

17q12 Deletion Syndrome

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17q12 deletion syndrome is a condition that results from the deletion of a small piece of chromosome 17 in each cell. The deletion occurs on the long (q) arm of the chromosome at a position designated q12.

Keywords: genetic conditions

1. Introduction

The signs and symptoms of 17q12 deletion syndrome vary widely, even among affected members of the same family. Among the more common features associated with this chromosomal change are problems with development or function of the kidneys and urinary system. These abnormalities range from very severe malformations, leading to kidney failure before birth, to mild or no problems with kidney and urinary tract function. Fluid-filled sacs (cysts) in the kidneys are particularly common. Many affected individuals also develop a form of diabetes called maturity-onset diabetes of the young type 5 (MODY5), which is caused by a malfunction of certain cells in the pancreas. MODY5 usually appears in adolescence or early adulthood, most often before age 25. The combination of kidney cysts and MODY5 is sometimes referred to as renal cysts and diabetes (RCAD) syndrome.

About half of people with 17q12 deletion syndrome have delayed development (particularly speech and language delays), intellectual disability, or behavioral or psychiatric disorders. Behavioral and psychiatric conditions that have been reported in people with 17q12 deletion syndrome include autism spectrum disorder (which affects social interaction and communication), schizophrenia, anxiety, and bipolar disorder.

Less commonly, 17q12 deletion syndrome also causes abnormalities of the eyes, liver, brain, genitalia, and other body systems. Some females with this chromosomal change have Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome, which is characterized by underdevelopment or absence of the vagina and uterus. 17q12 deletion syndrome is also sometimes associated with subtle differences in facial features.

2. Frequency

The worldwide prevalence of 17q12 deletion syndrome is unknown, although the condition appears to be rare. One study estimated that 17q12 deletion syndrome occurs in 1 in 14,500 people in Iceland.

3. Causes

Most people with 17q12 deletion syndrome are missing about 1.4 million DNA building blocks (base pairs), also written as 1.4 megabases (Mb), at position q12 on chromosome 17. This deletion affects one of the two copies of chromosome 17 in each cell.

The deleted segment is surrounded by short, repeated sequences of DNA that make the segment prone to rearrangement during cell division. The rearrangement can lead to missing or extra copies of DNA at 17q12. (The presence of an extra copy of this segment is called a 17q12 duplication.)

The chromosome segment most commonly deleted in people with 17q12 deletion syndrome contains 15 genes. The loss of two genes in particular, *HNF1B* and *LHX1*, is thought to underlie some of the features of 17q12 deletion syndrome. Studies suggest that a loss of one copy of the *HNF1B* gene in each cell causes the kidney and urinary tract abnormalities, as well as abnormalities of the pancreas that underlie diabetes. The loss of one copy of *LHX1* is thought to contribute to intellectual disability, behavioral and psychiatric conditions, and Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome. The loss of other genes in the deleted region may also influence the signs and symptoms that can occur in 17q12 deletion syndrome.

3.1. The genes and chromosome associated with 17q12 deletion syndrome

- HNF1B
- LHX1
- chromosome 17

4. Inheritance

This condition is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, which means one copy of the chromosomal deletion in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder.

Most cases of 17q12 deletion syndrome result from a new (de novo) chromosomal deletion and occur in people with no history of the disorder in their family. Less commonly, an affected person inherits the deletion from one affected parent.

5. Other Names for This Condition

- 17q12 chromosomal microdeletion
- 17q12 microdeletion
- 17q12 recurrent deletion syndrome
- deletion 17q12
- recurrent genomic rearrangement in chromosome 17q12

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