NPC1 gene
NPC intracellular cholesterol transporter 1

Normal Function
The *NPC1* gene provides instructions for making a protein that is located within the membrane of compartments in the cell called lysosomes and endosomes, which digest and recycle materials. While the exact function of this protein is unclear, it plays a role in the movement of cholesterol and other types of fats (lipids) within cells and across cell membranes.

Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes

Niemann-Pick disease
More than 380 mutations in the *NPC1* gene have been found to cause Niemann-Pick disease type C1. This type of Niemann-Pick disease is characterized by a buildup of fat within cells that leads to movement problems, neurological impairment, lung and liver disease, and speech and feeding problems. Many of the *NPC1* gene mutations result in a change in a single protein building block (amino acid) in the NPC1 protein. These mutations usually cause a shortage of functional protein, which prevents movement of cholesterol and other lipids, leading to their accumulation in cells. Because these lipids are not in their proper location in cells, many normal cell functions that require lipids (such as cell membrane formation) are impaired. The accumulation of lipids and the cell dysfunction eventually leads to cell death, causing the tissue and organ damage seen in Niemann-Pick disease type C1.

Chromosomal Location
Cytogenetic Location: 18q11.2, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 18 at position 11.2
Molecular Location: base pairs 23,506,184 to 23,586,506 on chromosome 18 (Homo sapiens Updated Annotation Release 109.20200228, GRCh38.p13) (NCBI)

Credit: Genome Decoration Page/NCBI
Other Names for This Gene

- Niemann-Pick disease, type C1
- NPC

Additional Information & Resources

Educational Resources
- Madame Curie Bioscience Database: Defects in Lipid Degradation
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK6177/#A53465

Clinical Information from GeneReviews
- Niemann-Pick Disease Type C
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1296

Scientific Articles on PubMed
- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28NPC1%5BTI%5D%29+AND+%28%28Genes%5BMH%5D%29+OR+%28Genetic+Phenomena%5BMH%5D%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22+AND+3600+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM
- NPC1 GENE
  http://omim.org/entry/607623

Research Resources
- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology
  http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/GC_NPC1.html
- ClinVar
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar?term=NPC1%5Bgene%5D
- HGNC Gene Symbol Report
- Monarch Initiative
  https://monarchinitiative.org/gene/NCBIGene:4864
- NCBI Gene
- UniProt
  https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/O15118
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16098014

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17497724

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24135395
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3853996/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15465424

- OMIM: NPC1 GENE 
  http://omim.org/entry/607623

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15030792

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23324478
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3558399/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15465421

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15465429

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference: 
https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/gene/NPC1

Reviewed: January 2015
Published: March 31, 2020

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services