Genetic Testing

How different genetic tests explore the genome



Although autism cannot be diagnosed with a genetic test, it is very important to look at the genome of people on the autism spectrum after a diagnosis is made, as finding a genetic change can help people understand better the reason for autism in their case, and give doctors important information to help when needed.

Chromosomal Microarray

This test looks for any missing or extra pieces of DNA throughout the entire genome, and tells us what specific part of the encyclopedia is involved. Because it looks at every single book, it can uncover big and small changes alike, and tell us whether a genetic change is likely causing clinical symptoms or not.

ASD/ID Panel

This test takes a closer look at a large group of genes known to be linked to autism and intellectual disability, reading through their "words" to look for any changes in spelling. It uses samples from the child and their parents together, which helps us understand whether a change is new or inherited. By focusing on many relevant genes at once, this test can identify small changes that may affect how genes function—some of which may help explain a person's clinical symptoms, while others may not have an impact.

Exome and genome sequencing

These tests too look at our entire genome, but they are also able to read each of the words in our encyclopedia, our genes, to detect any changes in their spelling. Some of these changes don't lead to clinical symptoms, while others change the function of our genes; in those cases, we call them mutations.

It is important to remember that the decision about testing is entirely up to families, just as any other medical test. Be sure to ask your doctor or team any questions you have as you make this important decision!

Available English and Spanish.

Check the complete video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXvd_GEdNCE

SCAN ME!