Craniosynostosis
Indication-Specific Gene Panel

**including:** sequencing and high resolution deletion/duplication analysis

**PANEL DESCRIPTION:**
Craniosynostosis describes the premature closure of one or more sutures in an individual’s skull, which can cause an abnormal head shape. Craniosynostosis is further characterized by the specific suture(s) prematurely closed: sagittal, coronal, metopic, or lambdoid. Many craniosynostosis syndromes exist and can often have additional features. Craniosynostosis occurs in 1 in 2000-2500 births.\(^1\) This indication-specific panel includes full-gene sequence and high resolution deletion/duplication analysis of 27 genes commonly associated with craniosynostosis.

**PANEL DETAILS:**
- This panel includes both sequencing and high resolution deletion/duplication analysis of the genes specified.
  - **Sequencing** is performed using a customized next generation sequencing library. Analysis includes the coding exons of all genes in the panel plus ten bases into the introns and untranslated regions (5’ and 3’). Sanger sequencing is performed to confirm variants suspected or confirmed to be pathogenic.
  - **Deletion/duplication analysis** is performed using a high resolution, custom microarray platform designed to target the genes of interest at the exon level.
- Detection rates are limited to the genes specified; this test does not provide whole genome analysis.
- Gene panels are a more cost-effective approach than single gene testing to confirm or establish a diagnosis. However, if single gene testing is desired for the patient or family members of an individual with a known mutation, that must be ordered separately.

**ADDITIONAL TESTING DETAILS:**
- If microarray analysis is performed, it will be done using a high resolution, single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) platform designed to interrogate the whole genome at a resolution much higher than is possible using traditional karyotyping or fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) methodologies. Our High Density SNP array contains a total of 2.6 million markers distributed throughout the genome for the detection of both genomic dosage anomalies (deletions and duplications) and regions of homozygosity (ROH; regions lacking typical amounts of genetic variation). This marker density provides a global resolution of 10 Kb to 20 Kb for copy number changes and 5 Mb resolution for ROH.

**RECOMMENDED TESTING STRATEGY:**
Tests below can be ordered individually, however our laboratory’s recommended Comprehensive Testing for craniosynostosis includes the following two tests:

**Next Generation Sequencing**
- This gene test panel covers genes commonly associated with craniosynostosis and several skeletal dysplasias. Next generation sequencing (NGS) analyzes multiple genes at once, making this a cost-effective method of testing genes known to be associated with these indications.

**Targeted Deletion/Duplication Analysis**
- If no pathogenic aberrations are detected by NGS, deletion/duplication analysis is performed to identify partial or whole gene deletions and duplications in the associated genes.

**IF INDICATED, also perform SNP Microarray Analysis**
- Chromosomal abnormalities, including microdeletions and microduplications, are found in at least 22% of children with syndromic craniosynostosis.\(^2\) High Density SNP Microarray can be ordered simultaneously or in a tiered fashion to assess for these copy number changes.
DISORDERS INCLUDED IN THIS PANEL:
Several skeletal dysplasias are also covered by this panel because mutations in these genes can inhibit or alter bone growth.

- Carpenter syndrome [MEGFB, RAB23]
- Craniofrontonasal dysplasia (CFNS) [EFNB1]
- Craniostenosis 1 [TWIST1]
- Craniostenosis 2 [MSX2]
- Craniostenosis 3 [TCF12]
- Craniostenosis 4 [ERF]
- Craniostenosis 6 [ZIC1]
- Craniostenosis 7 susceptibility [SMAD6]
- Craniostenosis and dental anomalies [IL11RA]
  - Antley-Bixler syndrome without genital anomalies or disordered steroidogenesis [FGFR2]
  - Apert syndrome [FGFR2]
  - Beare-Stevenson cutis gyrata syndrome [FGFR2]
  - Bent bone dysplasia syndrome [FGFR2]
  - Crouzon syndrome [FGFR2]
  - Crouzon syndrome with acanthosis nigricans [FGFR3]
  - Isolated coronal synostosis [FRFR2, FGFR3]
  - Jackson-Weiss syndrome [FGFR2]
  - Osteoglophonic dysplasia [FGFR1]
  - Pfeiffer syndrome [FGFR1, FGFR2]
  - Saethre-Chotzen syndrome (rare cases) [FGFR2]
  - Scaphocephaly, maxillary retrusion, and intellectual disability [FGFR2]
  - Trigonocephaly 1 [FGFR1]
- Meier-Gorlin syndrome 7 [CDC45]
- Robinow-Sorauf syndrome [TWIST1]
- Trigonocephaly 2 [FREM1]

INDICATIONS FOR TESTING:
- Craniostenosis, abnormal head shape
- Facial features such as proptosis (bulging eyes), ptosis, widely spaced eyes, flattened midface, temporal bossing, frontal bossing, facial asymmetry
- Syndactyly, clinodactyly, broad toes, broad thumbs
- Short stature or shortened long bones
- Palatal abnormalities (cleft or high palate, bifid uvula)
- Bone fusions, especially carpal, tarsal, and/or radioulnar synostosis
- Dental abnormalities
- Developmental delay, hearing loss or vision concerns, seizures, macrocephaly, intracranial anomalies or hydrocephalus in a person suspected to have craniosynostosis or skeletal dysplasia
- Any of the above findings in an individual with a family history of craniosynostosis
SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT:
Complimentary test kits are available upon request, but are not required.

SAMPLE TYPE and REQUIREMENTS:
- **blood**: 3 - 5 ml whole blood in an EDTA tube (purple top)
  - newborn minimum requirement: 1 - 3 ml
- **buccal swab**: 2 swabs
- **extracted DNA**: 70 ng/µg with a total yield of 7-10 µg (in TE) in a DNA microcentrifuge tube
  *When submitting extracted DNA for genetic testing, nucleic isolation must have occurred in a CLIA-certified laboratory or a laboratory meeting equivalent requirements as determined by the CAP and/or CMS.*

SHIPPING:
- Coordinate transport for sample to be received in our laboratory within 24-48 hours of collection.
  - **LOCAL**: Call 402-559-5070 (option 1)
  - **OUT OF AREA**: Prior to shipment, please fax the completed test request form to 402-559-7248, including the FedEx® airbill tracking number.
    - Saturday delivery MUST be checked when sending FedEx® on Friday.
    - Please include Internal Billing Reference # 3155070600 on the FedEx® airbill.
    - **Ship To**: Human Genetics Laboratory – Zip 5440
      UNMC Shipping & Receiving Dock
      601 S. Saddle Creek Road
      Omaha, NE 68106

FORMS FOR TESTING: The following forms can be downloaded via our website.
- **Required**: Postnatal Test Request Form
- **Optional**: Informed Consent for Genetic Testing

POTENTIAL TEST RESULTS:
Once a variant is confirmed, our laboratory team interprets this information in conjunction with the patient’s clinical findings and the scientific literature in order to classify a finding. There are three possible results:
- **A normal** result indicates that sequencing or deletion/duplication analysis of the genes analyzed did not find any pathogenic mutations or variants of uncertain clinical significance (or no clinically-significant chromosome anomalies were identified by microarray analysis).
- An **abnormal (or pathogenic)** result indicates that a pathogenic mutation was identified (or microarray analysis identified a genomic dosage anomaly [deletion or duplication] or ROH that likely provides an explanation for the individual’s clinical findings). Any available information regarding the phenotype associated with that mutation will accompany the technical details on the report.
  - In some cases, the clinical significance of an identified sequence variant (or chromosomal anomaly detected by microarray) may not be well understood. These variants (anomalies) will be reported as **variants of uncertain clinical significance (UCS)**. Any available information about the molecular characteristics of the genetic change and the relationship of the genetic change to phenotype will be included on the report. Over time, as more patients are reported, a variant of uncertain clinical significance may be revised to an informative result, and a revised report will be generated.
  - Parental testing may be recommended in order to classify the result as **de novo** or familial for the purpose of recurrence risk calculation.

TURNAROUND TIME: For all sample types, results are typically available in 4 - 5 weeks.

BILLING: Our laboratory offers patient/self-pay, insurance (including Medicare/Medicaid), and client/institution billing options. Verifying coverage requirements or obtaining preauthorization PRIOR TO OR AT THE TIME OF SPECIMEN COLLECTION is often necessary. We provide preauthorization services upon request by calling 402-559-5070 (option 3); the following form is helpful for obtaining the information required by insurance providers and can be downloaded via our website.
- Insurance Preauthorization Request
In some circumstances, a test may be warranted even though insurance coverage is denied or not guaranteed. For these situations, we request the following form be signed by the patient and submitted with the sample. This helps inform patients of their potential financial responsibility, should the costs of genetic testing not be paid by their insurance provider.

- Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) – required when billing Medicare

**CPT CODES:**
- Next Generation Sequencing: 81407
- Targeted Deletion/Duplication Analysis: 81405

**PRICING:** For current costs contact the laboratory billing staff at 402-559-5070 (option 3).

**GENE LIST: (version 3_27)**

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**REFERENCES:**

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