ARRAY CGH
OR
ARRAY COMPARATIVE GENOMIC HYBRIDISATION

This leaflet is written for families and individuals where Array CGH is being carried out.

Array CGH is a test for checking a person's chromosomes in very fine detail. It can help to find the cause for differences in a person's development by finding if there are significant differences in their chromosomes.

Chromosomes are the packages of genetic material (DNA) found in all of the cells that go to make up a person's body. The cells use the DNA in the chromosomes as instructions on how to grow, develop and work together with the other cells in the body. There are 23 pairs of chromosomes in each cell. Each pair is made up of one chromosome that the person inherited from their mother and one chromosome which they inherited from their father.

2. WHAT WILL THE RESULTS SHOW?

Everyone has some small differences in their chromosome pattern. Most of these do not cause a problem and have been passed down through their family. When someone has an array CGH test the results need to be interpreted carefully.

Array CGH works by comparing a person's chromosomes to an average set of chromosomes and indicating any extra or missing pieces. It is normal to have some small differences but sometimes they can cause a problem. The results of a person's array CGH test need to be combined with information from other sources to establish if any of the extra or missing pieces might cause a problem.

3. WHY DO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY NEED TO HAVE THE TEST?

To understand the results of a person's test properly it is really important both of their parents have the test too. This will show which differences the person has inherited from their parents and which are new to that person.

Information about which changes have been passed on through the family and about the function of the different chromosomes is used to understand if any of the changes seen on the test might cause a problem. If both parents do not have the array test it is sometimes not possible to fully understand the results of the array CGH test.

The test is done via a blood sample and the results on the individual and their parents usually take a few weeks to come through.

The chromosome material (DNA) is extracted from the blood sample and then used in the array CGH test. Arrangements can sometimes be made for family members who have been asked to give a blood sample to do this at their GP's surgery rather than having to come to a hospital appointment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

A more detailed leaflet is available at the web address below:

www.rarechromo.org/information/Other/Array%20CGH%20FTNW.pdf

LOCAL CONTACTS

Your local genetics services:

South East of Scotland Clinical Genetic Service:	MMC, Western General Hospital Crewe Road South, Edinburgh EH4 2XU Telephone: 0131 537 1116
North of Scotland Genetics Service:	Department of Clinical Genetics Ashgrove House, Foresterhill Aberdeen AB25 2AZ Telephone: 01224 552120
East of Scotland Genetics Service:	Human Genetics Unit Level 6, Ninewells Hospital Dundee DD1 9SY Telephone: 01382 632035
West of Scotland Genetics Service:	Level 2A Laboratory Medicine The Queen Elizabeth University Hospital 1345 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 4TF Telephone: 0141 354 9201