NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.℠

Helping Hand™

Turner Syndrome

Turner syndrome is a genetic condition found in girls. Normally, girls have two X chromosomes (KRO ma somes). Girls with Turner syndrome have one X chromosome. The second X chromosome is either missing or formed the wrong way. Nothing you did before or during pregnancy caused Turner syndrome.

Common Features

Girls with Turner syndrome may:

- Have normal intelligence
- Have poor social skills
- Not have fine motor skills
- Be short
- Mature late
- Have poor sense of direction
- Not be able to get pregnant naturally

Signs and Symptoms

Girls with Turner syndrome are at greater risk of having heart, kidney or thyroid problems.

Early signs of Turner syndrome:

- Low-set ears
- Delayed growth
- Low hairline
- Puffy hands and feet
- Arms that turn out slightly at the elbows
- Frequent ear infections
- Short fingers and toes
- Several skin folds around the neck

Later signs of Turner syndrome:

- Blood sugar problems
- Thyroid problems
- Short stature
- Curve in the spine
- High blood pressure
- Delayed puberty
- Ovarian failure

Diagnosis

No one knows what causes Turner syndrome. Girls who are short for their age for no explained reason should have a karyotype (KAR e o type). A karyotype is a blood test to find out their total number of chromosomes and the sex chromosomes.

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Treatment

Treatment for Turner syndrome includes regular checkups and hormone replacement therapy. There is no known cure. Treatment may be:

- Growth hormone for short stature
- Estrogen therapy for breast development and menstruation
- Thyroid hormone replacement

Follow–up Appointments

- Schedule regular follow-up appointments for your child with her doctor.
- Write down all your questions as you think of them. Bring the list with you when you see the doctor. Be sure to call if you cannot keep the appointment.
- The Genetics Clinic phone number is 614-722-3535. The number for the Endocrinology Clinic is 614-722-4425.