

Spinocerebellar Ataxia and Related Disorders Panel

DISORDER ALSO KNOWN AS

SCA, Hereditary Ataxia, Spinocerebellar Degeneration

PANEL GENE LIST

AARS2*, ABCD1, AFG3L2, ANO10, APTX, ATM, CACNA1A, CACNA1G*, CLN5*, CYP27A1, CYP7B1, C10ORF2*, DNMT1, EEF2, ELOVL4, ELOVL5, FGF14, GNB4, GRID2, GRM1, HEXA, HEXB*, ITPR1*, KCNA1*, KCNC3, KCND3, KIAA0196, KIF5A, MME, NOTCH3*, PDYN, PEX7*, PMM2*, PNKP, PNPLA6, POLG, POLR3A, PRKCG, PRNP, RRM2B*, SACS, SETX, SLC20A2, SPG7, SPG11, SPTBN2, STUB1, SYNE1, SYT14, TDP1, TGM6, TMEM240**, TPP1*, TTBK2, TTPA, ZFYVE26

* Sequence analysis only of the AARS2, CACNA1G, CLN5, C10ORF2, HEXB, ITPR1, KCNA1, NOTCH3, PEX7, PMM2, RRM2B, and TPP1 genes

** Only whole gene deletions or duplications may be detected for TMEM240 gene

CLINICAL FEATURES

The Spinocerebellar Ataxias (SCAs) are a clinically and genetically heterogeneous group of neurodegenerative disorders characterized by progressive incoordination of movements. Clinical features include uncoordinated gait and hand movements, dysarthria, dysphagia, nystagmus and are usually associated with atrophy of the cerebellum.¹ In addition to ataxia, the disorders evaluated on this panel can also present with oculomotor apraxia and/or spastic paraplegia. Oculomotor apraxia (abnormal horizontal eye movement) may also be present with myoclonus, dystonia, and/or neuropathy.^{2,3} Spastic paraplegia, characterized by lower limb spasticity and muscle weakness, can also be seen with decreased vibration sense, optic atrophy, hyperreflexia, and neuropathy.⁴ Also included on this panel are episodic ataxias that often present as periods of unsteady gait with or without myokymia, which may result in permanent ataxia late in disease course.¹ Although considerable phenotypic overlap exists between the SCAs and related disorders, distinguishing features have been noted in most subtypes.^{1,2,4,5} The SCAs are typically classified based on mode of inheritance, age of onset and clinical features. Age of onset ranges from the 3rd to 4th decades of life, although some disorders can present as early as childhood.⁵ Treatment is primarily supportive for most forms of inherited SCA.¹ The prevalence of autosomal dominant and autosomal recessive cerebellar ataxia, including individuals with polynucleotide repeat disorders, is estimated to be approximately 1-5:100,000 and 3:100,000 individuals in the general population, respectively.^{1,6}

INHERITANCE PATTERN/GENETICS

Ataxias can be either genetic or acquired in nature. Acquired ataxia may be the result of alcoholism, vitamin deficiency, multiple sclerosis, vascular disease, metastatic cancer, or paraneoplastic diseases.^{1,7} Genetic forms may display autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive, X-linked, or mitochondrial inheritance.^{1,5} The hereditary ataxias, especially adult onset forms, can be difficult to differentiate by clinical evaluation alone due to similarities in early manifestations and overlapping ages of onset.¹ Often, molecular genetic testing can assist in diagnosis, when combined with family history, physical examination and neuroimaging. Approximately 50% of ataxia is attributed to pathogenic repeat expansions in a small subset of genes, an additional 20% is attributed to pathogenic sequence based changes, in a larger number of genes and the remaining causes are acquired or undetermined.^{8,9} The Spinocerebellar Ataxia and Related Disorders Panel at GeneDx includes sequencing and deletion/duplication analysis of genes associated with autosomal dominant and recessive disorders, excluding repeat expansion related disorders. The genes on this panel mostly code for ion channels transporters, mitochondrial and cell membrane proteins, and proteins involved in DNA repair and RNA/protein processing.¹⁰ The complete list of genes, inheritances, and associated disorders is included in the table below.

TEST METHODS

Genomic DNA is extracted from the submitted specimen. For skin punch biopsies, fibroblasts are cultured and used for DNA extraction. The DNA is enriched for the complete coding regions and splice site junctions of the

genes on this panel using a proprietary targeted capture system developed by GeneDx for next-generation sequencing with CNV calling (NGS-CNV). The enriched targets are simultaneously sequenced with paired-end reads on an Illumina platform. Bi-directional sequence reads are assembled and aligned to reference sequences based on NCBI RefSeq transcripts and human genome build GRCh37/UCSC hg19. After gene specific filtering, data are analyzed to identify sequence variants and most deletions and duplications involving coding exons at the exon-level; however, technical limitations and inherent sequence properties effectively reduce this resolution for some genes. For the *AARS2*, *CACNA1G*, *CLN5*, *C10ORF2*, *HEXB*, *ITPR1*, *KCNA1*, *NOTCH3*, *PEX7*, *PMM2*, *RRM2B*, and *TPP1* genes, sequencing but not deletion/duplication analysis are performed. For the *TMEM240* gene, only whole gene CNVs are reported. Alternative sequencing or copy number detection methods are used to analyze regions with inadequate sequence or copy number data by NGS. Sequence variants are reported according to the Human Genome Variation Society (HGVS) guidelines. Copy number variants are reported based on the probe coordinates, the coordinates of the exons involved, or precise breakpoints when known. Reportable variants include pathogenic variants, likely pathogenic variants, and variants of uncertain significance. Likely benign and benign variants, if present, are not routinely reported but are available upon request. Available evidence for variant classification may change over time and the reported variant(s) may be re-classified according to the AMP/ACMG guidelines for variant classification (Richards et al. 2015), which may lead to re-issuing a revised report.

The technical sensitivity of sequencing is estimated to be >99% at detecting single nucleotide events, but less for deletions greater than 20 base pairs, insertions or rearrangements greater than 10 base pairs, or low-level mosaicism. The copy number assessment methods used with this test identify most deletions and duplications involving coding exons but are less reliable for detecting copy number variants of less than 500 base pairs. Assessment of copy number events also depends on the inherent sequence properties of the targeted regions, including shared homology and exon size. Mosaicism detection is limited and balanced chromosome aberrations cannot be identified.

TEST SENSITIVITY

In a clinically heterogeneous cohort of individuals with ataxia, Nemeth et al. (2013) identified a pathogenic single nucleotide variant in 8.3% of individuals with adult onset ataxia and 40% of individuals with childhood onset ataxia, who previously had a negative result for a panel of common polynucleotide repeat expansion disorders.

Spinocerebellar Ataxia and Related Disorders Panel

Gene	Disease Associations	Inheritance	Diagnostic Yield in Selected Population(s)
<i>AARS2</i> **	Leukoencephalopathy with ovarian failure	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>ABCD1</i>	Adrenoleukodystrophy	XR	Rare in ataxia ³⁴
<i>AFG3L2</i>	SCA28	AD	~1.5% of AD cerebellar ataxia ¹¹
<i>ANO10</i>	SCA10	AR	Common in Mexican and Brazilian populations ¹²
<i>APTX</i>	AOA1	AR	4-9% of AR ataxia ¹³
<i>ATM</i>	Ataxia-telangiectasia	AD/AR	1:40,000-1:100,000 in US, Common cause of child onset cerebellar ataxia ¹⁴
<i>CACNA1A</i> *	Episodic ataxia type 2 (EA2); familial hemiplegic migraine (FHM); spinocerebellar ataxia type 6 (SCA6)	AD	EA2 is rare form of ataxia ¹⁵⁻¹⁷

<i>CACNA1G</i> *	SCA42	AD	Recurrent variant identified in specific populations ³⁵
<i>CLN5</i> **	Adult-onset AR ataxia associated with neuronal ceroid-lipofuscinosis 5	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>CYP27A1</i>	Cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis	AR	Rare in ataxia ^{1,10} ; Treatment options available ³⁶
<i>CYP7B1</i>	Spastic paraplegia 5A	AR	Rare cause of sensory ataxia ³⁷
<i>C100RF2</i> **	Perrault syndrome 5; Progressive external ophthalmoplegia with mitochondrial DNA deletions	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>DNMT1</i>	Cerebellar ataxia, deafness, and narcolepsy; hereditary sensory neuropathy type IE	AD	Rare ^{1,18}
<i>EEF2</i>	SCA26	AD	Rare ^{1,10,38}
<i>ELOVL4</i>	SCA34	AD	Rare ^{1,10,19}
<i>ELOVL5</i>	SCA28	AD	Rare ^{1,20}
<i>FGF14</i>	SCA27	AD	Rare ^{21,22}
<i>GNB4</i>	Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease	AD	Rare in ataxia ^{1,10,39}
<i>GRID2</i>	SCA18	AD/AR	Rarely AD ⁴⁰
<i>GRM1</i>	SCA44; SCAR13	AR/AR	Rare ^{23,24}
<i>HEXA</i>	Tay-Sachs disease	AR	Rare in ataxia ²⁵
<i>HEXB</i> **	Sandhoff disease	AR	Rare in ataxia ²⁶
<i>ITPR1</i> **	SCA15; SCA16; SCA29; Gillespie syndrome	AD/AR	2-3% of familial ataxia in Australian populations ^{1,10,27}
<i>KCNA1</i> **	Episodic ataxia type 1 (EA1)	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>KCNC3</i>	SCA13	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>KCND3</i>	SCA19; SCA22	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>KIAA0196</i>	Spastic paraplegia 8	AD	Rare ¹⁰
<i>KIF5A</i>	Spastic paraplegia 10	AD	Rare in ataxia ⁴¹
<i>MME</i>	SCA43	AD/AR	Rare ⁴²
<i>NOTCH3</i> **	Cerebral arteriopathy with subcortical infarcts and leukoencephalopathy 1 (CADASIL)	AD	Rare in ataxia ⁴³
<i>PDYN</i>	SCA23	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>PMM2</i> **	Peroxisome biogenesis disorder (REFSUM)	AR	Rare in ataxia ⁴⁴
<i>PNKP</i>	Congenital disorder of glycosylation type Ia	AR	Rare in ataxia ²⁸
<i>PNPLA6</i>	AOA4	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>POLG</i>	Spastic paraplegia 39; Boucher-Neuhäuser syndrome	AR	Rare in ataxia ^{1,30}
<i>POLR3A</i>	POLG-related disorders	AR/AD	~3% of spastic ataxia ⁴⁵

<i>PRKCG</i>	Spastic ataxia	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>PRNP</i>	SCA14	AD	Gait ataxia present in >50% of prionopathies ⁴⁶
<i>RRM2B</i> **	Progressive external ophthalmoplegia with mitochondrial DNA deletions	AD/AR	Rare in ataxia ^{1,10}
<i>SACS</i>	Autosomal recessive spastic ataxia of Charlevoix-S aguenay (ARSACS)	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>SETX</i>	AOA2	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>SLC20A2</i>	Basal ganglia calcification, idiopathic	AD	Rare ¹⁰
<i>SPG7</i>	Spastic paraplegia 7	AD/AR	Rare in ataxia ^{1,10,31}
<i>SPG11</i>	SPG11 related neurodegenerative disorders	AR	Rare in ataxia ¹⁰
<i>SPTBN2</i>	SCA5 (Lincoln's Ataxia); SCAR14	AD/AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>STUB1</i>	SCAR16	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>SYNE1</i>	SYNE1-related autosomal recessive cerebellar ataxia	AR	5-6% of adult onset AR ataxias ³²
<i>SYT14</i>	SCA11	AD	Rare ⁴⁷
<i>TDP1</i>	SCA with axonal neuropathy	AR	Rare ⁴⁸
<i>TGM6</i>	SCA35	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>TMEM240</i> **	SCA21	AD	Rare ^{1,10,33}
<i>TPP1</i> **	SCAR7; Late-infantile neuronal ceroid-lipofuscinosis 2 (CLN2)	AR	Rare in ataxia ^{1,10}
<i>TTBK2</i>	SCA11	AD	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>TTPA</i>	Ataxia with vitamin E deficiency (AVED)	AR	Rare ^{1,10}
<i>ZFYVE26</i>	Spastic paraplegia 15	AR	Rare ¹⁰

*The CAG repeat expansion in *CACNA1A* that causes SCA6 is not detectable by this test.

**Does not include deletion/duplication testing of *AARS2*, *CACNA1G*, *CLN5*, *C10ORF2*, *HEXB*, *ITPR1*, *KCNA1*, *NOTCH3*, *PEX7*, *PMM2*, *RRM2B*, and *TPP1*.

***Only whole gene deletions or duplications of be detected.

Abbreviations:

AD – Autosomal Dominant

AR – Autosomal Recessive

XR – X-linked recessive

SCA – Spinocerebellar Ataxia

AOA – Ataxia with Oculomotor Apraxia

SCAR – Autosomal Recessive Spinocerebellar Ataxia

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