ZEB2 gene
zinc finger E-box binding homeobox 2

**Normal Function**

The ZEB2 gene provides instructions for making a protein that plays a critical role in the formation of many organs and tissues before birth. This protein is a transcription factor, which means that it attaches (binds) to specific regions of DNA and helps control the activity of particular genes. Researchers have found that the ZEB2 protein is involved in chemical signaling pathways that regulate early growth and development.

The ZEB2 protein is active in many types of cells before birth. It appears to be particularly important for the development of the neural crest, which is a group of cells in the early embryo that give rise to many tissues and organs. Neural crest cells migrate to form portions of the nervous system, glands that produce hormones (endocrine glands), pigment cells, smooth muscle and other tissues in the heart, and many tissues in the face and skull.

The ZEB2 protein is also active in cells that are not derived from the neural crest. For example, this protein is involved in the development of the digestive tract, skeletal muscles, kidneys, and other organs.

**Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes**

**Mowat-Wilson syndrome**

More than 180 mutations in the ZEB2 gene have been identified in people with Mowat-Wilson syndrome. These mutations almost always inactivate one copy of the ZEB2 gene. In some cases, the entire gene is deleted. In other cases, mutations within the gene lead to the production of an abnormally short, nonfunctional version of the ZEB2 protein.

A shortage of the ZEB2 protein disrupts the formation of many organs and tissues before birth. The abnormal development of neural crest-derived structures, such as the nervous system and facial features, underlie many of the signs and symptoms of Mowat-Wilson syndrome. The role of the ZEB2 protein in the development of nerves that control the digestive tract may help explain why many people with this condition also have Hirschsprung disease, an intestinal disorder that causes severe constipation, intestinal blockage, and enlargement of the colon.

**Coloboma**
Chromosomal Location

Cytogenetic Location: 2q22.3, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 2 at position 22.3

Molecular Location: base pairs 144,384,081 to 144,520,119 on chromosome 2 (Homo sapiens Updated Annotation Release 109.20200228, GRCh38.p13) (NCBI)

Credit: Genome Decoration Page/NCBI

Other Names for This Gene

• KIAA0569
• SIP-1
• SIP1
• Smad-interacting protein 1
• Smad interacting-protein 1
• SMADIP1
• ZEB2_HUMAN
• ZFHX1B
• zinc finger E-box-binding protein 2
• zinc finger homeobox 1b

Additional Information & Resources

Educational Resources

• Developmental Biology (sixth edition, 2000): The Neural Crest
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK10065/

Clinical Information from GeneReviews

• Mowat-Wilson Syndrome
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1412
Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28ZEB2%5BTI%5D%29+OR+%28%28SIP1%5BTI%5D%29+OR+%28SIP-1%5BTI%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+1800+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- ZINC FINGER E BOX-BINDING HOMEBOX 2
  http://omim.org/entry/605802

Research Resources

- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology
  http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/GC_ZEB2.html
- ClinVar
- HGNC Gene Symbol Report
- Monarch Initiative
  https://monarchinitiative.org/gene/NCBIGene:9839
- NCBI Gene
- UniProt
  https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/O60315

Sources for This Summary

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  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16053902

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