



Disability Of The Week:

Down Syndrome

What is Down Syndrome?

In every cell in the human body there is a nucleus, where genetic material is stored in genes. Genes carry the codes responsible for all of our inherited traits and are grouped along rod-like structures called chromosomes. Typically, the nucleus of each cell contains 23 chromosomes, half of which are inherited from each parent.

Down Syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of Chromosome 21.

This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down Syndrome. A few of the common physical traits of Down Syndrome are low muscle tone, small stature, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm- although each person with Down Syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees, or not at all.

Learn more: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/DownSyndrome.html>