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Down Syndrome

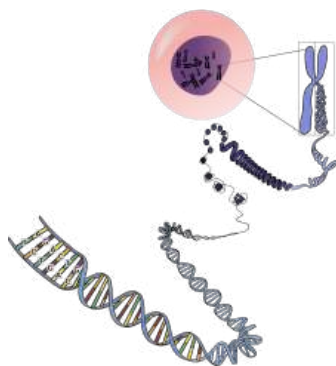
What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome¹ is a genetic disorder that a person is born with that affects both the body and the brain. The physical characteristics of Down syndrome include slanted eyes, smaller than average head and ears, flattened facial features, a short neck, poor muscle tone, and shorter than average height. Children with this disorder have trouble learning and it takes a longer time for them to learn how to be independent.

DID YOU KNOW?

Down syndrome is the most common genetic disorder in the United States.

What causes Down syndrome?



Within cells, DNA is arranged in chromosomes.

All living things are made up of **cells**². **DNA**³ (deoxyribonucleic acid) is found on the inside of each cell. DNA is basically a blueprint for an organism. For example, DNA determines how tall a person will be and the color of their hair and eyes. Within the cell, DNA is organized into **chromosomes**⁴. Humans have 46 chromosomes. Half come from a person's mother and half come from their father, and they are joined together into 23 pairs. Instead of having 46 chromosomes, however, a person with Down syndrome has an extra one for a total of 47. This means that instead of 23 pairs they have 22 pairs and one trio.

Characteristics

Ecobottle Sample



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¹ **Down syndrome:** an illness someone is born with that has both physical and cognitive effects.

² **Cells:** the basic units of life

³ **DNA:** the blueprint for an organism

⁴ **Chromosomes:** the structures into which DNA is organized

- They can suffer from:
 - Heart problems
 - Bone problems
 - Blood cancer (leukemia)

Although they have these problems, they still enjoy the same activities as other people, such as music, learning, and hobbies.

Diagnosis and Treatment



Ecobottle Sample

TWF

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TWF

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What is Down syndrome?
2. What
3. Can
4. What is
5. How many chromosomes do we typically have?
6. How many chromosomes does someone with Down syndrome have?
7. Give
8. Is
9. How can people with Down syndrome live a normal life?

Extension Questions

10. What are some things that can increase your chances of having a child with Down syndrome?
11. Research

Ecobottle Sample



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TWF READING

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