

Familial Hyperinsulinism (ABCC8-Related)

Frequently Asked Questions

ABCC8-related familial hyperinsulinism is a rare genetic disorder. It is characterized by very high levels of insulin production. This leads to episodes of low blood sugar, which can cause low energy, seizures, and brain damage if left untreated. People with ABCC8-related familial hyperinsulinism most often have two variants in the ABCC8 gene.

ABCC8-Related Familial Hyperinsulinism

What does this test do?

This test looks for three genetic variants in the ABCC8 gene that are linked to familial hyperinsulinism.

People with two variants are at risk of developing symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism, and they will most likely pass a variant on to each of their children.

People with one variant may have a small chance of developing a form of hyperinsulinism called focal hyperinsulinism. They may also pass a variant on to their children.

This test does not include all possible genetic variants associated with familial hyperinsulinism.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

What does this test **not** do?

This test does not diagnose familial hyperinsulinism. Only a healthcare professional can do that.

This test does not include all possible variants in the ABCC8 gene that are linked to familial hyperinsulinism.

This test does not include variants in other genes (such as KCNJ11) that are linked to familial hyperinsulinism.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says **two variants** were detected. What does this mean?

This means you have two of the genetic variants we tested. You most likely inherited one variant from each of your parents.

People with this result are at risk for developing symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism. It's important to talk with a healthcare professional if you are concerned about your result.

This result also means you will most likely pass a variant on to each of your children.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

What does **at risk for developing symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism** mean?

Symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism include excessive insulin production, low blood sugar, low energy, irritability, seizures, and possible brain damage, if the condition is left untreated.

People with your genetic result are at risk for developing these symptoms. Most people who develop symptoms do so by early adulthood.

A healthcare professional can answer any questions you may have about your results.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

The report says the test is most relevant for people of **Ashkenazi Jewish** descent. What if I'm not of Ashkenazi Jewish descent?

The genetic variants we tested are most common in people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, but they are also found in people of other ethnicities. Because you have two variants, you are still at risk for developing symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism. In addition, you will still most likely pass a variant on to each of your children.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says I have **two variants** linked to familial hyperinsulinism. What are some things I could do?

Based on your genetic result, you are at risk for developing symptoms of familial hyperinsulinism. It is important to talk to a healthcare professional if you are concerned about your result.

If you're starting a family, a genetic counselor can help you and your partner understand if additional testing might be appropriate.

You may also want to share your results with other family members. Because you share DNA with your relatives, your genetic result could also be relevant for them.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

How could my result affect my children?

Because you have two variants, you will most likely pass a variant on to each of your children. If your partner is a carrier for familial hyperinsulinism, each of your children most likely has a 50% chance of having this condition.

For males with this result, if your partner is not a carrier, each child may still have a small chance of having the condition. (One study in people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent estimated that the risk is 1 in 270.) For females with this result, if your partner is not a carrier, your children are not likely at risk of having the condition.

You can learn more about the inheritance pattern for ABCC8-related familial hyperinsulinism from the following resources:

- [Genetics Home Reference](#)
- [GeneReviews](#)

A genetic counselor can help you and your partner understand if additional testing might be appropriate. [Learn more about genetic counseling.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No



Have more questions? Check out our Customer Care Help Center.