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UNDERSTANDING GENES
& CHROMOSOMES

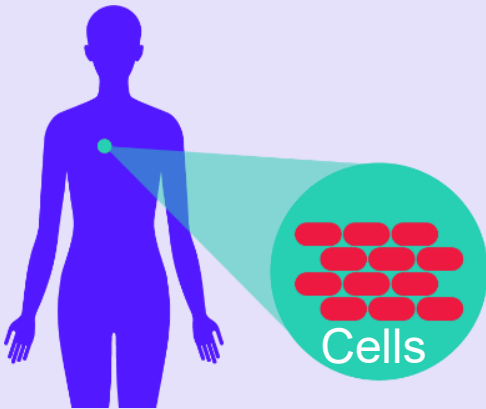
Easy read guide

Chromosome duplications and microduplications

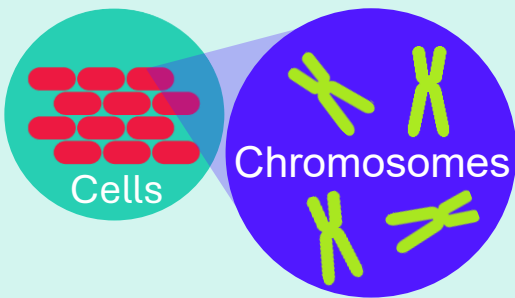
rarechromo.org



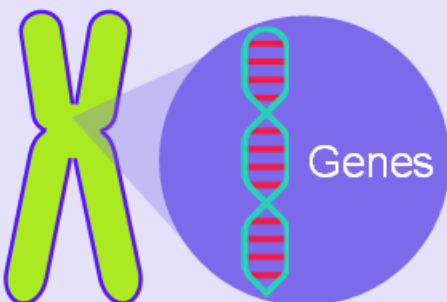
Before we learn about chromosome duplications and microduplications, first let us learn a little bit about our bodies.



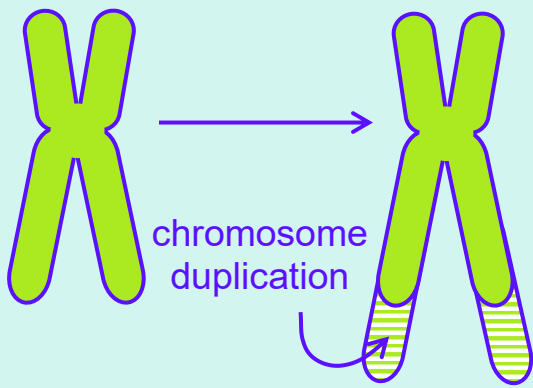
Our bodies are built from millions of tiny building blocks called cells.



Our cells contain chromosomes.

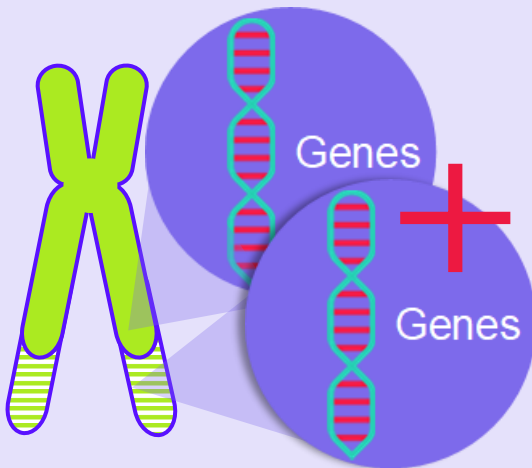


Inside our chromosomes are genes. Genes tell our bodies how to grow and work.

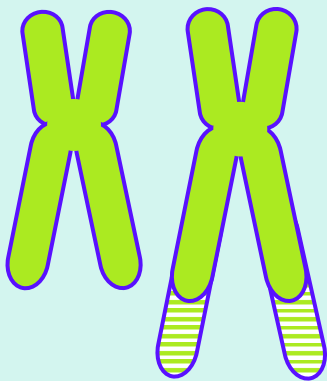


A chromosome duplication means we have a small extra piece of a chromosome.

A microduplication is the same as a duplication but much smaller.

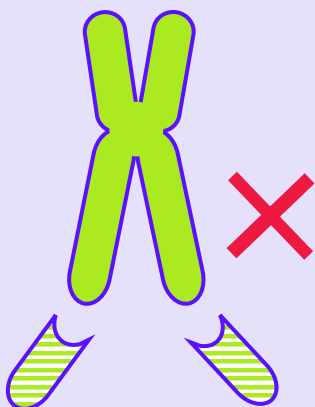


When we have an extra piece of a chromosome, the genes in that piece will have an extra copy. This can affect how our bodies grow and work.



Chromosomes come in pairs.

Even if one chromosome has a small extra piece, the other matching chromosome still has the usual number of genes.



If you have an extra piece of a chromosome, it cannot be removed.



People with a chromosome duplication are all different from each other.



Some people with a chromosome duplication find some things harder to do than other people with a chromosome duplication.



Some people find it difficult to learn how to read.



Some people find it difficult to learn how to speak.



Some people need help to understand things.



Some people feel a bit sad or worry a lot.

There is help for people who are sad and worry a lot.



Some people need to visit a doctor, dentist or therapist a bit more often than other people.



People with a chromosome duplication can have different challenges and different strengths.



Why do I have a chromosome duplication?

A chromosome duplication often happens by chance. Most people are the first person in their family to have it.



Some people have a chromosome duplication because their mum or dad have it.



If you have a child, they could have a chromosome duplication too.



How do I know I have a chromosome duplication?

You can only find out if you have a chromosome duplication by having a genetic test.



It is good to know about your chromosome duplication so you can get extra help if you need it.



If you would like to know more about your chromosome duplication, you can talk to your doctor or a genetics specialist.



You can contact a support group.



You can contact or [join](#) a charity, like Unique.



**To find out more about 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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