

# Molecular In My Pocket™

## ONCOLOGY: *Molecular Biomarkers in Tumors of the Central Nervous System*

**Samples to test:** Primary or recurrent tumors; formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue (FFPE)

| Biomarker                                | Alteration/<br>Alternative terms                                                      | Indications                           | Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Common methods                                           |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>IDH1<br/>IDH2</b>                     | <i>IDH1</i> : Mutations in codon R132<br><i>IDH2</i> : Mutations in codons R140, R172 | Diagnosis<br>Prognosis<br>Therapeutic | Diagnostic biomarker of astrocytoma, <i>IDH</i> -mutant and oligodendroglioma, <i>IDH</i> -mutant and 1p/19q co-deleted. Associated with improved prognosis except when the tumor also has <i>CDKN2A/B</i> homozygous deletion (negative prognosis). <i>IDH1</i> and <i>IDH2</i> mutations are targetable.        | NGS, genotyping, PCR-based assays, IHC (R132H only)      |
| <b>1p/19q co-deletion</b>                | Deletion                                                                              | Diagnosis                             | 1p/19q whole-arm co-deletion is a diagnostic molecular biomarker of oligodendroglioma.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | FISH, array, NGS                                         |
| <b>BRAF</b>                              | Mutations (particularly V600E); fusions                                               | Diagnosis<br>Therapeutic              | Diagnostic biomarker and seen in a variety of tumors, such as pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma, ganglioglioma, pilocytic astrocytoma, diffuse low-grade glioma, MAPK pathway-altered. V600 mutations and fusions are targetable.                                                                                     | NGS, genotyping, PCR-based assays, IHC, RT-PCR, AMP      |
| <b>H3-3A (H3F3A)<br/>H3C2 (HIST1H3B)</b> | Alterations in codons K28 (K27) or G35 (G34)                                          | Diagnosis                             | Diagnostic molecular biomarker of diffuse midline glioma, H3 K28M (K27M)-altered; and diffuse hemispheric glioma, H3 G35 (G34)-mutant.                                                                                                                                                                            | NGS, genotyping, PCR-based assays, IHC                   |
| <b>TERT</b>                              | Promoter mutations                                                                    | Diagnosis                             | Diagnostic biomarker for glioblastoma, <i>IDH</i> -wildtype and anaplastic meningioma. Present in almost all oligodendrogliomas, <i>IDH</i> -mutant and 1p/19q co-deleted.                                                                                                                                        | NGS, genotyping, PCR-based assays                        |
| <b>MGMT</b>                              | Promoter methylation                                                                  | Prognosis<br>Therapeutic              | Associated with more favorable prognosis and response to temozolomide in patients with glioblastoma, <i>IDH</i> -wildtype.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Methylation-specific PCR-based assays, array, sequencing |
| <b>ATRX</b>                              | Loss of function mutations; loss of protein expression                                | Diagnosis                             | Diagnostic molecular biomarker for astrocytoma, <i>IDH</i> -mutant. Associated with <i>IDH1</i> and <i>IDH2</i> mutations. Typically, mutually exclusive with 1p/19q co-deletion. Supportive diagnostic biomarker for diffuse hemispheric glioma, H3 G34-mutant, and high-grade astrocytoma with piloid features. | NGS, IHC                                                 |
| <b>ZFTA (previously C11orf95)</b>        | Fusion                                                                                | Diagnosis<br>Prognosis                | Diagnostic molecular biomarker for supratentorial ependymoma, <i>ZFTA</i> fusion-positive. <i>ZFTA</i> fusion-positive ependymomas tend to show more aggressive behavior.                                                                                                                                         | NGS, RT-PCR, AMP, FISH                                   |
| <b>EGFR chromosome 7 chromosome 10</b>   | <i>EGFR</i> amplification<br>Gain of chromosome 7<br>Loss of chromosome 10            | Diagnosis                             | Diagnostic biomarkers for glioblastoma, <i>IDH</i> -wildtype.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | FISH, array, NGS, PCR-based assays                       |
| <b>CDKN2A/B</b>                          | Deletion (homozygous)                                                                 | Diagnosis<br>Prognosis                | Diagnostic molecular biomarker for CNS WHO grade 4 astrocytoma, <i>IDH</i> -mutant, CNS WHO grade 3 oligodendroglioma, <i>IDH</i> -mutant and 1p/19q-codeleted, and anaplastic meningioma                                                                                                                         | FISH, array, NGS, PCR-based assays                       |

**Abbreviations:** NGS: next-generation sequencing; IHC: immunohistochemistry; FISH: fluorescence *in situ* hybridization; AMP: anchored multiplex PCR; RT-PCR: reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

**Where to test:** Testing should be performed in the laboratories that are certified under clinical laboratory improvement amendments of 1988 (CLIA-88) as qualified to perform high complexity (molecular pathology) testing.

**References:** 1. WHO Classification of Tumours Editorial Board. Central nervous system tumours. Lyon (France): International Agency for Research on Cancer; 2021. (WHO classification of tumours series, 5th ed.; vol. 6). <https://publications.iarc.fr/601>.

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