

Overview

Useful For

Determining the relative amounts of donor and recipient cells in a specimen in sorted cell fractions

An indicator of bone marrow transplant success

Reflex Tests

Test ID	Reporting Name	Available Separately	Always Performed
SORT1	Chimerism Cell Sort 1	No, (Bill Only)	No
SORT2	Chimerism Cell Sort 2	No, (Bill Only)	No

Testing Algorithm

Initial Chimerism Testing:

Complete chimerism analysis requires 3 specimens. These specimens should be submitted when collected. An interpretive report will be provided once all specimens are received.

CHRGB / Chimerism-Recipient Germline (Pre)

CHIDB / Chimerism-Donor

CHIMS / Chimerism Transplant Sorted Cells

Billing occurs with tests CHRGB (for the Pre and Donor specimens) and SORT1 / Chimerism Cell Sort 1 (Bill Only) and/or SORT2 / Chimerism Cell Sort 2 (Bill Only) (for the Post specimen). If an additional donor specimen is submitted, ADONO / Additional Chimerism Donor will be performed at an additional charge.

Chimerism Transplant Cell Sort:

When this test is ordered SORT1 / Chimerism Cell Sort 1 (Bill Only) and/or SORT2 / Chimerism Cell Sort 2 (Bill Only) will be performed at an additional charge.

See [Chimerism-Recipient Germline Testing Algorithm](#) in Special Instructions.

Special Instructions

- [Chimerism Analysis Information Sheet](#)
- [Chimerism-Recipient Germline Testing Algorithm](#)

Method Name

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Amplification/Capillary Electrophoresis

NY State Available

Yes

Specimen

Specimen Type

Varies

Advisory Information

This test is used to determine the relative amounts of donor and recipient cells in a specimen post-bone marrow transplant. For post-bone marrow transplant evaluation of the donor specimen, see CHIMU / Chimerism Transplant No Cell Sort.

Additional Testing Requirements

Complete chimerism analysis also requires submission of CHRGB / Chimerism-Recipient Germline (Pre) and CHIDB / Chimerism-Donor specimens. These tests must be ordered on both the pre and donor specimens under separate order numbers. While the 3 specimens do not need to be submitted at the same time, the CHRGB and CHIDB specimens must be received before this test can be performed.

Shipping Instructions

Specimen must arrive within 96 hours (4 days) of collection. Draw and package specimen as close to shipping time as possible.

Necessary Information

The following information is required:

1. Pertinent clinical history
2. Specimen source
3. Donor identifier and donor date of birth
4. Donor date of collection

Specimen Required

Submit only 1 of the following specimens:

Specimen Type: Blood

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Lavender top (EDTA)

Acceptable: ACD

Specimen Volume: 4 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Only 1 tube is required.
2. Invert several times to mix blood.

3. Send specimen in original tube.

4. Label specimen as blood.

Specimen Type: Bone marrow

Container/Tube:

Preferred: Lavender top (EDTA)

Acceptable: ACD

Specimen Volume: 2 mL

Collection Instructions:

1. Invert several times to mix bone marrow.

2. Send specimen in original tube.

3. Label specimen as bone marrow.

Forms

1. [Chimerism Analysis Information Sheet](#) (T594) in Special Instructions.

2. If not ordering electronically, complete, print, and send a [Hematopathology/Cytogenetics Test Request](#) (T726) with the specimen.

Specimen Minimum Volume

Blood: 3 mL

Bone Marrow: 2 mL

Lesser volumes may be acceptable, depending on white cell count.

Reject Due To

Gross hemolysis	Reject
Other	Moderately to severely clotted

Specimen Stability Information

Specimen Type	Temperature	Time	Special Container
Varies	Ambient (preferred)	4 days	PURPLE OR PINK TOP/EDTA
	Refrigerated	4 days	PURPLE OR PINK TOP/EDTA

Clinical and Interpretive

Clinical Information

Patients who have had donor hematopoietic cells infused for the purpose of engraftment (ie, bone marrow transplant recipients) may have their blood or bone marrow monitored for an estimate of the percentage of donor and recipient cells present. This can be done by first identifying unique features of the donor's and the recipient's DNA prior to transplantation and then examining the recipient's blood or bone marrow after the transplantation procedure has occurred. The presence of both donor and recipient cells (chimerism) and the percentage of donor cells are indicators of transplant success.

Short tandem repeat (STR) sequences are used as identity markers. STRs are di-, tri-, or tetra-nucleotide repeat sequences interspersed throughout the genome at specific sites. There is variability in STR length among people and the STR lengths remain stable throughout life, making them useful as identity markers. PCR is used to amplify selected STR regions from germline DNA of both donor and recipient. The lengths of the amplified fragment are evaluated for differences (informative markers). Following allogeneic hematopoietic cell infusion, the recipient blood or bone marrow can again be evaluated for the informative STR regions to identify chimerism and estimate the proportions of donor and recipient cells in the specimen.

Reference Values

An interpretive report will be provided.

Interpretation

An interpretive report will be provided, which includes whether chimerism is detected or not and, if detected, the approximate percentage of donor and recipient cells. Sorted cell analysis permits more detailed evaluation of chimeric status in T-cell and myeloid cell fractions, which can be helpful in clinical management.

It is most useful to observe a trend in chimerism levels. Clinically critical results should be confirmed with 1 or more subsequent specimens.

Cautions

Sensitivity varies with the proportions of donor and recipient cells in the specimen. For this reason, results are reported as approximate and rounded to the nearest 5% or 10%, depending on the calculated percentage of donor cells. For example, if the percent donor is 10% or less, it is reported as 5% donor cells. If the percent donor cells are 90% or more, it is reported as 95% donor cells. In rare cases (eg, matched related stem cell transplants), short tandem repeat (STR) patterns may be identical (ie, noninformative) and chimeric status cannot be determined with this test. Use of alternative approaches (eg, XY FISH in patients with opposite sex transplants) may be required.

Clinical Reference

1. Antin JH, Childs R, Filipovich AH, et al: Establishment of complete and mixed donor chimerism after allogeneic lymphohematopoietic transplantation: recommendations from a workshop at the 2001 Tandem Meetings. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant* 2001;7:473-485
2. Tang X, Alatrash G, Ning J, et al: Increasing chimerism following allogeneic stem cell transplantation is associated with longer survival time. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2014 August;20(8):1139-1144. doi:10.1016/j.bbmt.2014.04.003
3. Ludeman MJ, Zhong C, Mulero JJ, et al: Developmental validation of GlobalFiler PCR amplification kit: a 6-dye multiplex assay designed for amplification of casework samples. *Int J Legal Med*. 2018 Nov;132(6):1555-1573. doi: 10.1007/s00414-018-1817-5
4. Tyler J, Kumer L, Fisher C, et al: Personalized Chimerism Test that Uses Selection of Short Tandem Repeat or Quantitative PCR Depending on Patient's Chimerism Status. *J Mol Diagn*. 2019 May;21(3):483-490. doi: 10.1016/j.jmoldx.2019.01.007

5. Lion T, Watzinger F, Preuner S, et al: The EuroChimerism concept for a standardized approach to chimerism analysis after allogeneic stem cell transplantation. *Leukemia*. 2012 Aug;26(8):1821-1828. doi: 10.1038/leu.2012.66

Performance

Method Description

Genomic DNA is extracted from blood or bone marrow aspirate samples using an automated extraction machine (EZ1 BioRobot, Qiagen) and used in a commercial kit GlobalFiler PCR Amplification KIT (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 20 different short tandem repeat (STR) marker regions are amplified in single multiplex PCR using primers labeled with fluorescent tags. The products are analyzed for size and amount using capillary electrophoresis on an ABI3500xl genetic analyzer. For the initial sample on any patient, the test is performed on 3 separate DNA samples: donor germline DNA, recipient germline DNA, and recipient post-transplant sample for chimerism determination. The STR profile of the germline samples is used to identify markers that can distinguish between the donor and recipient. Based on these profiles, the percentage of donor and recipient DNA is then determined in the post-transplant sample using the assumptions and calculations outlined in Thiede et al. Subsequent samples for chimerism evaluation do not need to be accompanied by samples for donor and recipient germline evaluation, as the profiles from the initial testing are kept on file for comparison. (Instruction manual: EZ1BioRobot System. July 2005. Qiagen. www.qiagen.com; package insert: GlobalFiler PCR Amplification Kit. User Guide. Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, www.appliedbiosystems.com; Thiede C, Florek M, Bornhauser M, et al: Rapid quantification of mixed chimerism using multiplex amplification of short tandem repeat markers and fluorescence detection. *Bone Marrow Transplant* 1999;23:1055-1060)

The sensitivity of this analysis is approximately 5% in a posttransplant specimen (donor and recipient DNA mixed chimerism).

PDF Report

No

Day(s) and Time(s) Test Performed

Monday through Friday; 3 p.m.

Analytic Time

4 days following receipt of Pre and Donor Specimens

Maximum Laboratory Time

8 days following receipt of Pre and Donor Specimens

Specimen Retention Time

DNA 3 months

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

81268-Chimerism (engraftment) analysis, post hematopoietic stem cell transplantation specimen, includes comparison to previously performed baseline analyses; with cell selection (eg, CD3, CD33), each cell type (if appropriate)

LOINC® Information

Test ID	Test Order Name	Order LOINC Value
CHIMS	Chimerism Transplant Sorted Cells	In Process

Result ID	Test Result Name	Result LOINC Value
MP025	Specimen Type	31208-2
CHIS	Final Diagnosis	34574-4