SALL4 gene
spalt like transcription factor 4

Normal Function

The SALL4 gene is part of a group of genes called the SALL family. These genes provide instructions for making proteins that are involved in the formation of tissues and organs during embryonic development. SALL proteins are transcription factors, which means they attach (bind) to specific regions of DNA and help control the activity of particular genes.

The exact function of the SALL4 protein remains unclear. Based on the functions of similar proteins in other organisms (such as zebrafish and mice), the SALL4 protein appears to play a critical role in the developing limbs. This protein may also be important for the development of nerves that control eye movement and for the formation of the walls (septa) that divide the heart into separate chambers.

Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes

Duane-radial ray syndrome

More than 25 mutations in the SALL4 gene have been identified in people with Duane-radial ray syndrome (also known as Okihiro syndrome) or a very similar condition called acro-renal-ocular syndrome. Researchers suspect that Duane-radial ray syndrome and acro-renal-ocular syndrome are part of an overlapping set of syndromes with many possible signs and symptoms.

Most SALL4 gene mutations create a premature stop signal in the instructions for making the SALL4 protein. As a result, cells do not produce any functional protein from one copy of this gene. Researchers are investigating how a reduction in the amount of the SALL4 protein disrupts eye, heart, and limb development in people with Duane-radial ray syndrome and acro-renal-ocular syndrome.

Coloboma

Other disorders

A least one mutation in the SALL4 gene has been found to cause IVIC syndrome, a condition whose signs and symptoms overlap with those of Duane-radial ray syndrome and acro-renal-ocular syndrome. The acronym IVIC stands for Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, the center where the condition was first described. Major features of IVIC syndrome include abnormally formed bones in the arms and hands, hearing loss, and problems with eye movement caused by abnormalities of the muscles that surround the eyes (extraocular muscles).
The *SALL4* gene mutation responsible for IVIC syndrome creates a premature stop signal in the instructions for making the SALL4 protein. As a result, cells produce an abnormally short version of the protein from one copy of this gene. It is unclear whether this shortened protein is completely nonfunctional or if it retains some of its function as a transcription factor. Researchers are working to determine how this *SALL4* gene mutation disrupts early development and leads to the characteristic features of IVIC syndrome.

**Chromosomal Location**

Cytogenetic Location: 20q13.2, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 20 at position 13.2

Molecular Location: base pairs 51,782,717 to 51,802,523 on chromosome 20 (Homo sapiens Annotation Release 109, GRCh38.p12) (NCBI)

Credit: Genome Decoration Page/NCBI

**Other Names for This Gene**

- dJ1112F19.1
- DRRS
- HSAL4
- MGC133050
- sal (Drosophila)-like 4
- sal-like 4
- sal-like 4 (Drosophila)
- SALL4_HUMAN
- spalt-like transcription factor 4
- Zinc finger protein SALL4
- ZNF797
**Additional Information & Resources**

**Clinical Information from GeneReviews**
- SALL4-Related Disorders
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1373

**Scientific Articles on PubMed**
- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28SALL4%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28sal-like+4%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+%28%28Genes%5BMH%5D%29+OR+%28Genetic+Phenomena%5BMH%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22%5Bdp%5D

**Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM**
- IVIC SYNDROME
  http://omim.org/entry/147750
- SAL-LIKE 4
  http://omim.org/entry/607343

**Research Resources**
- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology
  http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/GC_SALL4.html
- ClinVar
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar?term=SALL4%5Bgene%5D
- HGNC Gene Symbol Report
- Monarch Initiative
  https://monarchinitiative.org/gene/NCBIGene:57167
- NCBI Gene
- UniProt
  https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/Q9UJQ4
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12395297
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