

Trisomy 18 and Trisomy 13

Chromosome Conditions

Chromosomes are structures that hold our genetic information; the information that tells our bodies how to grow and function. As humans, we typically have a total of 46 chromosomes or 23 pairs - one set inherited from our mother through the egg and one from our father through the sperm.

Chromosome conditions refer to situations where a baby has extra or missing chromosomes. These conditions usually do not run in families. There is nothing you can do to cause or prevent a chromosome condition. For many of these conditions, the chance increases with the age of the mother, but there are babies born with chromosome conditions to mothers of all ages. Pregnancies where the baby has a chromosome condition have a higher risk for miscarriage and stillbirth. Trisomy 18 and trisomy 13 are caused by an extra 18 chromosome and an extra 13 chromosome, respectively.

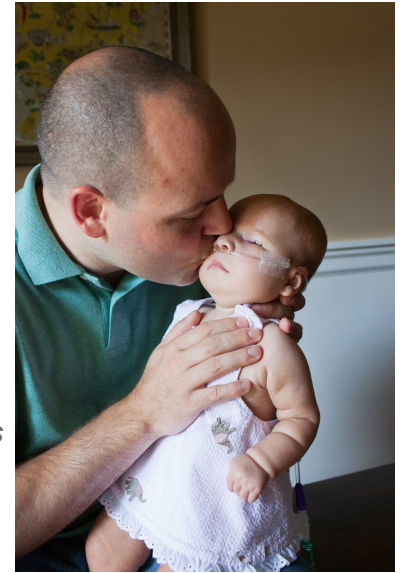
Characteristics of Trisomy 18 and Trisomy 13



Trisomy 18

- Trisomy 18 and trisomy 13 are two different conditions. Both are rare and are associated with much more serious medical complications and developmental concerns than Down syndrome (trisomy 21, or an extra 21 chromosome).
- Most babies with these conditions will show signs indicating health concerns on prenatal ultrasound.

- Most babies with trisomy 18 or trisomy 13 pass away shortly after birth or within the first year of life due to medical complications.
- Fewer than 10% of babies with trisomy 18 or trisomy 13 live longer than a year. On rare occasion, individuals with these conditions may live many years, but will most likely have severe and complex medical issues.



Trisomy 13

You can find more information and videos about prenatal genetic testing options at: www.doh.wa.gov and www.geneticsupportfoundation.org.

OTHER RESOURCES:

Trisomy 18

Trisomy 18 Foundation- <http://www.trisomy18.org/what-is-trisomy-18/>

Genetics Home Reference- <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/trisomy-18#>

Perinatal Hospice- <http://www.perinatalhospice.org/>

Trisomy 13

SOFT (Support Organization for Trisomy 18, 13 and Related Disorders)- <http://trisomy.org/>

Genetics Home Reference- <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/trisomy-13>

Perinatal Hospice- <http://www.perinatalhospice.org/>