

# CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

# CAUSES OF BIRTH DEFECTS & SPONTANEOUS ABORTIONS ARE

- Chromosomal abnormalities
- Genetic factors

# INCIDENCE FOR MAJOR CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

- 50% of conceptions end in spontaneous abortions and 50% of these abortions have major chromosomal abnormalities
- Thus approx. **25% of conceptuses** have major chromosomal defects
- Chromosomal abnormalities account for 7% of major birth defects; **Commonest is Turner's syndrome**

- Gene mutations account for an additional 8% cases

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- A Karyotype refers to a full set of chromosomes from an individual which can be compared to a "normal" Karyotype for the species via genetic testing.
- **Ploidy** Is the number of sets of chromosomes in a biological cell.

- **Haploid** =  $n$  (in normal gametes)
- **Diploid** =  $2n$  (in Normal somatic cell)
- **Euploid** = An exact or multiple of  $n$  or of the monoploid number.

A human with abnormal, but integral multiple of the monoploid number, (69 chromosomes) would

also be considered as  
euploid e.g. (  $2n$ ,  
 $3n, 4n$  etc)

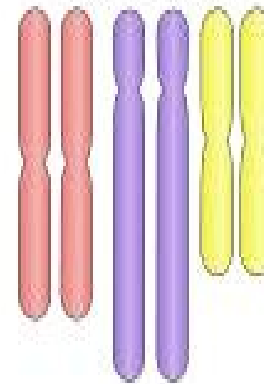
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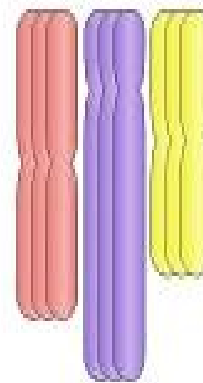
Haploid (N)



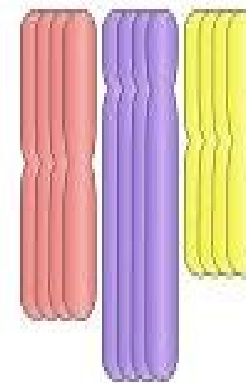
Diploid (2N)



Triploid (3N)



Tetraploid (4N)



# POLYPLOID

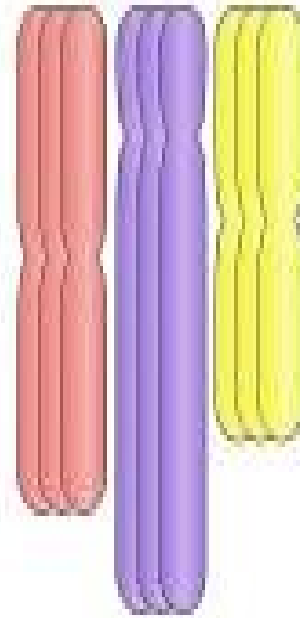
- Many organisms have more than two sets of homologous chromosomes and are called polyploid.
- A chromosome number that is a multiple of haploid number of 23 other than the diploid number eg. 69
- True polyploidy rarely occurs in humans, although it occurs in



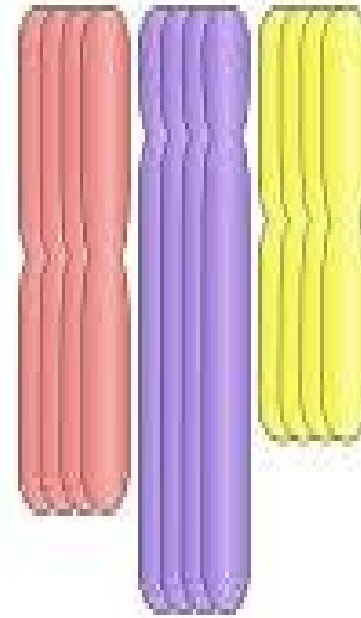
some tissues  
(especially in the liver).

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Triploid (3N)



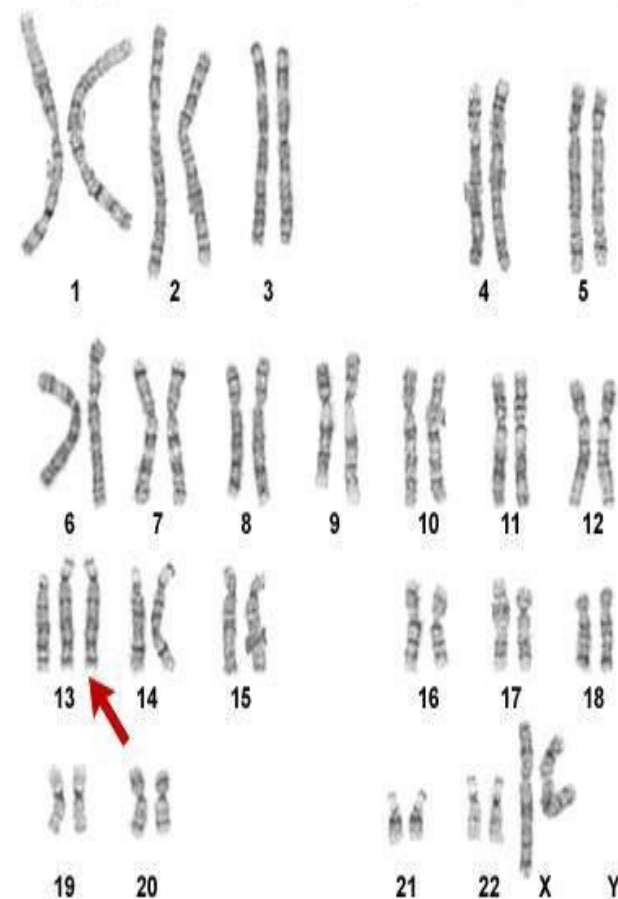
Tetraploid (4N)



# ANEUPLOID

- Is any chromosome number that is not euploid.
- **Aneuploidy** is an abnormal number of chromosomes such as having a single extra chromosome (47), or a missing chromosome (45).
- Aneuploid (not good) karyotypes are given names with the suffix -*somy* (rather than -*ploidy*, used for euploid)

Karyotype from a female with Patau syndrome (47,XX,+13)



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karyotypes), such as [trisomy](#) and [monosomy](#).

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Therefore the distinction between aneuploidy and polyploidy is:

**Aneuploidy** refers to a numerical change in part of the chromosome set, whereas **polyploidy** refers to a numerical change in the whole set of chromosomes.

# CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

Can occur during meiotic or mitotic divisions

Two types:

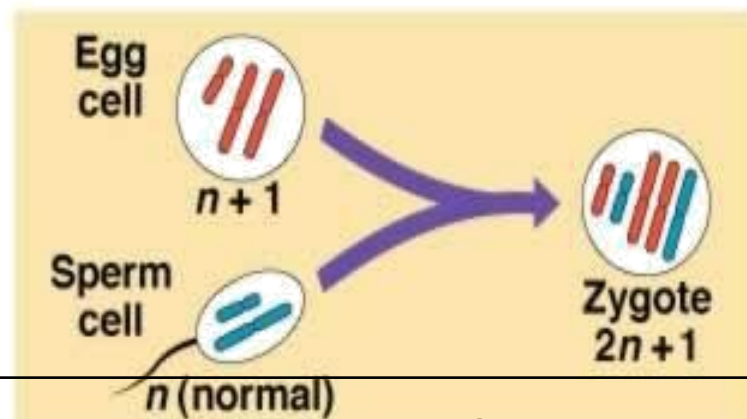
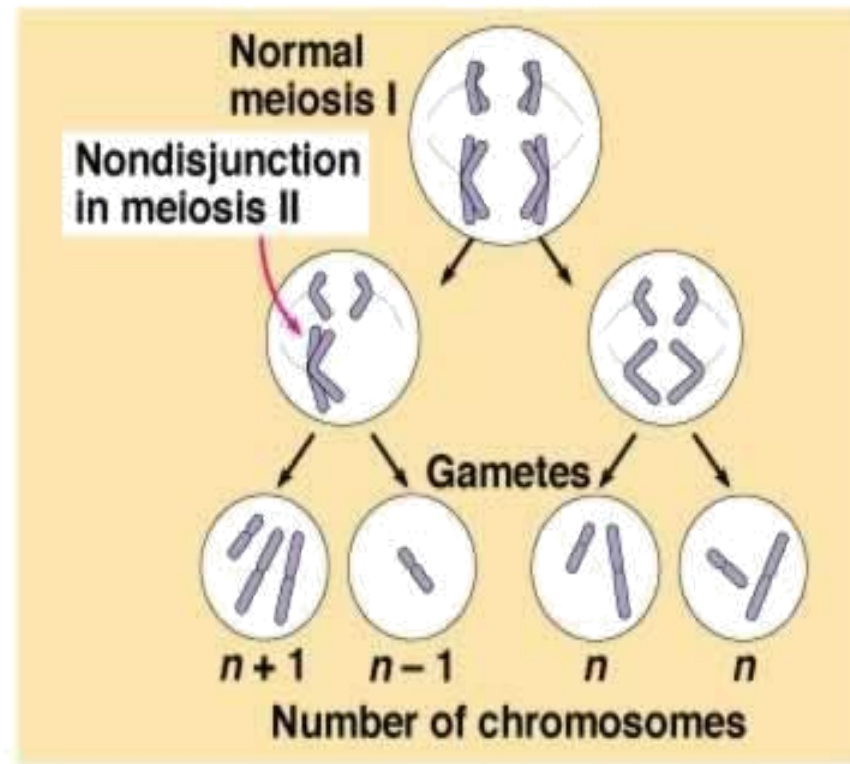
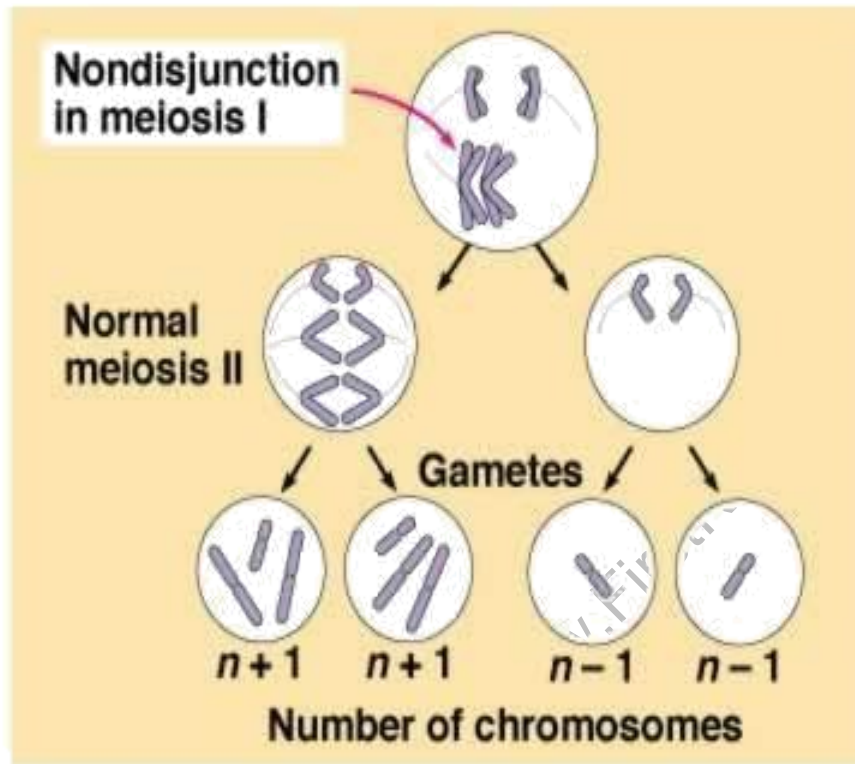
- Numerical
- Structural

# NUMERICAL CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES

- Meiotic Non disjunction
- Mitotic Non disjunction
- Chromosomal translocations

# MEIOTIC NON DISJUNCTION

- **May involve autosomes or sex chromosomes**
- In females incidence increases with age 35yrs or more.
- **Meiosis I**: Two members of homologous chromosomes fails to separate and both members of a pair move into one cell.
- **Meiosis II**: When sister chromatids fail to separate.





# MITOTIC NONDISJUNCTION

## **Mosaicism:**

- Some cells have abnormal chromosomal number and others have normal
- Occurs in the earliest cell divisions
- Affected individuals exhibit characteristics of a particular syndrome for e.g. down syndrome in 1% cases

# CHROMOSOMAL TRANSLOCATIONS

- **When a portion of one chromosome is transferred to another non homologous chromosome and a fusion gene is created.**

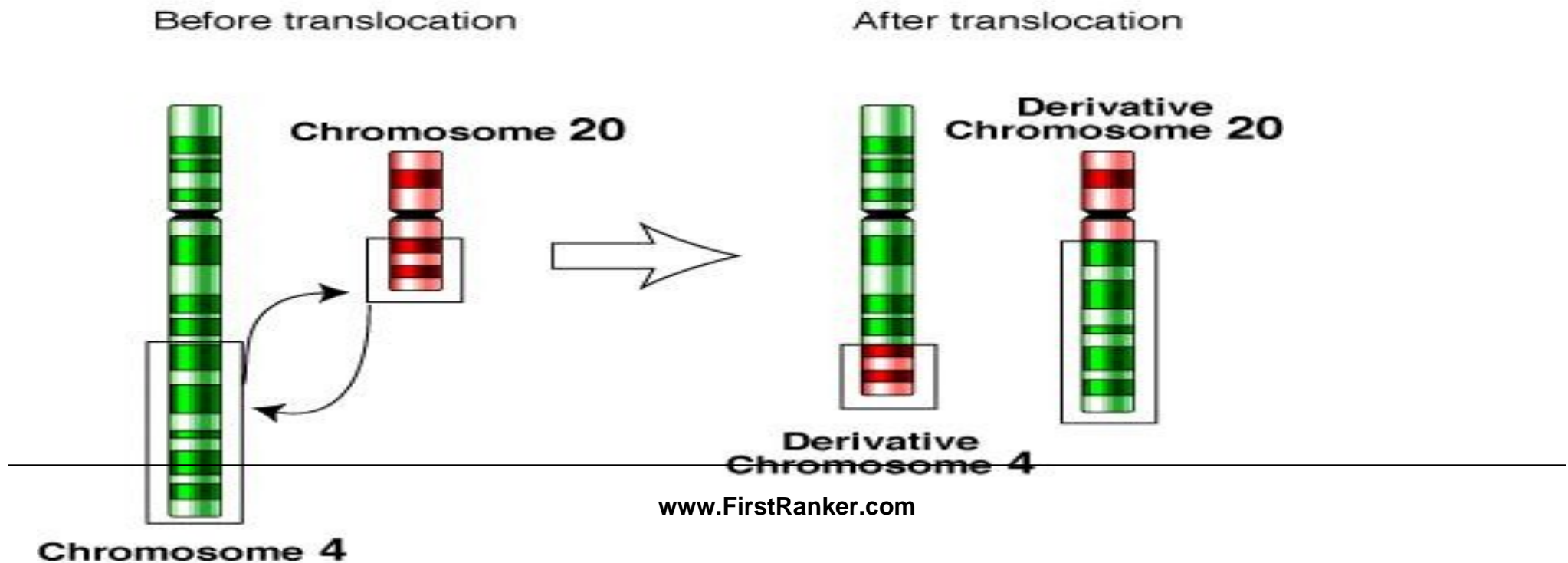
There are two main types of translocations:

- **Balanced:** An even exchange of material with no genetic information is extra or missing, and individual is normal.

- **Unbalanced:** Where the exchange of genetic material is unequal and part of one chromosome is lost & altered  
**phenotype is produced (Down's syndrome - 4% cases)**

# BALANCED TRANSLOCATION

If no genetic material is lost during the exchange, the translocation is considered to be a **BALANCED TRANSLOCATION**.

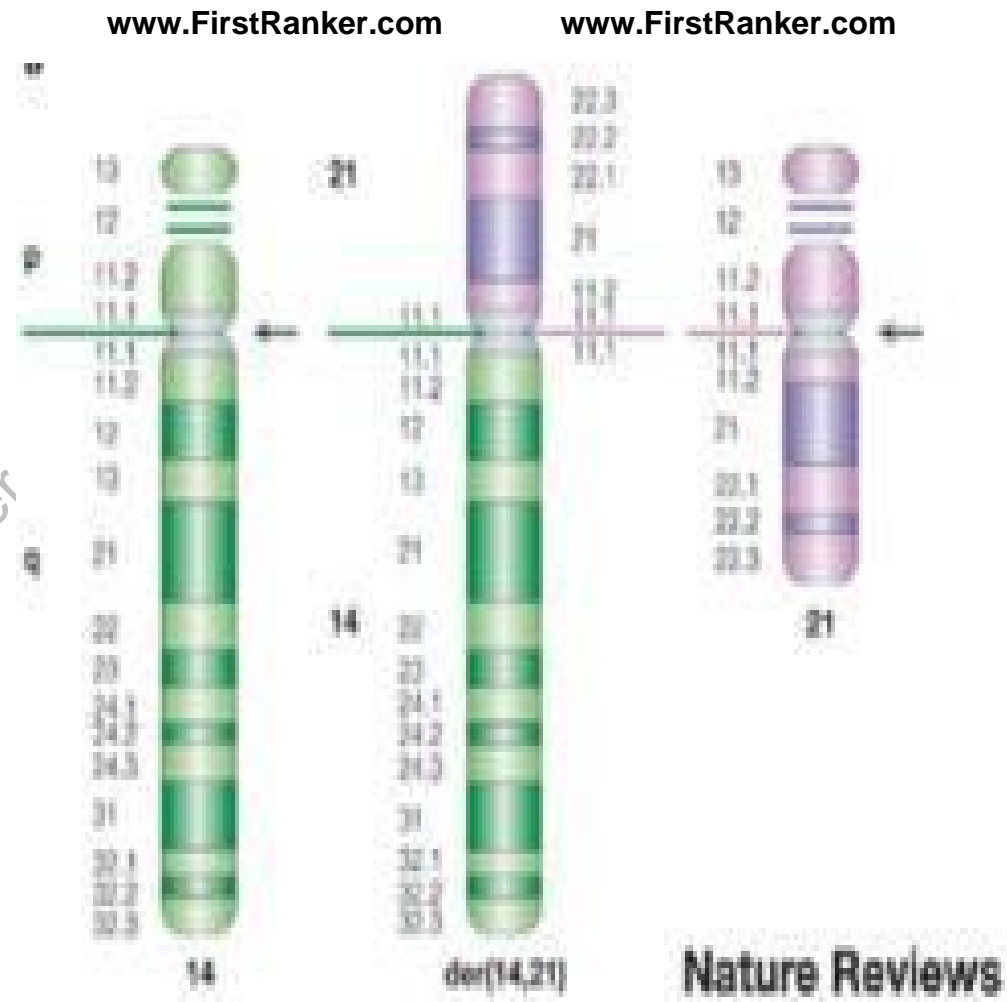


# UNBALANCED TRANSLOCATIONS

- An entire chromosome has attached to another at the Centromere
- long q arms of two chromosomes (14 & 21) become joined at a single centromere.
- 4% cases of down syndrome, unbalanced translocation can

occur during  
meiosis I or  
meiosis II.

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# DOWN'S SYNDROME

## Causes:

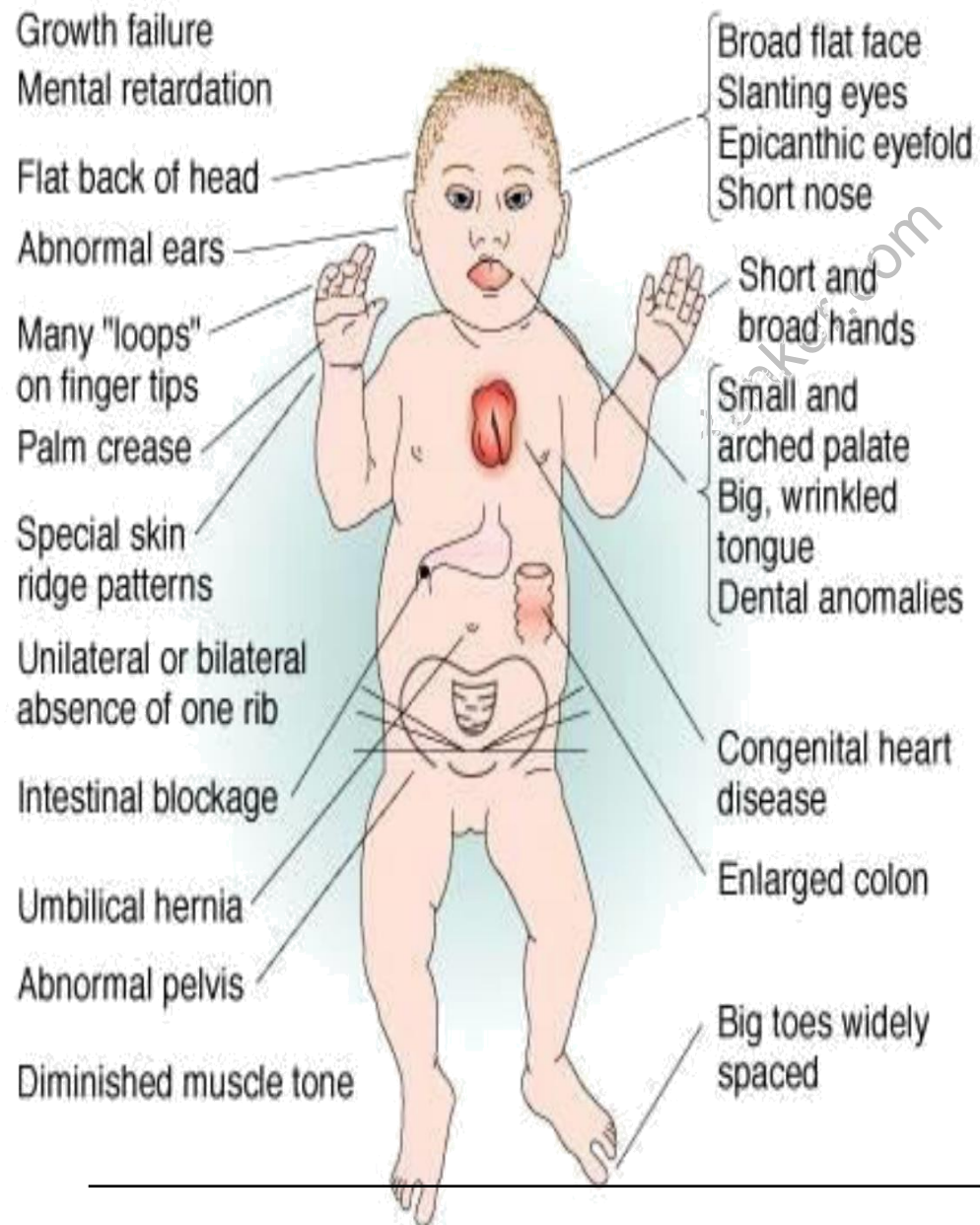
- Meiotic nondisjunction - 95% (trisomy 21)
- Unbalanced translocation- 4% b/w 21 and 13,14,15
- Mosaicism due to mitotic non dysjunction-1%
- **Incidence:**



● Female under 25--- 1:  
2000 ● At 35 --- 1: 300  
● At 40 --- 1:40

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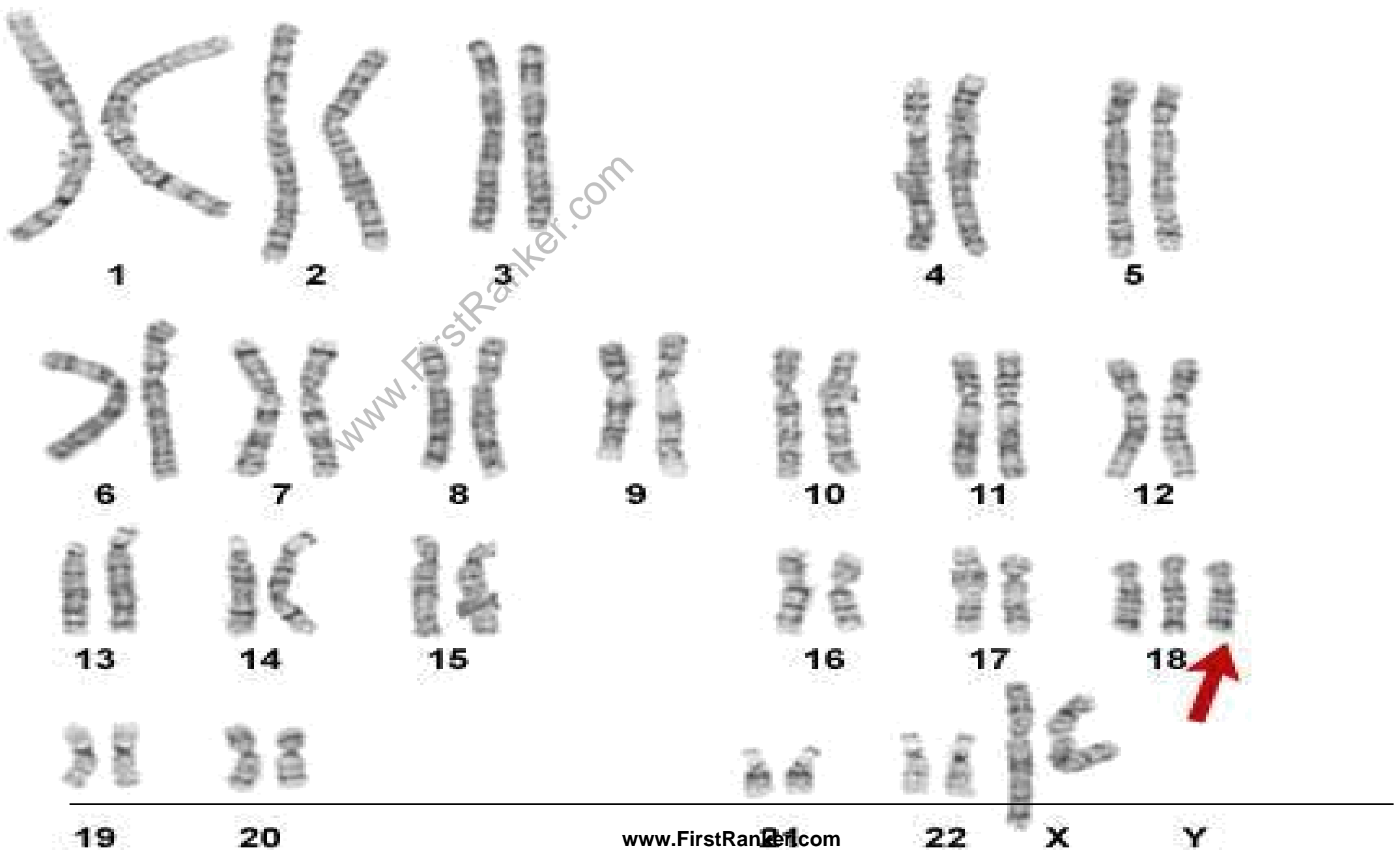
# TRISOMY 18

1:5000, infants usually die by age of 2 months

S/S: Mental retardation, congenital heart defects, low set ears, flexion of fingers



# Karyotype from a female with Edwards syndrome (47,XX,+18)





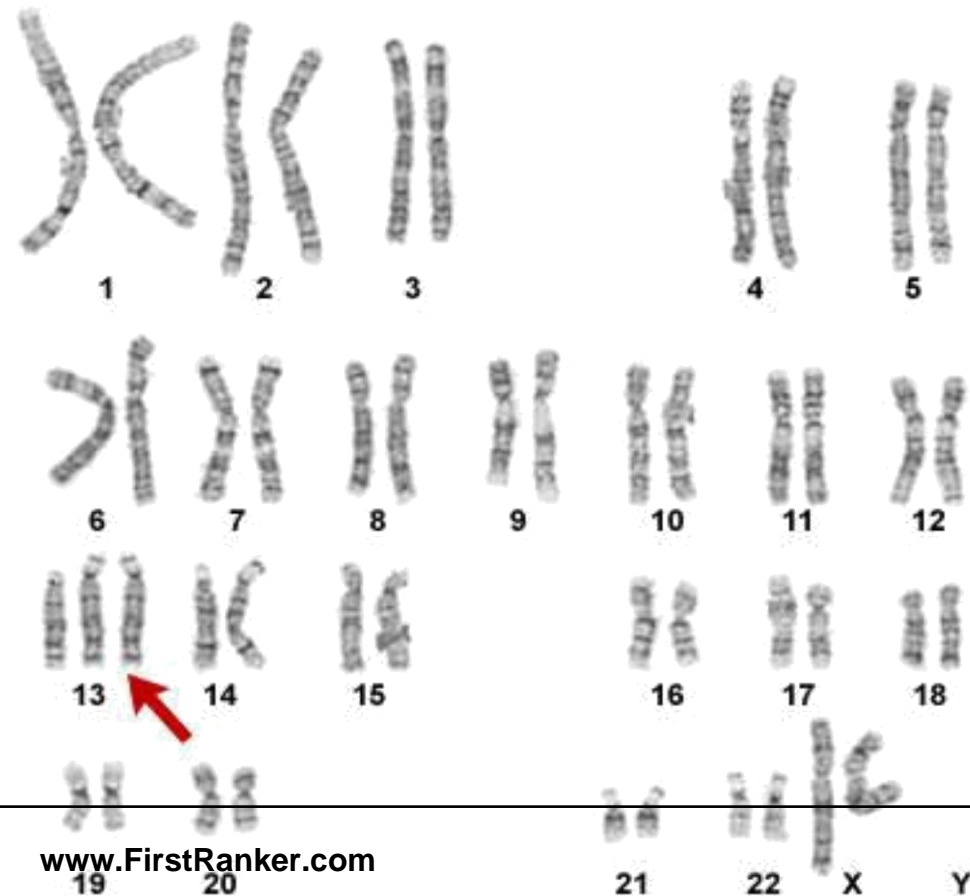
# TRISOMY 13

1:5000 ; most of the infants die by age 3 months

S/S: mental retardation, holoprosencephaly, congenital heart defects



Karyotype from a female with Patau syndrome (47,XX,+13)



# KLINEFELTER'S SYNDROME

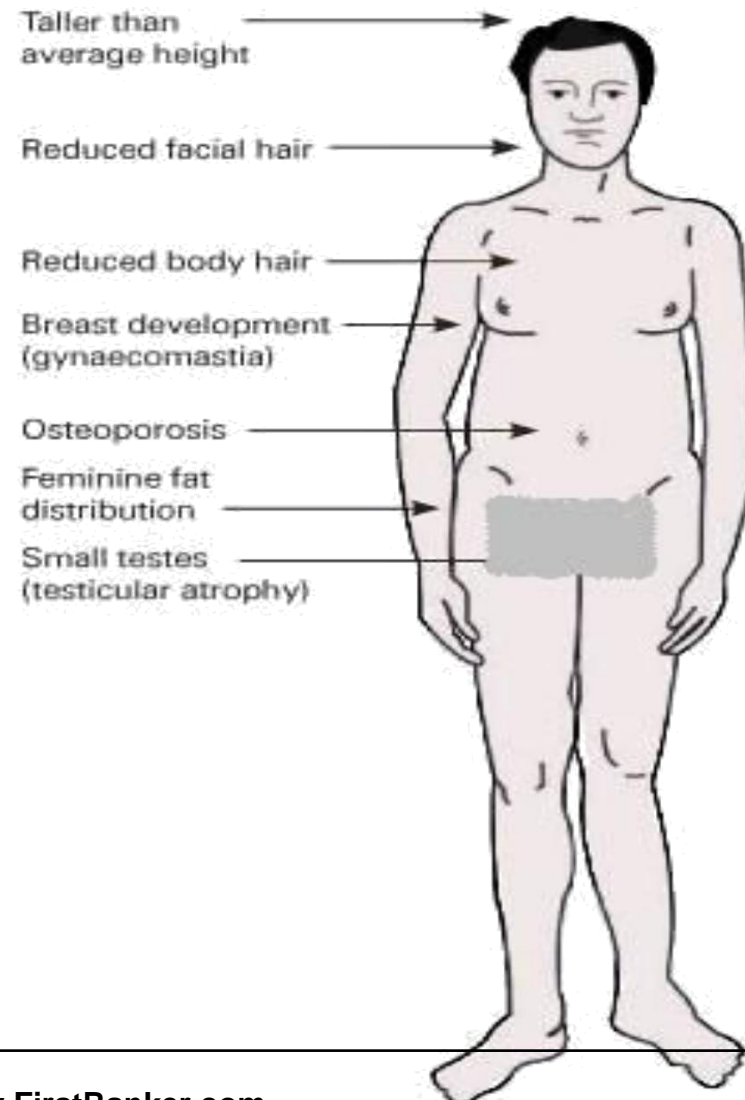
- Have 47 chromosomes (XXY) & a sex chromatin Barr body or 48(XXXY); more the number of X more the chances of mental impairment

- Cause:

- Nondisjunction of XX homologue**

- Found only in **males**, detected at **puberty**

- Incidence ---1 in 500 males



**S/S**

Sterility, testicular atrophy,

hyalinization of  
seminiferous tubules,  
gynecomastia.

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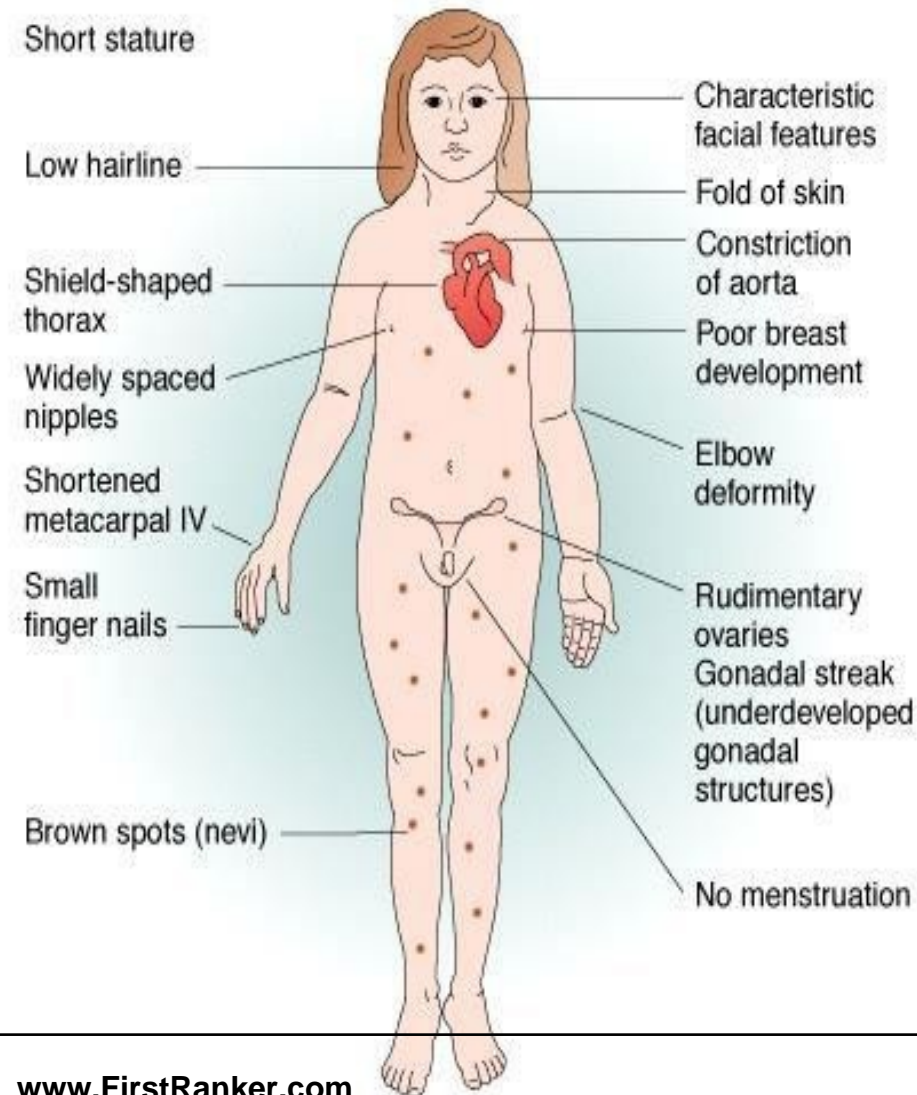
# TURNER SYNDROME

- 45 X karyotype

- Only monosomy compatible with life**

- Cause

- Nondisjunction in male gamete
- Structural abnormalities of X chromosome





- One X chromosome is missing
- Mitotic nondisjunction

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# STRUCTURAL ABNORMALITIES

- Occur when the chromosome's structure is altered, this can take several forms: Translocation, deletion or duplication of chromosomes
- Chromosome breaks occur either as a result of damage to DNA (by radiation or chemicals) or as part of the mechanism of recombination.

- However, the total number of chromosomes is usually normal.

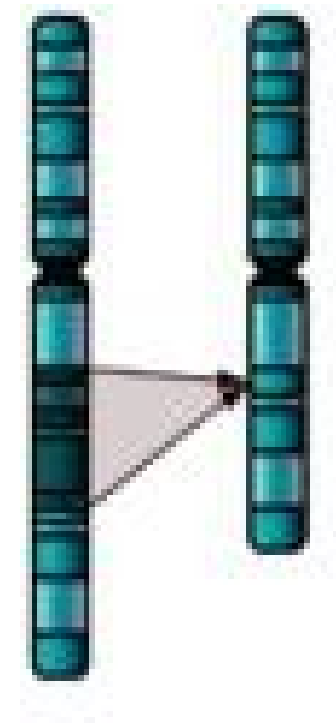
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# CHROMOSOMAL DELETION

- A part of a chromosome is missing or "deleted."
- Breaks are caused by environmental factors
- A very small piece of a chromosome can contain many different genes.
- When genes are missing, "instructions" are missing

resulting in errors in the development of a fetus.

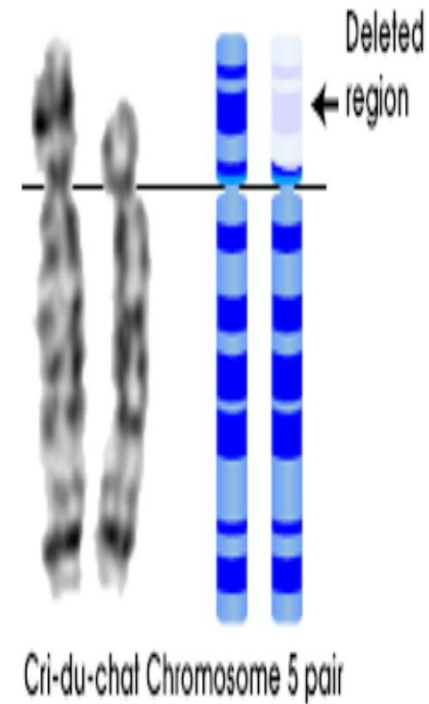
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# CRI-DU-CHAT SYNDROME

Partial deletion of chromosome 5  
S/S

- High pitched cat like cry, a small head size, low birth weight, mental retardation and congenital heart disease.



# ANGELMAN'S SYNDROME

- Microdeletion (span few contiguous genes) on long arm of chromosome 15.
  - **Inherited on maternal chromosome**
- S/S**
- Mentally retarded,
  - Cannot speak



● **Prolonged  
periods of  
laughter**

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# PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME

- Microdeletion occurs on long arm of chromosome 15
- **Inherited on paternal chromosome**

**S/S**

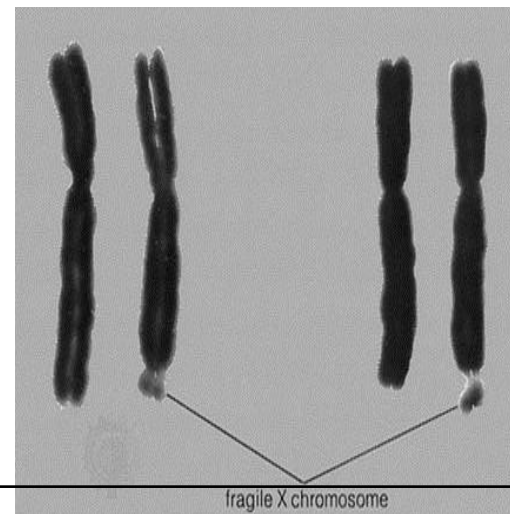
- Obesity
- Mental retardation
- Hypogonadism
- Cryptorchidism



# FRAGILE X SYNDROME

- Fragile X is a genetic disorder that is caused by a break or weakness on the long arm of the X chromosome.
  - Syndrome occurs in 1:5000 individuals with males affected more than females.
  - Is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common inherited cause of mental retardation due to chromosomal abnormalities
- S/S

Mental retardation, large ears, prominent jaw and pale blue irises



# Genomic imprinting

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- **These syndromes depend on whether the affected genetic material is inherited from the mother or father they are also an example of imprinting.**

Thank you