

Dr. Jane Doe  
Paul-Ehrlich-Str. 23  
72076 TÜBINGEN  
GERMANY

<b>Patient</b>	XXX, XX (*DD.MM.YYYY)
<b>Sex</b>	Male
<b>Patient-ID</b>	#
<b>Sample receipt</b>	xxx
<b>Material</b>	EDTA blood
<b>Report date</b>	xxx

## Genetic analysis report – XXX, XX (\*DD.MM.YYYY)

**Indication** Retinitis pigmentosa, decreased visual acuity, concentric constriction of the visual field, diminished responses of rods and cones, bone spicules in the fundus, pale optic discs, narrow vessels, after cataract surgery (both eyes), positive familial history

**Order** Panel Diagnostics: Retinitis pigmentosa and autosomal dominant and X-linked (whole exome enrichment)

Dear Dr. Doe,

Thank you for your request for molecular genetic analysis.

## RESULTS

- **Detection of a hemizygous likely pathogenic variant in gene *RPGR*, which is consistent with your clinical diagnosis of retinitis pigmentosa in your patient.**
- Based upon current scientific knowledge, we did not identify any reportable copy number variants which are likely to be causative for your patient's disease.

Gene	Variant	Zygoty	Heredity	MAF (%)	Classification
<i>RPGR</i>	c.1245+1G>A; p.?	hemi.	XL	-	likely pathogenic

### Information for table interpretation:

**AD:** Describes a trait or disorder requiring only one copy of a gene variant at a particular locus in order to express an observable phenotype. Single heterozygous gene variants can only be causative for the phenotype if the disorder follows the **autosomal dominant** mode of inheritance.

**AR:** Describes a trait or disorder requiring the presence of two copies of a gene variant at a particular locus in order to express an observable phenotype. In **autosomal recessive** disorders, a single heterozygous variant in one gene cannot by itself be causative for the observable phenotype.

**XL:** X-linked mode of inheritance

**mitochondrial:** gene encoded in the mitochondrial DNA. Information on degree of heteroplasmy (heteropl. or homopl.), frequency and read count (variant/total reads).

**MAF:** The **minor allele frequency** describes the least frequent allele at a specific locus in a given population. The less frequently a variant occurs, the more likely it is pathogenic; however, the prevalence and mode of inheritance of any particular disease must be considered. For mitochondrial variants, the population frequency (MAF column) is based on the homoplasmic frequency within a reference population (gnomAD).

**Classification:** Refers to the possible pathogenicity of a variant, but does not necessarily provide clear evidence of clinical significance. Variants are evaluated based upon current data and specific criteria, and are then classified as follows: pathogenic, likely pathogenic, and uncertain significance. **All variants for which clinical relevance cannot be conclusively confirmed or excluded are referred as variants of unknown clinical significance.**

## INTERPRETATION

### **RPGR, c.1245+1G>A; p.? (hemi.), NM\_000328.3**

OMIM / Reference	Phenotype	Heredity
300029	Retinitis pigmentosa 3 (RP3)	XL
300834	Atrophic macular degeneration	XL
300455	Retinitis pigmentosa with sinorespiratory infections, with or without deafness	XL
304020	Cone-rod dystrophy (CORDX1)	XL

The **RPGR** gene encodes a protein with a series of six RCC1-like domains (RLDs), characteristic of the highly conserved guanine nucleotide exchange factors. The encoded protein is localized to the outer segment of rod photoreceptors and is essential for their viability. According to the X-chromosomal inheritance male patients with pathogenic variants in the **RPGR** gene show the full phenotypic spectrum of retinopathy, whereas female carriers of pathogenic **RPGR** variants exhibit a broad spectrum of phenotypes from asymptomatic to retinitis pigmentosa (Jin et al., 2007, PMID: 17923551).

The variant **c.1245+1G>A; p.?** in gene **RPGR** has been identified in your patient in a hemizygous state. The detected variant is located in an essential splice site and is predicted to have a deleterious effect on splicing via splice donor loss. A pathogenic variant affecting the same splice donor site, **c.1245+3A>T**, has been demonstrated to result in in-frame-skipping of gene **RPGR**'s 10<sup>th</sup> exon causing the loss of 61 amino acids of the last repeat of the RCC1 domain which is required for interaction partner binding (Glaus et al., 2011, PMID: 21326217). A comparable effect of the variant detected in your patient seems likely. Loss of function, or loss of interaction with binding partners, are pathomechanisms of **RPGR**-associated retinitis pigmentosa (Zhang et al., 2019, PMID: 30622176; He et al., 2008, PMID: 17904189). In the literature, another variation at this splice site donor was reported as causative for retinitis pigmentosa (Weisschuh et al., 2016, PMID: 26766544; see HGMD Professional). Your patient's variant was not detected in global reference populations (gnomAD), not reported in the literature so far.

**Based upon the available data, we conclude that the likely pathogenic **RPGR** variant is consistent with your patient's disease.**

Additional variants may be present within regions which were not analyzed (e.g. introns, promoter and enhancer regions and long repeats). A lower specificity enrichment and/or inaccurate variant calling cannot be ruled out for homologous regions with multiple genomic copies. The occurrence of low frequency somatic mosaicism cannot be reliably assessed using a pipeline optimized for germline variant detection, and may therefore remain undetected. Moreover, detection of large deletions and duplications is not guaranteed by next-generation high-throughput sequencing. Although unlikely, it is also possible that the classification of variants may change in the future due to improvements in scientific understanding.

## GENETIC RELEVANCE

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The patient is hemizygous for a likely pathogenic variant in gene *RPGR*. This may be of relevance for family planning and at-risk family members.

This variant will be passed on to every female offspring of your patient, who will each be heterozygous carriers of this variant and may show clinical features of disease in some cases. Male offspring of your patient will not inherit the variant.

## RECOMMENDATION

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We recommend further clinical management according to the current guidelines for non-syndromic retinitis pigmentosa (Fahim et al., updated 2017, PMID: 20301590, GeneReviews).

It is possible to investigate further affected family members regarding the variant identified in gene *RPGR*. Due to skewed X-inactivation, female carriers may be asymptomatic. Testing of asymptomatic family members regarding the variant c.1245+1G>A; p.? identified in gene *RPGR* may only be performed following genetic counseling.

According to § 10 of the German Genetic Diagnostics Legislation, appropriate genetic counseling should be offered with all diagnostic genetic testing. Following the identification of the molecular cause of a genetic disease, genetic counseling has to be offered.

Medical report written by: Scientist 1

Proofread by: Scientist 2

With kind regards,

Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Saskia Biskup  
Dr. med. Friedmar Kreuz, M.A.

Consultant for Human Genetics

Dr. rer. nat. Heinz-Dieter Gabriel  
PD Dr. biol. hum. Christiane Maier  
Dr. rer. nat. Christian Wilhelm  
Dr. rer. nat. Martin Ritthaler

Diagnostics

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Requested Regions** The whole exome of the individual above was targeted and sequenced. Analysis was restricted to the following gene regions:

**BEST1, CA4, CACNA1F, CRX, GUCA1B, HK1, IMPDH1, KLHL7, NR2E3, NRL, PRPF3, PRPF31, PRPF4, PRPF6, PRPF8, PRPH2, RDH12, RGR, RHO, ROM1, RP1, RP2, RP9, RPE65, RPGR, SEMA4A, SNRNP200, TOPORS** (Retinitis pigmentosa, autosomal dominant and X-linked)

The following differential diagnoses were also taken into account in the evaluation of our sequencing data: Usher Syndrome; Retinitis pigmentosa, autosomal recessive and X-linked; Stargardt Disease and Macular Dystrophies; Cone and Cone Rod Dystrophies; Flecked Retina Disorders

**Methods** **Sequencing:** Protein-coding regions, as well as flanking intronic regions and additional disease-relevant non-coding regions, were enriched using in-solution hybridization technology, and were sequenced using the Illumina NovaSeq6000 system. In order to provide a second, independent validation, one or more rare variant(s) identified within the NGS data were additionally sequenced using conventional Sanger sequencing.

**NGS based CNV-Calling:** (only applicable for nuclear encoded genes) Copy number variations (CNV) were computed on uniquely mapping, non-duplicate, high-quality reads using an internally developed method based on sequencing coverage depth. Briefly, we used reference samples to create a model of the expected coverage that represents wet-lab biases as well as inter-sample variation. CNV calling was performed by computing the sample's normalized coverage profile and its deviation from the expected coverage. Genomic regions are called as variant if they deviate significantly from the expected coverage. Copy number variants are named according to current ISCN guidelines. NGS based CNV-Calling will not detect balanced rearrangements, uniparental disomy, or low-level mosaicism. Aberrations on the Y chromosome and in the pseudoautosomal region (PAR) cannot be detected with high accuracy. The integration site of duplications cannot be determined by NGS based CNV-Calling.

Please note that next generation sequencing based detection of copy number variations has lower sensitivity/specificity than a direct quantification method, e.g. MLPA. Copy-neutral structural aberrations can not be detected using this method (e.g. balanced translocations and balanced inversions). The absence of reported CNVs therefore does not ultimately guarantee the absence of CNVs.

**Computational Analysis:** Illumina bcl2fastq2 was used to demultiplex sequencing reads. Adapter removal was performed with Skewer. The trimmed reads were mapped to the human reference genome (hg19) using the Burrows Wheeler Aligner. Reads mapping to more than one location with identical mapping score were discarded. Read duplicates that likely result from PCR amplification were removed. The remaining high-quality sequences were used to determine sequence variants (single nucleotide changes and small insertions/deletions). The variants were annotated based on several internal as well as external databases.

**Diagnostic data analysis:** Variants were classified and reported based on ACMG/ACGS-2020v4.01 guidelines (Richards et al., 2015, PMID: 25741868, <https://www.acgs.uk.com/quality/best-practice-guidelines/>).

Only variants (SNVs/Small Indels) in the coding region and the flanking intronic regions ( $\pm 8$  bp) with a minor allele frequency (MAF)  $< 1.5\%$  are evaluated. Known disease-causing variants (according to HGMD) are evaluated in up to  $\pm 30$  bp of flanking regions and up to 5% MAF. Minor allele frequencies are taken from public databases (e.g. gnomAD) and an in-house database. If an acceptable sequencing-depth per base is not achieved by high-throughput sequencing, our quality guidelines demand local re-sequencing using classical Sanger-technology. Candidate CNV calls are evaluated manually. Potentially pathogenic findings are validated with a second method, like MLPA, on a case by case basis.

In this case, 99.67% of the targeted regions were covered by a minimum of 30 high-quality sequencing reads per base. **The evaluation of variants is dependent on available clinical information at the time of analysis.** The medical report contains all variants not classified as benign or likely benign according to current literature. Synonymous variants in mitochondrially encoded genes are classified as benign. In silico predictions were performed using the programs MetaLR (Dong et al., 2015, PMID: 25552646), PrimateAI (Sundaram et al., 2018, PMID: 30038395), and SpliceAI (Jaganathan et al., 2019, PMID: 30661751). This prediction can be complemented with additional *in silico* predictions in individual cases.

Variants are named according to the HGVS recommendations without any information regarding the cis or trans configuration.

The sample fulfilled our quality criteria upon arrival and during/after each processing step in the laboratory.

The procedure described above was developed and validated in-house (Laboratory developed test; LDT).

**Communication, dissemination and usage of this report for scientific purposes is only permitted in accordance with the German Genetic Diagnostics Legislation.**