What causes a UCD?
A UCD is inherited, meaning it is something a person is born with. Inherited UCDs occur when one or both parents pass a copy of an abnormal UCD-causing gene on to their child. However, it is also possible for a UCD to occur randomly while a developing baby’s cells are forming, even if the parents are not carriers. (A carrier is a person with one normal copy of a gene and one abnormal copy.)

Do you have a family member with a UCD?
If you have a family member with a UCD, talk to your doctor about what this means for you. The most common type of UCD, ornithine transcarbamylase (OTC) deficiency, is usually passed on from a mother to her child. In rare cases, OTC deficiency can also be passed down from a father to his daughter. In many cases, affected adults do not know they carry the OTC gene until their child is diagnosed. It is especially important for mothers, aunts, and sisters of an affected family member to consider UCD testing because they are more likely to be at risk.
It is important for you to get tested for a UCD if you experience any of these common symptoms:

- Feeling very tired or sluggish
- Staring or "zoning out"
- Headaches, fatigue, nausea, or vomiting

Note: Children who exhibit these symptoms or developmental delays, including autism, should also be tested.

How long will it take to get results?
Once Invitae receives your blood or saliva sample, your results will be available in 10 to 21 calendar days, on average.

What do I need to know when I get my results?
Whether your results are positive or negative, they provide important information that can help you make decisions about your healthcare and family planning. Knowing this information can also help you educate others in your family about UCDs and the importance of genetic testing.

What are the potential results?

**POSITIVE** means that you carry the abnormal gene that causes a UCD.
If you have a positive result, talk with your doctor about the UCD gene you tested positive for and what having the gene means for your health.

**NEGATIVE** means that the test did not find the abnormal gene that causes a UCD.
If you have a negative result, the genetic test did not find an abnormal gene that causes a UCD. However, if you are still experiencing health problems, your doctor may still suspect you have a similar disorder. He or she may want to discuss further testing and possible management options with you.

**UNCERTAIN** means that the test found something abnormal but it is not medically known whether the specific abnormality found causes a UCD.
In this case, your doctor may want to order additional testing to find out if you have a UCD.