

## Overview

### Useful For

Determining whether absence of MLH1 protein, by immunohistochemistry in tumor tissue, is associated with a germline variant in the affected individual

Establishing a diagnosis of Lynch syndrome/hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer

Identification of familial *MLH1* variant to allow for predictive testing in family members

### Genetics Test Information

[Prior Authorization](#) is available for this assay; see Special Instructions.

### Additional Tests

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
COLAB	Hereditary Colon Cancer CGH Array	Yes, (Order FMTT)	Yes

### Testing Algorithm

When this test is ordered, comparative genomic hybridization array will always be performed at an additional charge.

See [Lynch Syndrome Testing Algorithm](#) in Special Instructions.

### Special Instructions

- [Molecular Genetics: Inherited Cancer Syndromes Patient Information](#)
- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing](#)
- [Lynch Syndrome \(MLH1\) Full Gene Analysis Prior Authorization Ordering Instructions](#)
- [Lynch Syndrome Testing Algorithm](#)
- [Informed Consent for Genetic Testing \(Spanish\)](#)

### Method Name

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Amplification/DNA Sequencing

COLAB: Array comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH)

### NY State Available

Yes

## Specimen

### Specimen Type

Varies

### Shipping Instructions

Specimen preferred to arrive within 96 hours of collection.

**Specimen Required**

[Prior Authorization](#) is available for this test. **Submit the required form with the specimen.**

**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:**

**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 specimen in original tube.

**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: Inherited Cancer Syndromes Patient Information](#) (T519) in Special Instructions

3. [Lynch Syndrome \(MLH1\) Full Gene Analysis Prior Authorization Ordering Instructions](#) in Special Instructions

4. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send an [Oncology Test Request](#) (T729) with the specimen.

**Specimen Minimum Volume**

1 mL

**Reject Due To**

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

**Specimen Stability Information**

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Ambient (preferred)		
	Frozen		
	Refrigerated		

## Clinical and Interpretive

### Clinical Information

Lynch syndrome (also known as hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer: HNPCC) is an autosomal dominant hereditary cancer syndrome associated with germline variants in the mismatch repair genes, *MLH1*, *MSH2*, *MSH6*, and *PMS2*. Deletions within the 3-prime end of the *EPCAM* gene have also been associated with Lynch syndrome, as this leads to inactivation of the *MSH2* promoter.

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Lynch syndrome is predominantly characterized by significantly increased risks for colorectal and endometrial cancer. The lifetime risk for colorectal cancer is highly variable and dependent on the gene involved. The risk for colorectal cancer-associated *MLH1* and *MSH2* variants (approximately 50%-80%) is generally higher than the risks associated with variants in the other Lynch syndrome-related genes. The lifetime risk for endometrial cancer (approximately 25%-60%) is also highly variable. Other malignancies within the tumor spectrum include gastric cancer, ovarian cancer, hepatobiliary and urinary tract carcinomas, and small bowel cancer. The lifetime risks for these cancers are below 15%. Of the 4 mismatch repair genes, variants within the *PMS2* gene confer the lowest risk for any of the tumors within the Lynch syndrome spectrum.

Several clinical variants of Lynch syndrome have been defined. These include Turcot syndrome, Muir-Torre syndrome, and homozygous mismatch repair mutations (also called constitutional mismatch repair deficiency syndrome). Turcot syndrome and Muir-Torre syndrome are associated with increased risks for cancers within the tumor spectrum described, but also include brain/central nervous system malignancies and sebaceous carcinomas, respectively. Homozygous mismatch repair mutations, characterized by the presence of biallelic deleterious alterations within a mismatch repair gene, are associated with a different clinical phenotype defined by hematologic and brain cancers, cafe au lait macules, and childhood colon or small bowel cancer.

There are several strategies for evaluating individuals whose personal or family history of cancer is suggestive of Lynch syndrome. One such strategy involves testing the tumors from suspected individuals for microsatellite instability (MSI) and immunohistochemistry (IHC) for the presence or absence of defective DNA mismatch repair. Tumors that demonstrate absence of expression of *MLH1* and *PMS2* are more likely to have a germline variant in the *MLH1* gene.

### Reference Values

An interpretive report will be provided.

### Interpretation

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

### Cautions

Some individuals who have a diagnosis of *MLH1*-related Lynch syndrome may have a variant that is not identified by this method (eg, promoter alterations, deep intronic alterations). The absence of a variant, therefore, does not eliminate the possibility a diagnosis of Lynch syndrome. For predictive testing, it is important to first document the presence of an *MLH1* gene variant in an affected family member.

In some cases, DNA alterations of undetermined significance may be identified.

Rare alterations exist that could lead to false-negative or false-positive results. If results obtained do not match the clinical findings, additional testing should be considered.

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

It is strongly recommended that patients undergoing predictive testing receive genetic counseling both prior to testing and after results are available.

Somatic alterations (eg, promoter hypermethylation) have been identified in individuals with an absence of MLH1 protein expression in tumor tissue. Therefore, an MSI-H phenotype (>30% of microsatellites) and the absence of protein expression for MLH1 may be the result of a somatic alteration, rather than a germline variant. Testing for *MLH1* promoter hypermethylation and the *BRAF V600E* variant (BRMLH / *MLH1* Hypermethylation and *BRAF* Mutation Analysis, Tumor) in a colon tumor from an affected individual may help to confirm or rule out this possibility. Additionally, evaluation of other affected family members' tumors for the presence or absence of defective mismatch repair may be helpful in evaluating the hereditary nature of the disorder.

### Supportive Data

Samples from approximately 100 patients were tested by DNA sequence analysis and the results compared to those obtained by other techniques (conformation sensitive gel electrophoresis, manual DNA sequence) utilized in the laboratory.

### 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. Baudhuin LM, Burgart LJ, Lentovich O, Thibodeau SN: Use of microsatellite instability and immunohistochemistry testing for the identification of individuals at risk for Lynch Syndrome. *Fam Cancer.* 2005;4:255-265
3. Umar A, Baland CR, Terdiman JP, et al: Revised Bethesda Guidelines for hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome) and microsatellite instability. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2004;261-268
4. Lynch HT, de le Chapelle A: Hereditary colorectal cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 2003;348:919-932
5. International Society for Gastrointestinal Hereditary Tumors (InSiGHT). Variant Database. Accessed August 12, 2020, Available at [www.insight-group.org/](http://www.insight-group.org/)

### Performance

#### Method Description

Bidirectional sequence analysis is used to test for the presence of a variant in all coding regions and intron/exon boundaries of the *MLH1* gene.(Unpublished Mayo method)

Additionally, array comparative genomic hybridization (aCGH) is used to test for the presence of large deletions and duplications.(Aradhya S, Lewis R, Bonaga T, et al: Exon-level array CGH in a large clinical cohort demonstrates increased sensitivity of diagnostic testing for Mendelian disorders. *Genet Med.* 2012;14[6]:594-603)

#### PDF Report

No

**Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed**

Performed weekly, Varies

**Analytic Time**

14 days

**Maximum Laboratory Time**

20 days

**Performing Laboratory Location**

Rochester

**Fees and 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 Regional Manager. 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 U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

**CPT Code Information**

81292

Hereditary Colon Cancer CGH Array, additional test

81228

**LOINC® Information**

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
MLH1Z	MLH1 Gene, Full Gene Analysis	92676-6

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
53576	Result Summary	50397-9
53577	Result	82939-0
53578	Interpretation	69047-9
53579	Additional Information	48767-8
53580	Specimen	31208-2
53581	Source	31208-2
53582	Array Billed?	No LOINC Needed
53583	Released By	18771-6

**Prior Authorization**

Insurance preauthorization is available for this testing; forms are available in Special Instructions.

Patient financial assistance may be available to those who qualify. Patients who receive a bill from Mayo Clinic Laboratories will receive information on eligibility and how to apply.