World leaders in retinoblastoma genetics

Highest reported pick-up rate

Test Description

Genes tested

*RB1, MYCN*

Copy number changes

Our lab uses Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification (MLPA) to look for whole-exon and multi-exon deletions and duplications in the *RB1* gene. Our lab also performs a QM-PCR test to measure *MYCN* copy number in any tumor sample that does not have an *RB1* mutation. This test detects a new sub-set of retinoblastoma with early age at diagnosis, distinct histology, no *RB1* mutations, and huge amplification of the *MYCN* oncogene.


Sequence analysis

Our lab sequences the *RB1* gene core promoter and exons 1 through 27, as well as nearby flanking intronic regions. Our sequence analysis is able to detect mosaic mutations at a level of 15% or greater. We consider reported polymorphisms when designing our sequencing assays to ensure the accuracy of our sequence results.

We sequence a minimum of 25 nucleotides flanking each exon of *RB1* to detect changes in splice sites. We use *in silico* analysis and scoring to determine whether a particular change is likely to cause missplicing. In the case of an intronic variant of uncertain significance we perform RNA transcript analysis on a fresh blood sample at no added charge.

In addition, when appropriate we will test known affected and unaffected relatives at no charge to clarify variant classification.

Allele-specific PCR (AS-PCR) for eleven recurrent *RB1* mutations

Our lab uses multiplex AS-PCR screens for rapid detection of eleven recurrent *RB1* mutations, which are then confirmed by sequence analysis. The highly sensitive AS-PCR can detect the eleven mutations at mosaic levels as low as 1% mutant DNA.

Testing for methylation of the *RB1* promoter

Aberrant methylation of the *RB1* promoter leads to reduced transcription of *RB1*, and can initiate unilateral sporadic retinoblastoma in the absence of an *RB1* mutation. Our lab identifies *RB1* promoter methylation leading to retinoblastoma in approximately 12% of unilateral sporadic tumors.

RNA Analysis

In the event that no *RB1* mutation is found for bilateral or unilateral patients with a strong family history we will pursue transcript analysis to look for deep intronic changes that may impact splicing at no additional charge.

Notes

- Impact has chosen not to work with paraffin-embedded tumors for *RB1* mutation discovery. The fragmented, degraded DNA isolated from paraffin-embedded material amplifies poorly and unreliably, interfering with complete analysis.

- Where fresh or frozen tumor is not available, our lab performs a complete *RB1* mutation screen of blood. Because of our 97% sensitivity, a negative *RB1* mutation screen of blood reduces the risk of a germline mutation in a unilaterally affected sporadic patient from approximately 15% to less than 0.4%.
Choose Impact  
_Excellence and expertise_

- **MYCN**: Impact includes MYCN copy-number testing in retinoblastoma genetic testing.

- **Reports**: We strive to provide as much useful information as possible. World-renowned medical experts contribute to cases involving complex interpretation.

- **Sensitivity**: Higher sensitivity in detecting mutations reduces unnecessary clinical screening for non-carriers in the family, and enables targeted clinical screening for those at high risk, leading to more precise treatment. Our sensitivity is the highest reported from any lab in North America.

- **Re-tests**: If no mutation is found, we bank any remaining DNA and RNA and re-test in the future when new science or test methods are available. For any new findings, we re-issue our report at no added charge.

- **Experience**: We have completed analysis for more than 1800 retinoblastoma families, building a knowledge base that allows us to provide more accurate interpretation.

- **Ascribing value to variants**: We analyze all variants of uncertain significance using current _in silico_ methods and take into account the knowledge we have gained from our previous test experience. In addition, we search RB1 mutation databases for previous reports of the variant in question. Where needed to define a causative mutation, we request family member samples to test at no added charge.

- **Clinically appropriate turn-around time**:  
  Proband turn-around time is 3-6 weeks.  
  Known familial mutation turn-around time is 2-3 weeks.  
  Prenatal turn-around time is 7 business days.

- **Certified lab**: Our lab is fully accredited and certified:  
  College of American Pathologists (CAP) and CLIA ’88  
  Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH) ISO 15189  
  New York State CLEP  
  European Molecular Genetics Quality Network

- **Service excellence**: Impact is committed to exceptional customer service. Our team happily provides genetic counseling and test order support so you can spend more time with your patients.

- **Logistics**: Impact provides genetic testing services to over 25 countries and samples are routinely shipped from across the world without disruption. We provide the necessary paperwork and recommend a courier service that will reliably deliver samples.
Our Research  On the leading edge of retinoblastoma genetics

In addition to using the latest research to constantly improve our test methods, we work with our founder Dr. Brenda Gallie to perform and publish our own research to ensure we are at the leading edge of retinoblastoma genetics. For example, our lab recently discovered a unique subset of unilateral sporadic retinoblastoma with no RB1 tumor mutations but very high amplification of the MYCN oncogene. We share our mutation information in registered mutation databases for use by other researchers and clinicians. Our referring specialists have access to anonymized data from our banked patient samples including clinical information. We are open to modifying requisitions as needed to collect new and important clinical phenotype information. Our CAP compliant ethics and privacy policies ensure that appropriate consent is in place.

Examples of papers our team has authored:

  Discovery and characterization of a new subset of retinoblastoma with early age at diagnosis, distinct histology, no RB1 mutations, and huge amplification of the MYCN oncogene.

  We discuss the incidence of RB1 mutational mosaicism and the use of highly sensitive methods to detect low level mosaics.


  This study analyzes the effect of various RB1 mutations on the RB1 mRNA transcript. It also concludes that pathogenic mutations deep in the RB1 introns are likely to be rare.

  We show that highly sensitive and efficient molecular methods to identify a family’s RB1 mutation reduce healthcare costs, and avoid unnecessary examinations under anesthetic for relatives who do not carry the mutation.

Please visit impactgenetics.com for more information and updates on our research.
Retinoblastoma Genetic Test

Test Sensitivity | Higher sensitivity, lower total costs

- Consider sensitivity when comparing total costs.
  - Higher sensitivity in detecting mutations reduces unnecessary clinical screening for non-carriers.

- ‘Heritability’ is now recognized as a key factor in AJCC guidelines for retinoblastoma cancer.
  - The new guidelines state that if certain hereditary features are present in the individual – such as a family history that suggests a hereditary trait for retinoblastoma - they will be assigned a H1 or hereditary status without molecular testing. However if these heritable traits are not present, molecular testing is mandatory before an H1 status can be assigned to an individual. In this case, the guidelines recommend the laboratory providing the molecular testing must demonstrate it’s test’s clinical sensitivity is greater than 97 per cent.

- Impact’s diagnostic sensitivity is updated and published in every patient report.
  - As of January, 2017, 2525 clinical families have been tested.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mutations found</th>
<th>samples tested</th>
<th>sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilateral proband</td>
<td>837</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unilateral proband with family history</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumor from unilateral proband</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood only from unilateral proband</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>728</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**An estimated 15% of unilateral probands carry a mutation in blood (germline).

- If no causative mutation is found, we bank samples and re-test in the future when new science or test methods are available. There is no charge for re-issued reports.

- For family member samples, we run relative and proband samples together to verify detection of the family mutation.

- For prenatal cases, we include microsatellite analysis to ensure that the sample is not contaminated with maternal cells.

Test Turn-Around Times

- Proband ........................................ 3-6 weeks
- Known familial mutation ........ 2-3 weeks
- Prenatal ........................................ 7 business days