

10. CELL CYCLE AND CELL DIVISION

Phases of Cell cycle

Human cell divides itself in approximately 24 hours, which may vary in different organisms. In yeasts it takes about 90 minutes to complete the cell division process.

(a) **G₀ Phase** - It is the phase between two successive G₁ phases. Interphase lasts for 95% of a cell cycle. This phase is called as resting phase but during this period the cells prepare itself for nuclear division by cell growth.

(b) **M Phase** - When the actual cell division or mitosis occurs. It starts with karyokinesis (nuclear division) or duplication of chromosome and ends with cytokinesis or division of cell matrix [cytoplasm division].

- G₁ phase represents the interval between mitosis and initiation of DNA replication.
- During S phase, replication or synthesis of DNA takes place and amount of DNA gets doubled per cell.
- During G₂ phase protein is synthesized in preparation for mitosis.
- In adult animals, some cells do not divide or may divide occasionally. These cells do not divide further and enter the G₀ phase to enter an inactive stage called Quiescent Stage (G₀) of cell cycle.
- Mitosis cell division is also known as equational division.

Prophase is the first phase of mitosis followed by G₂ phase. It involves following events-

(a) Initiation of condensation of chromosomal materials.

(b) Movement of centrioles towards opposite poles of the cell.

(c) At the end of prophase, the nuclear envelope, nuclear membrane, and Golgi complex disappears.

Metaphase starts with complete disappearance of nuclear membrane. The most suitable stage for study & morphology of chromosomes. It involves

(a) Condensation of chromosomal materials into compact and distinct chromosomes made up of two sister chromatids attached with spindle fibres with kinetochores.

(b) Chromosomes arrange at centre of cell called metaphase plate.

Anaphase involves the

(a) Splitting of each chromosome at centromere into two sister chromatids.

(IA Two chromatids start moving towards opposite poles_

Telophase is the last stage of mitosis which involves

- (a) Chromosomes reach at opposite poles and lose its identity as discrete unit.
- (b) Nuclear membrane reassembles around the chromosome clusters.
- (c) Nucleolus, Golgi complex and ER reappear.

Cytokinesis is the division of cytoplasm of a cell after karyokinesis (division of chromosome into two daughter cells).

Meiosis

The cell division that reduces the number of chromosomes half and results in the production of haploid daughter cells. It helps in production of haploid phase of life cycle of sexually reproducing organism. It involves following events.

- (a) Two sequential cycles of nuclear cell division called meiosis I and meiosis II but single cycle of DNA replication.
- (b) It involves pairing of homologous chromosomes and recombination 'Dither'.
- (c) Four haploid cells are formed at the end of meiosis II,

Meiosis I	Meiosis II
Prophase I	Prophase II
Metaphase I	Metaphase II
Anaphase I	Anaphase II
Telophase I	Telophase II

Meiosis I

Prophase I of Meiosis is the first stage of meiosis and is defined by five different phases; Leptotene, Zygotene, Pachytene, Diplotene and Diakinesis.

In **metaphase I**, the bivalent chromosomes align at equatorial plate and microtubules from the opposite poles of the spindle attached to the pair of homologous chromosomes.

In **Anaphase I**, homologous chromosomes separate but sister chromatids remain attached at centromere. During **Telophase I**, nuclear membrane and nucleolus reappears and cytokinesis follows. This is called as dyad of the cells.

The stage between two meiotic divisions is called Interkinesis and it is short lived that follows Prophase II.

Meiosis II

II is initiated immediately after cytokinesis before chromosome gets elongated,

In prophase II, nuclear membrane disappears and chromosome becomes compact.

At metaphase II stage, the chromosomes align at equator and microtubules attach with kinetochores of sister chromatids.

Anaphase II starts with splitting of centromere of each chromosome to give two daughter cells.

Meiosis ends with Telophase II in which two groups of chromosomes get enclosed by nuclear membrane followed by cytokinesis to form tetrad of cells (four daughter cells).