PURA gene

purine rich element binding protein A

Normal Function

The *PURA* gene provides instructions for making a protein called Pur-alpha ($Pur\alpha$), which is able to attach (bind) to DNA and RNA (a molecular cousin of DNA). This protein has multiple roles in cells, including controlling the activity of genes (gene transcription) and aiding in the copying (replication) of DNA.

The $Pur\alpha$ protein is important for normal brain development. The protein helps direct the growth and division of nerve cells (neurons). It may also be involved in the formation or maturation of myelin, the protective substance that covers nerves and promotes the efficient transmission of nerve impulses.

Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes

5q31.3 microdeletion syndrome

5q31.3 microdeletion syndrome is caused by a chromosomal change in which a small piece of chromosome 5 is deleted in each cell. This rare condition is characterized by severely delayed or impaired development of speech and walking, weak muscle tone (hypotonia), breathing problems, recurrent seizures (epilepsy) or seizure-like episodes, and distinctive facial features. The deletion that causes this condition occurs on the long (q) arm of the chromosome at a position designated q31.3. The size of the deletion can range from several thousand to several million DNA building blocks (base pairs). The deleted region typically contains at least three genes, one of which is *PURA*.

A loss of one copy of the *PURA* gene is thought to alter normal brain development and impair the function of neurons, leading to developmental delay, hypotonia, and other neurological problems in people with 5q31.3 microdeletion syndrome. Some studies suggest that loss of another nearby gene called *NRG2* increases the severity of the signs and symptoms. It is unclear how the loss of other genes in the deleted region contributes to development of 5q31.3 microdeletion syndrome.

PURA syndrome

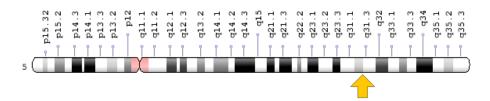
At least 22 *PURA* gene mutations have been found to cause *PURA* syndrome, a condition characterized by intellectual disability, delayed development of speech and walking, and epilepsy. Some of these genetic changes remove small segments of DNA from the *PURA* gene. Others change single building blocks (amino acids) in the $Pur\alpha$ protein or lead to production of an abnormally short protein. These

mutations are thought to reduce the amount of functional $Pur\alpha$ protein. Although it is not understood how a partial loss of $Pur\alpha$ function leads to the signs and symptoms of PURA syndrome, researchers suspect that it may alter normal brain development and impair the function of neurons, leading to developmental problems and seizures in people with the condition.

Chromosomal Location

Cytogenetic Location: 5q31.3, which is the long (q) arm of chromosome 5 at position 31.3

Molecular Location: base pairs 140,114,109 to 140,125,619 on chromosome 5 (Homo sapiens Updated Annotation Release 109.20200228, GRCh38.p13) (NCBI)



Credit: Genome Decoration Page/NCBI

Other Names for This Gene

- MRD31
- PUR-ALPHA
- PUR1
- PURALPHA
- purine-rich single-stranded DNA-binding protein alpha
- transcriptional activator protein Pur-alpha

Additional Information & Resources

Clinical Information from GeneReviews

 PURA-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorders https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK426063

Scientific Articles on PubMed

PubMed

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28PURA%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28purine+rich+element+binding+protein+A%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+OR+%28%28PUR-ALPHA%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28PUR1%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28purine-rich+single-stranded+DNA-binding+protein+alpha%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28transcriptional+activator+protein+Pur-alpha%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+1800+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

 PURINE-RICH ELEMENT-BINDING PROTEIN A http://omim.org/entry/600473

Research Resources

- Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Genes/GC_PURA.html
- ClinVar https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/clinvar?term=PURA%5Bgene%5D
- HGNC Gene Symbol Report https://www.genenames.org/data/gene-symbol-report/#!/hgnc_id/HGNC:9701
- Monarch Initiative
 https://monarchinitiative.org/gene/NCBIGene:5813
- NCBI Gene https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/5813
- UniProt https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/Q00577

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Reviewed: August 2017 Published: May 26, 2020

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