
Heteroplasmic (<5%)	88.7% (47/53)	99.93%
Insertions and deletions by sequence analysis n=42 indels		
Heteroplasmic (45-100%) 1-10bp	100.0% (32/32)	100.0%

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Heteroplasmic (5-45%) 1-10bp	100.0% (3/3)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (<5%) 1-10bp	100.0% (5/5)	>0.9999
SIMULATION DATA /(mitomap mutations)		
Insertions, and deletions 1-24 bps by sequence analysis; n=17		
Homoplasmic (100%) 1-24bp	100.0% (17/17)	99.98%
Heteroplasmic (50%)	100.0% (17/17)	99.99%
Heteroplasmic (25%)	100.0% (17/17)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (20%)	100.0% (17/17)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (15%)	100.0% (17/17)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (10%)	94.1% (16/17)	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (5%)	94.1% (16/17)	100.0%
Copy number variants (separate artificial mutations; n=1500)		
Homoplasmic (100%) 500 bp, 1kb, 5 kb	100.0%	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (50%) 500 bp, 1kb, 5 kb	100.0%	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (30%) 500 bp, 1kb, 5 kb	100.0%	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (20%) 500 bp, 1kb, 5 kb	99.7%	100.0%
Heteroplasmic (10%) 500 bp, 1kb, 5 kb	99.0%	100.0%
The performance presented above reached by following coverage metrics at assay level (n=66)		
	Mean of medians	Median of medians
Mean sequencing depth MQ0 (clinical)	18224X	17366X
Nucleotides with >1000x MQ0 sequencing coverage (%) (clinical)	100%	
rho zero cell line (=no mtDNA), mean sequencing depth	12X	

Bioinformatics

The target region for each gene includes coding exons and ± 20 base pairs from the exon-intron boundary. In addition, the panel includes non-coding variants if listed above (Non-coding variants covered by the panel). Some regions of the gene(s) may be removed from the panel if specifically mentioned in the "Test limitations" section above. The sequencing data generated in our laboratory is analyzed with our proprietary data analysis and annotation pipeline, integrating state-of-the-art algorithms and industry-standard software solutions. Incorporation of rigorous quality control steps throughout the workflow of the pipeline ensures the consistency, validity and accuracy of results. Our pipeline is streamlined to maximize sensitivity without sacrificing specificity. We have incorporated a number of reference population databases and mutation databases such as, but not limited, to [1000 Genomes Project](#), [gnomAD](#), [ClinVar](#) and [HGMD](#) into our clinical interpretation software to make the process effective and efficient. For missense variants, *in silico* variant prediction tools such as [SIFT](#), [PolyPhen](#), [MutationTaster](#) are used to assist with variant classification. Through our [online ordering and statement reporting system](#), [Nucleus](#), the customer has an access to details of the analysis, including patient specific sequencing metrics, a gene level coverage plot and a list of regions with inadequate coverage if present. This reflects our mission to build fully transparent



[diagnostics where customers have easy access to crucial details of the analysis process.](#)

Clinical interpretation

We provide customers with the most comprehensive clinical report available on the market. Clinical interpretation requires a fundamental understanding of clinical genetics and genetic principles. At Blueprint Genetics, our PhD molecular geneticists, medical geneticists and clinical consultants prepare the clinical statement together by evaluating the identified variants in the context of the phenotypic information provided in the requisition form. Our goal is to provide clinically meaningful statements that are understandable for all medical professionals regardless of whether they have formal training in genetics.

Variant classification is the corner stone of clinical interpretation and resulting patient management decisions. Our classifications follow the [Blueprint Genetics Variant Classification Schemes](#) based on the [ACMG guideline 2015](#). Minor modifications were made to increase reproducibility of the variant classification and improve the clinical validity of the report. Our experience with tens of thousands of clinical cases analyzed at our laboratory allowed us to further develop the industry standard.

The final step in the analysis of sequence variants is confirmation of variants classified as pathogenic or likely pathogenic using bi-directional Sanger sequencing. Variant(s) fulfilling the following criteria are not Sanger confirmed: the variant quality score is above the internal threshold for a true positive call, and visual check-up of the variant at IGV is in-line with the variant call. Reported variants of uncertain significance are confirmed with bi-directional Sanger sequencing only if the quality score is below our internally defined quality score for true positive call. Reported copy number variations with a size <10 exons are confirmed by orthogonal methods such as qPCR if the specific CNV has been seen less than three times at Blueprint Genetics.

Our clinical statement includes tables for sequencing and copy number variants that include basic variant information (genomic coordinates, HGVS nomenclature, zygosity, allele frequencies, in silico predictions, OMIM phenotypes and classification of the variant). In addition, the statement includes detailed descriptions of the variant, gene and phenotype(s) including the role of the specific gene in human disease, the mutation profile, information about the gene's variation in population cohorts and detailed information about related phenotypes. We also provide links to the references used, congress abstracts and mutation variant databases used to help our customers further evaluate the reported findings if desired. The conclusion summarizes all of the existing information and provides our rationale for the classification of the variant.

Identification of pathogenic or likely pathogenic variants in dominant disorders or their combinations in different alleles in recessive disorders are considered molecular confirmation of the clinical diagnosis. In these cases, family member testing can be used for risk stratification within the family. In the case of variants of uncertain significance (VUS), we do not recommend family member risk stratification based on the VUS result. Furthermore, in the case of VUS, we do not recommend the use of genetic information in patient management or genetic counseling.

Our interpretation team analyzes millions of variants from thousands of individuals with rare diseases. Thus, our database, and our understanding of variants and related phenotypes, is growing by leaps and bounds. Our laboratory is therefore well positioned to re-classify previously reported variants as new information becomes available. If a variant previously reported by Blueprint Genetics is re-classified, our laboratory will issue a follow-up statement to the original ordering health care provider at no additional cost.

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Accepted sample types

- EDTA blood, min. 1 ml
- Purified DNA, min. 3µg*
- Saliva (Oragene DNA OG-500 kit)

Label the sample tube with your patient's name, date of birth and the date of sample collection.

Note that we do not accept DNA samples isolated from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue.



Resources

- [GeneReviews- *GLYT1* Encephalopathy](#)
- [GeneReviews- Glycine Encephalopathy](#)

