# **History of Cytogenetics**

True chromosome number established in 1956



*"From their vantage through the microscope, the cytogeneticists' view of the genome is still unrivalled in its scope, detail and color." Barbara J. Trask, 2002* 



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Figure 12.6



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## **Nomenclature of chromosomes**



### **Chromosome Shape**

Metacentric- centromere is located in the middle of chromosome Submetacentric- centromere is displaced from the center Acrocentric – centromere is placed near the end



## Human chromosomes

- DNA and associated proteins are organized into chromosomes
- Human somatic cells are diploid and have 22 pairs of autosomes AND 1 set of sex chromosomes (XX or XY)= total of 46
  - Females XX
  - Males XY
- Germ cells are haploid and contain 22 chromosomes plus 1 sex chromosome (X or Y)



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## Interphase

- Gap 1 (G1)- many cytoplasmic organelles are constructed; RNA, protein and other molecules are synthesized; cell almost doubles in size
- **Synthesis** (S)– DNA is replicated and chromosomes duplicate, forming 2 sister chromatids attached at the centromere
- Gap 2 (G2)– more cell growth; mitochondria divide; spindle precursors form





## Mitosis

- Produces identical daughter cells
  - (46 chromosomes)
- It must be accurate for cells to function properly
- Continuous process but divided into distinct steps:
  - Prophase
  - Metaphase
  - Anaphase
  - Telophase





## **The Stages of Meiosis**

- After chromosomes duplicate, two divisions follow
  - Meiosis I (reductional division): homologs pair up and separate, resulting in two haploid daughter cells with replicated chromosomes
  - Meiosis II (equational division) sister chromatids separate
- The result is four haploid daughter cells with unreplicated chromosomes



Figure 13.7-1





Newly forming microtubules in Plasma the cytoplasm membrane The nuclear envelope is breaking apart; microtubules will be able to penetrate the

Interactions between motor proteins and microtubules are moving one of two pairs of centrioles toward the opposite spindle pole.

(a) Prophase I

nuclear region.



One pair of homologous chromosomes (each being two sister chromatids)

(a) Prophase I

(b) Metaphase I







(e) Prophase II



(e) Prophase II

(f) Metaphase II



(e) Prophase II

(f) Metaphase II (

(g) Anaphase II



### Homologous chromosomes



## **Prophase I**

- Leptotene
  - Replicated chromosomes align and begin to condense
- Zygotene
  - homologous chromosomes pair along entire length (synapsis)
  - synaptonemal complex forms
- Pachytene
  - Synapsis is complete and each pair of homologues is called a tetrads (bivalent)
  - Crossing over occurs (recombination at chiasmata)
- Diplotene
  - Homologous chromosomes separate some but remain bound at chiasmata
    - usually 2 chiasmata/chromosome, more frequent in females)
- Diakinesis
  - Further chromosome condensation; tetrads viable





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## **Genetic consequences of meiosis**

- Reduction of chromosome number
- Diploid to haploid (essential for gametes)
- Random assortment of maternal and paternal chromosomes
  - genes on different chromosomes
  - maternal/paternal chromosomes
  - Number of possible chromosomal combinations = 2<sup>23</sup> or 8,388,608
  - Recombination between chromosome pairs increases the possible combinations
- Segregation of alleles
- Recombination/crossing-over
  - Allows new combinations of genes to be produced
  - Important for normal chromosome disjunction
  - Ensures genetic diversity

### **Chromosome combinations: independent assortment**



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Knowledge of chromosomes is important in many areas of clinical medicine and research.

In humans, approximately 0.6-1% of all liveborns have a chromosomal abnormality.

chromosomal aberrations are noted in:

- (1) 20%-27% of individuals having sex reversal or pubertal anomalies;
- (2) 33% to 67% of spontaneous miscarriages;

(3) 2% to 5% of couples having a history of multiple miscarriages;

(4) the majority of cells from leukemia samples or solid tumors.

## Why Study Human Chromosomes?

| Morbidity/Mortality  | Estimate of Cases with<br>Cytogenetic Abnormality  |
|--|--|
| Early embryonic death in<br>unrecognized pregnancies         | ?? 33-67%  |
| Recognized embryonic and fetal deaths ( <u>&gt;</u> 5 weeks) | About 30% total; rate varies from 50% at 8-11 weeks to 5% in stillbirths ( <u>&gt;</u> 28 weeks) |
| Infant and childhood deaths                                  | 5-7%   |
| Birth defects  | 4-8%   |
| Congenital heart defects                                     | 13%  |
| Sex reversal/pubertal anomalies                              | 20-27%   |
| Multiple miscarriages in couples                             | 2-5%   |
| Neoplasms  | 20-80+%  |

## **Research Uses for Cytogenetic Evaluation**

- Localization of DNA onto a chromosome(s)
- Determination of genomic complement
- •Characterization of genetic change(s)
- •Recognition of chromosomal changes following treatment(s) or *in vitro* culturing

## **Tissues for Chromosome Studies**

Peripheral blood (lymphocytes)
Bone marrow
Chorionic villi biopsy
Amniotic fluid cells
Skin or organ biopsy
- A karyogram is photograph ora diagram of an ordered arrangement of chromosomes from cells that are placed in a standard order (generally by length; chromosome 1 is longest and 22 shortest).
- Once a computer image of the chromosomes from a dividing cell is obtained, the chromosomes are arranged as homologous pairs.
- Each homologous pair of chromosomes consists of one maternally and one paternally inherited chromosome.
- The normal diploid chromosome number for humans is 46.

#### Karyogram is also called Karyotype

**<u>Karyogram</u>** – An ordered arrangement of the chromosomes from a cell

placed in a standard sequence (generally by length).

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|-----------|---------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|--|--------|
| 6         | A unwitte     | and a second sec | 9                 | 10              |  | 12     |
| 13        | (Magare<br>14 | 200000<br>15   | 16                |                 | 17   | 18     |
| 19        | 2 2<br>20     | n A<br>21  | 22                |                 | ×  | ň<br>Y |

The ideogram of a chromosomal complement is a diagrammatic representation of the karyotype.





#### **Metaphase chromosomes**

- A karyotype is the number and appearance of chromosomes in the nucleus.
- The chromosomal complement for a normal female is indicated as : 46,XX
- The chromosomal complement for a normal male is indicated as : 46,XY
- To be examined by chromosome analysis for clinical purposes, cells must be capable of proliferation in culture. The most accessible cells that meet this requirement are white blood cells, specifically T lymphocytes.





Case: 12-Azab Slide: I3 Azab 3 Cell: K32/3\_cell 953

#### **Types of banding**

- G-banding
- R-banding
- C-banding
- Q-banding
- T-banding
- Silver staining



R-banding

C-banding

#### G-banding (GTG)

- heterochromatic regions, which tend to be AT-rich DNA and relatively gene-poor, stain more darkly The light regions tend to be euchromatic, GC rich.
- less condensed chromatin—which tends to be GC-rich and more transcriptionally active—incorporates less Giemsa stain, and these regions appear as light bands
- This method will normally produce 300-400 bands among the 23 pairs of human chromosomes.
- Measured in DNA terms, a G-band represents several million to 10 million base pairs of DNA, a stretch long enough to contain hundreds of genes.
- metaphase chromosomes are first treated briefly with trypsin, an enzyme that degrades proteins, before the chromosomes are stained with Giemsa. Trypsin partially digests some of the chromosomal proteins, thereby relaxing the chromatin structure and allowing the Giemsa dye access to the DNA.

#### R-banding

- is the reverse of G-banding (the R stands for "reverse"). The dark regions are euchromatic (guanine-cytosine rich regions). The bright regions are heterochromatic (thymineadenine rich regions)
- provide critical details about gene-rich regions that are located near the telomeres
- often used together with G-banding on human karyotype to determine whether there are deletions.
- the chromosomes are heated before Giemsa stain is applied. The heat treatment is thought to preferentially melt the DNA helix in the AT-rich regions that usually bind Giemsa stain most strongly, leaving only the comparatively GC-rich regions to take up the stain. R-banding



#### **Chromosome Shape**

Metacentric- centromere is located in the middle of chromosome Submetacentric- centromere is displaced from the center Acrocentric – centromere is placed near the end



#### Human Chromosome Ideogram

**Ideogram-** A diagrammatic representation of a karyotype



#### Chromosome 3 p: 2 regions q: 2 regions

Chromosome 7 p: 2 regions q: 3 regions

#### Chromosome 14 p: 1 region q: 2 regions





#### **High Resolution Banding**

High-resolution banding involves the staining of chromosomes during prophase or prometaphase, before they reach maximal condensation.

Because prophase and prometaphase chromosomes are more extended than metaphase chromosomes, the number of bands observable for all chromosomes increases from about 300 to 450 to as many as 800 per haploid set. This allows the detection of less obvious abnormalities usually not seen with conventional banding.





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Figure 2.14 Different chromosome banding resolutions can resolve bands, sub-bands, and sub-sub-bands.

G-banding patterns for human chromosome 4 (with accompanying ideogram at the right) are shown at increasing levels of resolution. The levels correspond approximately to (A) 400, (B) 550, and (C) 850 bands per haploid set, allowing the visual subdivision of bands into subbands and sub-subbands as the resolution increases. [Adapted from Cross & Wolstenholme (2001). Human Cytogenetics: Constitutional Analysis, 3rd ed. (DE Rooney, ed.). With permission of Oxford University Press.]

# Components of Chromosomes: Centromeres, Telomeres/Sub-telomeres



#### Centromere

The genetic locus required for chromosome segregation; contains DNA and proteins on which the kinetochore is formed.

### Telomere (TTAGGG)<sub>n</sub>

A specialized structure at the ends of eukaryotyic chromosomes. Maintain chromosomal integrity by preventing end-to-end fusion of chromosomes.



## **Human Sub-telomeric Regions**







There is some sequence homology between subtelomeres

# Nondisjunction

## Failure of:

# (1) chromosome pair to disjoin during MI or

## (2) chromatids to separate in MII or mitosis.

### **Abnormal Chromosome Number**

- In nondisjunction, pairs of homologous chromosomes do not separate normally during meiosis
- As a result, one gamete receives two of the same type of chromosome, and another gamete receives no copy

Figure 15.13-1

**Meiosis** I



KX KX







chromatids in meiosis II

meiosis I



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- Aneuploidy results from the fertilization of gametes in which nondisjunction occurred
- Offspring with this condition have an abnormal number of a particular chromosome

- A monosomic zygote has only one copy of a particular chromosome
- A trisomic zygote has three copies of a particular chromosome



#### Additional (3 rather than 2) chromosome.



#### One chromosome of a pair missing.

- Polyploidy is a condition in which an organism has more than two complete sets of chromosomes
  - Triploidy (3*n*) is three sets of chromosomes
  - Tetraploidy (4*n*) is four sets of chromosomes
- Polyploidy is common in plants, but not animals
- Polyploids are more normal in appearance than aneuploids

**<u>Euploid</u>** - any chromosome number that is an exact multiple of the number of chromosomes in a normal haploid gamete (n). Most somatic cells are diploid (2N).

haploid (1 set), diploid (2 sets), triploid (3 sets), tetraploid (4 sets)



#### **Alterations of Chromosome Structure**

- Breakage of a chromosome can lead to four types of changes in chromosome structure
  - **Deletion** removes a chromosomal segment
  - **Duplication** repeats a segment
  - Inversion reverses orientation of a segment within a chromosome
  - Translocation moves a segment from one chromosome to another





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## Human Disorders Due to Chromosomal Alterations

- Alterations of chromosome number and structure are associated with some serious disorders
- Some types of aneuploidy appear to upset the genetic balance less than others, resulting in individuals surviving to birth and beyond
- These surviving individuals have a set of symptoms, or syndrome, characteristic of the type of aneuploidy

#### **Incidence of Chromosomal Abnormalities in Newborns**

| Type of Abnormality   | Prevalence at Birth |  |  |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| Sex Chromosome Aneuploidy                                   |                     |  |  |
| Males (43,612 newborns)                                     |                     |  |  |
| 47,XXY  | 1/1000              |  |  |
| 47,XYY  | 1/1000              |  |  |
| Females (24,547 newborns)                                   |                     |  |  |
| 45,X  | 1/5000              |  |  |
| 47,XXX  | 1/1000              |  |  |
| Autosomal Aneuploidy (68,159 newborns)                      |                     |  |  |
| Trisomy 21  | 1/800               |  |  |
| Trisomy 18  | 1/6000              |  |  |
| Trisomy 13  | 1/10,000            |  |  |
| Structural Abnormalities (68,150 nowborns)                  |                     |  |  |
| Su uctur ar Abhor manties (00,137 newborns)                 |                     |  |  |
| (Sex chi omosomes and autosomes)<br>Balancad rearrangements |                     |  |  |
| Robertsonian  | 1/1000              |  |  |
| Other (reciprocal and others)                               | 1/885               |  |  |
| other (reciprocal and others)                               | 1/005               |  |  |
| Unbalanced rearrangements                                   | 1/17,000            |  |  |
| All Chromosome Abnormalities                                |                     |  |  |
| Autosomal disorders and unbalanced rearrangements           | 1/230               |  |  |
| Balanced rearrangements                                     | 1/500               |  |  |
| Total   | 1/154               |  |  |
|   |                     |  |  |

Data from Hsu LYF (1998) Prenatal diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities through amniocentesis. In Milunsky A (ed.), *Genetic Disorders and the Fetus*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, pp. 179-248.

### Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21)

- Down syndrome is an aneuploid condition that results from three copies of chromosome 21
- It affects about one out of every 700 children born in the United States
- The frequency of Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother, a correlation that has not been explained





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Most common numerical abnormality in liveborns is Trisomy 21 (Down syndrome)





Male:Female Ratio - 3:2

### **Down Syndrome**



Mental retardation (IQ 25-50) \*Low nasal bridge (90%) \*Hypotonia (80%) \*Up slanting palpebral fissures (80%) Small, low-set ears (60%) \*Congenital heart disease (30%-50%)\*\*

\*Epicanthic folds Protruding tongue Intestinal problems Gap between first and second toes 15-fold increase in risk for leukemia \*Simian line (transverse crease) (45%)

#### \*These features are easily recognized at birth.

\*\*The congenital heart problems noted in people having Down syndrome include ventricular septal defect (VSD) and arterioventricular defects (AV) canal. Approximately 40% with congenital heart disease die during the first year.



### 1 in 770 babies

PROBABILITY OF GIVING BIRTH TO A BABY WITH TRISOMY 21 BY WOMAN'S AGE



### **Maternal Age and Nondisjunction**







**Trisomy 21** 

Maternal Errors: 94% of cases •MI 64% •MII 19% •Indeterminate 11% Paternal Errors: 4.5% of cases •MI 1% •MII 3.5%

Unknown: 1.5%



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# **Causal Factors in Nondisjunction**



### Evaluate the Origin of the Extra Chromosome Using Polymorphic Markers



D21S1432 Tetranucleotide STRP

# DNA markers can be used to determine the parental origin of the extra chromosome in trisomic individuals



| Trisomy          | п   | Maternal |         | Paternal |         | PZM (%) |
|------------------|-----|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
|                  |     | MI (%)   | MII (%) | MI (%)   | MII (%) |         |
| Acrocentrics     |     |          |         |          |         |         |
| 13               | 74  | 56.6     | 33.9    | 2.7      | 5.4     | 1.4     |
| 14               | 26  | 36.5     | 36.5    | 0.0      | 19.2    | 7.7     |
| 15               | 34  | 76.3     | 9.0     | 0.0      | 14.7    | 0.0     |
| 21               | 782 | 69.6     | 23.6    | 1.7      | 2.3     | 2.7     |
| 22               | 130 | 86.4     | 10.0    | 1.8      | 0.0     | 1.8     |
| Non-acrocentrics |     |          |         |          |         |         |
| 2                | 18  | 53.4     | 13.3    | 27.8     | 0.0     | 5.6     |
| 7                | 14  | 17.2     | 25.7    | 0.0      | 0.0     | 57.1    |
| 8                | 12  | 50.0     | 50.0    | 0.0      | 0.0     | 50.0    |
| 16               | 104 | 100      | 0.0     | 0.0      | 0.0     | 0.0     |
| 18               | 150 | 33.3     | 58.7    | 0.0      | 0.0     | 8.0     |

\*Adapted from Hall et al. (6). MI, meiosis I; MII, meiosis II; PZM, postzygotic mitotic.



### Partial Trisomy 21 (21q)





#### Trisomy 18 (Edward syndrome)



CHD (95%) Failure to thrive (FTT) Mental retardation Growth retardation Hypertonia Prominent Occiput

#### Findings:











**Findings:** 

CHD (85%) Mental retardation Hyper- or hypotonia Scalp defects Microcephaly Small eyes Low-set, malformed ears Cleft lip/palate Polydactyly and syndactyly Polycystic kidneys Rocker-bottom feet

### Trisomy 13 (Patau syndrome)







## Aneuploidy of Sex Chromosomes

- Nondisjunction of sex chromosomes produces a variety of aneuploid conditions
- Klinefelter syndrome is the result of an extra chromosome in a male, producing XXY individuals
- Monosomy X, called *Turner syndrome*, produces X0 females, who are sterile; it is the only known viable monosomy in humans

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| Structural Abnormalities (68,159 newborns)        |                            |
| (Sex chromosomes and autosomes)                   |                            |
| Balanced rearrangements                           |                            |
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## **The Chromosomal Basis of Sex**

- In humans and other mammals, there are two varieties of sex chromosomes: a larger X chromosome and a smaller Y chromosome
- Only the ends of the Y chromosome have regions that are homologous with corresponding regions of the X chromosome
- The SRY gene on the Y chromosome codes for a protein that directs the development of male anatomical features

Figure 15.5

27 28







SRY (<u>Sex-determining region Y</u>)

# Sex Chromosomes



900-1600 genes

### Y chromosome

Testis-determining factor

70-200 genes

### Kleinfelter's syndrome (or Klinefleter's)

- Males with some development of breast tissue normally seen in females.
- Little body hair is present, and such person are typically tall, have small testes.
- Infertility results from absent sperm.
- Evidence of mental retardation may or may not be present.



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# **Oral manifestations**

- Maxillary and mandibular prognathism.
- (mandibular prognathism being more common).
- Permanent tooth crowns larger than usual and taurodontism















Medscape

Source: Expert Rev Dermatol © 2009 Expert Reviews Ltd

Women with Turner Syndrome

Average Height 143cm
### **Craniofacial features and Oral manifestations**

Minor dysmorphic face. Small chin. Curved upper lip. Micrognathia. Premature eruption of permanent molars Narrow maxilla. High arched palate. Malocclusion





### Disorders Caused by Structurally Altered Chromosomes

- The syndrome *cri du chat* ("cry of the cat"), results from a specific deletion in chromosome 5
- A child born with this syndrome is mentally retarded and has a catlike cry; individuals usually die in infancy or early childhood
- Certain cancers, including *chronic* myelogenous leukemia (CML), are caused by translocations of chromosomes



Cri-du-chat Chromosome 5 pair

Deleted

+ region

<u>Symptoms of cri du chat syndrome</u> are mostly those of looks. People who have this syndrome have very distinct looks. They have:

- Small heads (microcephaly)
- Unusually round face
- Small chin
- Eyes that are very far apart
- Folds of skin over their eyes
- Small nose bridge



Symptoms occur inside the body also. Heart defects, muscular/skeletal problems, hearing or sight problems, and poor muscle tone are all possible. When children diagnosed with Cri Du Chat grow, they usually have difficulty walking and talking correctly. They might have behavior problems like hyperactivity and aggression. Also, some may have severe mental retardation

# Cri-du-chat Symptoms

- Approximately 75% of the patients with cri-du-chat syndrome die within the first few months of life and about 90% before they are aged 1 year. These figures are from an older study (1978), and decreased morbidity and mortality are most likely with contemporary interventions. Survival to adulthood is possible.
- Pneumonia, aspiration pneumonia, congenital heart defects, and respiratory distress syndrome are the most common causes of death.



### **Craniofacial features and Oral manifestations**

Microcephaly. Broad nasal bridge. Widely spaced eyes. Micrognathia. Malocclusion, especially overjet and clift lip and clift palate







FIGURE 3 – a-c) Clinical features 1 year and 10 months after the first visit, demonstrating adequate hygiene and the correct eruption of permanent teeth; d) control periapical radiograph of both traumatized incisors obtained 17 months after final obturation; e) final facial aspect of patient.



FIGURE 2 – a) Traumatized upper central incisors at first visit; b) 4 days later, with better gingival condition, a flexible splint was anchored to the primary molar to allow periodontal healing of both traumatized incisors; c) periapical radiograph obtained at first visit; d) 3 weeks later, an initial process of external root resorption in both teeth was observed; e) introduction of calcium hydroxide paste to stimulate apexification of immature teeth; f) 5 months later, successful apical barrier formation was observed, with no signs of external resorption progression and final obturation of both incisors.

## Disorders Caused by Structurally Altered Chromosomes

 Certain cancers, including chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), are caused by translocations of chromosomes



# What is leukemia?

A cancer found in the blood and bone marrow, caused by too many white blood cells in the body. The white blood cells don't let the body fight disease and prevent the body from making red blood cells and platelets.



















result of the translocation is the oncogenic BCR-ABL gene fusion, located on the shorter derivative 22 chromosome. This gene encodes the Bcr-abl fusion protein

The ABL tyrosine kinase activity of *BCR-Abl* is elevated relative to wild-type ABL

Abl gene expresses a membraneassociated protein, a tyrosine kinase, the BCR-Abl transcript is also translated into a tyrosine kinase. The activity of tyrosine kinases is typically controlled by other molecules, but the mutant tyrosine kinase encoded by the BCR-Abl transcript results in a protein that is "always on" or continuously activated, which results in unregulated cell division (i.e. cancer)



(A) Reciprocal translocation. The derivative chromosomes are stable in mitosis when one acentric fragment is exchanged for another; when a centric fragment is exchanged for an acentric fragment, unstable acentric and dicentric chromosomes are produced.

If an acentric fragment from one chromosome is exchanged for an acentric fragment from another, the products are stable in mitosis, however exchange of an acentric fragment for a centric fragment results in acentric and dicentric chromosomes that are unstable in mitosis. A robertsonian translocation is a specialized type of translocation between two of the five types of acrocentric chromosome in human (13,14,15,21,and 22) the short arm is very small and very similar in DNA content ,each contains 1-2Mb of tandemly repeated rRNA genes sandwiched between two blocks of heterochromatic DNA



Robertsonian translocation (with chromosome #14 and chromosome #21)









(B) Robertsonian translocation. This is a highly specialized reciprocal translocation in which exchange of centric and acentric fragments produces a **dicentric chromosome** that is nevertheless stable in mitosis, plus an acentric chromosome that is lost in mitosis without any effect on the phenotype. It occurs exclusively after breaks in the short arms of the human acrocentric chromosomes 13, 14, 15, 21, and 22.

The short arm of the acrocentric chromosomes consists of three regions: a proximal heterochromatic region (composed of highly repetitive noncoding DNA), a distal heterochromatic region (called a chromosome satellite), and a thin connecting region of euchromatin (the satellite stalk) composed of tandem rRNA genes. Breaks that occur close to the centromere can result in a dicentric chromosome in which the **two centromeres** are so **close** that they can function as a **single** centromere. The loss of the small acentric fragment has no phenotypic consequences because the only genes lost are rRNA genes that are also present in large copy number on the other acrocentric chromosomes



Figure 2.24 Human Molecular Genetics, 4ed. (© Garland Science)

Figure 2.24 Possible outcomes of meiosis in a carrier of a balanced reciprocal translocation. Other modes of segregation are also possible, for example 3:1 segregation.

The relative frequency of each possible gamete is not readily predicted.

The risk of a carrier having a child with each of the possible outcomes depends on its frequency in the gametes and also on the likelihood of a conceptus with that abnormality developing to term.

A carrier of a balanced Robertsonian translocation can produce gametes that after fertilization give rise to an entirely normal child ,a phenotypically normal balanced carrier , or a conceptus with full trisomy or full monosomy for one of the chromosomes involved



Figure 2.25 Possible outcomes of meiosis in a carrier of a Robertsonian translocation. Carriers are asymptomatic but often produce unbalanced gametes that can result in a monosomic or trisomic zygote. The two monosomic zygotes and the trisomy 14 zygote in this example would not be expected to develop to term.

Figure 2.25 Human Molecular Genetics, 4ed. (© Garland Science)



#### Origins of triploidy and tetraploidy.

(A) Origins of human triploidy. **Dispermy** is the principal cause, accounting for 66% of cases. Triploidy is also caused by **diploid gametes** that arise by occasional faults in meiosis; fertilization of a diploid ovum and fertilization by a diploid sperm account for 10% and 24% of cases, respectively.

(B) Tetraploidy involves normal fertilization and fusion of gametes to give a normal zygote.Subsequently, however, tetraploidy arises by endomitosis when DNA replicates without subsequent cell division.

Figure 2.21 Human Molecular Genetics, 4ed. (© Garland Science)



Triploidy is the presence of an additional haploid set of chromosomes, is the cause of 20% of spontaneous abortions, premature births and perinatal deaths.

Triploidy syndrome is a rare syndrome and is estimated to occur in about 2 per cent of conceptuses. Triploidy occurs when there is double fertilization of an ovum (dispermy). The result may be 69, XXX or 69, XXY or 69, XYY. The extra set of paternal chromosomes predisposes to formation of a partial mole, features of which may or may not be grossly or microscopically apparent.

69,XXX triploidy 69,XXY triploidy 69,XYY triploidy

Triploidy - stillbirth at 39 weeks (69,XXX) - note the appearance of the hands



Physiopathology

Triploidy is constituted by an extra haploid set of chromosomes for a total of 69 chromosomes in humans. A "parent-of-origin" effect has been demonstrated by analysis of cytogenetic polymorphisms of triploidy pregnancies. Two distinct phenotypes of human triploid fetuses have been recognized according to the parental origin of the extra haploid set.

The first one or triploidy of diandric type occurs when the extra haploid set of chromosomes arises from the father, the second one or triploidy of digynic type occurs when the extra haploid set of chromosomes arises from the mother. Diandric fetuses appear relatively well grown with a large placenta, while digynic fetuses show intrauterine growth retardation with a small placenta.

#### Types

- maternal triploidy (triploidy by digyny)
- paternal triploidy (diandry or dispermy)

#### Synopsis

The most common clinical signs of triploidy are: severe intrauterine growth retardation, macrocephaly, total syndactyly of third and fourth fingers and CNS, heart and renal defects.

Hydatidiform mole, one of the characteristic features of pure triploidy, is found in more than 90% of cases.



MACROSCOPIC IMAGE OF A COMPLETE HYDATIDIFORM MOLE, SHOWING THE CHARACTERISTIC VESICULAR, OR 'BUNCHES OF GRAPES' APPEARANCE OF THE CHORIONIC VILLI.

#### PARTIAL MOLE

- The oocyte has an intact set of maternal DNA
- Option A: Fertilised by one sperm reduplicates its own DNA
- Option B: Fertilised by two sperm
- Karyotype: Triploid 69 chromosomes (69 XXY an extra set of paternal DNA)

COMPLETE MOLE

- The oocyte has somehow lost its DNA it is 'empty' of DNA
- Option A: Fertilised by one sperm reduplicates its own DNA = <u>homozygous</u>
- Option B: Fertilised by two sperm = <u>heterozygous</u>
- Karyotype: Diploid 46 chromosomes (46XX or 46XY the 46YYs are not viable)

Note: (all paternal DNA - no maternal DNA - i.e. androgenetic)

Partial mole





Uniparental diploidy changes the balance between the embryo or fetus and its supporting membranes

- Paternal uniparental diploidy produces hydatidiform moles, abnormal conspectuses that develop to show widespread hyperplasia (overgrowth)of the trophoblast but no fetal parts, they may transform into choriocarcinoma.
- Maternal uniparental diploidy results in ovarian teratomas, rare benign tumors of the ovary which consist of disorganized embryonic tissue but are lacking in vital extra-embryonic membranes.







Triploidy

Findings: CHD Kidney anomalies Low-set, malformed ears Hypertelorism Foot deformities Abdominal wall defects

#### <u>Diandric</u>

Enlarged placenta Cyst-like placenta Well-formed fetus with or without microcephaly

<u>Digynic</u> Macrocephaly Severe intrauterine growth retardation



Two or more distinct cell lines from single zygote differing because of mutation or nondisjunction.











