

DNA Testing for Chinese Adoptees

December 2019

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 and a CODIS DNA test. You are free to create any name and birth date you wish to anonymize the information. You can use a separate/special email just for it.

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.

You often see this type of DNA test advertised by companies like **23andMe** and **AncestryDNA**. These are autosomal DNA tests.

23andMe

The autosomal test can be done by several companies, but most Chinese adoptees are in the 23andMe database (23andme.com/en-eu). You will typically find more individuals of Chinese heritage in this database than any other autosomal DNA.



GEDmatch

You should also upload your 23andMe results to GEDmatch (see below for why you should do this). This is free. gedmatch.com/login1.php







Research-China and DNAConnect




A company named Research-China (research-china.org) has created a program called **DNAConnect** (dnaconnect.org). Research-China/DNAConnect uploads the DNA of Chinese birthparents who are searching for the children they relinquished for adoption to the GEDmatch database in hopes of finding matches with Chinese adoptees who are searching for members of their birth families. As of December 2019, they have successfully matched 57 adoptees to their birth families and uploaded DNA for 413 birthparents to GEDmatch.



Other DNA sites

Consider also uploading your raw 23andMe DNA data file to the following databases. These are all free and increase your chances of matching more people.

US Companies	Website
Family Tree DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA, MyHeritage</i> 	familytreedna.com
DNA Land <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, FamilyTree DNA, AncestryDNA</i> 	dna.land
My Heritage <i>Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, Living DNA</i> 	myheritage.com
Living DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from AncestryDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage, FTDNA</i> 	support.livingdna.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012746031-How-do-I-upload-data-via-Find-my-past-

Chinese Companies	Website
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> 	wegene.com/en (English site) or wegene.com (Chinese site – has more features – can use Google Chrome to translate)
Zuyuan DNA <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA. Database is kept in China.</i> 	zuyuandna.cn/upload-dna-data
23Mofang <i>Accepts free uploads from 23andMe, AncestryDNA. Database is kept in China. VERY challenging to use if you can't read Chinese.</i> 	23mofang.com/

AncestryDNA

This is also an autosomal DNA test (ancestry.com/dna). If you can afford to do so, you could test with AncestryDNA; it's another option. Some searchers have found Chinese relatives via this database, so you may want to use it to supplement your 23andMe test. Adoptive families not involved in China-related Facebook groups may have also tested with AncestryDNA.



If you test with another company like AncestryDNA, **please make sure you upload (free) your raw DNA data file to GEDmatch**. Searchers can match their own 23andMe and AncestryDNA results within the GEDmatch database. A searcher may also receive different matches within the GEDmatch database for their 23andMe and AncestryDNA test results.



← **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 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.



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.

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 almost 700 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.

The International Child Search Alliance works to raise awareness in China that international adoptees are searching and to encourage Chinese birth parents to do DNA testing. If you would like to be on a group province poster, please join the Facebook group Baby Home (facebook.com/groups/275651082969132) and look in the files section for the ICSA QR codes Poster Owners pdf.

