17q12 deletion syndrome

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.

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.

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.

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.

**Inheritance Pattern**

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.

**Other Names for This Condition**

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

**Diagnosis & Management**

**Genetic Testing Information**

- What is genetic testing? [primer/testing/genetictesting](#)

**Other Diagnosis and Management Resources**

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

- Encyclopedia: Autism Spectrum Disorder
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001526.htm
- Encyclopedia: Bipolar Disorder
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000926.htm
- Encyclopedia: Schizophrenia
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000928.htm
- Health Topic: Developmental Disabilities
  https://medlineplus.gov/developmentaldisabilities.html
- Health Topic: Diabetes
  https://medlineplus.gov/diabetes.html
- Health Topic: Kidney Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/kidneydiseases.html

Additional NIH Resources

- National Human Genome Research Institute: Chromosome Abnormalities
  https://www.genome.gov/about-genomics/fact-sheets/Chromosome-Abnormalities-Fact-Sheet
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases: Kidney Disease
  https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/kidney-disease
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases: Monogenic Forms of Diabetes: Neonatal Diabetes Mellitus & MODY
  https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/what-is-diabetes/monogenic-neonatal-mellitus-mody

Educational Resources

- Diabetes Genes: What is Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young?
  https://www.diabetesgenes.org/what-is-mody/
- MalaCards: chromosome 17q12 deletion syndrome
  https://www.malacards.org/card/chromosome_17q12_deletion_syndrome
- Orphanet: 17q12 microdeletion syndrome
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=261265
- Unique: 17q12 Microdeletions
  https://www.rarechromo.org/media/information/Chromosome%202017/17q12%20microdeletions%20FTNW.pdf
Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
  https://www.aaidd.org/
- American Diabetes Association
  https://www.diabetes.org/
- Chromosome Disorder Outreach
  https://chromodisorder.org/
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
  https://www.nami.org/
- National Kidney Foundation
  https://www.kidney.org/
- Unique: The Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group (UK)
  https://www.rarechromo.org/
- University of Chicago: Monogenic Diabetes Registry
  https://monogenicdiabetes.uchicago.edu/our-research/mody-registry/

Clinical Information from GeneReviews

- 17q12 Recurrent Deletion Syndrome
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK401562

Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%2817q12%5BTI%5D%29+AND+%28%28deletion%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28microdeletion%5BTIAB%5D%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- CHROMOSOME 17q12 DELETION SYNDROME
  http://omim.org/entry/614527

Sources for This Summary


Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27929632


Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21055719

Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2978962/


Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19844256

Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2987224/


Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27409573


Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24352232

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:

Reviewed: April 2017
Published: November 26, 2019

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services