# Chromosome Analysis

(Also Known as a Karyotype)

## What Does It Do?

A chromosome analysis is able to find large differences in a person's chromosomes, including missing or extra chromosomes and pieces of chromosomes, as well as how the chromosome material is organized.

## What Are Chromosomes?

The human body is made up of billions of building blocks called cells. Inside each cell are thousands of genes, made of DNA, that tell the body how to grow and develop. These genes are arranged one after another on structures called chromosomes.

We get our chromosomes from our parents and pass them on to our children. Sometimes there are new changes in a chromosome that were not inherited from a parent.

## What Can This Test Tell Me?

This test can tell you if your child has any missing or extra whole chromosomes or pieces of chromosomes that are causing their symptoms.

## Types of Results

**Normal/Negative**

No missing or extra pieces of chromosome material were found. This does not rule out all genetic conditions.

**Positive**

A missing or extra piece of chromosome material was found that likely explains your child's symptoms.

***Some changes in the structure of organization of chromosomes would not affect your child's health; however, it may have other effects.

## How Is the Test Done?

A chromosome analysis is typically performed on a blood sample. Once the sample arrives at the lab, the DNA is taken out and used for testing.

## How Long Will It Take to Get Results?

The test takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks to be completed. Once the results are back, they will be discussed at your child's next appointment.

## Parental Testing

In some cases, testing the parents' chromosomes may be needed to help understand the chromosome changes in your child. This testing may or may not be covered by your insurance.

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