



# Test Definition: HMEP

Hemiplegic Migraine With or Without Epilepsy  
Gene Panel, Varies

## Overview

### Useful For

Establishing a molecular diagnosis in individuals with hemiplegic migraine

Identifying disease-causing variants within genes known to be associated with hemiplegic migraine, allowing for predictive testing of at-risk family members

### Reflex Tests

Test Id	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
CULFB	Fibroblast Culture for Genetic Test	Yes	No

### Genetics Test Information

This test utilizes next-generation sequencing to detect single nucleotide and copy number variants in 9 genes associated with hemiplegic migraine: *ATP1A2*, *ATP1A3*, *CACNA1A*, *COL4A1*, *NOTCH3*, *POLG*, *PRRT2*, *SCN1A*, *SLC2A1*.

Identification of a pathogenic variant may assist with diagnosis, prognosis, clinical management, familial screening, recurrence risk assessment, and genetic counseling for hemiplegic migraine.

### Testing Algorithm

For skin biopsy or cultured fibroblast specimens, fibroblast culture testing will be performed at an additional charge. If viable cells are not obtained, the client will be notified.

### Special Instructions

- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing](#)
- [Molecular Genetics: Neurology Patient Information](#)
- [Blood Spot Collection Card-Spanish Instructions](#)
- [Blood Spot Collection Card-Chinese Instructions](#)
- [Epilepsy: Unexplained Refractory and/or Familial Testing Algorithm](#)
- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Blood Spot Collection Instructions](#)
- [Targeted Genes and Methodology Details for Hemiplegic Migraine With or Without Epilepsy Gene Panel](#)

### Method Name

Sequence Capture and Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing followed by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and Sanger Sequencing.

### NY State Available

Yes

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**Specimen****Specimen Type**

Varies

**Ordering Guidance**

Customization of this panel and single gene analysis for any gene present on this panel is available. For more information see CGPH / Custom Gene Panel, Hereditary, Next-Generation Sequencing, Varies.

Targeted testing for familial variants (also called site-specific or known variants testing) is available for the genes on this panel. See FMTT / Familial Variant, Targeted Testing, Varies.

**Shipping Instructions**

Specimen preferred to arrive within 96 hours of collection.

**Specimen Required**

**Patient Preparation:** A previous bone marrow transplant from an allogenic donor will interfere with testing. Call 800-533-1710 for instructions for testing patients who have received a bone marrow transplant.

**Submit only 1 of the following specimens:**

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

**Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** Lavender top (EDTA) or yellow top (ACD)

**Acceptable:** Any anticoagulant

**Specimen Volume:** 3 mL

**Collection Instructions:**

1. Invert several times to mix blood.
2. Send whole blood specimen in original tube. **Do not aliquot.**

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred)/Refrigerated

**Specimen Type:** Skin biopsy

**Supplies:** Fibroblast Biopsy Transport Media (T115)

**Container/Tube:** Sterile container with any standard cell culture media (eg, minimal essential media, RPMI 1640). The solution should be supplemented with 1% penicillin and streptomycin.

**Specimen Volume:** 4-mm punch

**Specimen Stability Information:** Refrigerated (preferred)/Ambient

**Additional Information:** A separate culture charge will be assessed under CULFB / Fibroblast Culture for Biochemical or Molecular Testing . An additional 3 to 4 weeks is required to culture fibroblasts before genetic testing can occur.

**Specimen Type:** Cultured fibroblast

**Container/Tube:** T-25 flask

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**Specimen Volume:** 2 Flasks

**Collection Instructions:** Submit confluent cultured fibroblast cells from a skin biopsy from another laboratory. Cultured cells from a prenatal specimen will not be accepted.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred)/Refrigerated <24 hours

**Additional Information:** A separate culture charge will be assessed under CULFB / Fibroblast Culture for Biochemical or Molecular Testing. An additional 3 to 4 weeks is required to culture fibroblasts before genetic testing can occur.

**Specimen Type:** Blood spot

**Supplies:** Card-Blood Spot Collection (Filtration Paper) (T493)

**Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** Collection card (Whatman Protein Saver 903 Paper)

**Acceptable:** PerkinElmer 226 filter paper or blood spot collection card

**Specimen Volume:** 5 Blood spots

**Collection Instructions:**

1. An alternative blood collection option for a patient 1 year of age or older is a fingerstick. For detailed instructions, see [How to Collect Dried Blood Spot Samples](#).
2. Let blood dry on the filter paper at ambient temperature in a horizontal position for a minimum of 3 hours.
3. Do not expose specimen to heat or direct sunlight.
4. Do not stack wet specimens.
5. Keep specimen dry.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred)/Refrigerated

**Additional Information:**

1. Due to lower concentration of DNA yielded from blood spot, it is possible that additional specimen may be required to complete testing.
2. For collection instructions, see [Blood Spot Collection Instructions](#)
3. For collection instructions in Spanish, see [Blood Spot Collection Card-Spanish Instructions](#) (T777)
4. For collection instructions in Chinese, see [Blood Spot Collection Card-Chinese Instructions](#) (T800)

**Specimen Type:** Saliva

**Patient Preparation:** Patient should not eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum 30 minutes prior to collection.

**Supplies:**

DNA Saliva Kit High Yield (T1007)

Saliva Swab Collection Kit (T786)

**Container/Tube:**

**Preferred:** High-yield DNA saliva kit

**Acceptable:** Saliva swab

**Specimen Volume:** 1 Tube if using T1007 or 2 swabs if using T786

**Collection Instructions:** Collect and send specimen per kit instructions.

**Specimen Stability Information:** Ambient (preferred) 30 days/Refrigerated 30 days

**Additional Information:** Saliva specimens are acceptable but not recommended. Due to lower quantity/quality of DNA yielded from saliva, some aspects of the test may not perform as well as DNA extracted from a whole blood sample. When applicable, specific gene regions that were unable to be interrogated will be noted in the report. Alternatively, additional specimen may be required to complete testing.

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**Forms****1. New York Clients-Informed consent is required.**

Document on the request form or electronic order that a copy is on file.

The following documents are available in Special Instructions:

[-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing](#) (T576)

[-Informed Consent for Genetic Testing \(Spanish\)](#) (T826)

**2. [Molecular Genetics: Neurology Patient Information](#)**

3. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Neurology Specialty Testing Client Test Request](#) (T732) with the specimen.

**Reject Due To**

All specimens will be evaluated by Mayo Clinic Laboratories for test suitability.

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Varies		

**Clinical & Interpretive****Clinical Information**

Familial hemiplegic migraine (FHM) is a rare form of migraine with aura. The associated motor aura typically presents as unilateral weakness (hemiparesis) or unilateral paralysis (hemiplegia); however, other forms of aura may occur including visual, speech, and/or sensory disturbances. Headache may occur during or after aura. The neurological manifestations are almost always fully reversible but are highly variable in terms of frequency and duration. Seizures have also been reported to occur both during severe attacks and independent of attacks, and cerebellar ataxia may occur with disease-causing variants in the *CACNA1A* gene. Onset is typically in the first or second decade of life, and attacks often decrease with age.

The genetics aspects of FHM are complex. The primary genes associated with FHM include *ATP1A2*, *CACNA1A*, and *SCN1A*. FHM follows an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern with reduced penetrance. Some individuals with FHM may not have an overt family history of FHM if the condition occurred due to a *de novo* disease-causing variant or if inherited from an asymptomatic parent. Each of the primary genes causative of FHM may also cause different allelic genetic conditions (eg, *CACNA1A* disease-causing variants may also cause developmental and epileptic encephalopathy) and disease-causing variants in genes causing conditions with overlapping phenotypes may mimic FHM (eg, disease-causing *NOTCH3* variants).

**Reference Values**

An interpretive report will be provided.

**Interpretation**

All detected variants are evaluated according to American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) recommendations.(1) Variants are classified based on known, predicted, or possible pathogenicity and reported with interpretive comments detailing their potential or known significance.

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**Cautions****Clinical Correlations:**

Test results should be interpreted in the context of clinical findings, family history, and other laboratory data. Misinterpretation of results may occur if the information provided is inaccurate or incomplete.

If testing was performed because of a clinically significant family history, it is often useful to first test an affected family member. Detection of a reportable variant in an affected family member would allow for more informative testing of at-risk individuals.

To discuss the availability of additional testing options or for assistance in the interpretation of these results, contact Mayo Clinic Laboratories genetic counselors at 800-533-1710.

**Technical Limitations:**

Next-generation sequencing may not detect all types of genomic variants. In rare cases, false-negative or false-positive results may occur. The depth of coverage may be variable for some target regions; assay performance below the minimum acceptable criteria or for failed regions will be noted. Given these limitations, negative results do not rule out the diagnosis of a genetic disorder. If a specific clinical disorder is suspected, evaluation by alternative methods can be considered.

There may be regions of genes that cannot be effectively evaluated by sequencing or deletion and duplication analysis as a result of technical limitations of the assay, including regions of homology, high guanine-cytosine (GC) content, and repetitive sequences. Confirmation of select reportable variants will be performed by alternate methodologies based on internal laboratory criteria.

This test is validated to detect 95% of deletions up to 75 base pairs (bp) and insertions up to 47 bp. Deletions-insertions (delins) of 40 or more bp, including mobile element insertions, may be less reliably detected than smaller delins.

**Deletion/Duplication Analysis:**

This analysis targets single and multi-exon deletions/duplications; however, in some instances single exon resolution cannot be achieved due to isolated reduction in sequence coverage or inherent genomic complexity. Balanced structural rearrangements (such as translocations and inversions) may not be detected.

Deletion/duplication events that extend past the genes included on the panel may occur. In these instances, genes included in the ordered test are provided on the report and interpreted, and genomic breakpoints are reported if they are confirmed. However, copy number variants for genes not listed in the Method Description are typically not reported or interpreted for haploinsufficiency/triplosensitivity. CMACB / Chromosomal Microarray, Congenital, Blood; WESPR / Panel to Whole Exome Sequencing Reflex Test, Varies; or WGSDX / Whole Genome Sequencing for Hereditary Disorders, Varies is recommended for a full interpretation of deletions/duplications predicted to extend past the genes included on the panel.

This test is not designed to detect low levels of mosaicism or to differentiate between somatic and germline variants. If there is a possibility that any detected variant is somatic, additional testing may be necessary to clarify the significance of results.

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Genes may be added or removed based on updated clinical relevance. For detailed information regarding gene specific performance and technical limitations, see Method Description or contact a laboratory genetic counselor.

If the patient has had an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant or a recent heterologous blood transfusion, results may be inaccurate due to the presence of donor DNA. Call Mayo Clinic Laboratories for instructions for testing patients who have received a bone marrow transplant.

**Reclassification of Variants:**

At this time, it is not standard practice for the laboratory to systematically review previously classified variants on a regular basis. The laboratory encourages health care providers to contact the laboratory at any time to learn how the classification of a particular variant may have changed over time. [Due to broadening genetic knowledge, it is possible that the laboratory may discover new information of relevance to the patient. Should that occur the laboratory may issue an amended report.](#)

**Variant Evaluation:**

Evaluation and categorization of variants are performed using published American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology recommendations as a guideline.(1) Other gene-specific guidelines may also be considered. Variants are classified based on known, predicted, or possible pathogenicity and reported with interpretive comments detailing their potential or known significance. Variants classified as benign or likely benign are not reported.

Multiple in silico evaluation tools may be used to assist in the interpretation of these results. The accuracy of predictions made by in silico evaluation tools is highly dependent upon the data available for a given gene, and periodic updates to these tools may cause predictions to change over time. Results from in silico evaluation tools should be interpreted with caution and professional clinical judgement.

[Rarely, incidental findings or secondary findings may implicate another predisposition or presence of active disease. These findings will be carefully reviewed to determine whether they will be reported.](#)

**Clinical Reference**

1. Richards S, Aziz N, Bale S, et al: Standards and guidelines for the interpretation of sequence variants: a joint consensus recommendation of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology. Genet Med. 2015 May;17(5):405-424
2. Stefano V, Rispoli M, Pellegrino N, et al: Diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of hemiplegic migraine. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 2020 Jul; 91(7):764-771
3. Huang Y, Xiao H, Qin X, et al: The genetic relationship between epilepsy and hemiplegic migraine. Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat. 2017 Apr;13: 1175-1179

**Performance****Method Description**

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Next-generation sequencing (NGS) and/or Sanger sequencing is performed to test for the presence of variants in coding regions and intron/exon boundaries of the genes analyzed, as well as some other regions that have known pathogenic variants. The human genome reference GRCh37/hg19 build was used for sequence read alignment. At least 99% of the bases are covered at a read depth over 30X. Sensitivity is estimated at above 99% for single nucleotide variants, above 94% for deletions/insertions (delins) less than 40 base pairs (bp), above 95% for deletions up to 75 bp and insertions up to 47 bp. NGS and/or a polymerase chain reaction based quantitative method is performed to test for the presence of deletions and duplications in the genes analyzed.

There may be regions of genes that cannot be effectively evaluated by sequencing or deletion and duplication analysis as a result of technical limitations of the assay, including regions of homology, high guanine-cytosine content, and repetitive sequences.(Unpublished Mayo method)

Genes analyzed: *ATP1A2*, *ATP1A3*, *CACNA1A*, *COL4A1*, *NOTCH3*, *POLG*, *PRRT2*, *SCN1A*, *SLC2A1*

**PDF Report**

Supplemental

**Day(s) Performed**

Varies

**Report Available**

28 to 42 days

**Specimen Retention Time**

Whole blood: 2 weeks (if available); Extracted DNA: 3 months; Blood spots, saliva, cultured fibroblasts, skin biopsy, cord blood: 1 month

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Mayo Clinic Laboratories - Rochester Main Campus

**Fees & Codes****Fees**

- Authorized users can sign in to [Test Prices](#) for detailed fee information.
- Clients without access to Test Prices can contact [Customer Service](#) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Prospective clients should contact their account representative. For assistance, contact [Customer Service](#).

**Test Classification**

This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by Mayo Clinic in a manner consistent with CLIA requirements. It has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

**CPT Code Information**

81185

81405  
 81406 x 2  
 81407  
 81408  
 81479 (if appropriate for government payers)  
 88233-Tissue culture, skin, solid tissue biopsy (if appropriate)  
 88240-Cryopreservation (if appropriate)

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
HMEP	Hemiplegic Migraine Gene Panel	103677-1

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
616525	Test Description	62364-5
616526	Specimen	31208-2
616527	Source	31208-2
616528	Result Summary	50397-9
616529	Result	82939-0
616530	Interpretation	69047-9
616531	Resources	In Process
616532	Additional Information	48767-8
616533	Method	85069-3
616534	Genes Analyzed	82939-0
616535	Disclaimer	62364-5
616536	Released By	18771-6