

**HEREDITARY HEARING LOSS: SYNDROMIC FORMS OF HEARING LOSS**

**Alport syndrome** is a genetic disorder characterized by cochlear, kidney and ocular involvement. Individuals frequently develop sensorineural hearing loss during late childhood or early adolescence. Affected individuals may also have misshapen lenses in the eyes and abnormal coloration of the retina; which seldomly lead to vision loss. Individuals experience progressive loss of kidney function with hematuria and proteinuria, often resulting in end-stage renal disease.

**Norrie syndrome** is an X-linked condition characterized by sensorineural hearing loss, abnormal retinal development leading to congenital blindness and developmental delay. Most affected males develop progressive asymmetrical sensorineural hearing loss starting in childhood. Hearing loss may be severe and bilateral by mid-adulthood. Developmental delay is found in about 30% of patients. Some have cognitive and psychosocial behavioral disorders, including psychosis.

**Treacher Collins syndrome** is a genetic condition that affects the development of facial bones and other tissues of the face. The features of this disorder vary greatly, ranging from almost unnoticeable to severe. About 50% of individuals have conductive hearing loss due to the malformation of the ossicles and hypoplasia of the middle ear cavities. Other less common abnormalities include cleft palate and choanal stenosis or atresia. Most individuals have normal intelligence.

**Waardenburg syndrome (WS)** is a group of genetic conditions that can cause congenital sensorineural hearing loss and pigmentation changes of the skin, hair (white forelock or early graying of the scalp hair) and eyes (heterochromia iridium). There are four types of WS; type I & II have very similar features, type III includes abnormalities of the upper limbs and type IV includes Hirschsprung disease.

**Genetics**

These four forms of syndromic hearing loss can be inherited in autosomal dominant (AD), autosomal recessive (AR) or X-linked fashion. The targeted Next-Generation-Sequencing (NGS) panel described below include genes associated with all three modes of inheritance.

**Who Should be Tested?**

- Individuals clinically suspected of being affected with one of these four syndromic forms of hearing loss.
- Relative of proband with identified pathogenic variant(s) in a gene associated with one of these four syndromic forms of hearing loss.
- Pregnancies at increased risk due to a family history of one of these four forms of syndromic hearing loss.

**Test Methods**

Complete sequencing of the coding region and flanking intron/exon boundaries of the genes listed below. This is done via NGS of the nine-syndromic forms of hearing loss panel. Please refer to our “A Guide to Next-Generation Sequencing” information sheet available on our website, for further details.

**Interpretation of Test Results**

Genetic testing may reveal one or more variants in one of these nine genes, which should be interpreted in the context of the suspected clinical diagnosis, inheritance pattern, clinical findings, family history and other experimental data.

Please refer to our “A Guide to Interpreting Sequence Variations” information sheet available on our website, for further details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syndromic form of hearing loss</th>
<th>Gene</th>
<th>Inheritance Pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alport syndrome</td>
<td>COL4A3</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant &amp; Recessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alport syndrome</td>
<td>COL4A4</td>
<td>Autosomal Recessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alport syndrome</td>
<td>COL4A5</td>
<td>X-linked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norrie Syndrome</td>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>X-linked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treacher Collins Syndrome</td>
<td>TCOF1</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waardenburg Syndrome, Type 1 &amp; 3</td>
<td>PAX3</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant &amp; Recessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waardenburg Syndrome, Type 2a</td>
<td>MITF</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waardenburg Syndrome, Type 4a</td>
<td>EDNRB</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant &amp; Recessive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waardenburg Syndrome, Type 4c</td>
<td>SOX10</td>
<td>Autosomal Dominant</td>
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</tbody>
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For More Information


Genome Diagnostics Laboratory: www.sickkids.ca/genome-diagnostics

To locate a genetics center near you:
Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors (CAGC): www.cagc-acgc.ca
National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC): www.nsgc.org

1. The clinical course or severity of symptoms cannot be predicted by molecular analysis.
2. Test results should be interpreted in the context of clinical findings, family history and other laboratory data.
3. Current molecular testing may not detect all possible mutations for this disease. A negative test does not rule out the possibility of these forms of syndromic hearing loss.
4. This test was developed and its performance characteristics validated by the Molecular Genetics Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children. It has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has determined that such clearance or approval is not necessary. This test is used for clinical purposes.