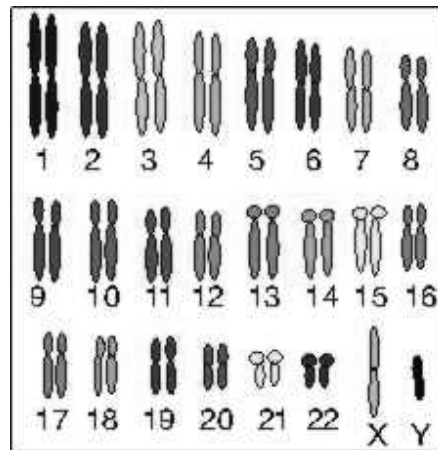
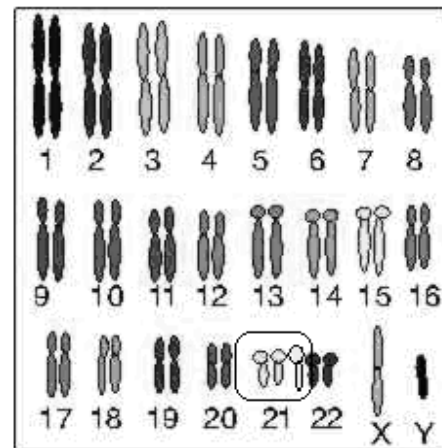


What is Mosaic Down Syndrome?

Everyone has genes in their body. This is what makes us who we are. Genes determine the color of our eyes and hair, and our personalities. In our chromosomes we have genes. Most people have 46 chromosomes in their body. When looking at the chromosomes they are divided into pairs. The last two chromosomes determine the sex of the individual. If you have an X and a Y then you are male. If you have two X's then you are female.



When a person has mosaic Down syndrome they have percentage of cells that have 46 chromosomes and the remaining cells have 47 chromosomes. Mosaic Down syndrome happens when a 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome appears in a percentage of the cells.



Because people with mosaic Down syndrome (MDS) have two different cell lines, sometimes they experience developmental delays.

Some of the things that people with mosaic Down syndrome experience delays in are:

- Speech and Language
- Fine Motor Skills
- Gross Motor Skills
- Learning at the same rate as their peers

Some children may require therapy and special education help. Most are able to overcome a lot of these delays and live fulfilling lives as adults.

Some individuals with MDS can experience health issues. Some of these issues are:

- Heart problems
- Asthma
- Thyroid conditions
- Leukemia
- Ear infections
- Hearing loss

Not all people with mosaic Down syndrome experience these health issues. With proper medical care most individuals with MDS can lead healthy lives.

Important things to know:

- You can not catch MDS. People with MDS are born with it. It is not contagious like a cold.
- No one did anything wrong to make a person have MDS. MDS happens during cell division during or after conception.
- Adults with MDS can go to college, have jobs, get married and have kids just like everyone else.
- Even if a person with MDS can not speak as clearly as a person without MDS, it does not mean that they can't understand you! Be a friend to a person with MDS!

Who is International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association?

IMDSA is a non-profit organization designed to provide support, information and research to those touched by mosaic Down syndrome throughout the world. IMDSA offers a variety of services to families and professionals interested in mosaic Down syndrome including:

- Information packet full of MDS information & inspirations
- Quarterly newsletter *MOSAIC WORLD*, full of MDS information, tips, stories and news events
- Informational Brochures in English, Spanish and Portuguese
- Bi-Monthly Ask the Expert meetings where families can speak directly to professionals in the MDS field
- Biennial MDS Research & Awareness Conference
- Toll Free hot line
- Family Connect Program
- Informative website
- Online support groups

For more information on MDS and IMDSA, just visit our website or give us a call!

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