

14-2 Human Chromosomes



Sex-Linked Genes

The X chromosome and the Y chromosomes determine sex.

Genes located on these chromosomes are called **sex-linked genes**.

More than 100 sex-linked genetic disorders have now been mapped to the X chromosome.

An average of 3,000 base pairs exist in each gene.

The Y chromosome is much smaller than the X chromosome and appears to contain only a few genes.

X Chromosome



Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Melanoma

X-inactivation center

X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)

Colorblindness

Hemophilia

Y Chromosome



Testis-determining factor

For a recessive allele to be expressed in females, there must be two copies of the allele, one on each of the two X chromosomes.



Males have just one X chromosome. Thus, all X-linked alleles are expressed in males, even if they are recessive.

Colorblindness





Three human genes associated with color vision are located on the X chromosome.






In males, a defective version of any one of these genes produces colorblindness.

Possible Inheritance of Colorblindness Allele









Mother
(carrier)

$X^C X^c$

	Colorblind	Normal vision
Male		
Female		

	 $X^C Y$ Father (normal vision)	
	X^C	Y
X^C	 $X^C X^C$ Daughter (normal vision)	 $X^C Y$ Son (normal vision)
X^c	 $X^C X^c$ Daughter (carrier)	 $X^c Y$ Son (colorblind)

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92%	Normal Vision	
2.7%	Deuteranomaly	
0.66%	Protanomaly	
0.59%	Protanopia	
0.56%	Deuteranopia	
0.016%	Tritanopia	
0.01%	Tritanomaly	
<0.0001%	Achromatopsia	

Ishihara Color Blindness Test

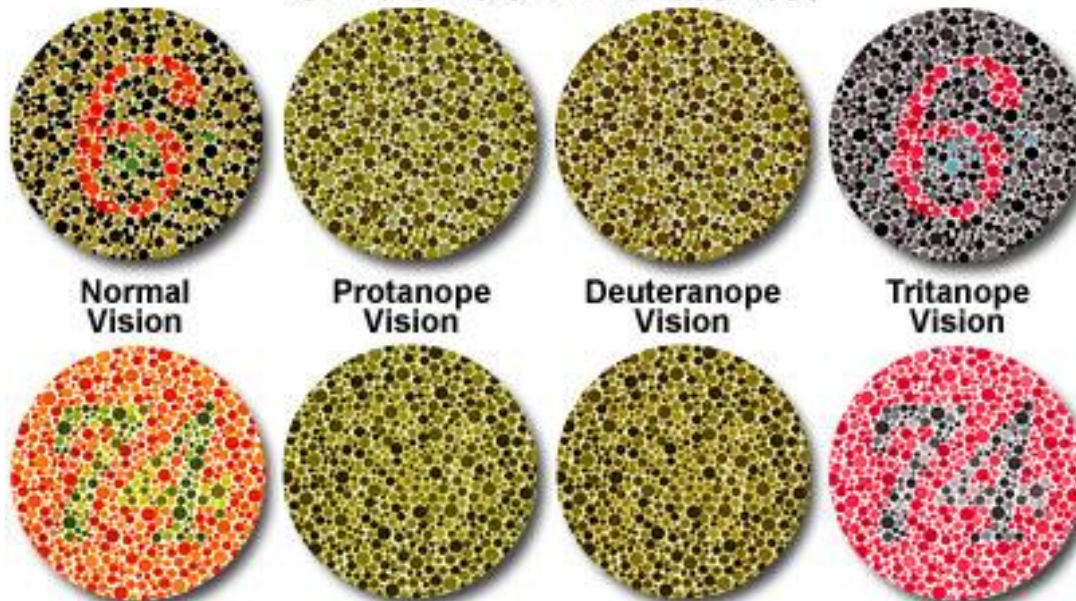


Figure 7

Hemophilia

The X chromosome also carries genes that help control blood clotting. A recessive allele in either of these two genes may produce hemophilia.

In hemophilia, a protein necessary for normal blood clotting is missing.

Hemophiliacs can bleed to death from cuts and may suffer internal bleeding if bruised.

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a sex-linked disorder that results in the weakening and loss of skeletal muscle.

It is caused by a defective version of the gene that codes for a muscle protein.

X-Chromosome Inactivation

British geneticist Mary Lyon discovered that in female cells, one X chromosome is randomly switched off.

This chromosome forms a dense region in the nucleus known as a Barr body.

Barr bodies are generally not found in males because their single X chromosome is still active.

The most common error in meiosis occurs when homologous chromosomes fail to separate in Meiosis 1.

This is known as **nondisjunction**, which means, “not coming apart.”

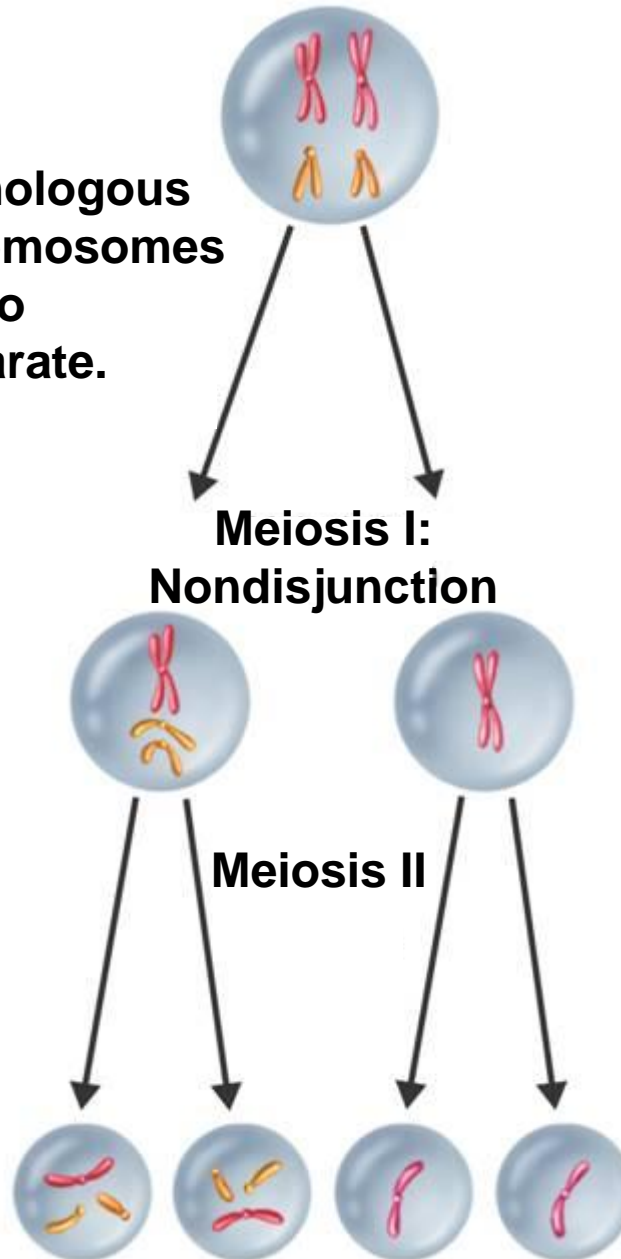
If nondisjunction occurs, abnormal numbers of chromosomes may find their way into gametes, and a disorder of chromosome numbers may result.

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Nondisjunction

Homologous
chromosomes
fail to
separate.

Meiosis I:
Nondisjunction



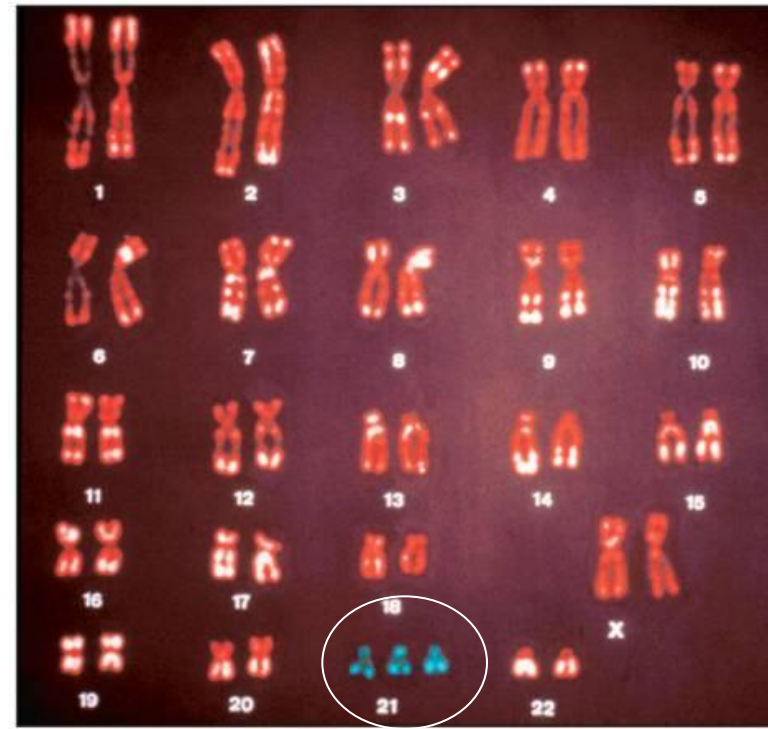
Down Syndrome

If two copies of an autosomal chromosome fail to separate during meiosis, an individual may be born with three copies of a chromosome.

Down syndrome involves three copies of chromosome # 21.

Down syndrome produces mild to severe mental retardation. It is characterized by:

- * increased susceptibility to many diseases
- * higher frequency of some birth defects



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Sex Chromosome Disorders

In females, nondisjunction can lead to Turner's syndrome.

A female with Turner's syndrome usually inherits only one X chromosome (karyotype 45,X) or (45, XO)

Women with Turner's syndrome are sterile.

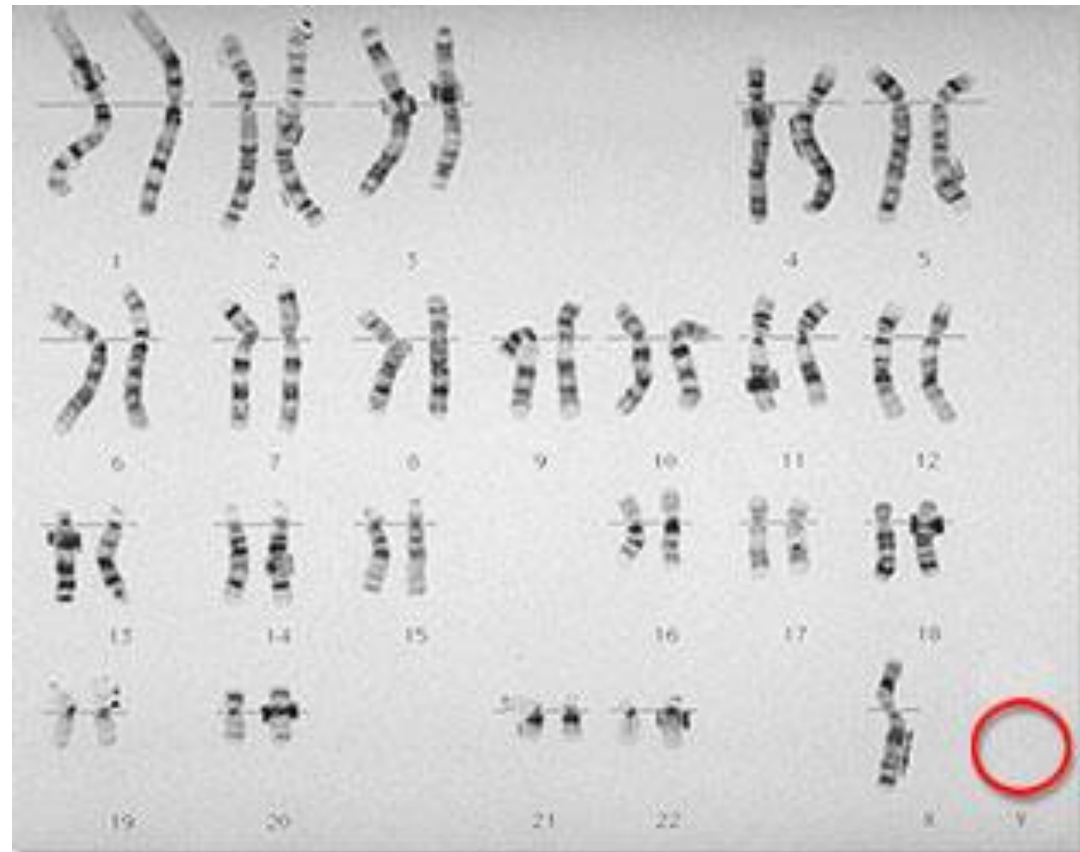
In males, nondisjunction causes Klinefelter's syndrome (karyotype 47,XXY).

The extra X chromosome interferes with meiosis and usually prevents these individuals from reproducing.

Turner's Syndrome

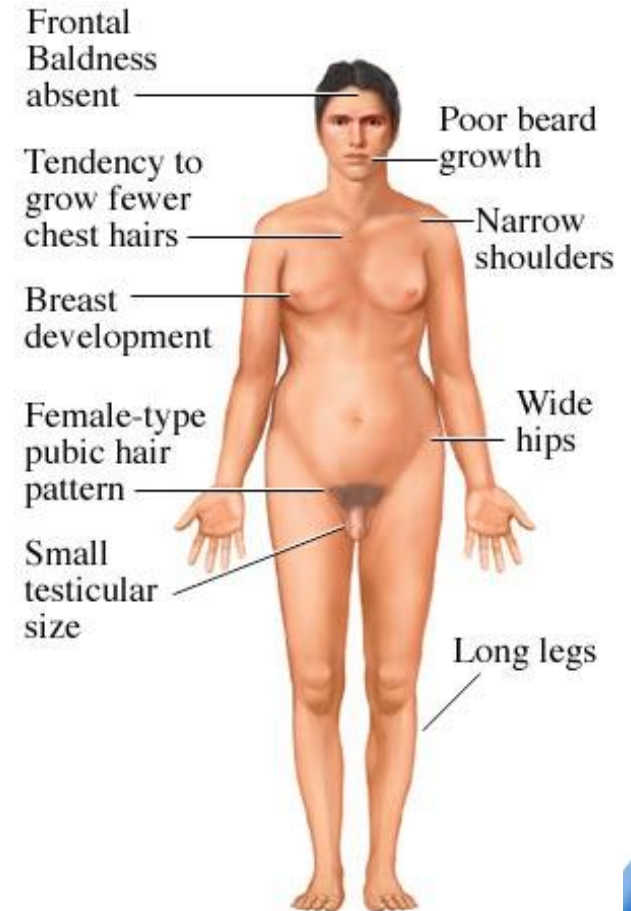
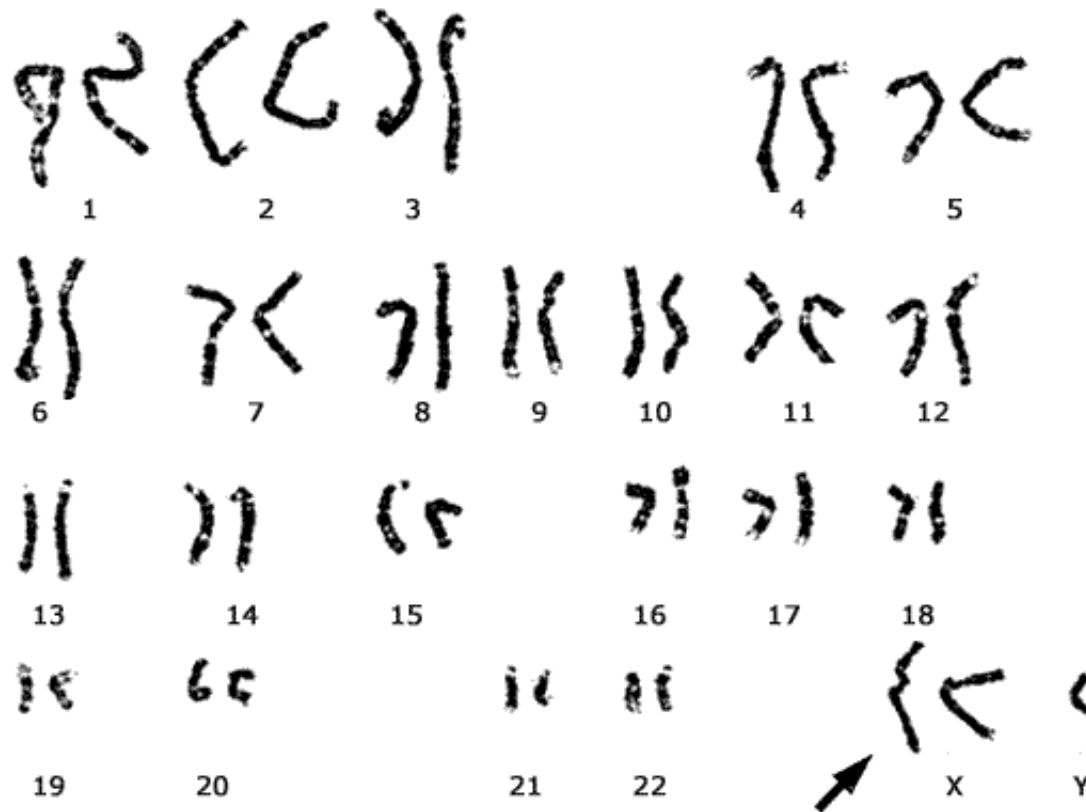


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Klinefelter Syndrome



14-2 Section QUIZ

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14-2 Section QUIZ

1 The average human gene consists of how many base pairs of DNA?

A a. 3000

b. 300

c. 20

d. 30,000

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2 Which of the following genotypes indicates an individual who is a carrier for colorblindness?

a. $X^C X$

A

b. $X^C X^c$

c. $X^c Y$

d. $X^C Y$

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3 Colorblindness is much more common in males than in females because

- A**
- a. the recessive gene on the male's single X chromosome is expressed.
 - b. genes on the Y chromosome make genes on the X chromosome more active.
 - c. females cannot be colorblind.
 - d. colorblindness is dominant in males and recessive in females.

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4 The presence of a dense region in the nucleus of a cell can be used to determine the

- A**
- a. sex of an individual.
 - b. blood type of an individual.
 - c. chromosome number of an individual.
 - d. genotype of an individual.

14-2 Section QUIZ

5 Nondisjunction occurs during

A a. meiosis I.

b. mitosis.

c. meiosis II.

d. between meiosis I and II.