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## Overview

### Useful For

Establishing a molecular diagnosis for patients with frontotemporal dementia and/or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

Identifying variants within genes known to be associated with frontotemporal dementia and/or ALS, allowing for predictive testing of at-risk family members

### Genetics Test Information

This test utilizes next-generation sequencing to detect single nucleotide and copy number variants in 50 genes associated with frontotemporal dementia and/or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: *ALS2*, *ANG*, *ANXA11*, *APP*, *ASAH1*, *CCNF*, *CHCHD10*, *CHMP2B*, *CSF1R*, *DCTN1*, *ERBB4*, *FIG4*, *FUS*, *GRN*, *HEXB*, *HNRNPA1*, *HNRNPA2B1*, *ITM2B*, *KIF5A*, *MAPT*, *MATR3*, *NEFH*, *NOTCH3*, *NPC1*, *NPC2*, *OPTN*, *PANK2*, *PFN1*, *PRNP*, *PSEN1*, *PSEN2*, *SETX*, *SIGMAR1*, *SNCA*, *SOD1*, *SPG11*, *SQSTM1*, *TAF15*, *TARDBP*, *TBK1*, *TBP*, *TIA1*, *TIMM8A*, *TREM2*, *TUBA4A*, *TYROBP*, *UBQLN2*, *VAPB*, *VCP*, and *VRK1*. A polymerase chain reaction-based assay is utilized to detect *C9orf72* GGGGCC hexanucleotide repeat expansions. See [Targeted Genes and Methodology Details for Inherited Frontotemporal Dementia and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Gene Panel](#) and Method Description for additional details.

Identification of a disease-causing variant may assist with diagnosis, prognosis, clinical management, recurrence risk assessment, familial screening, and genetic counseling for frontotemporal dementia and/or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

### Testing Algorithm

For more information see [Inherited Motor Neuron Disease and Dementia Testing Algorithm](#)

### Special Instructions

- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing](#)
- [Molecular Genetics: Neurology Patient Information](#)
- [Inherited Motor Neuron Disease Testing and Dementia Algorithm](#)
- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Targeted Genes and Methodology Details for Inherited Frontotemporal Dementia and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis 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**

First tier testing for a diagnosis of dementia or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is C9ORF / *C9orf72*, Hexanucleotide Repeat, Molecular Analysis, Varies, which is included with this test but is also available separately.

[Targeted testing for familial variants \(also called site-specific or known mutations testing\) is available for the genes on this panel. See FMTT / Familial Mutation, Targeted Testing, Varies. To obtain more information about this testing option, call 800-533-1710.](#)

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

**Specimen Type:** Whole blood

**Container/Tube:** 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 specimen in original tube. **Do not aliquot.**

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

**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:

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

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

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

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

1 mL

**Reject Due To**

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

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Varies		

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

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is a progressive neurodegenerative syndrome that affects the frontal and temporal cerebral cortices. Clinical presentation is variable and includes changes in behavior, difficulties with language, rigidity, palsy, and saccadic (rapid) eye movement. Symptoms generally begin between 40 and 60 years of age, with a mean age of onset at approximately 45 years. They typically last between 5 and 10 years, progressing to severe dementia and mutism. The presentation of frontotemporal dementia may be confused with other dementias, including Alzheimer disease. It is important to distinguish between these different dementias because progression and patient management are different for the various dementias.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a motor neuron disease with progressive loss of upper and lower motor neurons. ALS typically presents with progressive muscle wasting, hyperreflexia, and spasticity. Death from respiratory failure usually occurs within 3 to 5 years of disease onset.

FTD and ALS are thought to represent a continuous disease spectrum. However, the molecular mechanism underlying the co-occurrence of FTD and ALS remains unclear. In some individuals ALS occurs first, while in others FTD precedes ALS by several years. Between 40% and 50% of individuals with ALS present with an FTD-associated clinical phenotype.

Given the clinical overlap of FTD and ALS, this multigene panel includes genes associated with FTD and ALS.

**Reference Values**

An interpretive report will be provided.

***C9orf72* Repeats:**

Normal alleles (reference): <20 GGGGCC repeats

Indeterminate alleles: 20-100 GGGGCC repeats

Pathogenic alleles:\* >100 GGGGCC repeats

\*The exact cutoff for pathogenicity is currently undefined. Although additional studies are needed to confirm if the cutoff for pathogenicity is 100 repeats, most individuals affected with a *C9orf72*-related disorder have *C9orf72* hexanucleotide repeat expansions with hundreds to thousands of repeats.

**Interpretation**

All detected variants are evaluated according to American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

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recommendations.(1) Variants are classified based on known, predicted, or possible pathogenicity and reported with interpretive comments detailing their potential or known significance.

**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 the 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.

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.

Genes may be added or removed based on updated clinical relevance. Refer to the [Targeted Genes and Methodology Details for Inherited Frontotemporal Dementia and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Gene Panel](#) for the most up to date list of genes included in this test. For detailed information regarding gene specific performance and technical limitations, see Method Description or contact a laboratory Genetic Counselor.

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If the patient has had an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant or a recent 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 healthcare 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 is performed using published American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics and the Association for Molecular Pathology recommendations as a guideline.<sup>(1)</sup> 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 judgment.

Rarely, incidental 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. Graff-Radford NR, Woodruff BK: Frontotemporal dementia. *Semin Neurol.* 2007 Feb;27(1):48-57
3. Karch CM, Wen N, Fan CC, et al: Selective genetic overlap between amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and diseases of the frontotemporal dementia spectrum. *JAMA Neurol.* 2018 Jul 1;75(7):860-875

**Performance****Method Description**

Next-generation sequencing (NGS) and/or Sanger sequencing are 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 disease-causing 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

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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 (PCR)-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. See [Targeted Genes and Methodology Details for Inherited Frontotemporal Dementia and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Gene Panel](#) for details regarding the targeted genes analyzed for each test and specific gene regions not routinely covered.(Unpublished Mayo method)

Confirmation of select reportable variants may be performed by alternate methodologies based on internal laboratory criteria.

A combined amplicon-length and repeat-primed PCR-based assay is utilized to size alleles up to approximately 145 repeats and detect expansions of GGGGCC hexanucleotide repeat region in the *C9orf72* gene.(Ida CM, Lundquist PA, Bram E, et al: Evaluation of single-tube combined amplicon-length and repeat-primed long-read PCR assay for clinical detection and characterization of C9orf72 hexanucleotide repeat expansion. Abstract 731. 2017 ACMG Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting. Phoenix, AZ. March 23, 2017)

Genes analyzed: *ALS2, ANG, ANXA11, APP, ASAH1, CCNF, CHCHD10, CHMP2B, CSF1R, DCTN1, ERBB4, FIG4, FUS, GRN, HEXB, HNRNPA1, HNRNPA2B1, ITM2B, KIF5A, MAPT, MATR3, NEFH, NOTCH3, NPC1, NPC2, OPTN, PANK2, PFN1, PRNP, PSEN1, PSEN2, SETX, SIGMAR1, SNCA, SOD1, SPG11, SQSTM1, TAF15, TARDBP, TBK1, TBP, TIA1, TIMM8A, TREM2, TUBA4A, TYROBP, UBQLN2, VAPB, VCP, and VRK1.*

**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

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

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

# Test Definition: AFTDP

Inherited Frontotemporal Dementia and  
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Gene Panel,  
Varies

- 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. This test has not been cleared or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

## CPT Code Information

81403  
81406 x 10  
81404 x 3  
81405 x 2  
81407  
81479  
81479 (if appropriate for government payers)

## LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC® Value
AFTDP	FTD and ALS Gene Panel	51966-0

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC® Value
617494	Test Description	62364-5
617495	Specimen	31208-2
617496	Source	31208-2
617497	Result Summary	50397-9
617498	Result	82939-0
617499	Interpretation	69047-9
618174	Additional Results	In Process
617500	Resources	99622-3
617501	Additional Information	48767-8
617502	Method	85069-3
617503	Genes Analyzed	48018-6
617504	Disclaimer	62364-5
617505	Released By	18771-6