

Down Syndrome

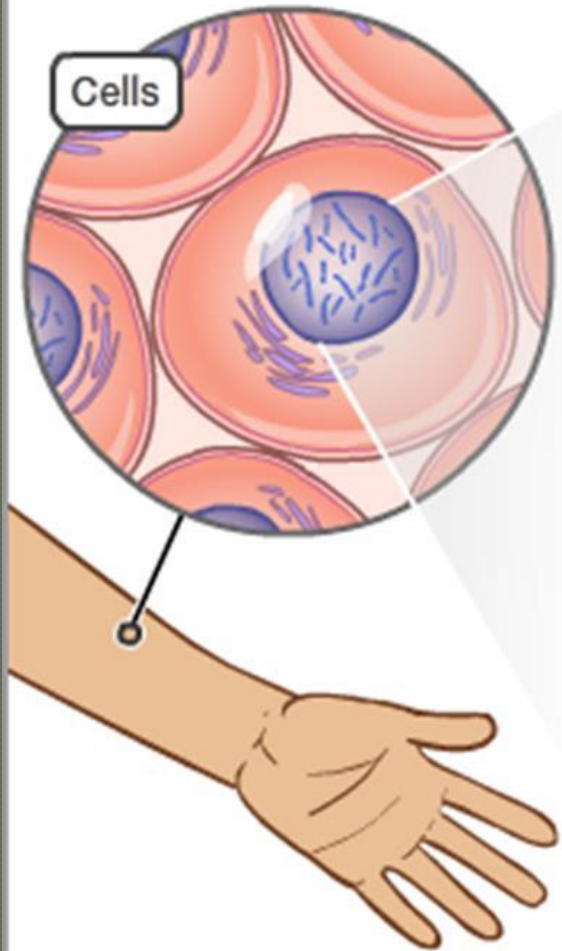


What is Down Syndrome?

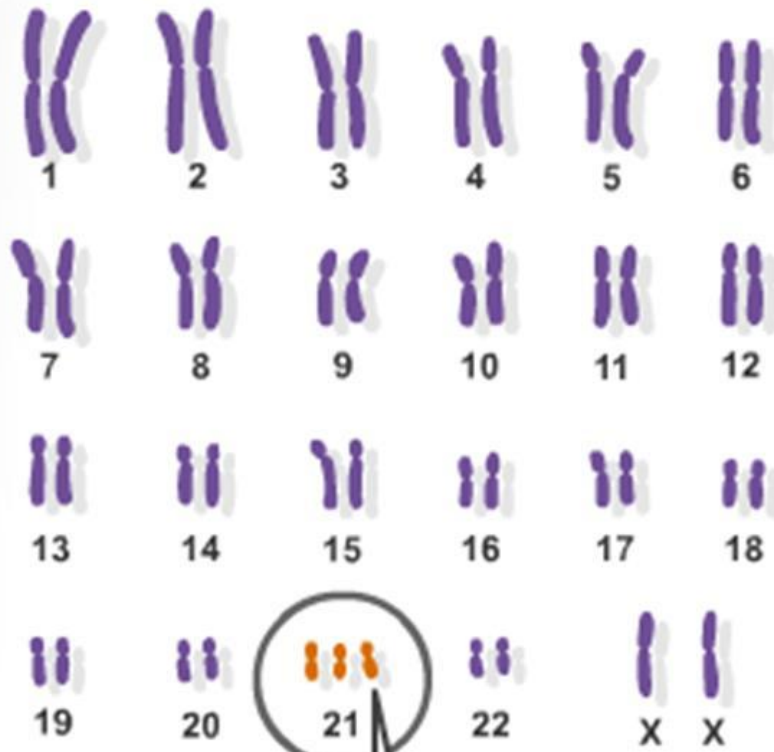
- a genetic disorder
- causes a lifelong Intellectual Disability, developmental delays a
- most common genetic cause of learning disabilities in children
- developmental problems range from moderate to sever

Causes

- Down syndrome results **extra copy** of chromosome 21
- The three genetic variations that can cause Down syndrome include:
 - Trisomy 21
 - Mosaic Down syndrome
 - Translocation Down syndrome



47 chromosomes



Extra chromosome 21

Is it inherited?

- Most of the time, Down syndrome **isn't inherited.**
- It's caused by a **mistake in cell division**
- Translocation Down syndrome is the only form of the disorder that can be passed from parent to child. (4%)
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Risk Factors

- 1. Advancing maternal age.**
- 2. Had one child with Down syndrome.**
- 3. Being carriers of the genetic translocation for Down syndrome.**
- 4. Both men and women can pass the genetic translocation to their children**

Common Symptoms

- A distinct facial appearance:
 - Flattened facial features
 - Small head
 - Short neck
 - Protruding tongue
 - Upward slanting eyes, unusual for the child's ethnic group
 - Unusually shaped ears
- Poor muscle tone
- Broad, short hands with a single crease in the palm
- Relatively short fingers
- Excessive flexibility

Common Symptoms Continued...

- Infants with Down syndrome may be of average size, but typically they grow slowly and remain shorter than other children of similar age
- In general, developmental milestones, such as sitting and crawling, occur at about twice the age of children without impairment
- Children with Down syndrome also have some degree of Intellectual Disability, most often in the mild to moderate range

Complications

- **Heart defects.**
- **Leukemia.**
- **Infectious diseases.**
- ⊙ **Dementia.**
- ⊙ **Sleep apnea**
- ⊙ **Obesity**

Life Expectancy

- Life spans have increased dramatically for people with Down syndrome
- In 1929, a baby born with Down syndrome often didn't live to age 10
- Today, someone with Down syndrome can expect to live to 50 and beyond, depending on the severity of his or her health problems

Early Intervention

- Early intervention for infants and children with Down syndrome can make a difference in realizing their potential abilities and in their quality of life
- Early intervention programs vary from state to state, but they usually involve therapists and special educators whose goal is to help the baby develop motor skills, language, social skills and self-help skills