NGS: what method to apply in diagnostic setting (panels, WES and WGS) and where technology fails

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4th Variant Effect Prediction Training Course

29-31 May 2019 Moscow, Russia





After this talk, you will:

- Know the technical considerations in selection of your diagnostic approach - panel, exome or genome sequencing
- Understand the considerations of coverage, duplicated regions and the range of mutational mechanisms detectable by NGS
- Know when and how diagnostic procedure can go wrong if a sub-optimal diagnostic approach is used
- Understand that knowledge of the genetic and mutational spectrum of diseases is essential prior to using NGS approaches





You are welcome to participate!

- Open web browser on the phone and go to this address: etc.ch/dWSw
 - 2. Once the question will appear, select your answer and click Vote

If it does not work







Qo. Does the voting work?

A. YesB. No

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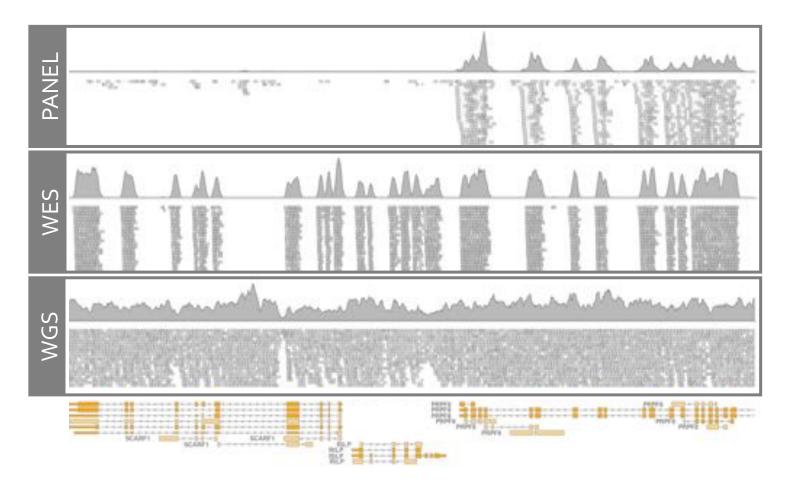




Seeing the trees but not seeing the forest

Seeing the forest but not seeing the trees

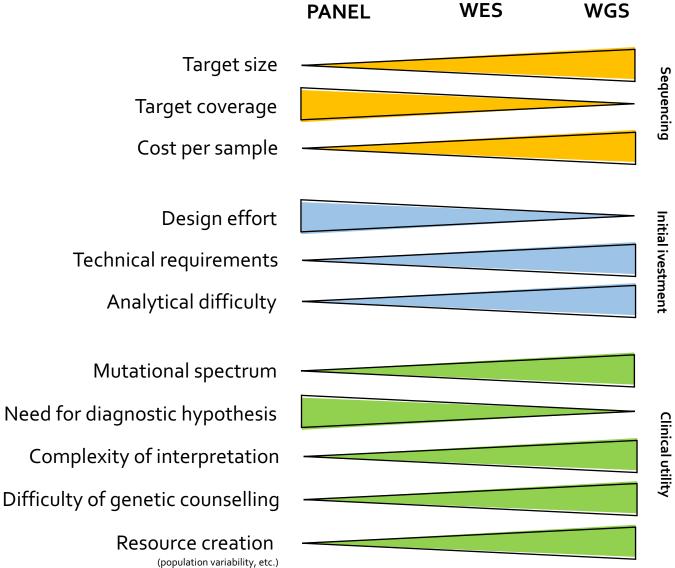
The scope of NGS in disease diagnostics







approaches **NGS-based**





Diagnostic use scenarios

PANELS

Patients with well-defined diagnoses

Diseases associated with a single/few genes

Numerous patients with similar disease type (ie. cardiomyopathy)

Assuring sufficient and customized coverage of regions of interest

Allows detection of mosaic/heteroplasmic variants

WES

Patients without a clear diagnostic hypothesis

Diseases with high genetic heterogeneity

Single test in institutions facing highly heterogeneous referrals

WGS

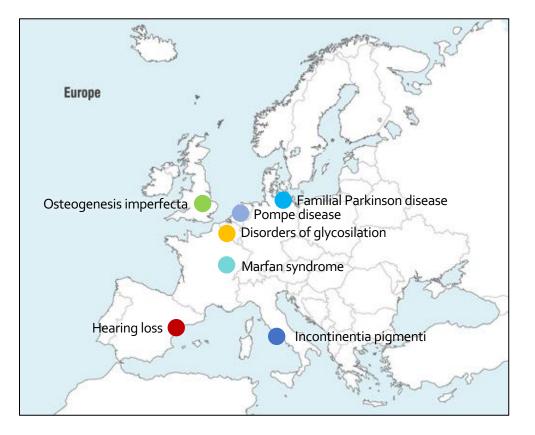
Patients with likely monogenic etiology and negative panel/exome

Single test in institutions facing highly heterogeneous referrals





Changing landscape of genetic testing

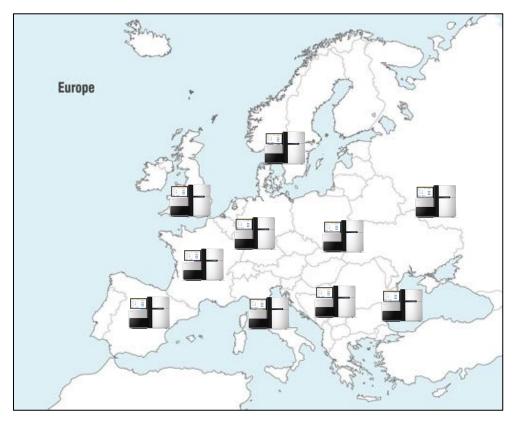


Genetic testing for specific conditions is concentrated in specialized in centres of expertise (some examples on the map)





Changing landscape of genetic testing

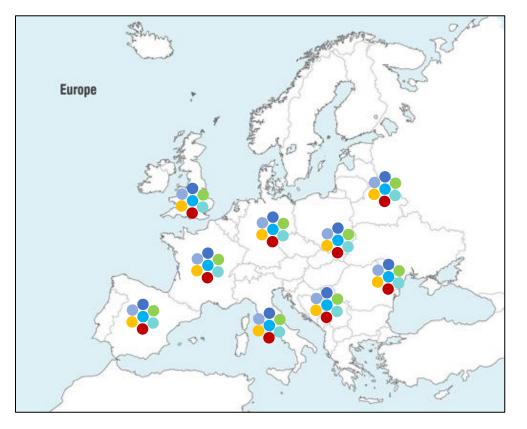


Next generation sequencing becomes widely available





Changing landscape of genetic testing



Using large panels, exome and genome sequencing every lab performs testing for almost every disorder





Considerations in selection of the NGS approach

Am I sequencing the region of interest?

Can I trust the results in my region of interest?

Can I detect the mutations associated with the referral condition?

How much can I trust the referral diagnosis?





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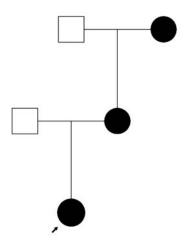


Case 1: Patient with blepharophimosis

- A 29-year old woman was referred to us for diagnostics of congenital anomaly of eye development – blepharophimosis.
- The patients mother and her maternal grandmother are also affected



https://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/eyeforum/casesi/case114/BPES.html







Case 1: Patient with blepharophimosis

- Whole exome sequencing
- The exome analysis was focused on 74 genes, the cause isolated/syndromic forms of blepharophimosis

Negative result!





Q1 - Patient with blepharophimosis: What to do next?

- 1. Include the parental samples (trio exome)
- 2. Check the coverage of the exome sequencing data
- 3. Perform whole genome sequencing
- Perform a literature search to understand the genetic and mutational spectrum of blepharophimosis
- 5. Conclude the case as negative

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Preview

Asses the coverage of the exome sequencing data

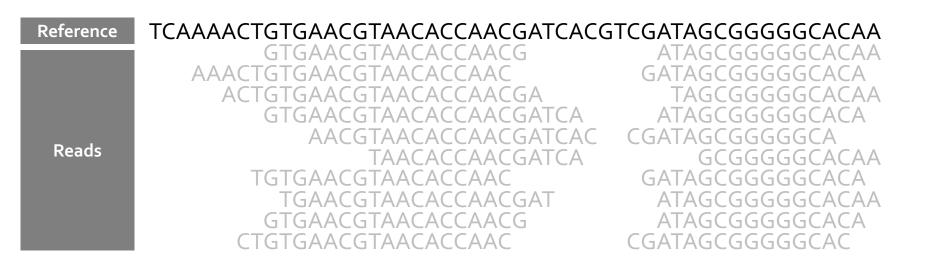
1. Mean coverage: 69x

Is this information enough?





The significance of coverage in NGS







Base coverage

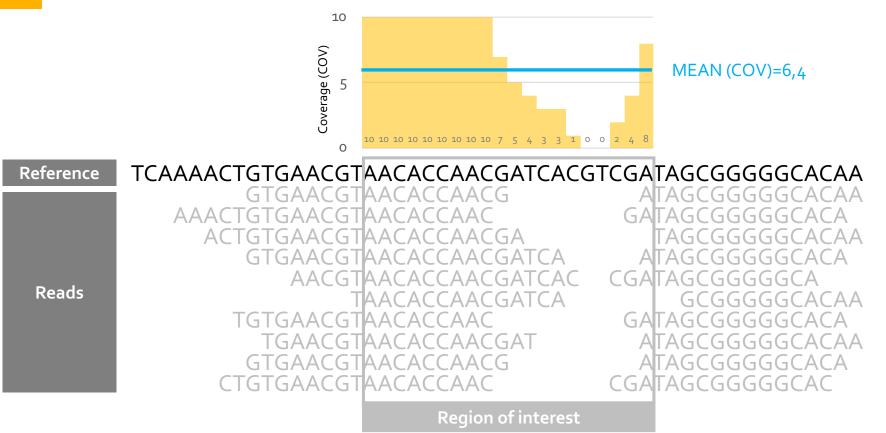


Coverage (COV) Number of reads spanning a certain base after filtration







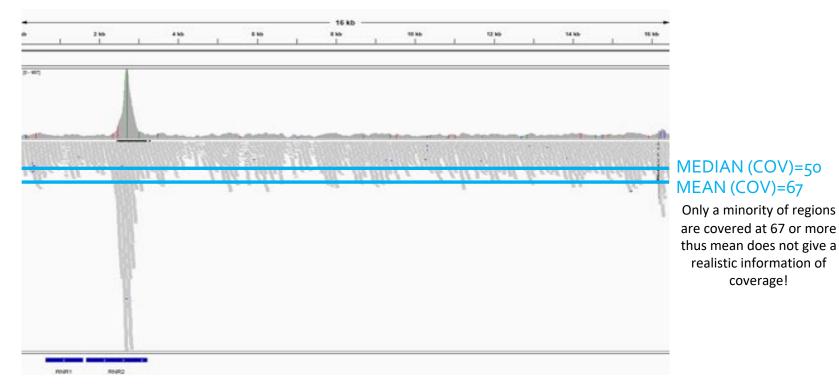


Mean coverage – MEAN (COV) Mean of separate coverage values across a region of interest





Median is more robust for outliers in coverage



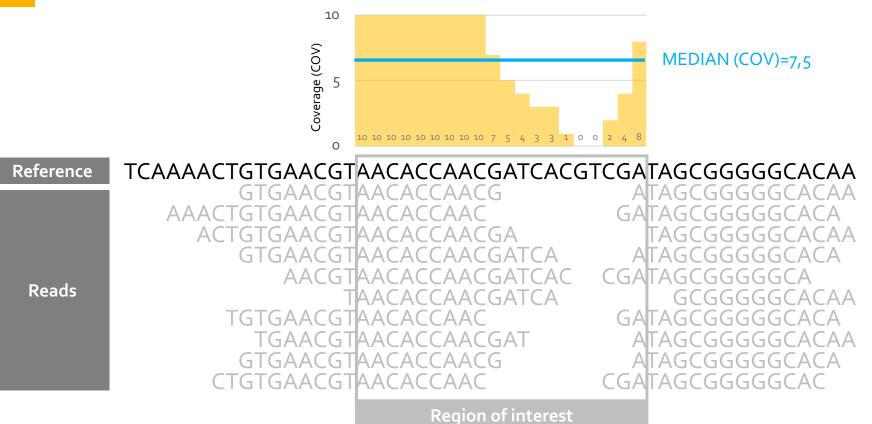
Mitochondrial coverage profile with Agilent SureSelect All Exon v5 One high peak of coverage artificially inflates the mitochondrial average coverage, but does not affect the median coverage





Median coverage

25

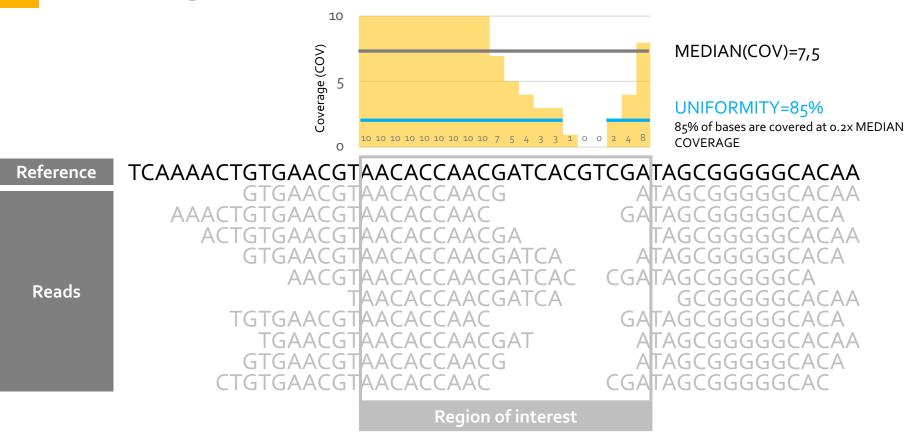


Mean coverage – MEDIAN (COV)

Median of separate coverage values across a region of interest



Coverage uniformity

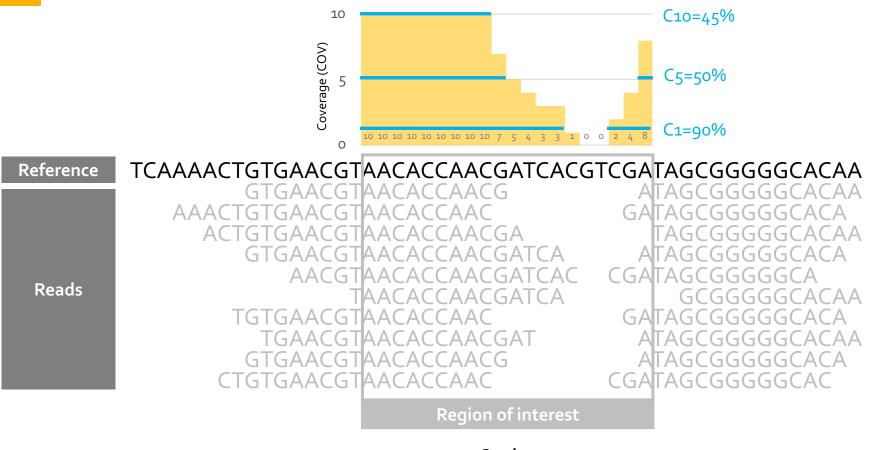


Coverage uniformity Percentage of bases covered at minimum 0,2x median coverage



26

Percent of target covered at C or more

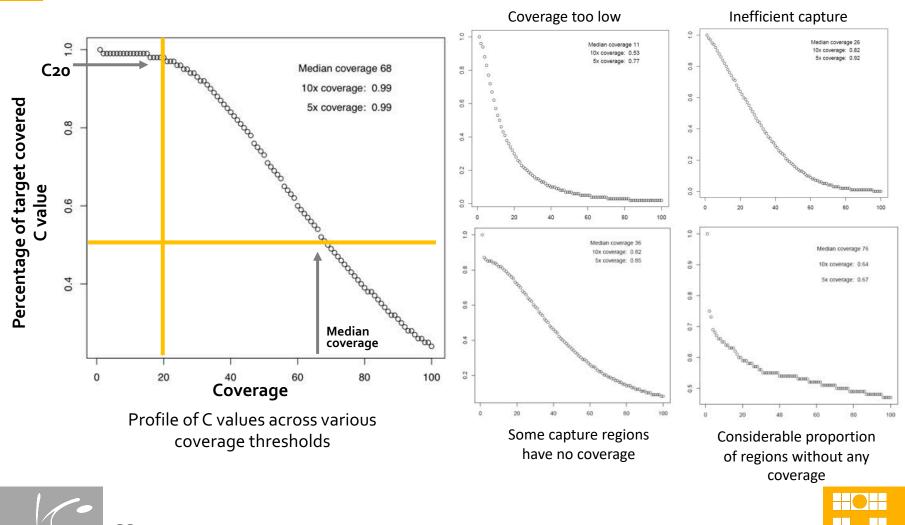


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C value Percent of a target covered above a certain coverage threshold



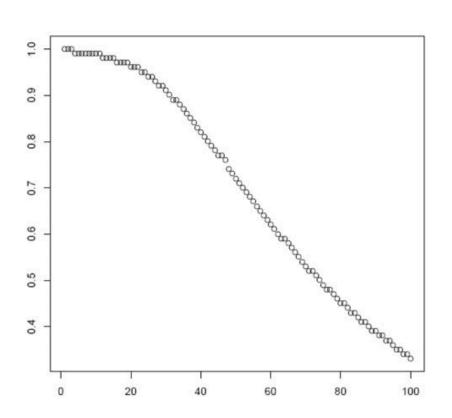
Coverage characteristic



HIMG

28

Case 1: Patient with blepharophimosis



Mean coverage: **69x** Median coverage: **73x** Uniformity: **97%** C20: **98.6%** bases covered at 20x

Coverage characteristic looks good





Q2 – Patient with blepharophimosis: What to do next?

- 1. The coverage is still to low, perform additional sequencing
- 2. Include the parental samples (trio exome)
- 3. Perform whole genome sequencing
- Perform a literature search to understand the genetic and mutational spectrum of blepharophimosis
- 5. Conclude the case as negative









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Preview

What causes blepharophimosis?



refractive errors. Minor f

philtrum. Individuals with

expected to have normal

cytocenetic rearrangeme

What

What

Summary

Clinical characteristics. Blephariphimosis, ptosis, and epicanthus inversus syndrome (BPES) is a complex eyelid malformation invariably characterized by four major features: blepharophimosis, ptosis, epicanthus inversus, and telecanthus. BPES type I includes the four major features and premature ovarian insufficiency (POI); BPES type II includes only the four major features. Other ophthalmic manifestations that can be associated with BPES include lacrimal duct anomalies, amblyopia, strabismus, and refractive errors. Minor features include a broad nasal bridge, low-set ears, and a short philtrum. Individuals with BPES and an intragenic FOXL2 pathogenic variant are expected to have normal intelligence, in contrast to affected individuals with <u>cytogenetic</u> rearrangements that involve FOXL2 and additional genes.

iii nobi.nim.nih.gov

C

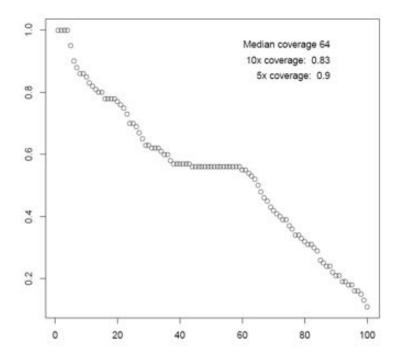
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Diagnosis/testing. The diagnosis of BPES is primarily based on clinical findings. Occasionally individuals with BPES have <u>cytogenetic</u> rearrangements, such as interstitial deletions and translocations involving 3q23. *FOXL2* is the only <u>gene</u> currently known to be associated with BPES.

Management. Treatment of manifestations: Timing of eyelid surgery involves balancing the benefits of early surgery to prevent deprivation amblyopia versus late surgery to allow for more reliable ptosis measurements. Surgery

FOXL2 gene coverage in WES data



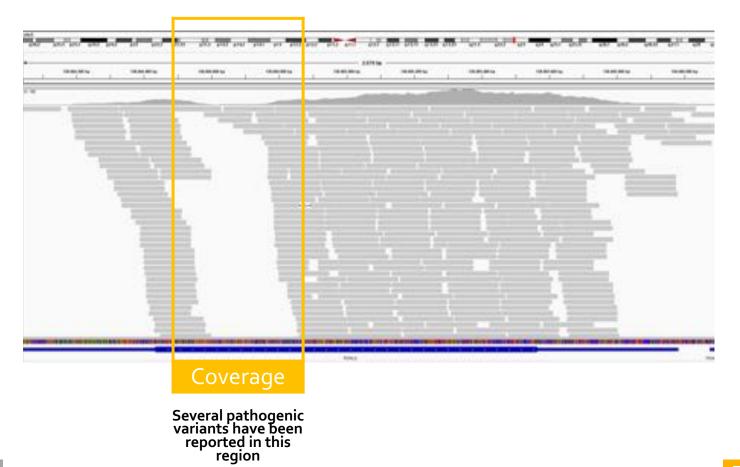
Mean coverage: **54x** Median coverage: **65x** Uniformity: **78%** C20: **82.8%** bases covered at 10x

Coverage characteristic reveals incomplete coverage of the FOXL2 gene





FOXL2 gene coverage



RIMG

34

Q3 – Patient with blepharophimosis: What to do next?

- 1. Use Sanger sequencing to bridge the gap
- 2. Perform additional sequencing of the exome library
- 3. Check for deletions in the FOXL2 gene
- 4. Perform whole genome sequencing
- 5. Conclude the case as negative







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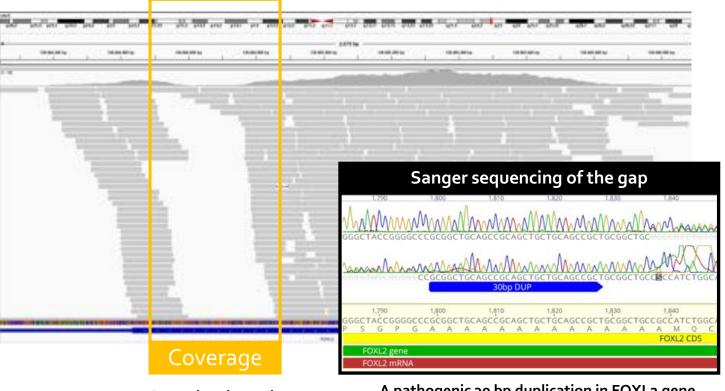
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FOXL2 gene coverage

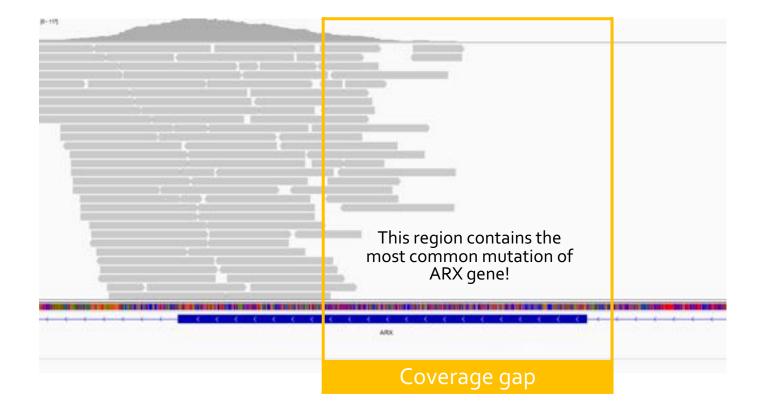


Several pathogenic variants have been reported in this region A pathogenic 30 bp duplication in FOXL2 gene





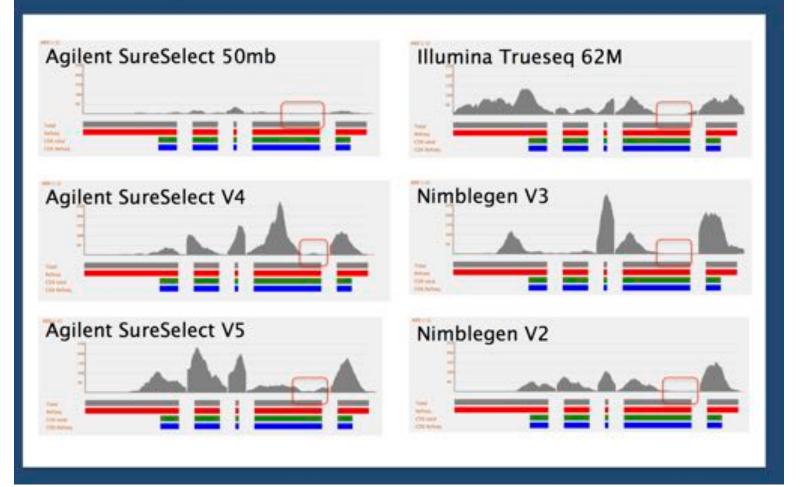
Epileptic encephalopathy due to ARX mutations







Coverage of ARX in exome enrichment kits



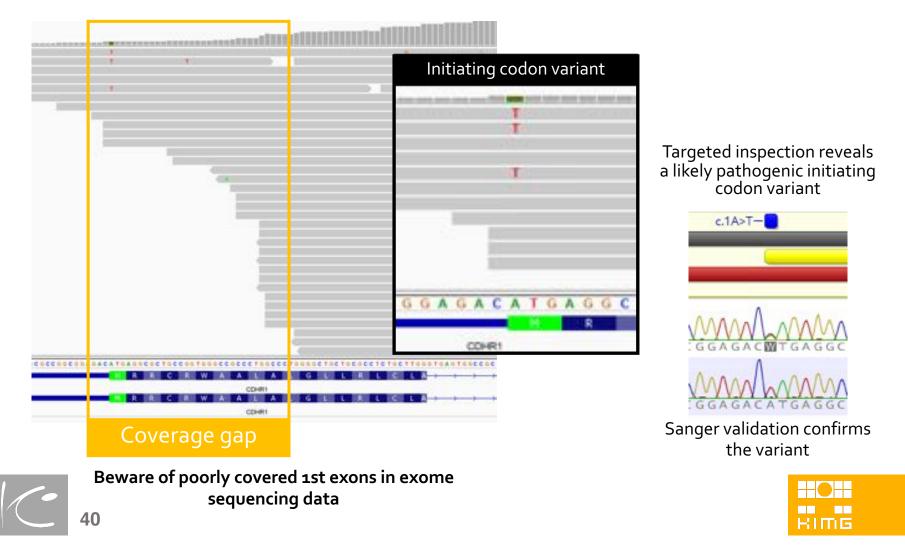


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Taken from: Beyond the Ion Channel http://epilepsygenetics.net/2014/05/19/the-arx-problem-how-an-epilepsy-gene-escapes-exome-sequencing/

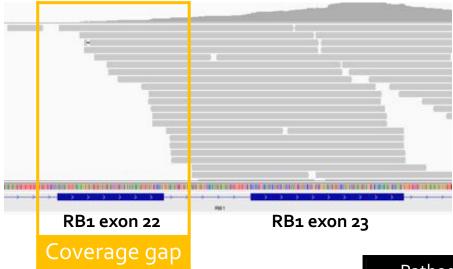


Patient with retinal dystrophy and a single mutation in CDHR1 gene (AR inheritance)

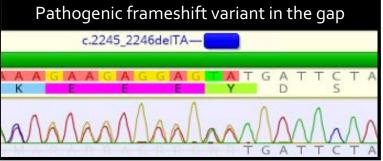


Genes with consistent gaps in WES

Patient with suspected hereditary retinoblastoma



Exon 22 in RB1 gene is consistently poorly covered in exome sequencing data







Considerations in selection of the NGS approach

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How much can I trust the referral diagnosis?



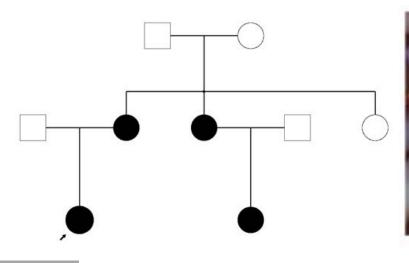


Case 2: Family with a pigmentation disorder, developmental delay

Initial suspiction was of Incontinentia pigmenti

Incontinentia pigmenti is an X-linked condition that occurs due to heteroyzgous mutations in IKBKG gene in females (hemiyzgous state is lethal)

Clinical presentation includes blistering in the early life, wart like rash, then macular pigmentation and ultimately linear hypopigmentation Clinical presentation in is consistent with IP, but some affected members display developmental delay





Marcela A. C. An. Bras. Dermatol. vol.85 no.3 Rio de Janeiro June 2010

Whorly linear skin lesions, https://www.aao.org/diseasereview/incontinentia-pigmenti



Case 2: Family with a pigmentation disorder, developmental delay

 Targeted testing for the common deletion of exons 4-10 in the IKBGKG gene

Negative result!

 Due to presence of developmental delay in some affected members and because a targeted test for sequencing of the IKBKG coding region was not available, the clinician ordered exome sequencing

Negative result!





Q4 - What do you advise next?

Check if the coverage of the IKBKG gene is sufficient

- 2. Advise WES in affected members to better detect a novel genes not yet associated with this condition
- 3. Perform WGS to detect intronic/regulatory variants
- 4. Advise PCR and Sanger sequencing of the IKBKG gene
- 5. Conclude the report as negative and advise reinterpretation after 2 years

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Coverage profile of the IKBKG gene

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Q5 - What do you advise next?

- Advise WES in other affected members to better detect a novel genes not yet associated with this condition
- 2. Perform WGS to detect intronic/regulatory variants
- 3. Advise long range PCR and Sanger sequencing of the IKBKG gene
- 4. Conclude the report as negative and advise reinterpretation after 2 years

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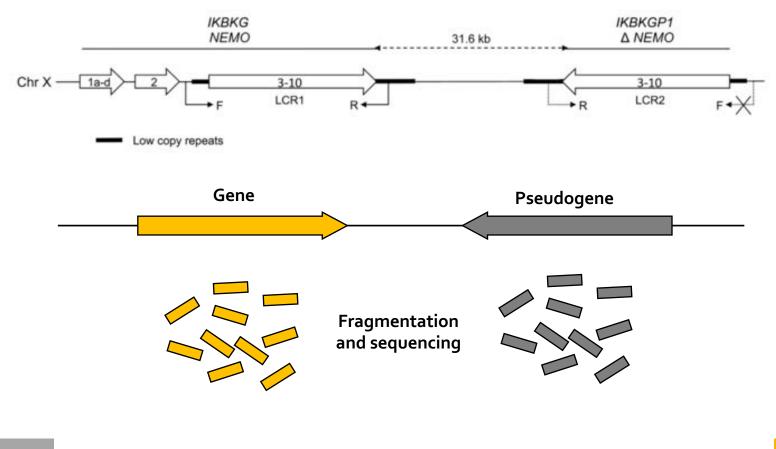
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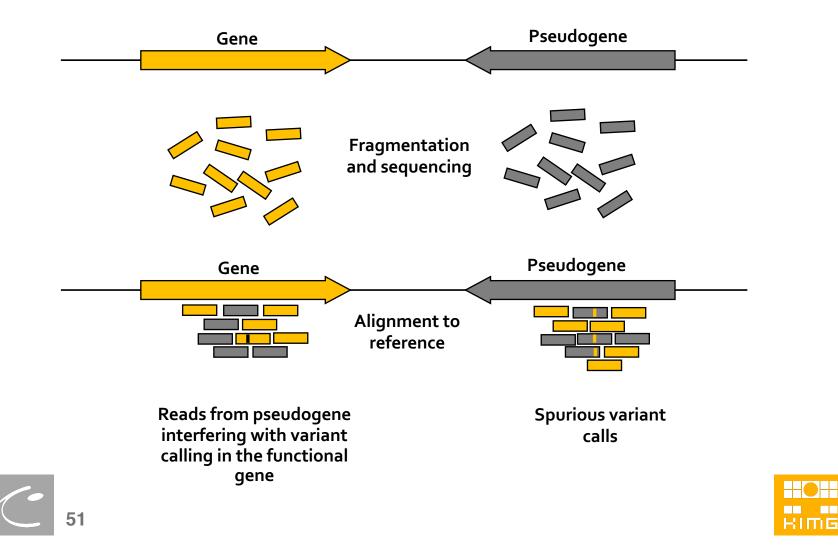
Duplicated/repetitive sequences and nextgeneration sequencing



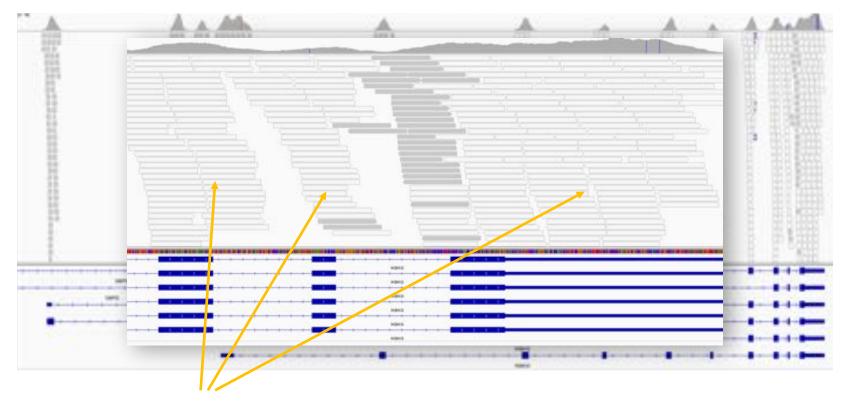
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Duplicated/repetitive sequences and nextgeneration sequencing



Coverage profile of the IKBKG gene



Blank reads represent reads with mapping quality equal to o (MAQ=o) BWA assigns this to reads that do not map uniquely to the genome reference

Variant callers will also ignore these reads





Variants in repeated sequences



53

- There was a variant not called by GATK variant caller
- NM_003639.4:c.358C>T, p.Gln120Ter.
 Classifies as ACMG class 5
- Taken to Sanger after long-range PCR

Did we validate it?



Q6 - Does this variant validate using Sanger?



- 1. No, the variant is a sequencing artifact
- 2. No, the variant likely arose from the pseudogene of the IKBKG
- **3. Yes**, this variant was confirmed as heterozygous
- Yes, this variant was confirmed as a mosaic variant

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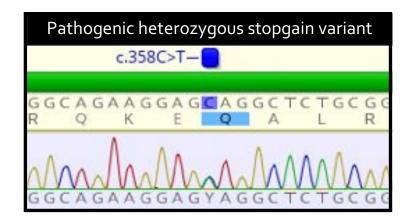
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Preview

Sanger after the long range PCR confirms the presence of this variant









Be caref^{ıb} generati

- Incontine
- Spinal m
- Congenit
- Thalasse
- Gaucher
- Polycysti
- X-linked
- Several c





Ebbert et al. Genome Biology 2019, **20**:97 Systematic analysis of dark and camouflaged genes reveals disease-relevant genes hiding in plain sight



Considerations in selection of the NGS approach

Am I sequencing the region of interest?

Can I trust the results in my region of interest?

Can I detect the mutations associated with the referral condition?

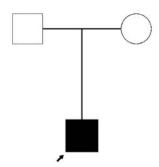
How much can I trust the referral diagnosis?





Case 3: 1-year old boy with apnea

- Suspected congenital central hypoventilation syndrome
- Inability to control breathing, patients need life-long ventilatory support during sleep in some patients or all the time in others
- Associated with pathogenic variants in 15 genes





https://img.wikinut.com/img/3w1lcg9jmezlt 1u4/jpeg/0/Congenital-Central-Hypoventilation-Syndrome.jpeg





Q7 - What is your diagnostic approach of choice

- 1. Perform NGS based-panel sequencing
- 2. Perform exome sequencing
- 3. Perform whole genome sequencing
- 4. Perform a classical PCR-based test for the most common for of this syndrome

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Case 3: 1-year old boy with apnea

• Whole exome sequencing

Negative result!





Q8 – Why is the exome result negative?

- 1. The patient does not have pathogenic variants in the analyzed genes
- 2. The relevant genes are likely not covered well
- Intronic/regulatory variants are likely the cause
- 4. We cannot detect pathogenic mutations is the causative gene(s)





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Preview

Case 3: 1-year old boy with apnea

Whole exome sequencing

Negative result!

The coverage is sufficient, the targeted genes are not located in duplicated regions.

What to do next?





Congenital central hypoventilation

- The most common cause of this disorder are polyalanine expansions in the PHOX2B gene
- The patient had a typical expansion in PHOX2B

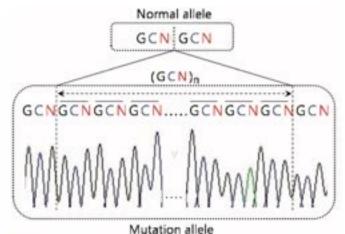
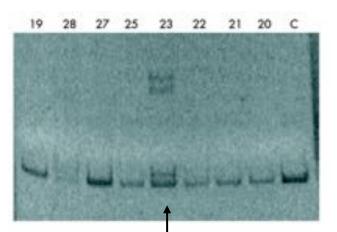


Fig. 1. Heterozygous mutation of the PHOX2B gene in the congenital central hypoventilation syndrome. Mutated alleleshave a greater number of alanine repeats (GCN) than the normal allele.

> Jae-Ho Lee and Dae-Kwang Kim J Genet Med 2014;11:11-15



Classical PCR test reveals polyalanine expansions. Matera et al. J Med Genet 2004;41:373–380.

Due to GC-richness of the expanded allele, there is a drop-out of the pathogenic variant from the NGS data.





Mutational mechanisms poorly or not detectable by panel/exome approaches

Repeat expansion disorders

ALS (C9orf72) Frontotemporal dementia (C9orf72) Multicystic kidney disease (MUC1) Myoclonic epilepsy (SAMD12, TNRC6A and RAPGEF2) CANVAS syndrome (RFC1) Mental retardation (DIP2B) Congenital central hypoventilation (PHOX2B) Corneal dystrophy (TCF4)

And several other, including the classical SCA, FMR1, FXN, DM2, HTT...

Non-coding regions

Retinitis pigmentosa in boys (RPGR) Hearing loss (GJB2 non-coding 1st exon) Corneal dystrophy (GRHL2 and OVOL2) Brain calcification (UFM1) ...several others

Small CNVs

Neurodegeneration (LMNB1 duplication) Parkinson disease (PARK2 exonic deletions) Skeletal dysplasia (SHOX upstream deletion)

Imprinting disorders

Silver Russel syndrome (H19/IGF2) Transient Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus (PLAGL1) Bechwith-Widemann syndrome(IH19/IGF2) Kagami-Ogata syndrome (MEG3) Angelman syndrome (UBE3A)



Although these genes are captured in panel/exome, you are missing the (sometimes the most common) pathogenic variants in those genes



Considerations in selection of the NGS approach

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How much can I trust the referral diagnosis?





Case 4: Suspected hereditary motor neuropathy

A 69-year old male was referred for genetic testing with suspicion of hereditary motor neuropathy due to progressive lower limb weakness. EMG showed neuropathic changes, consistent with axonal neuropathy He also has cataract and dilated cardiomyopathy





Q9 - What diagnostic approach will you choose

- 1. PMP22 duplication testing
- 2. Panel sequencing for neuropathies
- 3. Whole exome sequencing
- 4. No genetic testing, considering the patients age and no familial anamnesis of neuropathy

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Case 4: Suspected hereditary motor neuropathy

Exome sequencing result

	-	
		C
IGCCCAC	T T C A C C G T G C A G A C G G	

A likely pathogenic heteroyzgous FLNC variant in the proband NM_001458.4:c.892del, p.Phe298fs

Pathogenic variants in this gene associated with: Distal and myofibrillar myopathy Hypertrophic and restrictive cardiomyopathy





Q10 - What is your interpretation of this variant?

- 1. It is not related to neuropathy, thus it is likely **unrelated to original referral**
- 2. It is not related to neuropathy, but could be related to dilated cardiomyopathy
- 3. This variant is related to both **the muscle weakness and cardiomyopathy**
- 4. This variant is related to both **the muscle weakness and cardiomyopathy**, and is related to the cardiac disease in the patient's son

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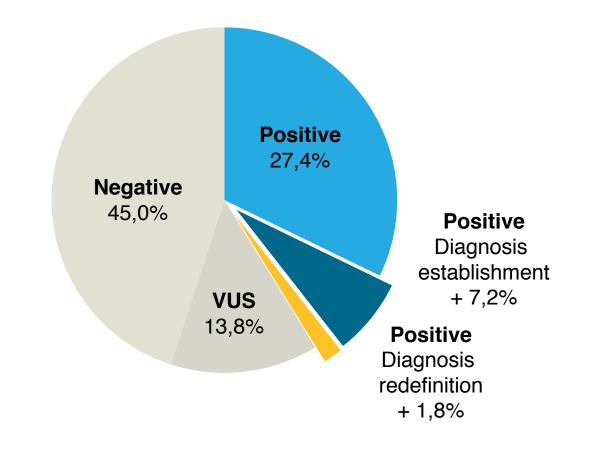






In comparison to panels, exome and/or genome sequencing are robust in poorly defined and incorrect diagnostic hypotheses

Years 2012-2019, 3300 exomes, 2820 probands







Diagnostic yield varies across disease categories

Hematological disease Skin disease Bone disease 10% Kidney disease Eye disease 6% Internal medicine Rare genetic syndromes Inborn error of metabolism 5% Myopathy Neurodevelopmental disease 26% Hearing loss No clinical hypothesis Connective tissue disease 6% Intellectual disability Polymalformative syndromes 189 Gynaecological disease Neuromuscular disease 6% Neuropsychiatric disease **CNS** disease 13% Immunological disease Cardiac disease Epilepsy Endocrine diseases 37. Hereditary cancer syndrome Movement disease Respiratory disease Neurodegenerative disease Mitochondrial disease 0.00 0.25 0.50 0.75 1.00 value Establishment of a di Negative result. New gene-phenotype association Clinical.significance Reclassification Positive result Variant of uncertain significance

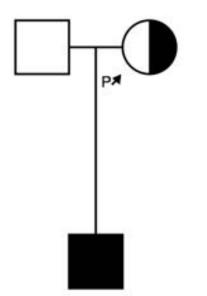
RIMG

N=2820 families

/0

Patient and child with hyperammonemia

Hyperammonemia Suspected ornithine transcarbamoilase deficiency (OTC)



Negative targeted gene sequencing, MLPA Negative exome sequencing





Q11 – Which approach will you choose next

- Sanger sequencing of intronic and regulatory regions in the OTC gene
- 2. RNA analysis in peripheral blood
- 3. Whole genome methylation analysis
- 4. Whole genome sequencing
- 5. Perform the exome sequencing in the affected child







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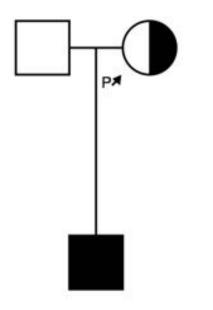
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Preview

Patient and child with hyperammonemia

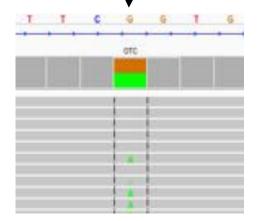
Hyperammonemia Suspected ornithine transcarbamoilase deficiency (OTC)



Negative targeted gene testing, Negative exome sequencing

Pathogenic deep intronic variant in OTC gene

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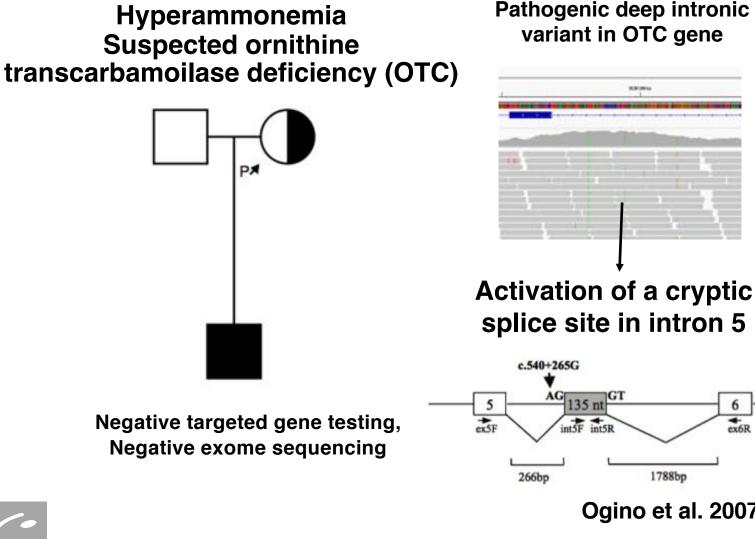


NM_000531.5:c.540+265G>A





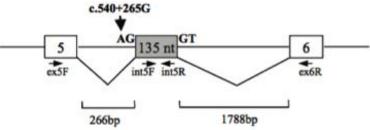
Patient and child with hyperammonemia



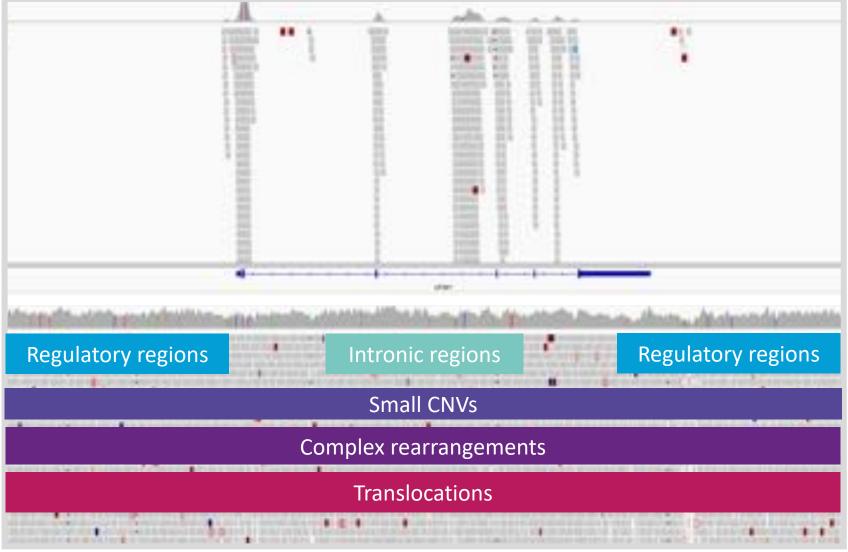
Pathogenic deep intronic variant in OTC gene

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Activation of a cryptic splice site in intron 5



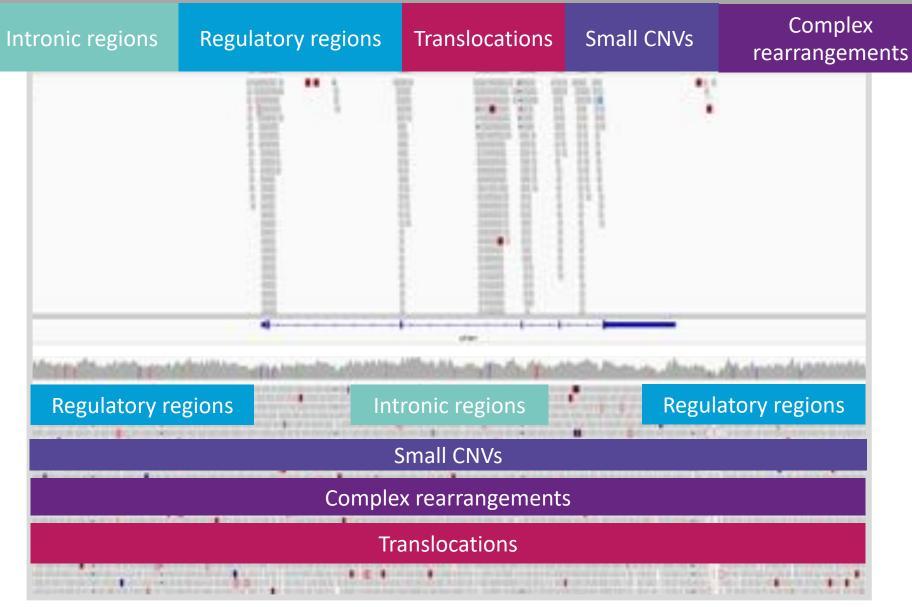
Whole exome sequencing



82

Whole genome sequencing



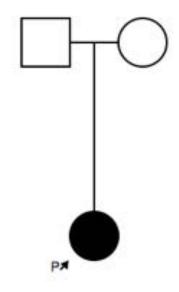


Whole genome sequencing



83

Patient with suspected Lebers optic amaurosis



Clinical exome sequencing reveals presence of a single pathogenic CEP290 variant

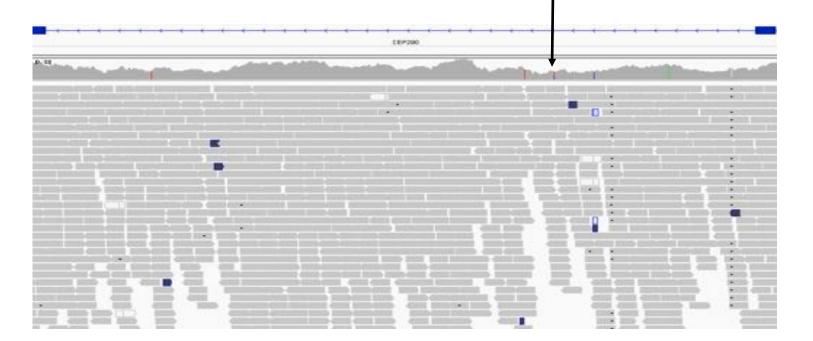


R4



Patient with suspected Lebers optic amaurosis

The second - deep intronic CEP290 variant



CEP290:c.2991+1655A>G

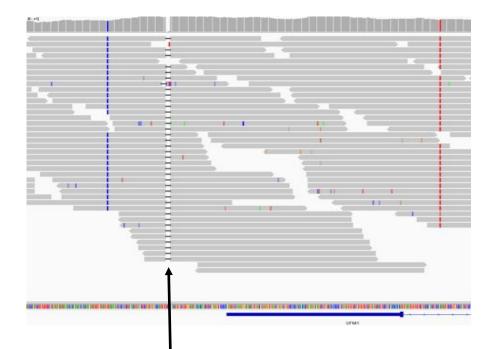
The most common pathogenic CEP290 variant





Undiagnosed neurodegenerative disease in multiple Roma patients in Slovenia

Več Multiple patients with severe developmental delay, neurodegeneration, basal ganglia calcinations in block of homozygositz on chromosome 13



UFM1:c.-273_-271delTCA

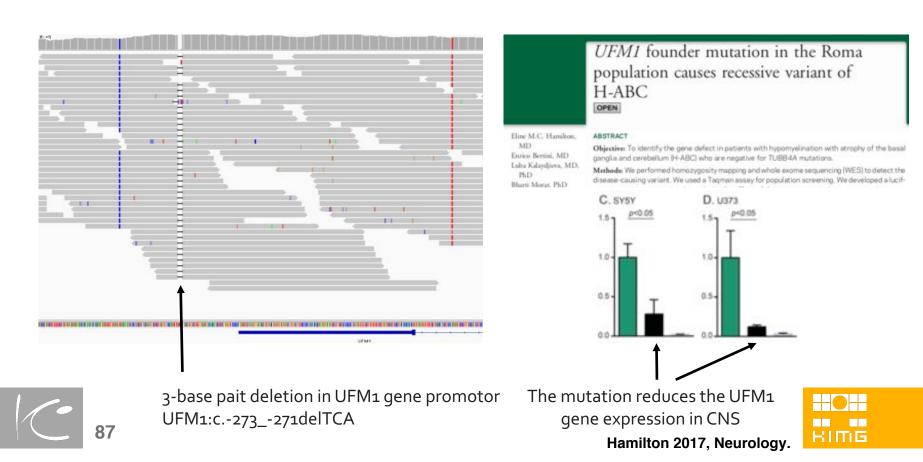
3-base pait deletion in UFM1 gene promotor



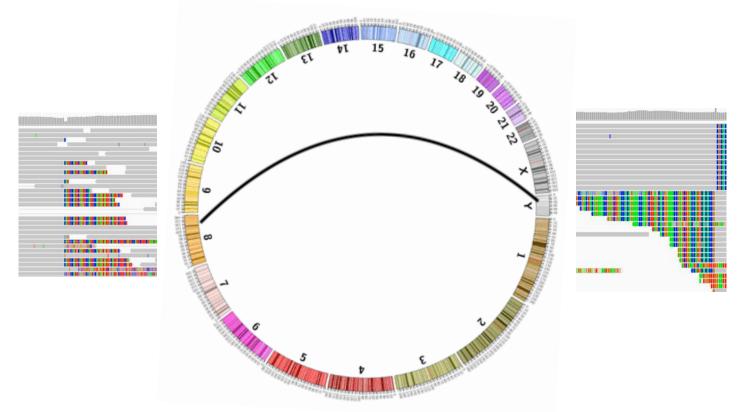
86

Undiagnosed neurodegenerative disease in multiple Roma patients in Slovenia

Več Multiple patients with severe developmental delay, neurodegeneration, basal ganglia calcinations in block of homozygosity on chromosome 13



Translocation in a child with developmental delay, stereotypies and epilepsy

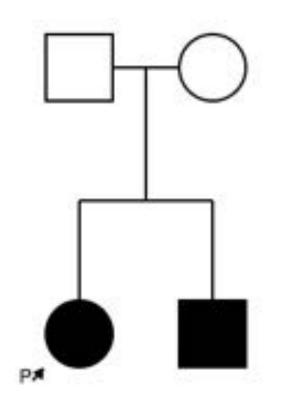




Disruption of a long non-coding RNA on chromosome 8, where structural rearrangements were reported previously in patients with autism (Pinto et al. 2010, Nature)



Cone-rod dystrophy in two sibs

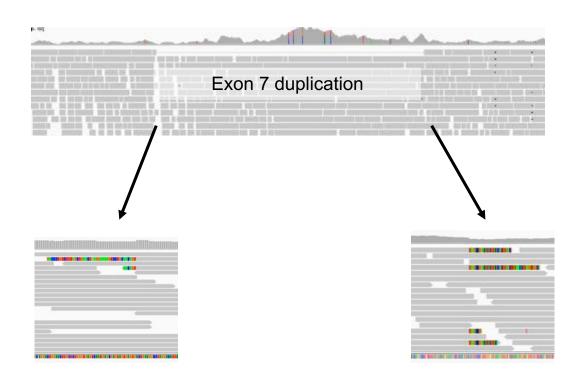


Both affected sibs carry a single CNGB3 pathogenic variant NM_019098.4(CNGB3):c.819_826delCAGACTCC





CNGB₃







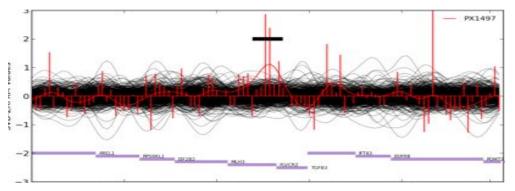
Family with recurrent fetal hydrops, ventriculomegaly and contractures





Family with recurrent fetal hydrops, ventriculomegaly and contractures

CNV analysis of exome data shows a small duplication at the edge of FLVCR2



FLVCR2 gene is associated with recessive Fowler syndrome, which includes fetal hydrops, ventriculomegaly and contractures



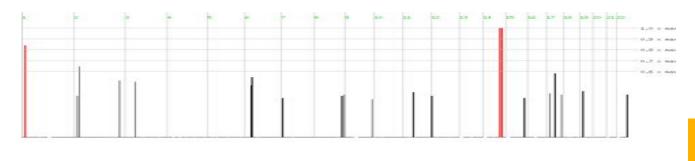


Family with recurrent fetal hydrops, ventriculomegaly and contractures

The read-level data shows an intragenic deletion in FLVCR2 gene that appears to be heterozygous



Homozygosity analysis of exome shows a loss of heterozygosity in the region of FLVCR2 gene





Q12 – The variant in proband is a:

- 1. Heterozygous duplication
- 2. Heterozygous deletion
- 3. Homoyzgous duplication
- 4. Compound heterozygous duplication on one allele and a deletion on the other
- Homoyzgous inverted duplication with a partial loss of duplicated sequence

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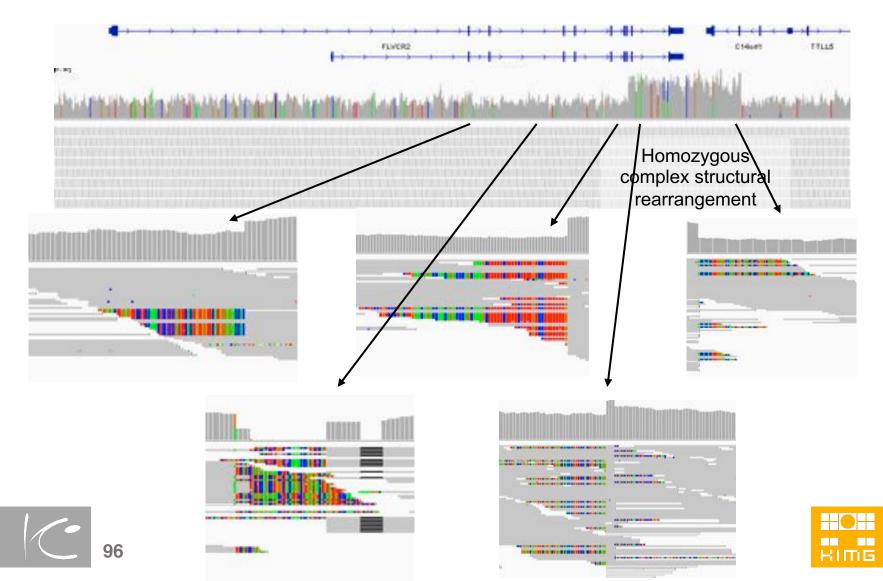


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FIGNIEW

Whole genome sequencing



Take home messages

- Selection of a NGS diagnostic approach should be an informed decision based on the knowledge of the genetic spectrum of the condition
- Always check the coverage/mapping and mutational spectrum in the region of interest in advance
- Focused approaches (panels) my give sufficient coverage, but have limited utility in poorly defined (or wrong) diagnosis
- Broad approaches (WES/WGS) are powerful, but may miss critical variants in unnoticed dark/camouflaged regions





Seeing the trees but not seeing the forest

Seeing the forest but not seeing the trees

Thank you!



CENTER ZA MENDELSKO GENOMIKO CENTRE FOR MENDELIAN GENOMICS

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