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### Kelch Domain Containing 7B (KLHDC7B) Variants And Uses Thereof

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#### Abstract

The present disclosure provides methods of treating subjects having hearing loss, methods of identifying subjects having an increased risk of developing hearing loss, and methods of detecting Kelch Domain Containing 7B (KLHDC7B) variant nucleic acid molecules and variant polypeptides.

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## Background/Summary

### REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING

[0001] This application includes a Sequence Listing submitted electronically as an XML file named 381204358SEQ, created on Feb. 20, 2025, with a size of 190,219 bytes. The Sequence Listing is incorporated herein by reference.

### FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to the treatment of subjects having hearing loss, methods of identifying subjects having an increased risk of developing hearing loss, and methods of detecting KLHDC7B variant nucleic acid molecules and variant polypeptides.

### BACKGROUND

[0003] Auditory dysfunction in humans is an ongoing problem in the medical fields of otology and audiology. About 300 million people worldwide currently suffer from moderate to severe hearing loss, and this number is expected to increase to 700 million by the year 2015. Auditory dysfunction is a common consequence of aging in Western societies. Approximately 17 percent of Americans have hearing loss and half of that number are under the age of 65. It is predicted that the number of Americans with hearing loss will exceed 70 million by the year 2030.

[0004] Auditory dysfunctions typically arise from both acute and chronic exposures to loud sounds, ototoxic chemicals, and aging. Hearing impairments can be attributed to a wide variety of causes, including infections (e.g., otitis media), genetic predisposition, mechanical injury, tumors, loud sounds or prolonged exposure to noise, aging, and chemical-induced ototoxicity (e.g., antibiotics or platin drugs) that damages neurons and/or hair cells of the peripheral auditory system. This can be caused by acute noise or can be progressive over time. Sounds exceeding 85 decibels can cause hearing loss and is generated by sound sources such as, gun shots, exploding bombs, jet engines, power tools, and musical concerts. Other common everyday activities and products also give rise to high intensity noise such as use of hair dryers, MP3 players, lawn mowers, and blenders. Military personnel are particularly at risk for noise induced hearing loss due to typical military noise exposures. Side effects of noise-induced hearing loss include tinnitus (ringing in the ears), diminished speech understanding, hyperacusis, and various types of auditory processing impairments. Exposures to commonly used medications may also induce auditory dysfunctions. For instance, subjects treated with anticancer therapies, antibiotics, and other medications often develop hearing loss as a side effect. Furthermore, exposure to industrial chemicals and gasses may induce auditory impairments.

[0005] The prevalence of hearing loss after damage to the mammalian cochlea has been thought to be due to a lack of spontaneous regeneration of hair cells and/or neurons, the primary components to detect sound. Humans are born with about 15,000 inner ear hair cells and hair cells do not regenerate after birth. Supporting cells, which surround hair cells in the normal cochlear epithelium, have potential to differentiate into new hair cells in the neonatal mouse following ototoxic damage. Using lineage tracing, the new hair cells, predominantly outer hair cells, have been shown to arise from Lgr5-expressing inner pillar and third Deiters cells, and new hair cell generation has been shown to incrementally be increased by pharmacological inhibition of Notch.

[0006] Permanent damage to the hair cells of the inner ear results in sensorineural hearing loss,

leading to communication difficulties in a large percentage of the population. Hair cells are the receptor cells that transduce the acoustic stimulus. Regeneration of damaged hair cells provide an avenue for the treatment of a condition that currently has no therapies other than prosthetic devices. Although hair cells do not regenerate in the mammalian cochlea, new hair cells in lower vertebrates are generated from epithelial cells, called supporting cells, that surround hair cells.

[0007] Currently, very few cases of hearing loss can actually be cured. Audiological devices such as hearing aids have limitations including the inability to improve speech intelligibility. Of those impacted by hearing impairments, less than 20 percent presently use hearing instruments. In cases of age-related, noise- or drug-induced auditory dysfunctions, often the only effective way to currently “treat” the disorder or reduce its severity is prevention, such as by avoiding excessive noise and using ear protectors, practicing a healthy lifestyle, and avoiding exposure to ototoxic drugs and substances if possible.

[0008] Thus, there remains a long felt need to protect auditory cells before injury and preserve/promote the function of existing cells after injury.

[0009] Kelch Domain Containing 7B (KLHDC7B) is a protein member of the Kelch superfamily, proteins involved in cellular processes such as cytoskeletal rearrangement and protein degradation, and also have roles in extracellular communication, cell morphology, gene expression and actin binding. In addition, members of this superfamily can be co-opted by a virus after an infection. Alterations in this protein superfamily have been associated with various types of cancer, including leukemia, lung, prostate, brain, and Hodgkin's disease. KLHDC7B was identified as being hypermethylated, yet upregulated, in breast cancer cells. Moderate levels of KLHDC7B expression were observed in hair cells of the ear, while outer hair cells seem to show slightly higher expression (gEAR portal).

#### SUMMARY

[0010] The present disclosure provides methods of identifying a subject having an increased risk for developing hearing loss, wherein the methods comprise: determining or having determined the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample obtained from the subject; wherein: i) when the subject is KLHDC7B reference, then the subject does not have an increased risk for developing hearing loss; and ii) when the subject is heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, then the subject has an increased risk for developing hearing loss.

[0011] The present disclosure also provides methods of treating a subject with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, wherein the subject has hearing loss, the methods comprising the steps of: determining whether the subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide by: i) obtaining or having obtained a biological sample from the subject; and ii) performing or having performed a sequence analysis on the biological sample to determine if the subject has a genotype comprising the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide; and administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a standard dosage amount to a subject that is KLHDC7B reference; and administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in an amount that is the same as or greater than a standard dosage amount to a subject that is heterozygous or homozygous for the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule; wherein the presence of a genotype having the a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide indicates the subject has an increased risk of developing hearing loss.

[0012] The present disclosure also provides methods of detecting a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a subject comprising assaying a sample obtained from the subject to determine whether a nucleic acid

molecule in the sample is: i) a genomic nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence: comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof; or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof; ii) an mRNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence: comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:3, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:5, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:3, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:5, or the complement thereof; or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6, or the complement thereof; or iii) a cDNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence: comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:11, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:13, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:11, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or the complement thereof; lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:13, or the complement thereof; or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14, or the complement thereof.

[0013] The present disclosure also provides methods of detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B V1145M, V504M, V405M, K822fs, K181fs, K82fs, G943fs, G302fs, or G203fs variant polypeptide, comprising performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B protein in the sample: comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 1,145 according to SEQ ID NO:22, comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 504 according to SEQ ID NO:23, comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 405 according to SEQ ID NO:24, terminates at a position corresponding to position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43 and lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 886 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19, terminates at a position corresponding to position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44 and lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 245 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20, terminates at a position corresponding to position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45 and lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 146 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21, terminates at a position corresponding to position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46 and lacks amino acids at

positions corresponding to positions 976 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19, terminates at a position corresponding to position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47 and lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 335 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20, and terminates at a position corresponding to position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48 and lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 236 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21.

[0014] The present disclosure also provides therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss for use in the treatment of hearing loss in a subject having: i) a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence: comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof; or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof; ii) an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; or iii) a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof.

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## Description

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] FIG. 1 (Panels A, B, and C) shows that a common missense variant, and rare, predicted loss-of-function (pLOF) variants in KLHDC7B are associated with increased risk for hearing loss. The association with the pLOF variants suggest that the missense is likely to be loss or of reduced function, and that reduction in KLHDC7B confers an increase in the risk for hearing loss.

[0016] FIG. 2 shows an aggregate of rare (minor allele frequency <1%), pLOF variants in KLHDC7B is associated with hearing loss. This suggests that there are additional loss of function variants that increase the risk for hearing loss in carriers.

## DESCRIPTION

[0017] Various terms relating to aspects of the present disclosure are used throughout the specification and claims. Such terms are to be given their ordinary meaning in the art, unless otherwise indicated. Other specifically defined terms are to be construed in a manner consistent with the definitions provided herein.

[0018] Unless otherwise expressly stated, it is in no way intended that any method or aspect set forth herein be construed as requiring that its steps be performed in a specific order. Accordingly, where a method claim does not specifically state in the claims or descriptions that the steps are to be limited to a specific order, it is in no way intended that an order be inferred, in any respect. This holds for any possible non-expressed basis for interpretation, including matters of logic with respect to arrangement of steps or operational flow, plain meaning derived from grammatical organization or punctuation, or the number or type of aspects described in the specification.

[0019] As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0020] As used herein, the term “about” means that the recited numerical value is approximate and small variations would not significantly affect the practice of the disclosed embodiments. Where a numerical value is used, unless indicated otherwise by the context, the term “about” means the numerical value can vary by +10% and remain within the scope of the disclosed embodiments.

[0021] As used herein, the term “comprising” may be replaced with “consisting” or “consisting essentially of” in particular embodiments as desired.

[0022] As used herein, the term “isolated”, in regard to a nucleic acid molecule or a polypeptide, means that the nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide is in a condition other than its native environment, such as apart from blood and/or animal tissue. In some embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide is substantially free of other nucleic acid molecules or other polypeptides, particularly other nucleic acid molecules or polypeptides of animal origin. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide can be in a highly purified form, i.e., greater than 95% pure or greater than 99% pure. When used in this context, the term “isolated” does not exclude the presence of the same nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide in alternative physical forms, such as dimers or alternatively phosphorylated or derivatized forms.

[0023] As used herein, the terms “nucleic acid”, “nucleic acid molecule”, “nucleic acid sequence”, “polynucleotide”, or “oligonucleotide” can comprise a polymeric form of nucleotides of any length, can comprise DNA and/or RNA, and can be single-stranded, double-stranded, or multiple stranded. One strand of a nucleic acid also refers to its complement.

[0024] As used herein, the term “subject” includes any animal, including mammals. Mammals include, but are not limited to, farm animals (such as, for example, horse, cow, pig), companion animals (such as, for example, dog, cat), laboratory animals (such as, for example, mouse, rat, rabbits), and non-human primates (such as, for example, apes and monkeys). In some embodiments, the subject is a human. In some embodiments, the subject is a patient under the care of a physician.

[0025] A rare variant in the KLHDC7B gene associated with an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss, in

humans has been identified in accordance with the present disclosure. For example, a genetic alteration that changes the guanine nucleotide of position 3,778 in the human KLHDC7B reference (see, SEQ ID NO:1) to adenine has been observed to indicate that the human having such an alteration may have an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. It is believed that no rare (minor allele frequency <1%) and predicted loss-of-function variants of the KLHDC7B gene or protein have any known association with hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. Altogether, the genetic analyses described herein surprisingly indicate that the KLHDC7B gene and, in particular, a variant in the KLHDC7B gene, associates with an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. Therefore, subjects that have a KLHDC7B variant nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide that associates with an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss, may be treated such that hearing loss is prevented, the symptoms thereof are reduced, and/or development of symptoms is repressed. Accordingly, the present disclosure provides methods of leveraging the identification of such variants in subjects to identify or stratify risk in such subjects of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss, or to diagnose subjects as having an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss, such that subjects at risk or subjects with active disease may be treated accordingly.

[0026] For purposes of the present disclosure, any particular subject can be categorized as having one of three KLHDC7B genotypes: i) KLHDC7B reference; ii) heterozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide; or iii) homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. A subject is KLHDC7B reference when the subject does not have a copy of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. A subject is heterozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide when the subject has a single copy of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. A KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is any KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (such as, a genomic nucleic acid molecule, an mRNA molecule, or a cDNA molecule) encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide having a partial loss-of-function, a complete loss-of-function, a predicted partial loss-of-function, or a predicted complete loss-of-function. A subject who has a KLHDC7B polypeptide having a partial loss-of-function (or predicted partial loss-of-function) is hypomorphic for KLHDC7B. The KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any nucleic acid molecule encoding KLHDC7B V1145M, V504M, V405M, K822fs, K181fs, K82fs, G943fs, G302fs, or G203fs. A subject is homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide when the subject has two copies of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0027] For subjects that are genotyped or determined to be heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, such subjects have an increased risk of developing hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. For subjects that are genotyped or determined to be heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, such subjects can be treated with an agent effective to treat hearing loss, such as conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss.

[0028] In any of the embodiments described herein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (such as, for example, genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule) encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide having a partial loss-of-function, a complete loss-of-function, a predicted partial loss-of-function, or a predicted complete loss-of-function. For example, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any nucleic acid molecule encoding KLHDC7B V1145M, V504M, V405M, K822fs, K181fs, K82fs, G943fs, G302fs, or G203fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B V1145M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B V504M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B V405M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B K822fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B K181fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B K82fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B G943fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B G302fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B G203fs.

[0029] In any of the embodiments described herein, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any KLHDC7B polypeptide having a partial loss-of-function, a complete loss-of-function, a predicted partial loss-of-function, or a predicted complete loss-of-function. In any of the embodiments described herein, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any of the KLHDC7B polypeptides described herein including, for example, KLHDC7B V1145M, V504M, V405M, K822fs, K181fs, K82fs, G943fs, G302fs, or G203fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B V1145M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B V504M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B V405M. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B K822fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B K181fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B K82fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B G943fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B G302fs. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is KLHDC7B G203fs.

[0030] In any of the embodiments described herein, hearing loss is conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. In any of the embodiments described herein, hearing loss is conductive hearing loss. In any of the embodiments described herein, hearing loss is sensorineural hearing loss. In any of the embodiments described herein, hearing loss is neural hearing loss.

[0031] Symptoms of hearing loss include, but are not limited to, hearing problem (muffling of speech and other sounds, difficulty understanding words, especially against background noise or in a crowd, or trouble hearing consonants), ringing in the ears, sensitivity to sound, and speech delay in a child.

[0032] The present disclosure also provides methods of treating a subject with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, wherein the subject has hearing loss. In some embodiments, the methods comprise determining whether the subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide by obtaining or having obtained a biological sample from the subject, and performing or having performed a sequence analysis on the biological sample to determine if the subject has a genotype comprising the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-



function polypeptide. The methods comprise administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a standard dosage amount to a subject that is KLHDC7B reference. The methods further comprise administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in an amount that is the same as or greater than a standard dosage amount to a subject that is heterozygous or homozygous for the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule. The presence of a genotype having the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide indicates the subject has an increased risk of developing hearing loss. In some embodiments, the subject is KLHDC7B reference. In some embodiments, the subject is heterozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. In some embodiments, the subject is homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0033] In some embodiments, the methods of treatment further comprise detecting the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from the subject. As used throughout the present disclosure, a “KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide” is any KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (such as, for example, genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule) encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide having a partial loss-of-function, a complete loss-of-function, a predicted partial loss-of-function, or a predicted complete loss-of-function.

[0034] Detecting the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from a subject and/or determining whether a subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be carried out by any of the methods described herein. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vitro. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in situ. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vivo. In any of these embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule can be present within a cell obtained from the subject.

[0035] The present disclosure also provides methods of treating a subject with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, wherein the subject has hearing loss. In some embodiments, the method comprises determining whether the subject has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide by obtaining or having obtained a biological sample from the subject, and performing or having performed an assay on the biological sample to determine if the subject has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. The methods comprise administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a standard dosage amount to a subject that is KLHDC7B reference. The methods further comprise administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in an amount that is the same as or greater than a standard dosage amount to a subject that has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. The presence of a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide indicates the subject has an increased risk of developing hearing loss. In some embodiments, the subject has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. In some embodiments, the subject does not have a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0036] Detecting the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from a subject and/or determining whether a subject has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be carried out by any of the methods described herein. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vitro. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in situ. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vivo. In any of these embodiments, the polypeptide can be present within a cell obtained from the subject.

[0037] Examples of therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss include, but are not limited to: antioxidants, calcium-channel blockers, anti-inflammatory drugs (such as steroids), apoptosis inhibitors, D-methionine, ebselen, N-acetylcysteine, lipoic acid, combination of ebselen and allopurinol, resveratrol, neurotrophic factors (such as T-817MA), caspase inhibitors (such as z-DEVD-fmk), copper transport inhibitors (such as cimetidine and copper sulphate), and micronutrients with antioxidant vitamins.

[0038] In some embodiments, the dose of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be increased by about 10%, by about 20%, by about 30%, by about 40%, by about 50%, by about 60%, by about 70%, by about 80%, or by about 90% for subjects that are heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant (i.e., a greater amount than the standard dosage amount) compared to subjects that are KLHDC7B reference (who may receive a standard dosage amount). In some embodiments, the dose of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be increased by about 10%, by about 20%, by about 30%, by about 40%, or by about 50%. In addition, the dose of therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss in subjects that are heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant can be administered more frequently compared to subjects that are KLHDC7B reference.

[0039] In some embodiments, the dose of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be increased by about 10%, by about 20%, by about 30%, by about 40%, by about 50%, by about 60%, by about 70%, by about 80%, or by about 90% for subjects that are homozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant compared to subjects that are heterozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant. In some embodiments, the dose of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be increased by about 10%, by about 20%, by about 30%, by about 40%, or by about 50%. In addition, the dose of therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss in subjects that are homozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant can be administered more frequently compared to subjects that are heterozygous for a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function variant.

[0040] Administration of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be repeated, for example, after one day, two days, three days, five days, one week, two weeks, three weeks, one month, five weeks, six weeks, seven weeks, eight weeks, two months, or three months. The repeated administration can be at the same dose or at a different dose. The administration can be repeated once, twice, three times, four times, five times, six times, seven times, eight times, nine times, ten times, or more. For example, according to certain dosage regimens a subject can receive therapy for a prolonged period of time such as, for example, 6 months, 1 year, or more.

[0041] Administration of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can occur by any suitable route including, but not limited to, parenteral, intravenous, oral, subcutaneous, intra-arterial, intracranial, intrathecal, intraperitoneal, topical, intranasal, or intramuscular.

Pharmaceutical compositions for administration are desirably sterile and substantially isotonic and manufactured under GMP conditions. Pharmaceutical compositions can be provided in unit dosage form (i.e., the dosage for a single administration). Pharmaceutical compositions can be formulated using one or more physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents, excipients or auxiliaries. The formulation depends on the route of administration chosen. The term “pharmaceutically acceptable” means that the carrier, diluent, excipient, or auxiliary is compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not substantially deleterious to the recipient thereof.

[0042] The terms “treat”, “treating”, and “treatment” and “prevent”, “preventing”, and “prevention” as used herein, refer to eliciting the desired biological response, such as a therapeutic and prophylactic effect, respectively. In some embodiments, a therapeutic effect comprises one or more of a decrease/reduction in hearing loss, a decrease/reduction in the severity of hearing loss (such as, for example, a reduction or inhibition of development or hearing loss), a decrease/reduction in symptoms and hearing loss-related effects, delaying the onset of symptoms

and hearing loss-related effects, reducing the severity of symptoms of hearing loss-related effects, reducing the severity of an acute episode, reducing the number of symptoms and hearing loss-related effects, reducing the latency of symptoms and hearing loss-related effects, an amelioration of symptoms and hearing loss-related effects, reducing secondary symptoms, preventing relapse to hearing loss, decreasing the number or frequency of relapse episodes, increasing latency between symptomatic episodes, increasing time to sustained progression, speeding recovery, and/or increasing efficacy of or decreasing resistance to alternative therapeutics, following administration of the agent or composition comprising the agent. A prophylactic effect may comprise a complete or partial avoidance/inhibition or a delay of hearing loss development/progression (such as, for example, a complete or partial avoidance/inhibition or a delay) following administration of a therapeutic protocol. Treatment of hearing loss encompasses the treatment of subjects already diagnosed as having any form of hearing loss at any clinical stage or manifestation, the delay of the onset or evolution or aggravation or deterioration of the symptoms or signs of hearing loss, and/or preventing and/or reducing the severity of hearing loss.

[0043] The present disclosure also provides methods of identifying a subject having an increased risk for developing hearing loss. In some embodiments, the method comprises determining or having determined in a biological sample obtained from the subject the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule (such as a genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, and/or cDNA molecule) encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. When the subject lacks a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide (i.e., the subject is genotypically categorized as a KLHDC7B reference), then the subject does not have an increased risk for developing hearing loss. When the subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide (i.e., the subject is heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide), then the subject has an increased risk for developing hearing loss.

[0044] Determining whether a subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from a subject and/or determining whether a subject has a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be carried out by any of the methods described herein. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vitro. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in situ. In some embodiments, these methods can be carried out in vivo. In any of these embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule can be present within a cell obtained from the subject.

[0045] In some embodiments, when a subject is identified as having an increased risk of developing hearing loss, the subject is further treated with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, as described herein. In some embodiments, when the subject is heterozygous or homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, the subject is administered the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a dosage amount that is the same as or greater than a standard dosage amount. In some embodiments, when the subject is homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, the subject is administered the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a dosage amount that is the same as or greater than the dosage amount administered to a subject that is heterozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. In some embodiments, the subject is KLHDC7B reference. In some embodiments, the subject is heterozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. In some embodiments, the subject is homozygous for a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0046] The present disclosure also provides methods of detecting the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant genomic nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from a subject, and/or a KLHDC7B missense variant mRNA molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a biological sample from a subject, and/or a KLHDC7B missense variant cDNA molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide produced from an mRNA molecule in a biological sample from a subject. It is understood that gene sequences within a population and mRNA molecules encoded by such genes can vary due to polymorphisms such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms. The sequences provided herein for the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule, KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule, and KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule are only exemplary sequences. Other sequences for the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule, variant mRNA molecule, and variant cDNA molecule are also possible.

[0047] The biological sample can be derived from any cell, tissue, or biological fluid from the subject. The sample may comprise any clinically relevant tissue, such as a bone marrow sample, a tumor biopsy, a fine needle aspirate, or a sample of bodily fluid, such as blood, gingival crevicular fluid, plasma, serum, lymph, ascitic fluid, cystic fluid, or urine. In some cases, the sample comprises a buccal swab. The sample used in the methods disclosed herein will vary based on the assay format, nature of the detection method, and the tissues, cells, or extracts that are used as the sample. A biological sample can be processed differently depending on the assay being employed. For example, when detecting any KLHDC7B variant nucleic acid molecule, preliminary processing designed to isolate or enrich the sample for the genomic DNA can be employed. A variety of techniques may be used for this purpose. When detecting the level of any KLHDC7B variant mRNA, different techniques can be used to enrich the biological sample with mRNA. Various methods to detect the presence or level of an mRNA or the presence of a particular variant genomic DNA locus can be used.

[0048] In some embodiments, detecting a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide in a subject comprises assaying or genotyping a biological sample obtained from the subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, and/or a KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, and/or a KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule in the biological sample, comprises one or more variations that cause a loss-of-function (partial or complete) or are predicted to cause a loss-of-function (partial or complete).

[0049] In some embodiments, the methods of detecting the presence or absence of a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide (such as, for example, a genomic nucleic acid molecule, an mRNA molecule, and/or a cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule) in a subject, comprise performing an assay on a biological sample obtained from the subject. The assay determines whether a nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises a particular nucleotide sequence.

[0050] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2 (for genomic nucleic acid molecules), an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7 (for mRNA molecules), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0051] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8 (for mRNA molecules), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0052] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9 (for mRNA molecules), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17 (for cDNA molecules

obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0053] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10 (for mRNA molecules), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0054] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1 (for genomic nucleic acid molecules), lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:3 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:11 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0055] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0056] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:5 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:13 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0057] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0058] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1 (for genomic nucleic acid molecules), lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:3 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:11 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0059] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0060] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:5 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:13 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0061] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6 (for mRNA molecules), or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14 (for cDNA molecules obtained from mRNA molecules).

[0062] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof; or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof.

[0063] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a

position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:3, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:5, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:3, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:5, or the complement thereof; or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6, or the complement thereof.

[0064] In some embodiments, the nucleotide sequence: comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:11, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:13, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:11, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or the complement thereof; lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:13, or the complement thereof; or lacks a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14, or the complement thereof.

[0065] In some embodiments, the biological sample comprises a cell or cell lysate. Such methods can further comprise, for example, obtaining a biological sample from the subject comprising a KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule or mRNA molecule, and if mRNA, optionally reverse transcribing the mRNA into cDNA. Such assays can comprise, for example determining the identity of these positions of the particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, the method is an in vitro method.

[0066] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule, the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, or the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises one or more variations that cause a loss-of-function (partial or complete) or are predicted to cause a loss-of-function (partial or complete).

[0067] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15,

then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide. [0068] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0069] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0070] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0071] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-

2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0072] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0073] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0074] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0075] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the



biological sample comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0076] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0077] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0078] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of: the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and/or the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0079] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid

molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises: a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; or positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0080] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises: a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0081] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises: a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; positions

corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof. When the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, then the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0082] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises:

a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2; mRNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2; mRNA molecule corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7; and/or cDNA molecule corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15.

[0083] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises:

a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, and/or cDNA molecule corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16.

[0084] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises:

a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to

position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, and/or cDNA molecule corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17.

[0085] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, and/or cDNA molecule corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18.

[0086] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25; mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25; mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35.

[0087] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36.

[0088] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29;

and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37.

[0089] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38.

[0090] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26; mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26; mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39.

[0091] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40.

[0092] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33;

and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41.

[0093] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B: mRNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; and/or cDNA molecule that is proximate to positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

[0094] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule that is proximate to a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26.

[0095] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule that is proximate to: a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule corresponding to: position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; and c) determining whether the extension product of the

primer comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34.

[0096] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule that is proximate to: a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule corresponding to: position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

[0097] In some embodiments, the assay comprises sequencing the entire nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, only a KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule is analyzed. In some embodiments, only a KLHDC7B mRNA is analyzed. In some embodiments, only a KLHDC7B cDNA obtained from KLHDC7B mRNA is analyzed.

[0098] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises:

a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; ii) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; ii) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0099] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0100] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0101] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.



[0102] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0103] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0104] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0105] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic

acid molecule comprising: i) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0106] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; and/or iii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0107] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0108] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0109] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ

ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: i) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and/or ii) an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0110] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0111] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at

positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0112] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the amplified portion comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

[0113] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is mRNA and the determining step further

comprises reverse-transcribing the mRNA into a cDNA prior to the amplifying step.

[0114] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0115] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0116] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0117] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof, and/or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0118] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0119] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; and

detecting the detectable label.

[0120] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0121] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0122] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0123] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0124] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0125] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0126] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0127] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0128] In some embodiments, the determining step, detecting step, or sequence analysis comprises: contacting the nucleic acid molecule in the biological sample with an alteration-specific probe comprising a detectable label, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; and detecting the detectable label.

[0129] Alteration-specific polymerase chain reaction techniques can be used to detect mutations

such as SNPs in a nucleic acid sequence. Alteration-specific primers can be used because the DNA polymerase will not extend when a mismatch with the template is present.

[0130] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule in the sample is mRNA and the mRNA is reverse-transcribed into a cDNA prior to the amplifying step. In some embodiments, the nucleic acid molecule is present within a cell obtained from the subject.

[0131] In some embodiments, the assay comprises contacting the biological sample with a primer or probe, such as an alteration-specific primer or alteration-specific probe, that specifically hybridizes to a KLHDC7B variant genomic sequence, variant mRNA sequence, or variant cDNA sequence and not the corresponding KLHDC7B reference sequence under stringent conditions, and determining whether hybridization has occurred.

[0132] In some embodiments, the assay comprises RNA sequencing (RNA-Seq). In some embodiments, the assays also comprise reverse transcribing mRNA into cDNA, such as by the reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

[0133] In some embodiments, the methods utilize probes and primers of sufficient nucleotide length to bind to the target nucleotide sequence and specifically detect and/or identify a polynucleotide comprising a KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule, variant mRNA molecule, or variant cDNA molecule. The hybridization conditions or reaction conditions can be determined by the operator to achieve this result. The nucleotide length may be any length that is sufficient for use in a detection method of choice, including any assay described or exemplified herein. Such probes and primers can hybridize specifically to a target nucleotide sequence under high stringency hybridization conditions. Probes and primers may have complete nucleotide sequence identity of contiguous nucleotides within the target nucleotide sequence, although probes differing from the target nucleotide sequence and that retain the ability to specifically detect and/or identify a target nucleotide sequence may be designed by conventional methods. Probes and primers can have about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, about 91%, about 92%, about 93%, about 94%, about 95%, about 96%, about 97%, about 98%, about 99%, or 100% sequence identity or complementarity with the nucleotide sequence of the target nucleic acid molecule.

[0134] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2 (genomic nucleic acid molecule), an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7 (mRNA molecule), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a



position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15.

[0135] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8 (mRNA molecule), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16.

[0136] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9 (mRNA molecule), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an adenine at a

position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17.

[0137] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10 (mRNA molecule), or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18.

[0138] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25 (genomic nucleic acid molecule), a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27 (mRNA molecule), or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID

NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35.

[0139] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28 (mRNA molecule), or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36.

[0140] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29 (mRNA molecule), or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-

2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37.

[0141] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30 (mRNA molecule), or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38.

[0142] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26 (genomic nucleic acid molecule), an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31 (mRNA molecule), or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide

base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39.

[0143] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32 (mRNA molecule), or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40.

[0144] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33 (mRNA molecule), or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an

AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41.

[0145] In some embodiments, to determine whether a KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule (genomic nucleic acid molecule, mRNA molecule, or cDNA molecule), or complement thereof, within a biological sample comprises a nucleotide sequence comprising: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34 (mRNA molecule), or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42 (cDNA molecule), the biological sample can be subjected to an amplification method using a primer pair that includes a first primer derived from the 5' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42 and a second primer derived from the 3' flanking sequence adjacent to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42 to produce an amplicon that is indicative of the presence of the SNP at positions encoding an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42. In some embodiments, the amplicon may range in length from the combined length of the primer pairs plus one nucleotide base pair to any length of amplicon producible by a DNA amplification protocol. This distance can range from one nucleotide base pair up to the limits of the amplification reaction, or about twenty thousand nucleotide base pairs. Optionally, the primer pair flanks a region including positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, and at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, or more nucleotides on each side of positions comprising an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

[0146] Similar amplicons can be generated from the mRNA and/or cDNA sequences. PCR primer pairs can be derived from a known sequence, for example, by using computer programs intended for that purpose, such as the PCR primer analysis tool in Vector NTI version 10 (Informax Inc., Bethesda Md.); PrimerSelect (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.); and Primer3 (Version 0.4.0.COPYRGT., 1991, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass.). Additionally, the sequence can be visually scanned and primers manually identified using known guidelines.

[0147] Illustrative examples of nucleic acid sequencing techniques include, but are not limited to, chain terminator (Sanger) sequencing and dye terminator sequencing. Other methods involve nucleic acid hybridization methods other than sequencing, including using labeled primers or probes directed against purified DNA, amplified DNA, and fixed cell preparations (fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)). In some methods, a target nucleic acid molecule may be amplified prior to or simultaneous with detection. Illustrative examples of nucleic acid amplification techniques include, but are not limited to, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), ligase chain reaction (LCR),

strand displacement amplification (SDA), and nucleic acid sequence based amplification (NASBA). Other methods include, but are not limited to, ligase chain reaction, strand displacement amplification, and thermophilic SDA (tSDA).

[0148] In hybridization techniques, stringent conditions can be employed such that a probe or primer will specifically hybridize to its target. In some embodiments, a polynucleotide primer or probe under stringent conditions will hybridize to its target sequence to a detectably greater degree than to other non-target sequences, such as, at least 2-fold, at least 3-fold, at least 4-fold, or more over background, including over 10-fold over background. In some embodiments, a polynucleotide primer or probe under stringent conditions will hybridize to its target nucleotide sequence to a detectably greater degree than to other nucleotide sequences by at least 2-fold. In some embodiments, a polynucleotide primer or probe under stringent conditions will hybridize to its target nucleotide sequence to a detectably greater degree than to other nucleotide sequences by at least 3-fold. In some embodiments, a polynucleotide primer or probe under stringent conditions will hybridize to its target nucleotide sequence to a detectably greater degree than to other nucleotide sequences by at least 4-fold. In some embodiments, a polynucleotide primer or probe under stringent conditions will hybridize to its target nucleotide sequence to a detectably greater degree than to other nucleotide sequences by over 10-fold over background. Stringent conditions are sequence-dependent and will be different in different circumstances.

[0149] Appropriate stringency conditions which promote DNA hybridization, for example, 6× sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45° C., followed by a wash of 2×SSC at 50° C., are known or can be found in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6. Typically, stringent conditions for hybridization and detection will be those in which the salt concentration is less than about 1.5 M Na.sup.+ ion, typically about 0.01 to 1.0 M Na.sup.+ ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30° C. for short probes (such as, for example, 10 to 50 nucleotides) and at least about 60° C. for longer probes (such as, for example, greater than 50 nucleotides). Stringent conditions may also be achieved with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. Optionally, wash buffers may comprise about 0.1% to about 1% SDS. Duration of hybridization is generally less than about 24 hours, usually about 4 to about 12 hours. The duration of the wash time will be at least a length of time sufficient to reach equilibrium.

[0150] The present disclosure also provides methods of detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide comprising performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B polypeptide in the subject contains one or more variations that causes the polypeptide to have a loss-of-function (partial or complete) or predicted loss-of-function (partial or complete). The KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide can be any of the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptides described herein. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B V1145M, V504M, V405M, K822fs, K181fs, K82fs, G943fs, G302fs, or G203fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B V1145M. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B V504M. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B V405M. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B K822fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B K181fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B K82fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B G943fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B G302fs. In some embodiments, the methods detect the presence of KLHDC7B G203fs.

[0151] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B polypeptide in the sample comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 1,145 according to SEQ ID NO:22. In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B polypeptide in the sample comprises a methionine at a position

corresponding to position 504 according to SEQ ID NO:23. In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether a KLHDC7B polypeptide in the sample comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 405 according to SEQ ID NO:24.

[0152] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 886 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:43.

[0153] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 245 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:44.

[0154] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 146 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:45.

[0155] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 976 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:46.

[0156] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 335 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:47.

[0157] In some embodiments, the methods comprise performing an assay on a sample obtained from a subject to determine whether the sample contains a KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide terminating at a position corresponding to position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide lacks amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 236 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:48.

[0158] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of the polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 1,145 according to SEQ ID NO:22 or SEQ ID NO:19. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of the polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 504 according to SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:20. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of the polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 405 according to SEQ ID NO:24 or SEQ ID NO:21.

[0159] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B



polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 886 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 886 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0160] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 245 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 245 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0161] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 146 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 146 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0162] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 976 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 976 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0163] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 335 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 335 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0164] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises sequencing at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 236 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. An absence of positions 236 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0165] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 1,145 according to SEQ ID NO:22 or SEQ ID NO:19. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 504 according to SEQ ID NO:23 or SEQ ID NO:20. In some embodiments, the

detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a polypeptide that comprises a position corresponding to position 405 according to SEQ ID NO:24 or SEQ ID NO:21. [0166] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:43. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:43. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 886 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 886 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 885 according to SEQ ID NO:43 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0167] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:44. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:44. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 245 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 245 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 244 according to SEQ ID NO:44 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0168] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:45. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:45. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 146 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 146 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 145 according to SEQ ID NO:45 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0169] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:46. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:46. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 976 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 976 to 1,235 according to SEQ ID NO:19 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 975 according to SEQ ID NO:46 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0170] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:47. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:47. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise

positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 335 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 335 to 594 according to SEQ ID NO:20 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 334 according to SEQ ID NO:47 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0171] In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises an immunoassay for detecting the presence of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO:48. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:48. In some embodiments, the detecting step comprises detecting at least a portion of a KLHDC7B polypeptide that may comprise positions corresponding to any positions that are C-terminal to position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48. If amino acids are detected in the KLHDC7B polypeptide at positions corresponding to positions 236 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21, then such KLHDC7B polypeptide is a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide. A lack of detection of positions 236 to 495 according to SEQ ID NO:21 in the KLHDC7B polypeptide indicates that the KLHDC7B polypeptide terminates at position 235 according to SEQ ID NO:48 and is a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

[0172] In some embodiments, when the subject does not have a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, then the subject does not have an increased risk for developing hearing loss or any of conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss. In some embodiments, when the subject has a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide, then the subject has an increased risk for developing hearing loss or any of conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss.

[0173] The present disclosure also provides isolated nucleic acid molecules that hybridize to KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecules, KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecules, and/or KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecules (such as any of the genomic variant nucleic acid molecules, mRNA variant molecules, and cDNA variant molecules disclosed herein). In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, or positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic

acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26; positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to a portion of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule that includes positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

[0174] In some embodiments, such isolated nucleic acid molecules comprise or consist of at least about 5, at least about 8, at least about 10, at least about 11, at least about 12, at least about 13, at least about 14, at least about 15, at least about 16, at least about 17, at least about 18, at least about 19, at least about 20, at least about 21, at least about 22, at least about 23, at least about 24, at least about 25, at least about 30, at least about 35, at least about 40, at least about 45, at least about 50, at least about 55, at least about 60, at least about 65, at least about 70, at least about 75, at least about 80, at least about 85, at least about 90, at least about 95, at least about 100, at least about 200, at least about 300, at least about 400, at least about 500, at least about 600, at least about 700, at least about 800, at least about 900, at least about 1000, at least about 2000, at least about 3000, at least about 4000, or at least about 5000 nucleotides. In some embodiments, such isolated nucleic acid molecules comprise or consist of at least about 5, at least about 8, at least about 10, at least about 11, at least about 12, at least about 13, at least about 14, at least about 15, at least about 16, at least about 17, at least about 18, at least about 19, at least about 20, at least about 21, at least about 22, at least about 23, at least about 24, or at least about 25 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules comprise or consist of at least about 18 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules comprise or consists of at least about 15 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules consist of or comprise from about 10 to about 35, from about 10 to about 30, from about 10 to about 25, from about 12 to about 30, from about 12 to about 28, from about 12 to about 24, from about 15 to about 30, from about 15 to about 25, from about 18 to about 30, from about 18 to about 25, from about 18 to about 24, or from about 18 to about 22 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules consist of or comprise from about 18 to about 30 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules comprise or consist of at least about 15 nucleotides to at least about 35 nucleotides.

[0175] In some embodiments, such isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to KLHDC7B variant nucleic acid molecules (such as genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, and/or cDNA molecules) under stringent conditions. Such nucleic acid molecules can be used, for example, as probes, primers, alteration-specific probes, or alteration-specific primers as described or exemplified herein, and include, without limitation primers, probes, antisense RNAs, shRNAs, and siRNAs, each of which is described in more detail elsewhere herein, and can be used in any of the methods described herein.

[0176] In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules hybridize to at least about 15 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule that is at least about 70%, at least about 75%, at least about 80%, at least about 85%, at least about 90%, at least about 95%, at least about 96%, at least about 97%, at least about 98%, at least about 99%, or 100% identical to KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecules, KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecules, and/or KLHDC7B variant

cDNA molecules. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules consist of or comprise from about 15 to about 100 nucleotides, or from about 15 to about 35 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules consist of or comprise from about 15 to about 100 nucleotides. In some embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid molecules consist of or comprise from about 15 to about 35 nucleotides.

[0177] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; or position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; and/or positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof.

[0178] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; or position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof and/or positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof.

[0179] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; or position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: positions 3,474-3,476 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; and/or positions 3,474-3,476 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof.

[0180] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; or position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; and/or positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof.

[0181] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide

sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof.

[0182] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof

[0183] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof.

[0184] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises a position corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer comprises a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to a portion of a nucleotide sequence comprising positions corresponding to: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof, or a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof.

[0185] In some embodiments, the isolated alteration-specific probes or alteration-specific primers comprise at least about 15 nucleotides, wherein the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific



comprise DNA. In some embodiments, the alteration-specific probes and alteration-specific primers comprise RNA.

[0190] In some embodiments, the probes and primers described herein (including alteration-specific probes and alteration-specific primers) have a nucleotide sequence that specifically hybridizes to any of the nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein, or the complement thereof. In some embodiments, the probes and primers specifically hybridize to any of the nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein under stringent conditions.

[0191] In some embodiments, the primers, including alteration-specific primers, can be used in second generation sequencing or high throughput sequencing. In some instances, the primers, including alteration-specific primers, can be modified. In particular, the primers can comprise various modifications that are used at different steps of, for example, Massive Parallel Signature Sequencing (MPSS), Polony sequencing, and 454 Pyrosequencing. Modified primers can be used at several steps of the process, including biotinylated primers in the cloning step and fluorescently labeled primers used at the bead loading step and detection step. Polony sequencing is generally performed using a paired-end tags library wherein each molecule of DNA template is about 135 bp in length. Biotinylated primers are used at the bead loading step and emulsion PCR. Fluorescently labeled degenerate nonamer oligonucleotides are used at the detection step. An adaptor can contain a 5'-biotin tag for immobilization of the DNA library onto streptavidin-coated beads.

[0192] The probes and primers described herein can be used to detect a nucleotide variation within any of the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecules, KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecules, and/or KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecules disclosed herein. The primers described herein can be used to amplify KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecules, KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecules, or KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecules, or a fragment thereof.

[0193] The present disclosure also provides pairs of primers comprising any of the primers described above. For example, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:1 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference genomic nucleic acid molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:3 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:11 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position



3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0194] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:4 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:12 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0195] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:5 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:13 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0196] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:6 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:14 (rather than adenine) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an

adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18 (rather than guanine) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0197] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:1 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference genomic nucleic acid molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25 (rather than a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:1) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:3 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:3) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:11 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,808 according to SEQ ID NO:11) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0198] If, for example, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:4 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:4) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28 can be at the 3' end of

the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:12 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:12) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36 can be at the 3' end of the primer. [0199] If, for example, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,504 according to SEQ ID NO:5 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,504 according to SEQ ID NO:5) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,504 according to SEQ ID NO:13 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,504 according to SEQ ID NO:13) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0200] If, for example, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:6 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:6) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to a CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:14 (rather than a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends

hybridizes to a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38 (rather than CGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-674 according to SEQ ID NO:14) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38 can be at the 3' end of the primer. [0201] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:1 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference genomic nucleic acid molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26 (rather than an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:1) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:3 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:3) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:11 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,171 according to SEQ ID NO:11) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0202] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:4 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:4) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In

some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:12 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:12) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0203] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,867 according to SEQ ID NO:5 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,867 according to SEQ ID NO:5) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,867 according to SEQ ID NO:13 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,867 according to SEQ ID NO:13) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0204] If, for example, one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:6 (rather than an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:6) in a particular KLHDC7B mRNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34 can be at the 3' end of the primer. In addition, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:14 (rather than an AG

dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42) in a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule. Conversely, if one of the primers' 3'-ends hybridizes to an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42 (rather than AGG trinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,037 according to SEQ ID NO:14) in a particular KLHDC7B cDNA molecule, then the presence of the amplified fragment would indicate the presence of the KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule. In some embodiments, the nucleotide of the primer complementary to the AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42 can be at the 3' end of the primer.

[0205] In the context of the disclosure "specifically hybridizes" means that the probe or primer (such as, for example, the alteration-specific probe or alteration-specific primer) does not hybridize to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a KLHDC7B reference genomic nucleic acid molecule, a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule, and/or a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule.

[0206] In some embodiments, the probes (such as, for example, an alteration-specific probe) comprise a label. In some embodiments, the label is a fluorescent label, a radiolabel, or biotin.

[0207] The present disclosure also provides supports comprising a substrate to which any one or more of the probes disclosed herein is attached. Solid supports are solid-state substrates or supports with which molecules, such as any of the probes disclosed herein, can be associated. A form of solid support is an array. Another form of solid support is an array detector. An array detector is a solid support to which multiple different probes have been coupled in an array, grid, or other organized pattern. A form for a solid-state substrate is a microtiter dish, such as a standard 96-well type. In some embodiments, a multiwell glass slide can be employed that normally contains one array per well.

[0208] The present disclosure also provides molecular complexes comprising or consisting of any of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecules (genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, or cDNA molecules), or complement thereof, described herein and any of the alteration-specific primers or alteration-specific probes described herein. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecules (genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, or cDNA molecules), or complement thereof, in the molecular complexes are single-stranded. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule is any of the genomic nucleic acid molecules described herein. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule is any of the mRNA molecules described herein. In some embodiments, the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule is any of the cDNA molecules described herein. In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of any of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecules (genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, or cDNA molecules), or complement thereof, described herein and any of the alteration-specific primers described herein. In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of any of the KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecules (genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, or cDNA molecules), or complement thereof, described herein and any of the alteration-specific probes described herein.

[0209] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe hybridized to a genomic nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the alteration-specific primer or the alteration-specific probe is hybridized to an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof.

[0210] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe that is hybridized to an ATG codon at positions corresponding to positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:2.

[0211] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of a genomic nucleic acid molecule that comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

[0212] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe hybridized to an mRNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the alteration-specific primer or the alteration-specific probe is hybridized to: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof.

[0213] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe that is hybridized to: an AUG codon at positions corresponding to positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:7, an AUG codon at positions corresponding to positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:8, an AUG codon at positions corresponding to positions 3,474-3,476 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or an AUG codon at positions corresponding to positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:10.

[0214] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an mRNA molecule that comprises SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, or SEQ ID NO:34.

[0215] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe hybridized to a cDNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the alteration-specific primer or the alteration-specific probe is hybridized to: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof.

[0216] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of an alteration-specific primer or an alteration-specific probe that is hybridized to: an ATG codon at positions

corresponding to positions 3,778-3,780 according to SEQ ID NO:15, an ATG codon at positions corresponding to positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:16, an ATG codon at positions corresponding to positions 3,474-3,476 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or an ATG codon at positions corresponding to positions 1,644-1,646 according to SEQ ID NO:18.

[0217] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises or consists of a cDNA molecule that comprises SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:35, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:37, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40, SEQ ID NO:41, or SEQ ID NO:42.

[0218] In some embodiments, the molecular complex comprises an alteration-specific probe or an alteration-specific primer comprising a label. In some embodiments, the label is a fluorescent label, a radiolabel, or biotin. In some embodiments, the molecular complex further comprises a non-human polymerase.

[0219] The nucleotide sequence of a KLHDC7B reference genomic nucleic acid molecule (hg38 chr22: 50,545,899-50,551,023; ENST00000648057.3) is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1. Referring to SEQ ID NO:1, position 3,778 is a guanine.

[0220] A variant genomic nucleic acid molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,778 (referring to SEQ ID NO:1) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 (rs36062310).

[0221] Another variant genomic nucleic acid molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein a guanine at position 2,807 (referring to SEQ ID NO:1) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:25 (rs746113253).

[0222] Another variant genomic nucleic acid molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein a guanine at position 3,170 (referring to SEQ ID NO:1) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant genomic nucleic acid molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:26 (rs749405486).

[0223] The nucleotide sequence of a KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 (ENST00000648057.3). Referring to SEQ ID NO:3, position 3,778 is a guanine. The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 (ENST00000395676.4). Referring to SEQ ID NO:4, position 1,644 is a guanine.

[0224] The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:5 (NM\_138433.4). Referring to SEQ ID NO:5, position 3,474 is a guanine.

[0225] The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:6 (BC009980). Referring to SEQ ID NO:6, position 1,644 is a guanine.

[0226] A variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,778 (referring to SEQ ID NO:3) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0227] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,644 (referring to SEQ ID NO:4) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 (ENST00000395676.4).

[0228] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,474 (referring to SEQ ID NO:5) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 (NM\_138433.4).

[0229] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,644 (referring to SEQ ID NO:6) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 (BC009980).

[0230] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,807 (referring to SEQ ID NO:3) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:27 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0231] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 673 (referring to SEQ ID NO:4) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:28 (ENST00000395676.4).



[0232] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,503 (referring to SEQ ID NO:5) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:29 (NM\_138433.4).

[0233] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 673 (referring to SEQ ID NO:6) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:30 (BC009980).

[0234] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,170 (referring to SEQ ID NO:3) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:31 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0235] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,036 (referring to SEQ ID NO:4) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:32 (ENST00000395676.4).

[0236] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,866 (referring to SEQ ID NO:5) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:33 (NM\_138433.4).

[0237] Another variant mRNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,036 (referring to SEQ ID NO:6) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant mRNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:34 (BC009980).

[0238] The nucleotide sequence of a KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:11 (ENST00000648057.3). Referring to SEQ ID NO:11, position 3,778 is a guanine.

[0239] The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 (ENST00000395676.4). Referring to SEQ ID NO:12, position 1,644 is a guanine.

[0240] The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:13 (NM\_138433.4). Referring to SEQ ID NO:13, position 3,474 is a guanine.

[0241] The nucleotide sequence of another KLHDC7B reference cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:14 (BC009980). Referring to SEQ ID NO:14, position 1,644 is a guanine.

[0242] A variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,778 (referring to SEQ ID NO:11) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:15 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0243] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,644 (referring to SEQ ID NO:12) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:16 (ENST00000395676.4).

[0244] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,474 (referring to SEQ ID NO:13) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:17 (NM\_138433.4).

[0245] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,644 (referring to SEQ ID NO:14) is replaced with an adenine. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:18 (BC009980).

[0246] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,807 (referring to SEQ ID NO:11) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:35 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0247] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 673 (referring to SEQ ID NO:12) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:36 (ENST00000395676.4).

[0248] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,503 (referring to SEQ ID NO:13) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:37 (NM\_138433.4).

[0249] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 673 (referring to SEQ ID NO:14) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:38 (BC009980).

[0250] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 3,170 (referring to SEQ ID NO:11) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:39 (ENST00000648057.3).

[0251] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,036 (referring to SEQ ID NO:12) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:40 (ENST00000395676.4).

[0252] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 2,866 (referring to SEQ ID NO:13) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:41 (NM\_138433.4).

[0253] Another variant cDNA molecule of KLHDC7B exists, wherein the guanine at position 1,036 (referring to SEQ ID NO:14) is deleted. The nucleotide sequence of this KLHDC7B variant cDNA molecule is set forth in SEQ ID NO:42 (BC009980).

[0254] The genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, and cDNA molecules can be from any organism. For example, the genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, and cDNA molecules can be human or an ortholog from another organism, such as a non-human mammal, a rodent, a mouse, or a rat. It is understood that gene sequences within a population can vary due to polymorphisms such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms. The examples provided herein are only exemplary sequences. Other sequences are also possible.

[0255] Also provided herein are functional polynucleotides that can interact with the disclosed nucleic acid molecules. Examples of functional polynucleotides include, but are not limited to, antisense molecules, aptamers, ribozymes, triplex forming molecules, and external guide sequences. The functional polynucleotides can act as effectors, inhibitors, modulators, and stimulators of a specific activity possessed by a target molecule, or the functional polynucleotides can possess a de novo activity independent of any other molecules.

[0256] The isolated nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein can comprise RNA, DNA, or both RNA and DNA. The isolated nucleic acid molecules can also be linked or fused to a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, such as in a vector, or a heterologous label. For example, the isolated nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein can be within a vector or as an exogenous donor sequence comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule and a heterologous nucleic acid sequence. The isolated nucleic acid molecules can also be linked or fused to a heterologous label. The label can be directly detectable (such as, for example, fluorophore) or indirectly detectable (such as, for example, hapten, enzyme, or fluorophore quencher). Such labels can be detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, or chemical means. Such labels include, for example, radiolabels, pigments, dyes, chromogens, spin labels, and fluorescent labels. The label can also be, for example, a chemiluminescent substance; a metal-containing substance; or an enzyme, where there occurs an enzyme-dependent secondary generation of signal. The term “label” can also refer to a “tag” or hapten that can bind selectively to a conjugated molecule such that the conjugated molecule, when added subsequently along with a substrate, is used to generate a detectable signal. For example, biotin can be used as a tag along with an avidin or streptavidin conjugate of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) to bind to the tag, and examined using a calorimetric substrate (such as, for example, tetramethylbenzidine (TMB)) or a fluorogenic substrate to detect the presence of HRP. Exemplary labels that can be used as tags to facilitate purification include, but are not limited to, myc, HA, FLAG or 3×FLAG, 6×His or polyhistidine, glutathione-S-transferase (GST), maltose binding protein, an epitope tag, or the Fc portion of immunoglobulin. Numerous labels include, for example, particles, fluorophores, haptens, enzymes and their calorimetric, fluorogenic and chemiluminescent substrates and other labels.

[0257] The disclosed nucleic acid molecules can comprise, for example, nucleotides or non-natural or modified nucleotides, such as nucleotide analogs or nucleotide substitutes. Such nucleotides include a nucleotide that contains a modified base, sugar, or phosphate group, or that incorporates a non-natural moiety in its structure. Examples of non-natural nucleotides include, but are not limited

to, dideoxynucleotides, biotinylated, aminated, deaminated, alkylated, benzylated, and fluorophor-labeled nucleotides.

[0258] The nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein can also comprise one or more nucleotide analogs or substitutions. A nucleotide analog is a nucleotide which contains a modification to either the base, sugar, or phosphate moieties. Modifications to the base moiety include, but are not limited to, natural and synthetic modifications of A, C, G, and T/U, as well as different purine or pyrimidine bases such as, for example, pseudouridine, uracil-5-yl, hypoxanthin-9-yl (I), and 2-aminoadenin-9-yl. Modified bases include, but are not limited to, 5-methylcytosine (5-me-C), 5-hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 2-aminoadenine, 6-methyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-propyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thiothymine and 2-thiocytosine, 5-halouracil and cytosine, 5-propynyl uracil and cytosine, 6-azo uracil, cytosine and thymine, 5-uracil (pseudouracil), 4-thiouracil, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-thioalkyl, 8-hydroxyl and other 8-substituted adenines and guanines, 5-halo (such as, for example, 5-bromo), 5-trifluoromethyl and other 5-substituted uracils and cytosines, 7-methylguanine, 7-methyladenine, 8-azaguanine, 8-azaadenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deazaadenine, 3-deazaguanine, and 3-deazaadenine.

[0259] Nucleotide analogs can also include modifications of the sugar moiety. Modifications to the sugar moiety include, but are not limited to, natural modifications of the ribose and deoxy ribose as well as synthetic modifications. Sugar modifications include, but are not limited to, the following modifications at the 2' position: OH; F; O-, S-, or N-alkyl; O-, S-, or N-alkenyl; O-, S- or N-alkynyl; or O-alkyl-O-alkyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C.sub.1-10alkyl or C.sub.2-10alkenyl, and C.sub.2-10alkynyl. Exemplary 2' sugar modifications also include, but are not limited to, —O[(CH.sub.2).sub.nO].sub.mCH.sub.3, —O(CH.sub.2).sub.nOCH.sub.3, —O(CH.sub.2).sub.nNH.sub.2, —O(CH.sub.2).sub.nCH.sub.3, —O(CH.sub.2).sub.n—ONH.sub.2, and —O(CH.sub.2).sub.nON[(CH.sub.2).sub.nCH.sub.3].sub.2, where n and m are from 1 to about 10. Other modifications at the 2' position include, but are not limited to, C.sub.1-10alkyl, substituted lower alkyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, O-alkaryl or O-aralkyl, SH, SCH.sub.3, OCN, Cl, Br, CN, CF.sub.3, OCF.sub.3, SOCH.sub.3, SO.sub.2CH.sub.3, ONO.sub.2, NO.sub.2, N.sub.3, NH.sub.2, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkaryl, aminoalkylamino, polyalkylamino, substituted silyl, an RNA cleaving group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a group for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of an oligonucleotide, or a group for improving the pharmacodynamic properties of an oligonucleotide, and other substituents having similar properties. Similar modifications may also be made at other positions on the sugar, particularly the 3' position of the sugar on the 3' terminal nucleotide or in 2'-5' linked oligonucleotides and the 5' position of 5' terminal nucleotide. Modified sugars can also include those that contain modifications at the bridging ring oxygen, such as CH.sub.2 and S. Nucleotide sugar analogs can also have sugar mimetics, such as cyclobutyl moieties in place of the pentofuranosyl sugar.

[0260] Nucleotide analogs can also be modified at the phosphate moiety. Modified phosphate moieties include, but are not limited to, those that can be modified so that the linkage between two nucleotides contains a phosphorothioate, chiral phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphotriester, aminoalkylphosphotriester, methyl and other alkyl phosphonates including 3'-alkylene phosphonate and chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates including 3'-amino phosphoramidate and aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionophosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphonates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates. These phosphate or modified phosphate linkage between two nucleotides can be through a 3'-5' linkage or a 2'-5' linkage, and the linkage can contain inverted polarity such as 3'-5' to 5'-3' or 2'-5' to 5'-2'. Various salts, mixed salts, and free acid forms are also included. Nucleotide substitutes also include peptide nucleic acids (PNAs).

[0261] The present disclosure also provides vectors comprising any one or more of the nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein. In some embodiments, the vectors comprise any one or more of the

nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein and a heterologous nucleic acid. The vectors can be viral or nonviral vectors capable of transporting a nucleic acid molecule. In some embodiments, the vector is a plasmid or cosmid (such as, for example, a circular double-stranded DNA into which additional DNA segments can be ligated). In some embodiments, the vector is a viral vector, wherein additional DNA segments can be ligated into the viral genome. Expression vectors include, but are not limited to, plasmids, cosmids, retroviruses, adenoviruses, adeno-associated viruses (AAV), plant viruses such as cauliflower mosaic virus and tobacco mosaic virus, yeast artificial chromosomes (YACs), Epstein-Barr (EBV)-derived episomes, and other expression vectors known in the art.

[0262] Desired regulatory sequences for mammalian host cell expression can include, for example, viral elements that direct high levels of polypeptide expression in mammalian cells, such as promoters and/or enhancers derived from retroviral LTRs, cytomegalovirus (CMV) (such as, for example, CMV promoter/enhancer), Simian Virus 40 (SV40) (such as, for example, SV40 promoter/enhancer), adenovirus, (such as, for example, the adenovirus major late promoter (AdMLP)), polyoma and strong mammalian promoters such as native immunoglobulin and actin promoters. Methods of expressing polypeptides in bacterial cells or fungal cells (such as, for example, yeast cells) are also well known. A promoter can be, for example, a constitutively active promoter, a conditional promoter, an inducible promoter, a temporally restricted promoter (such as, for example, a developmentally regulated promoter), or a spatially restricted promoter (such as, for example, a cell-specific or tissue-specific promoter).

[0263] Percent identity (or percent complementarity) between particular stretches of nucleotide sequences within nucleic acid molecules or amino acid sequences within polypeptides can be determined routinely using BLAST programs (basic local alignment search tools) and PowerBLAST programs (Altschul et al., J. Mol. Biol., 1990, 215, 403-410; Zhang and Madden, Genome Res., 1997, 7, 649-656) or by using the Gap program (Wisconsin Sequence Analysis Package, Version 8 for Unix, Genetics Computer Group, University Research Park, Madison Wis.), using default settings, which uses the algorithm of Smith and Waterman (Adv. Appl. Math., 1981, 2, 482-489). Herein, if reference is made to percent sequence identity, the higher percentages of sequence identity are preferred over the lower ones.

[0264] The present disclosure also provides compositions comprising any one or more of the isolated nucleic acid molecules, genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, and/or cDNA molecules disclosed herein. In some embodiments, the composition is a pharmaceutical composition. In some embodiments, the compositions comprise a carrier and/or excipient. Examples of carriers include, but are not limited to, poly (lactic acid) (PLA) microspheres, poly (D,L-lactic-co-glycolic-acid) (PLGA) microspheres, liposomes, micelles, inverse micelles, lipid cochleates, and lipid microtubules. A carrier may comprise a buffered salt solution such as PBS, HBSS, etc.

[0265] As used herein, the phrase “corresponding to” or grammatical variations thereof when used in the context of the numbering of a particular nucleotide or nucleotide sequence or position refers to the numbering of a specified reference sequence when the particular nucleotide or nucleotide sequence is compared to a reference sequence (such as, for example, SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or SEQ ID NO:11). In other words, the residue (such as, for example, nucleotide or amino acid) number or residue (such as, for example, nucleotide or amino acid) position of a particular polymer is designated with respect to the reference sequence rather than by the actual numerical position of the residue within the particular nucleotide or nucleotide sequence. For example, a particular nucleotide sequence can be aligned to a reference sequence by introducing gaps to optimize residue matches between the two sequences. In these cases, although the gaps are present, the numbering of the residue in the particular nucleotide or nucleotide sequence is made with respect to the reference sequence to which it has been aligned.

[0266] For example, a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a

KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2 means that if the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule is aligned to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, the KLHDC7B sequence has an adenine residue at the position that corresponds to position 3,778 of SEQ ID NO:2. The same applies for mRNA molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, and cDNA molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15. In other words, these phrases refer to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the genomic nucleic acid molecule has a nucleotide sequence that comprises an adenine residue that is homologous to the adenine residue at position 3,778 of SEQ ID NO:2 (or wherein the mRNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence that comprises an adenine residue that is homologous to the adenine residue at position 3,778 of SEQ ID NO:7, or wherein the cDNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence that comprises an adenine residue that is homologous to the adenine residue at position 3,778 of SEQ ID NO:15).

[0267] As described herein, a position within a KLHDC7B genomic nucleic acid molecule that corresponds to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, for example, can be identified by performing a sequence alignment between the nucleotide sequence of a particular KLHDC7B nucleic acid molecule and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. A variety of computational algorithms exist that can be used for performing a sequence alignment to identify a nucleotide position that corresponds to, for example, position 3,778 in SEQ ID NO:2. For example, by using the NCBI BLAST algorithm (Altschul et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 1997, 25, 3389-3402) or CLUSTALW software (Sievers and Higgins, *Methods Mol. Biol.*, 2014, 1079, 105-116) sequence alignments may be performed. However, sequences can also be aligned manually.

[0268] The amino acid sequence of a KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is set forth in SEQ ID NO:19. Referring to SEQ ID NO:19, the KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is 1,235 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:19, position 1,145 is valine, position 822 is lysine, and position 943 is glycine.

[0269] The amino acid sequence of another KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is set forth in SEQ ID NO:20. Referring to SEQ ID NO:20, the KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is 594 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:20, position 504 is valine, position 181 is lysine, and position 302 is glycine.

[0270] The amino acid sequence of another KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is set forth in SEQ ID NO:21. Referring to SEQ ID NO:21, the KLHDC7B reference polypeptide is 495 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:21, position 405 is valine, position 82 is lysine, and position 203 is glycine.

[0271] A KLHDC7B variant polypeptide exists (V1145M or Val1145Met), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:22. Referring to SEQ ID NO:22, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 1,235 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:22, position 1,145 is methionine.

[0272] Another KLHDC7B variant polypeptide exists (V504M or Val504Met), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:23. Referring to SEQ ID NO:23, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 594 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:23, position 504 is methionine.

[0273] Another KLHDC7B variant polypeptide exists (V405M or Val405Met), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:24. Referring to SEQ ID NO:24, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 495 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:24, position 405 is methionine.

[0274] A KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (K822fs or Lys822fs), the amino acid

sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:43. Referring to SEQ ID NO:43, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 885 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:43, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 885 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 886 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19. Referring to SEQ ID NO:43, position 822 is serine.

[0275] Another KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (K181fs or Lys181fs), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:44. Referring to SEQ ID NO:44, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 244 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:44, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 244 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 245 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20. Referring to SEQ ID NO:44, position 181 is serine.

[0276] Another KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (K82fs or Lys82fs), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:45. Referring to SEQ ID NO:45, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 145 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:45, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 145 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 146 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21. Referring to SEQ ID NO:45, position 82 is serine.

[0277] Another KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (G943fs or Gly943fs), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:46. Referring to SEQ ID NO:46, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 975 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:46, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 975 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 976 to 1,235 of SEQ ID NO:19. Referring to SEQ ID NO:46, position 943 is arginine.

[0278] Another KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (G302fs or Gly302fs), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:47. Referring to SEQ ID NO:47, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 334 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:47, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 334 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 335 to 594 of SEQ ID NO:20. Referring to SEQ ID NO:47, position 302 is arginine.

[0279] Another KLHDC7B truncated variant polypeptide exists (G203fs or Gly203fs), the amino acid sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:48. Referring to SEQ ID NO:48, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is 235 amino acids in length. Referring to SEQ ID NO:48, the KLHDC7B variant polypeptide is truncated at position 235 and does not contain amino acids at positions corresponding to positions 236 to 495 of SEQ ID NO:21. Referring to SEQ ID NO:48, position 203 is arginine.

[0280] The nucleotide and amino acid sequences listed in the accompanying sequence listing are shown using standard letter abbreviations for nucleotide bases, and three-letter code for amino acids. The nucleotide sequences follow the standard convention of beginning at the 5' end of the sequence and proceeding forward (i.e., from left to right in each line) to the 3' end. Only one strand of each nucleotide sequence is shown, but the complementary strand is understood to be included by any reference to the displayed strand. The amino acid sequence follows the standard convention of beginning at the amino terminus of the sequence and proceeding forward (i.e., from left to right in each line) to the carboxy terminus.

[0281] The present disclosure also provides therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss for use in the treatment of hearing loss (or for use in the preparation of a medicament for treating hearing loss) in a subject, wherein the subject has any of the genomic nucleic acid molecules, mRNA molecules, and/or cDNA molecules encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide described herein. The therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss can be any of the therapeutic agents that treat or inhibit hearing loss described herein.

[0282] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a

nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:2, or the complement thereof; an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:7, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,778 according to SEQ ID NO:15, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 1,145 according to SEQ ID NO:22.

[0283] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:8, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:16, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 504 according to SEQ ID NO:23.

[0284] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:9, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 3,474 according to SEQ ID NO:17, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a methionine at a position corresponding to position 405 according to SEQ ID NO:24.

[0285] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an adenine at a position corresponding to position 1,644 according to SEQ ID NO:18, or the complement thereof.

[0286] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:25, or the complement thereof; an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:27, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 to SEQ ID NO:35, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a serine at a position corresponding to position 822 according to SEQ ID NO:43.

[0287] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a serine at a position corresponding to position 181 according to SEQ ID NO:44.

[0288] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:29, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,502-2,503 according to SEQ ID NO:37, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises a serine at a position corresponding to position 82 according to SEQ ID NO:45.

[0289] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; or a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof.

[0290] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:26, or the complement thereof; an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:31, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 3,169-3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:39, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises an arginine at a position corresponding to position 943 according to SEQ ID NO:46.

[0291] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises an arginine at a position corresponding to position 302 according to SEQ ID NO:47.

[0292] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:33, or the complement thereof; a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 2,865-2,866 according to SEQ ID NO:41, or the complement thereof; or a KLHDC7B polypeptide that comprises an arginine at a position corresponding to position 203 according to SEQ ID NO:48.

[0293] In some embodiments, the subject comprises: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises: an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to



positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; or a cDNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence encoding a KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof.

[0294] All patent documents, websites, other publications, accession numbers and the like cited above or below are incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes to the same extent as if each individual item were specifically and individually indicated to be so incorporated by reference. If different versions of a sequence are associated with an accession number at different times, the version associated with the accession number at the effective filing date of this application is meant. The effective filing date means the earlier of the actual filing date or filing date of a priority application referring to the accession number if applicable. Likewise, if different versions of a publication, website or the like are published at different times, the version most recently published at the effective filing date of the application is meant unless otherwise indicated. Any feature, step, element, embodiment, or aspect of the present disclosure can be used in combination with any other feature, step, element, embodiment, or aspect unless specifically indicated otherwise. Although the present disclosure has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be apparent that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

[0295] The following examples are provided to describe the embodiments in greater detail. They are intended to illustrate, not to limit, the claimed embodiments. The following examples provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a disclosure and description of how the compounds, compositions, articles, devices and/or methods described herein are made and evaluated, and are intended to be purely exemplary and are not intended to limit the scope of any claims. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers (such as, for example, amounts, temperature, etc.), but some errors and deviations may be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, temperature is in ° C. or is at ambient temperature, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

## EXAMPLES

Example 1: A Missense Variant and Predicted Loss-of-Function Variants in KLHDC7B are Associated with Increased Risk for Hearing Loss

[0296] A genome-wide and exome-wide analysis of self-reported and ICD code based hearing loss was carried out in UK Biobank, Geisinger (GHS) and other datasets. A common missense variant (FIG. 1, Panel C) and two rare, predicted loss-of-function (pLOF) variants (FIG. 1, Panels A and B) in KLHDC7B were associated with increased risk for hearing loss in meta-analysis of UK Biobank and 3 other cohorts. In addition, an aggregate of rare (minor allele frequency of less than 1%), pLOF variants in KLHDC7B also show an association with increased risk for hearing loss in the meta-analysis (FIG. 2) suggesting that KLHDC7B loss of function variants in addition to the two described in FIG. 1 confer an increased risk for hearing loss in carriers. The association with loss of function variants further suggests that reduced function of KLHDC7B is detrimental to hearing ability.

[0297] Various modifications of the described subject matter, in addition to those described herein, will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims. Each reference (including, but not limited to, journal articles, U.S. and non-U.S. patents, patent application publications, international patent application publications, gene bank accession numbers, and the like) cited in the present application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety and for all purposes.

## Claims

**1.** A method of treating a subject with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, wherein the subject has hearing loss, the method comprising the steps of: determining whether the subject has a Kelch Domain Containing 7B (KLHDC7B) missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide by: obtaining or having obtained a biological sample from the subject; and performing or having performed a sequence analysis on the biological sample to determine if the subject has a genotype comprising the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide; and administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in a standard dosage amount to a subject that is KLHDC7B reference; and administering or continuing to administer the therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss in an amount that is the same as or greater than a standard dosage amount to a subject that is heterozygous or homozygous for the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule; wherein the presence of a genotype having the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide indicates the subject has an increased risk of developing hearing loss, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encodes KLHDC7B K181fs or KLHDC7B G302fs, and wherein the therapeutic agent comprises an antioxidant, a calcium-channel blocker, an anti-inflammatory drug, an apoptosis inhibitor, D-methionine, ebselen, N-acetylcysteine, lipoic acid, a combination of ebselen and allopurinol, resveratrol, a neurotrophic factor, a caspase inhibitor, a copper transport inhibitor, or a micronutrients with an antioxidant vitamin.

**2-3.** (canceled)

**4.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding the KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide is: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1; or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3, 170 according to SEQ ID NO:1; or an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6; or a cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule, wherein the cDNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14.

**5.** (canceled)

**6.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises: positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; wherein when the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, then the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule in the biological sample is a KLHDC7B missense variant

mRNA molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

**7.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises sequencing at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule produced from the mRNA molecule in the biological sample, wherein the sequenced portion comprises: positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; wherein when the sequenced portion of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule in the biological sample comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, then the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule is a KLHDC7B missense variant cDNA molecule encoding a KLHDC7B predicted loss-of-function polypeptide.

**8.** (canceled)

**9.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule that is proximate to: positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B mRNA molecule corresponding to: positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34.

**10.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises: a) contacting the biological sample with a primer hybridizing to a portion of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule that is proximate to: positions corresponding to positions 2,806-2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:35, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; b) extending the primer at least through the position of the nucleotide sequence of the KLHDC7B cDNA molecule corresponding to: positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42; and c) determining whether the extension product of the primer comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42.

**11.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises sequencing the entire nucleic acid molecule.

**12.** (canceled)

**13.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:28, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:30, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:32, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:34, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

**14.** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sequence analysis comprises: a) amplifying at least a portion of the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the KLHDC7B polypeptide, wherein the portion comprises: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; b) labeling the amplified nucleic acid molecule with a detectable label; c) contacting the labeled nucleic acid molecule with a support comprising an alteration-specific probe, wherein the alteration-specific probe comprises a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of the amplified nucleic acid molecule comprising: a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:36, or the complement thereof; a CG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 672-673 according to SEQ ID NO:38, or the complement thereof; an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:40, or the complement thereof; or an AG dinucleotide at positions corresponding to positions 1,035-1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:42, or the complement thereof; and d) detecting the detectable label.

**15.** The method according to claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid molecule in the sample is mRNA and the mRNA is reverse-transcribed into cDNA prior to the amplifying step.

**16-60.** (canceled)

**61.** The method according to claim 1, wherein: the anti-inflammatory drug comprises a steroid, the neurotrophic factor comprises T-817MA, the caspase inhibitor comprises z-DEVD-fmk, and the copper transport inhibitor comprises cimetidine or copper sulphate.

**62.** A method of treating a subject having hearing loss with a therapeutic agent that treats or inhibits hearing loss, wherein the subject has been determined to have a Kelch Domain Containing 7B (KLHDC7B) missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding KLHDC7B K181fs or KLHDC7B G302fs, and wherein the therapeutic agent comprises an antioxidant, a calcium-channel blocker, an anti-inflammatory drug, an apoptosis inhibitor, D-methionine, ebselen, N-acetylcysteine, lipoic acid, a combination of ebselen and allopurinol, resveratrol, a neurotrophic factor, a caspase inhibitor, a copper transport inhibitor, or a micronutrients with an antioxidant vitamin.

**63.** The method according to claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid

molecule is: a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 according to SEQ ID NO:1; or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1; or an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4, or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6; or a cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule, wherein the cDNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence: lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14, lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12, or lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14.

**64.** The method of claim 62, wherein the subject has conductive hearing loss, sensorineural hearing loss, or neural hearing loss.

**65.** The method of claim 62, wherein the subject has been determined to be heterozygous for the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding KLHDC7B K181fs.

**66.** The method of claim 62, wherein the subject has been determined to be heterozygous for the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule encoding KLHDC7B G302fs.

**67.** The method of claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule is a genomic nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 2,807 or corresponding to position 3,170 according to SEQ ID NO:1.

**68.** The method of claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule is an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:4 or corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:6.

**69.** The method of claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule is an mRNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:4 or corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:6.

**70.** The method of claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule, wherein the cDNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:12 or corresponding to position 673 according to SEQ ID NO:14.

**71.** The method of claim 62, wherein the KLHDC7B missense variant nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA molecule produced from an mRNA molecule, wherein the cDNA molecule has a nucleotide sequence lacking a guanine at a position corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:12 or corresponding to position 1,036 according to SEQ ID NO:14.

**72.** The method according to claim 62, wherein: the anti-inflammatory drug comprises a steroid, the neurotrophic factor comprises T-817MA, the caspase inhibitor comprises z-DEVD-fmk, and the copper transport inhibitor comprises cimetidine or copper sulphate.

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