

# FGB Gene

Subjects: **Genetics & Heredity**

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Fibrinogen beta chain: The FGB gene provides instructions for making a protein called the fibrinogen B beta (B $\beta$ ) chain, one piece (subunit) of the fibrinogen protein.

genes

## 1. Normal Function

This protein is important for blood clot formation (coagulation), which is needed to stop excessive bleeding after injury. To form fibrinogen, the B $\beta$  chain attaches to two other proteins called the fibrinogen A alpha (A $\alpha$ ) and fibrinogen gamma (γ) chains, each produced from different genes. Two sets of this three-protein complex combine to form functional fibrinogen.

For coagulation to occur, another protein called thrombin removes a piece from the A $\alpha$  and the B $\beta$  subunits of the functional fibrinogen protein (the pieces are called the A and B fibrinopeptides). This process converts fibrinogen to fibrin, the main protein in blood clots. Fibrin proteins attach to each other, forming a stable network that makes up the blood clot.

## 2. Health Conditions Related to Genetic Changes

### 2.1 Congenital Afibrinogenemia

Mutations in the *FGB* gene can lead to congenital afibrinogenemia, a condition that causes excessive bleeding due to the absence of fibrinogen protein in the blood. Most *FGB* gene mutations that cause this condition lead to an abnormally short blueprint for protein formation (mRNA). If any fibrinogen B $\beta$  chain is produced, it is nonfunctional. Some mutations in the *FGB* gene result in the formation of a protein that cannot be released from the cell, making the protein effectively nonfunctional. Because this condition occurs when both copies of the *FGB* gene are altered, there is a complete absence of functional fibrinogen B $\beta$  chain. Without the B $\beta$  subunit, the fibrinogen protein is not assembled, which results in the absence of fibrin. As a result, blood clots do not form in response to injury, leading to excessive bleeding.

### 2.2 Other Disorders

Mutations in one or both copies of the *FGB* gene can cause other bleeding disorders known as hypofibrinogenemia, dysfibrinogenemia, or hypodysfibrinogenemia.

Hypofibrinogenemia is a condition characterized by decreased levels of fibrinogen in the blood. This condition is caused by mutations that reduce but do not eliminate the production of the fibrinogen B $\beta$  chain. People with hypofibrinogenemia can have bleeding problems that vary from mild to severe. Generally, the less fibrinogen in the blood, the more severe the bleeding problems are.

Dysfibrinogenemia is a condition characterized by abnormally functioning fibrinogen, although the protein is present at normal levels. This condition is usually caused by mutations that change a single protein building block (amino acid) in the fibrinogen B $\beta$  chain. These mutations alter the function of the fibrinogen protein and, depending on the functional change, can lead to excessive bleeding or abnormal blood clotting (thrombosis).

Hypodysfibrinogenemia is a condition characterized by low levels of abnormally functioning fibrinogen protein in the blood. As in dysfibrinogenemia, this condition can result in excessive bleeding or thrombosis.

### 3. Other Names for This Gene

- FIBB\_HUMAN
- fibrinogen beta chain isoform 1 preproprotein
- fibrinogen beta chain isoform 2 preproprotein
- fibrinogen, B beta polypeptide

### References

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