

ICSA How-to Guide

DNA Testing for Chinese Adoptees

International Child Search Alliance



When you're searching for Chinese birth family members, it's important to do **two** different DNA tests - an **autosomal DNA test** through 23andMe and uploaded to GEDmatch, and a **CODIS DNA test** through MyTaproot. If you wish to anonymize your information, you can create any name and birth date you wish and use a separate/special email.

The chart on the next page summarizes the recommended steps.

Autosomal DNA test

This is a test of the autosomal (i.e., 22 numbered pairs of) chromosomes as opposed to the sex chromosomes (i.e., X and Y). The test checks about 700,000 pairs of locations in an individual's autosomal DNA. Companies like 23andMe and AncestryDNA use autosomal tests.

IMPORTANT: No matter which autosomal test you do, you should also **UPLOAD YOUR RESULTS TO GEDMATCH**. As of February 2021, there are more than 500 Chinese birth parents in GEDmatch.

23andMe

Most Chinese adoptees are in 23andMe (23andme.com/en-eu), and you typically find more people of Chinese heritage in this database than any other autosomal company. 23andMe is a saliva test.



AncestryDNA

If you can afford it, you can supplement your 23andMe test with AncestryDNA (ancestry.com/dna), another autosomal test. Some searchers have found Chinese relatives here, and adoptive families not involved in China-related Facebook groups may have also tested with AncestryDNA. This is a saliva test.



GEDmatch

How-to Guide: Uploading [23andMe to Gedmatch](#)

No matter which autosomal test you do, be sure to upload your raw DNA data file to GEDmatch gedmatch.com/login1.php. There are over 500 birth families from China in GEDmatch, thanks to the work of DNAConnect (see below) and others. This is FREE and easy to do. GEDmatch accepts uploads from 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, AncestryDNA, My Heritage, and most others.



You can also match your own 23andMe and AncestryDNA results within GEDmatch. You may receive different matches for your 23andMe and AncestryDNA test results.



DNA FOR CHINESE ADOPTEES

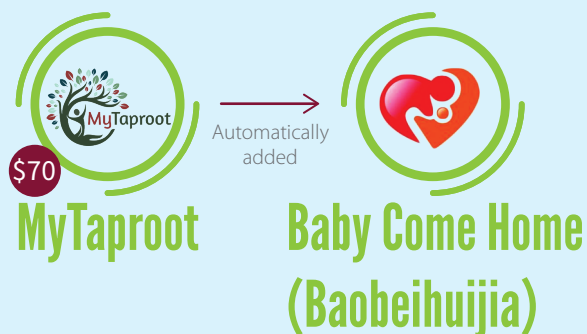
AUTOSOMAL DNA TEST

matches parents, siblings, cousins

START

CODIS DNA TEST

matches parents only; most common in China






UPLOAD RAW DATA FOR FREE



UPLOAD RAW DATA FOR FREE



- 1 GEDmatch**
Hundreds of birth parents in GEDmatch

- 2 Chinese DNA sites**
WeGene

23mofang

- 3 Other sites**
FamilyTree DNA
MyHeritage
Living DNA
DNA Land

- 1 HFFR**
Help for Family Reunion

- 2 Chinese Local Databases**
Check with local volunteers or search group admins



DNAConnect



DNAConnect (dnaconnect.org) has located hundreds of Chinese birthparents who are searching for children they relinquished and uploaded their DNA to GEDmatch. As of February 2021, they have added DNA for 539 birthparents and successfully matched 83 adoptees to their birth families.





Note: DNAConnect will collect and process autosomal DNA for any birth family that is located and also stay in contact with them over the next 10 years or longer until a match is made. Please note that DNAConnect charges to release birth parent contact information – \$50 if your donation is made before a match and \$299 if made after a match. However, if you provide contact information for a birth family in China, any future match to you through DNAConnect will also be free of fees to you.

Other DNA sites



Upload your raw autosomal DNA for free to the two primary Chinese sites, 23mofang and WeGene. There has been at least one match for an adoptee through 23mofang, and both sites give you information about which provinces and cities have people genetically closest to you.

Chinese Companies	Website
<p>23Mofang How-to Guide: Uploading DNA to 23mofang <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA. Database is kept in China.</i>  <i>A little challenging to use if you can't read Chinese. If you find a close match on 23mofang (1st or 2nd cousin range), contact the Nanchang Project. They can help you in get in touch with the 23mofang developers, who will assist in contacting the match and possibly the birth family.</i></p>	<p>23mofang.com/</p>
<p>WeGene <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA. Database is kept in China.</i>  <i>Tip: Use the English site to create your account and upload your DNA data, but then use the Chinese site, with Google Chrome to translate, to see relative matches and additional information not visible on the English site.</i></p>	<p>wegene.com/en (English site) or wegene.com (Chinese site – has more features – can use Google Chrome to translate)</p>

Also consider uploading your autosomal data to the following databases. These are all free and increase your chances of matching more people.

US Companies	Website
<p>Family Tree DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA, MyHeritage. A swab test - option for those who can't generate enough saliva.</i> </p>	<p>familytreedna.com</p>
<p>DNA Land <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, AncestryDNA</i> </p>	<p>dna.land</p>



<p>My Heritage Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, Living DNA. My Heritage is a swab test - good option for those who can't generate enough saliva.</p> 	<p>myheritage.com</p>
<p>Living DNA Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage, FTDNA</p> 	<p>support.livingdna.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012746031-How-do-I-upload-data-via-Find-my-past-</p>

→ **IMPORTANT... DON'T FORGET!** ←

1. Please check your account(s) at least monthly for new matches!
2. If you get a message or see a match that shows an identical twin or sibling, please check first who the match is. You could have accidentally uploaded your/your child's DNA twice.

CODIS DNA test

This is the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a software platform that blends forensic science and computer technology. CODIS DNA tests look for unique repeating patterns in an individual's DNA known as short-tandem repeats (STRs). STRs can be used to differentiate one person from another. Typically, a CODIS DNA test compares only 13 to 20 autosomal STR markers.

You don't see CODIS tests advertised since this type of test is primarily used by the FBI and local law enforcement organizations to help solve crimes. A paternity test to determine the father of a child is a CODIS DNA test. It is however the most commonly-used DNA test in China right now.

MyTaproot

MyTaproot (MyTaproot.org) is a free birth family search service, offered by CCAI Adoption Services (ccaifamily.org) for Chinese adoptees. They offer an optional CODIS DNA test (cheek swab) at a discounted rate; you can also submit the results to other CODIS databases (see below). CCAI is encouraging Chinese birth parents who relinquished their children for adoption to have their DNA tested using a CODIS DNA test and have it uploaded into the MyTaproot database (haiwaixunzi.org on the Chinese side). If there is a match between a Chinese adoptee and Chinese birth parent, MyTaproot will notify the birth parent and Chinese adoptee or adoptive parents. Contact MyTaproot at info@mytaproot.org and LabCorp at DNA@labcorp.com.



Baby Come Home (Baobeihuijia)

This is a Chinese website started by Chinese parents whose children were abducted or went missing (baobeihuijia.com). It was created to help Chinese citizens find missing relatives. It has listings of Chinese birth parents looking for children, domestic Chinese adoptees looking for their birth parents, ads for lost adults, and international adopted children looking for birth parents. If you open this Chinese website in Google Chrome, you can automatically translate the site into English.



There are two options to register with Baby Come Home.

#1 The first option to register with Baby Come Home is to sign up with **MyTaproot**

Read the information on the MyTaproot page carefully. After you finished the steps, you can order a DNA test for \$70 via their partner LabCorp (MyTaproot will tell you how to do this). It is also possible to do this if you are located in Europe, but there is an additional shipping charge of \$100. It may be cheaper to get an STR or CODIS test in your own country; check with MyTaproot for compatibility.

LabCorp will send the DNA results to you, and you have to register it in your MyTaproot account.

MyTaproot will register your child with Baby Come Home (Baobeihuijia) in China and your DNA results will be compared. You will get a registration number. It might take several months. The DNA results will also be compared by MyTaproot with Haiwaixunzi (haiwaixunzi.org), the Chinese database side of MyTaproot.

#2 The second option to register is to join the Facebook group **Baby Home**

facebook.com/groups/275651082969132

Look for information on how to register in the files section of this Facebook group.

Help for Family Reunion (HFFR)

You can also e-mail your MyTaproot CODIS DNA results to this organization (sending your 23andMe results to HFFR will do them no good since their DNA database is also a CODIS DNA database). Help for Family Reunion is a private non-profit organization in China that has helped to reunite 730 families since it was established in 2015. The database is kept in the U.S. See HFFR on Facebook: facebook.com/groups/2014039432246491



E-mail the CODIS DNA info below to BeeHFFR@gmail.com:

1. Name - SWI assigned name is OK (Indicate which name to use in the database, Chinese OR English)
2. Photo of DNA results. You can remove your real name and address for privacy concerns.
3. Date of birth
4. Gender
5. Current residing country
6. Contact info - customized WeChat ID (don't send WeChat code) preferred. Email is OK.
7. Pictures (2) - 1 headshot and 1 full body preferred
8. Adoption info - a few lines on where you were adopted, your finding place, your special physical features, etc.
9. If you don't get confirmation in a week, email again or WeChat *meefengbz*

Chinese National DNA database

If you are searching within China, you could also leave a DNA sample in the national database at the Ministry of Public Security (i.e., police station). It is free. Since this is also a CODIS DNA database you will only find a match to a close relative like a parent or identical twin.

