



unique

UNDERSTANDING GENES
& CHROMOSOMES

Easy read guide

22q11.2 deletions

Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome (VCFS)

DiGeorge syndrome

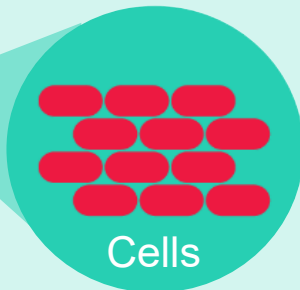
rarechromo.org

22q11.2 deletions

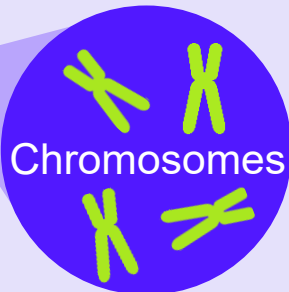
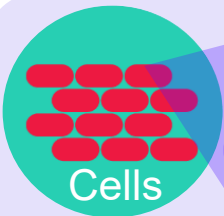
This is an easy read guide about a type of chromosome change, called a 22q11.2 deletion.



Before we learn about 22q11.2 deletions first let us learn a little bit about chromosomes and our bodies.



Our bodies are made from millions of tiny building blocks called cells.



Inside our cells are chromosomes.



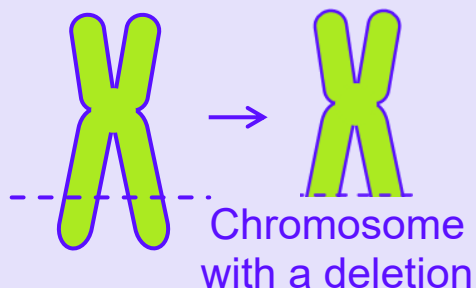
Inside our chromosomes are genes.



Genes tell our bodies how to grow and work.



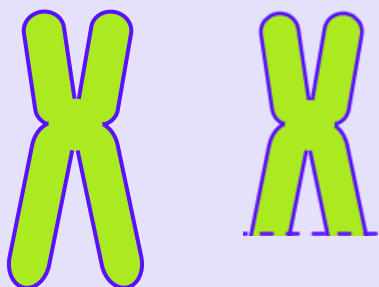
What is a 22q11.2 deletion?



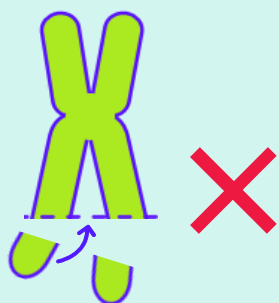
A 22q11.2 deletion means there is a small missing piece of a chromosome, called chromosome 22.



When a piece of chromosome is missing, some genes are lost, and this can affect how our bodies grow and work.



Chromosomes come in pairs. Even if one chromosome has a small part missing, the other matching chromosome still has all its genes.



If a piece of chromosome 22 is missing, it cannot be replaced.



You can only find out if you have a 22q11.2 deletion by having a genetic test.



How can a 22q11.2 deletion affect my learning?

You might only experience some of these challenges or none of them at all!



You might find learning a bit harder than other people.



You might take a little longer to learn new skills.



You might need extra time to understand information.



You might need things explained in a clear and simple way.



You might have difficulties with memory, attention or problem-solving.



How can a 22q11.2 deletion affect how I talk and communicate?

You might only experience some of these challenges or none of them at all!



You might have started talking later than other children when you were younger.



You might find it hard to say words clearly.



You might find it difficult to explain what you are thinking or feeling.



You might use different ways to help you communicate.



You might see a speech and language therapist. They can help with talking, understanding words or communicating.



How can a 22q11.2 deletion affect my feelings and behaviour?

You might only experience some of these challenges or none of them at all!



You might have very strong mood swings. You might feel very happy one moment and very upset the next.



You might notice that your brain can get confused and make it harder to know what is real and what is not real.



You may have thoughts or routines that you like to do over and over again.



You might feel anxious or very sad more often. Strong feelings can sometimes be hard to manage.



A psychologist or mental health professional can also help you manage strong feelings or thoughts.



How can a 22q11.2 deletion affect my body and health?

You might only experience some of these challenges or none of them at all!



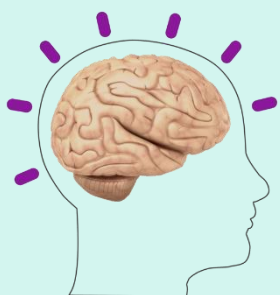
You might need to wear glasses and have appointments to check your eyes.



You may have differences in the way your spine looks.



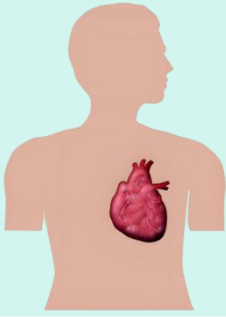
You may get poorly more easily than other people.



You might have seizures. This means your brain might act differently for a short time and your body might shake.



You may have trouble breathing while you sleep.



You may have differences in your heart that doctors can check.



You may have differences in the way the roof of your mouth and teeth look and you may need extra help looking after your teeth.



You might see doctors regularly to check your health.



You might see a physiotherapist. They can help make your muscles stronger and show you stretches if you have pain or tight muscles.



You might see an occupational therapist. They can help you learn new skills to do more things on your own.



You might see a dietician. They can help you make healthy food choices and to stay active.



What will my future be like?



With the right support, many adults with a 22q11.2 deletion live happy and healthy lives.



Many adults with a 22q11.2 deletion develop their own strengths, skills and interests.



Adults with a 22q11.2 deletion can live by themselves, sometimes with a little support, live with family or in supported housing.



Some adults with a 22q11.2 deletion work in jobs if they are able to. Adults can have extra support in jobs if they need it.



Some adults with a 22q11.2 deletion choose to volunteer and help out in their communities if they are able to.



It is good to know about your a 22q11.2 deletion so you can get extra support if you need it.



If you would like to know more about your 22q11.2 deletion, you can talk to your doctor.



Or you can talk to a genetics specialist. They are doctors who know a lot about genes and chromosomes.



You can contact a 22q11.2 deletion support group.



You can contact a charity, like Unique.



Unique has other easy read guides that you might find helpful. You can find these on our [website](https://trachrom.org).



How can I contact Unique?



You can call us on the phone.

+44(0)1883 723356



You can email us.

help@rarechromo.org



You can go to our website.

<https://rarechromo.org/>



You can send a letter to our office.

The Stables, Station Road West,
Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9EE, UK.

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