

Facts and Figures

1. Trisomy 13 affects chromosome 13 and all of the genes included on that chromosome or piece of the chromosome.
2. People with Trisomy 13 have either an extra whole chromosome 13 for a total of 3 copies, or they have an extra piece of the chromosome.
3. This chromosome issue causes most of the babies affected to die within the first few days or weeks of life.

References

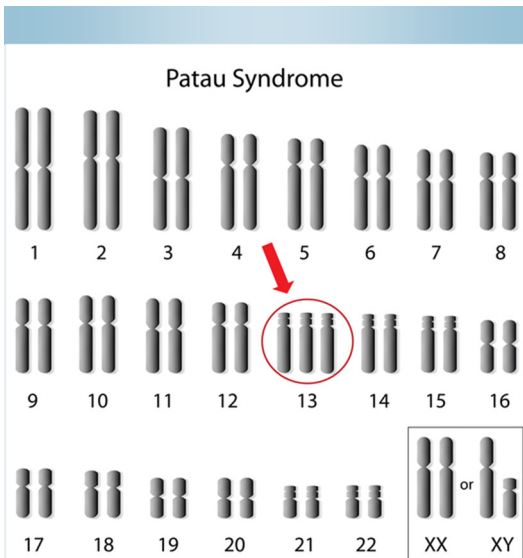
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Trisomy 13

a.k.a. Patau Syndrome



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Period: 4



History of Trisomy 13

According to Farlex's Medical Dictionary, Patau Syndrome was named after Dr. Klaus Patau who recorded the syndrome and its relationship to trisomy in 1960.

Symptoms, Body Systems Affected, & Life Expectancy

According to the Genetics Home Reference, Trisomy 13, causes extreme intellectual disability and physical abnormalities in many parts of the body. Including the brain and spinal cord. They can also have heart defects, "very small or poorly developed eyes, extra fingers or toes, an opening in the lip (a cleft lip) with or without an opening in the roof of the mouth (a cleft palate), and weak muscle tone." Many of the children are deaf and blind as well.

The main body systems affected are the nervous system, circulatory system, and skeletal system.

The life expectancy of 90-95% children with the disorder is a few days to a few weeks. About 5-10% of children with the disorder live more than one year. There is at least one case where a child lived to see his tenth birthday.

Inheritance Pattern

Trisomy 13 is caused by a random error in meiosis where the chromosomes do not separate from each other properly. This type of error happens more frequently in women who are over 35 years of age.

Tests

The State of California has a blood screening test for expectant mothers that detects about 90% of cases of trisomy inheritance in addition to ultrasounds. Mothers can also choose to do an amniocentesis or chorionic villus testing to get a sample of the fluid from the baby so doctors can look at their chromosomes.

Treatments Available

There are few treatment options available as the children do not typically live very long. However, there are surgery options available to close or fix a cleft lip or palate, to fix heart or other muscular problems, and some children require a feeding tube.