

# A Autosomal Recessive A A

Unaffected, not a carrier

A=normal allele a=mutant allele Carrier, unaffected a a

a

A

Affect ed

# **Autosomal Recessive Pedigree**





Heterozygous carrier

Homozygously affected

## **Autosomal Recessive Pedigree**



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# Features of Autosomal Recessive Inheritance

- Horizontal transmission affected individuals usually within the same sibship or generation
- 2. Both sexes affected in 1:1 ratio
- 3. Both sexes may equally transmit the mutant allele
- 4. May observe consanguinity
- 5. Gene product is usually an enzymatic protein

# Transmission probabilities and use of the Punnett square

If both parents are carriers (Aa x Aa) then there is

25% chance that the child will have the disorder (aa)50% chance that the child will be a carrier (Aa), and25% chance that the child will be neither affected nor a carrier (AA).

Thus the chance that an unaffected child of carrier parents is also a carrier is two in three.

#### **Autosomal Recessive Inheritance**

(Both Parents Carriers)



A = normal, a = mutant

Affected homozygotes are commonly the offspring of two heterozygote carriers.

#### **Sex Linkage and X-Inactivation**



X<sup>a</sup> X<sup>a</sup>

#### **Dosage compensation**

- 1. For autosomal traits, two doses lead to a normal phenotype, while one dose or more than two doses often have clinical significance
- 2. For X-linked traits two doses in females and one dose in males both lead to a normal phenotype

#### X-inactivation in females allows compensation for this difference in dosage for X-linked traits

- Lyon hypothesis
- In early embryonic life (3-7 days after fertilization) one X chromosome is inactivated. The inactive X chromosome is condensed in a Barr body.
- Inactivation of the maternal or paternal X chromosome is random, but once it occurs, the same X will be inactive in all descendants of a particular cell.
- Some genes on the inactive X chromosome remain active, i.e., escape inactivation. These include the genes in the pseudoautosomal region that have matching genes on the Y chromosome, genes outside the pseudoautosomal region that have related copies on the Y chromosomes, and others.

# **X-Inactivation**

- Allows dosage compensation between males and females for genes on the X chromosome
- In females, early in embryonic life, one of the X chromosomes is inactivated
- The process is random and clonal
- Some genes escape X-inactivation



- A gene that is located on either sex chromosome is called a sex-linked gene
- Genes on the Y chromosome are called Y-linked genes; there are **few** of these
- Genes on the X chromosome are called Xlinked genes

## **Inheritance of X-Linked Genes**

 X chromosome have genes for many characters unrelated to sex, whereas the Y chromosome mainly encodes genes related to sex determination

- X-linked genes follow specific patterns of inheritance
- For a recessive X-linked trait to be expressed
  - A female needs two copies of the allele (homozygous)
  - A male needs only one copy of the allele (hemizygous)
- X-linked recessive disorders are much more common in males than in females



- Some disorders caused by recessive alleles on the X chromosome in humans
  - Color blindness (mostly X-linked) (Red-green color blindness)
  - Duchenne muscular dystrophy

(dystrophy muscle weakness and loss of muscle tissue)

– Hemophilia





Duchenne and Becker Types

#### Ishihara Test For Color Blindness



## **X Inactivation in Female Mammals**

- In mammalian females, one of the two X chromosomes in each cell is randomly inactivated during embryonic development
- The inactive X condenses into a Barr body
- If a female is heterozygous for a particular gene located on the X chromosome, she will be a mosaic for that character



## Examples and Features of X-Linked Recessive Inheritance

#### Examples:

X-Linked Recessive	
HEMOPHILIA A	Coagulation disorder Prolonged bleeding Easy bruising Hemorrhage Various mutations & very heterogeneous
DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY	Progressive muscle weakness Death typically in 2nd or 3rd decade 30% cases due to new mutation Allelic heterogeneity (Becker MD)

#### Duchenne muscular dystrophy



Figure 1.4. A 15-year-old boy with Duchenne muscular dystrophy



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#### Features of X-Linked Recessive Inheritance

- Diagonal inheritance affected males related through females of the maternal line
- 2. Absence of male-to-male transmission
- 3. Incidence of trait much higher in males than females
- 4. Full expression in hemizygous males
- 5. No or mild expression in carrier females due to X-inactivation

## Transmission probabilities and use of the Punnett square

- 1. A son never inherits the disorder from his father.
- 2. All daughters of a male with the disorder are obligate carriers.
- 3. Sons of carrier females have a 50% chance of inheriting the disorder.
- 4. Daughters of carrier females have a 50% chance of being carriers too.



A = normal, a = mutant1 carrier female : 1 normal male



## Examples and Features of X-Linked Dominant Inheritance



#### X-linked Dominant

#### VITAMIN D RESISTANT RICKETS

Rickets Short stature Low serum phosphate Less severe in heterozygous females



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# Features of X-Linked Dominant Inheritance

- 1. Twice as many females with the disorder as males
- 2. Absence of male-to-male transmission
- 3. Males with the disorder transmit it to all daughters and no sons
- 4. Females usually have more mild and variable expression due to X-inactivation
- 5. Few disorders classified as X-linked dominant

### Transmission probabilities and use of the Punnett square

- 1. A son never inherits the disorder from his father
- 2. All daughters of male with the disorder will also have the disorder
- 3. Sons of affected females have a 50% chance of inheriting the disorder
- 4. Daughters of affected females also have a 50% chance of inheriting the disorder
- 5. Can distinguish between autosomal and Xlinked dominant by looking at offspring of affected males



1 normal female : 1 normal male : 1 affected female : 1 affected male