

Other causes of human diseases

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Causes of human diseases

- 1) degenerative
- 2) hemodynamic
- 3) metabolic
- 4) inflammatory
- 5) neoplastic
- 6) imunné
- 7) genetic
- 8) developmental
- 9) environmental
- 10) infectious

Genetic causes of human diseases

A faint, stylized background illustration of a hand holding a stack of books, with a small figure of a person sitting on the books. The hand is rendered in a light gray, semi-transparent style, and the books are stacked in a way that suggests a large volume of knowledge or research. The figure of the person is also rendered in a similar light gray, semi-transparent style, sitting on the books as if reading or studying. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on the text.

Genetic causes of human diseases

- completely hereditary diseases are rare
 - usually cooperation of **inner** + **environmental** factors
 - **inner factors** = genetic predispositions based on polymorphism
(diseases of civilization / immune ones, tumors, DM..)
- field of **Medical genetics**
 - diagnostics of **germinal** mutations (hereditary diseases)
- genetics in pathology represents **Molecular pathology**
 - analysis of genetic aberrations (usually **somatic** ones in tumors)

Genetic causes of human diseases

- basic **genetic vocabulary**:

- **hereditary** = passed from the genes of a parent to a child
- **familial** = occurring in more members of a family
- **germinal** = delivered from germinal cells (embryonal cells)
- **congenital** = present from birth (hereditary / developed *in utero*)

DNA - function

reparation of
DNA



gene expression

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric

- abnormal **number** of chromosomes present
- **polyploidy** = more than 2 complete sets of chromosomes
 - euploid set = haploid (n) / diploid ($2n$)
- **aneuploidy** = abnormal number of single chromosomes
 - not the whole set of chromosomes

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric

1) chromosomal polyploidy

- **triploidy** = presence of an additional set of chromosomes
 - lethal (development of $3n$ moles = 69 chromosomes)
- **tetraploidy** = presence of 2 additional sets of chromosomes
 - lethal (development of $4n$ moles = 92 chromosomes)

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric

2) chromosomal aneuploidy

- because of **nondisjunction** during meiosis (increase with the mother's age)
- **trisomy** = third copy of a single chromosome
 - simple / translocation / mozaic **forms** are possible
 - Down (21) / Edwards (18) / Patau (13) / Klinefelter (X) / "supermale" (Y) / "superfemale" (X) syndrome
- **monosomy** = loss of the 1 chromosome
 - Turner (X) syndrome

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric

round head with a small neurocranium

low-set ears

small mouth with
everted lips

short neck

plamar crease

mental reterdation
heart malformations
leukemia
Alzheimer disease

hypertelorism

epicanthic fold

Brushfield spots

macroglossia

deviated large toes

Down syndrome (47 XX / XY; + 21)

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric



micrognathia

psychomotoric retardation
heart malformations
lethal within days or weeks

dolichocephaly



low-set
("faun") ears

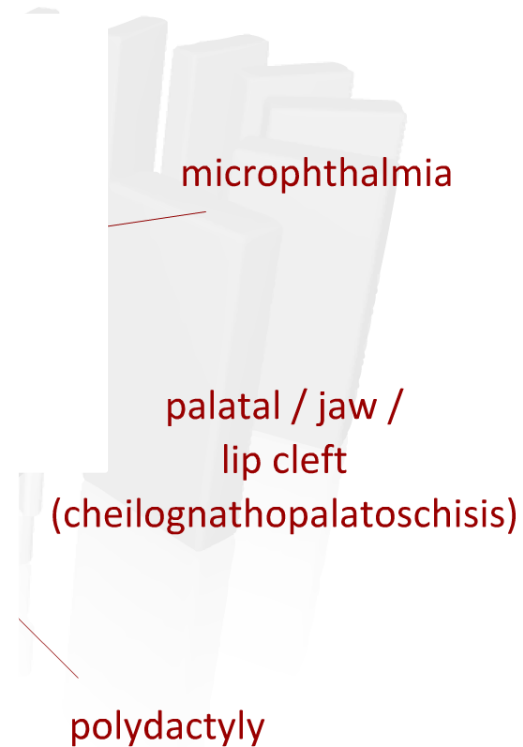
short sternum

clenched hand with
overlapping fingers
(+ *pes equinovarus*)

Edwards syndrome (47 XX / XY; + 18)

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric



psychomotoric retardation
deafness
multiorgan malformations
lethal within days

Patau syndrome (47 XX / XY; + 13)

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric



hypogonadism
sterility
lower life expectancy

Klinefelter syndrome (47 XXY; + X)

Chromosomal aberrations

1) numeric



short stature
primary hypogonadism
(gonadal dysgenesis =
fibrosis of the ovaries)
amenorrhea
heart malformations
lower life expectancy

low hairline at
the back of the neck

A 3D anatomical diagram of a human head and neck, showing a low hairline at the back of the neck.

"streak ovaries"

Turner syndrome (45 X, - X / defective X)

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

- abnormal **structure** of a chromosome
 - usually **breakage** followed by a loss / rearrangement of genetic material
 - **balanced** = complete set of genetic material
 - **unbalanced** = gain / loss of genetic material

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

1) chromosomal **translocation**

- **transfer** of a segment from one chromosome to another

normal

translocation

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

1) chromosomal **translocation**

- **germinal** = within germinal cells (all daughter cells, including gametes)
= development of syndromes
- **somatic** = within mature cells (isolated, acquired, nontranserable)
= development of tumors
- **reciprocal** = segments from 2 different chromosomes are exchanged
(balanced = asymptomatic, heritable)
- **Robertsonian** = fusion of long arms and a loss of short ones
(-1 chromosome, but asymptomatic; heritable)

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

2) chromosomal **deletions**

- **loss** of chromosomal segment (terminal / interstitial = intermedial part)

normal

deletion

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

2) chromosomal **deletions**

- **germinal** = within germinal cells (all daughter cells, including gametes)
= **microdeletion syn.** (Prader-Willi, DiGeorge, Cri du Chat),
Familial retinoblastoma, WARG syndrome
- **somatic** = within mature cells (isolated, acquired, nontransferable)
= development of tumors

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

3) chromosomal **insertion**

- **gain** of chromosomal segment (redundant genetic material is better tolerated than loss)

normal

insertion

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

4) chromosomal **inversion**

- portion of the chromosome is broken off, turned upside down, and reattached

normal

inversion

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

5) ring chromosome

- portion of a chromosome has broken off and formed a **circle** or ring

normal

ring chromosome

Chromosomal aberrations

2) structural

6) isochromosome

- formed by the **mirror image** copy of a chromosome segment

normal

isochromosome

Gene aberrations

1) mutation

- *permanent change of the DNA sequence within gene*
 - **germinal** (heritable) / **somatic** (nontransferable)
 - new protein with an **inhibition** ("loss") / **activation** ("gain") of its function (activating mutation)
- **manifestation is variable**
 - asympt. → diversity (evolutionary adaptation) → monogenic disorders
→ lethal

Gene abberations

1) mutation

1) point mutation ("in-frame mutation")

- base **substitution without** shift of the way the sequence is read
- **synonymous** ("silent") mutation
 - mutated codon encodes **same** aminoacid (same protein)
- **missense** mutation
 - mutated codon encodes **different** aminoacid (different protein)
- **nonsense** mutation
 - mutated codon represents terminal **stop-codon** (shorter protein)

Gene aberrations

1) mutation

2) frameshift mutation

- **insertion / deletion** within nucleotide triplet (codon) = **frameshift**
- **every** following borders of triplets and aminoacids are changed
- risk of encoding an early stop-codon (resulting in shorter polypeptide)

Gene aberrations

1) mutation

3) dynamic mutation

- expansion of unstable **trinucleotide repeat expansion**
- hereditary **accumulation** of point mutations and manifestation of the disease
(+ **anticipation** = early and more severe symptoms among generations)
- protein growth caused by trinucleotide repeat expansion and its **toxicity**
- e.g. Huntington chorea (CAG), Friedrich ataxia, Fragile X chromosome

Gene aberrations

2) amplification

- *increase in the number of copies of a gene in a genome ("expansion, elongation")*
 - **extrachromosomal** = visible "double minutes" within nucleus /
 - **intrachromosomal** = homogeneously staining regions (HSR)
 - gene copies are **not mutated** (functional = excess of proteins; oncogenes)
 - e.g. ERBB2 gene (HER2 protein; conclusive for biological treatment)

Gene aberrations

3) translocations

- *breakage of introns and gene rearrangement*
 - **gene fusion** (non mutated genes) from different chromosomes
 - expression of abnormal **chimeric proteins** (tyrosin kinases / TF)
 - e.g. BCR/ABL gene and Philadelphia chromosome (Ph) in t(9;22) of CML

Gene aberrations

4) epigenetic changes

- regulation of gene expression **without** changes within DNA structure

1) DNA methylation

- **methylation in promotore region** by DNA-methyltransferase
- **hypermethylation** enables the gene for RNA-polymerase, hence "silencing" it
- e.g. methylation of tumor spressor genes in tumors

Gene abberations

4) epigenetic changes

- regulation of gene expression **without** changes within DNA structure

2) histone modifications

- **histons** as nucleoproteins undergo post-translational modifications
- **modifications** change their secondary / tertiary structure and expression
- e.g activating acetylation (euchromatin) or deaktivating deacetylation (heterochromatin); possible target for therapy

Gene abberations

4) epigenetic changes

- regulation of gene expression **without** changes within DNA structure

3) RNA interference

- large portion of DNA does not form mRNA (for proteosynthesis), but **ncRNA**
- **ncRNA** = non-coding RNA for regulation of gene expression
- main part of ncRNA is **miRNA** (microRNA; short ncRNA) inhibiting mRNA

Developmental causes of human diseases



Developmental causes of human diseases

- **congenial (inborn)** = present from birth
 - **hereditary (ancestral) diseases** = previous slides
 - **delivered *in utero*** = malformations (nontransferable)
- field of **Teratology**
 - Greek term *teratos* = monster
 - **teratogen** = outer factor causing malformation

Malformations



Definition

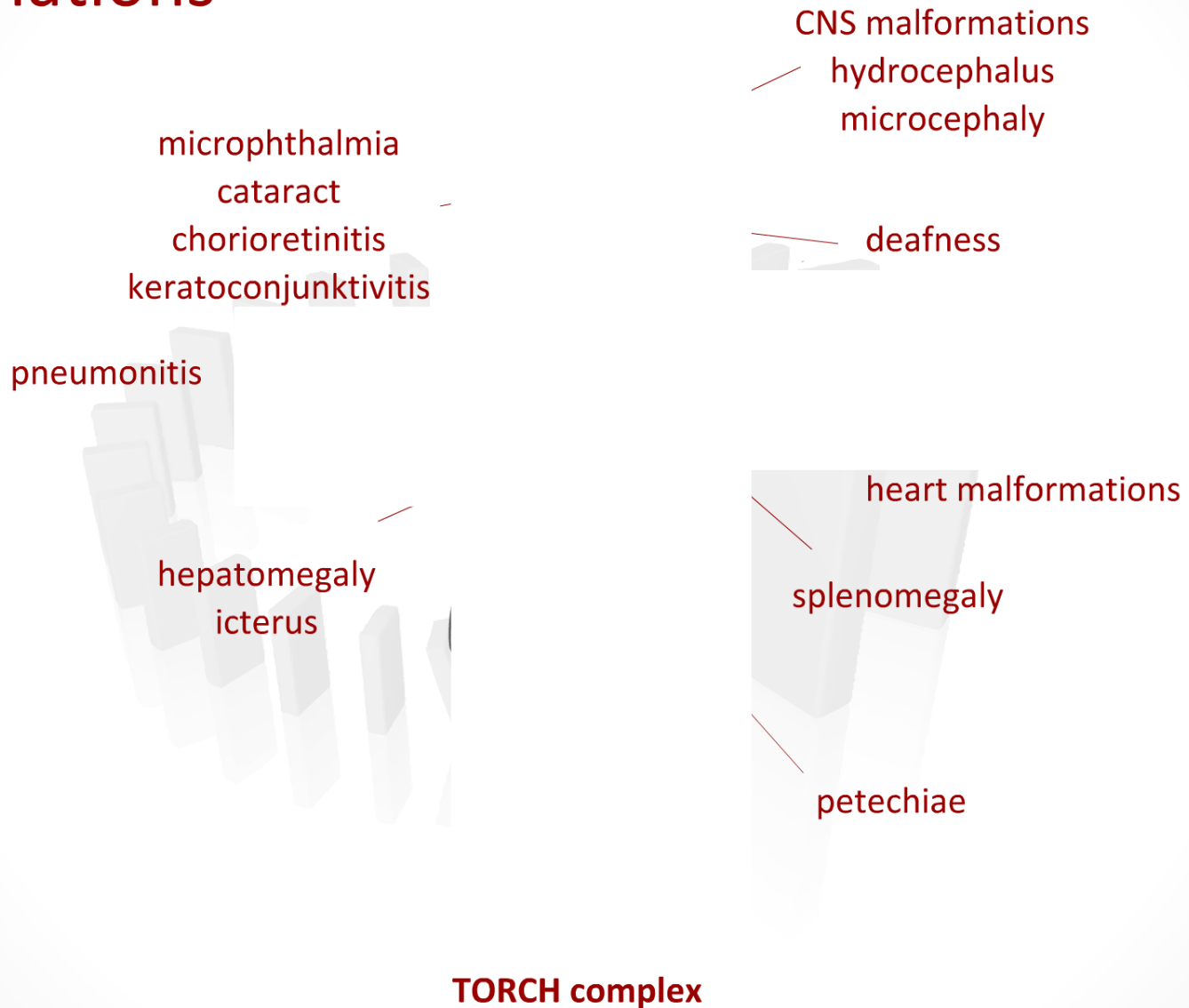
- **prenatal** delivered **abnormally** formed part of the body exceeding variability
 - **manifestation** = early (after birth) / late (functional delay, heart m.)
 - **variable** severity (asympt. anomaly → cosmetic → limiting → lethal)
 - 3% of children have isolated m. (CNS, heart, clefts), 0,7% have multiple (2nd most common cause of neonatal death after prematurity)

Malformations

Causes (etiology)

- multifactorial influence of inner + outer f. resulting in **disruption** of development
 - **inner** = genetic abberations (previous slides)
 - **outer** = teratogens
- classification of **teratogens**:
 - **biological** = TORCHES CLAP (Toxoplasma + Rubeolla + CMV + HSV + Enterovirus + Syphilis + Variolla + Lym. d. + AIDS + Parvovirus) infection of the mother, DM of the mother (diabetic fetopathy)
 - **physical** = radiation, trauma, pressure (leiomyoma, oligohydramnios), fetal amputation by amniotic bands)
 - **chemical** = drugs (Tetracyclines, Thalidomid...), alcohol, nicotine, illegal d.

Malformations



Malformations

normal amount of
amniotic fluid

oligohydramnios

deformities of the extremities

renal agenesis

amnion nodosum

lung hypoplasia

facial stigmata
(*facies Potteri*)

abnormal ears

Malformations



small neurocranium

epicanthic fold

small eye openings

dysplastic ears

short nasal dorsum

wide nasal root

smooth philtrum

thin upper lip

micromandibule

mental retardation
hypotrophy
premature birth

fetal alcohol syndrome

Malformations



Development (pathogenesis)

- it matters most which **period of organogenesis** is affected by teratogens
 - **blastogenesis** = conception - 4th week ("all or nothing" mechanism, abortion)
 - + non-teratogenous division of blastomeres
(conjoined twins, teratoma)
 - **embryogenesis** = 3rd-8th week (mono- to polytrophic / lethal malformations)
 - **fetal period** = 9th week - labor (milder malformations)

Malformations

Morphology

- **abnormally formed** part of the organ / its part:
 - **agenesis** = completely undeveloped organ
 - **aplasia** = rudimentary development of an organ
 - **hypoplasia** = stoppage of the growth (smaller organ)
 - **ectopia (heterotopia)** = normally developed organ in pathological locality
 - **dystopia** = normally developed organ with defective migration
 - **dysplasia** = abnormal microscopic structure of an organ (CAVE)
 - **atresia** = undevelopment of a cavity or lumen
 - **dysraphia** = fusion defect of a pair structures (clefts)
 - **persistence** = defect of an abolishment of fetal / embryonal structures
 - **deformation** = mechanical fetal damage by pathological location / pressure

Malformations

Morphology

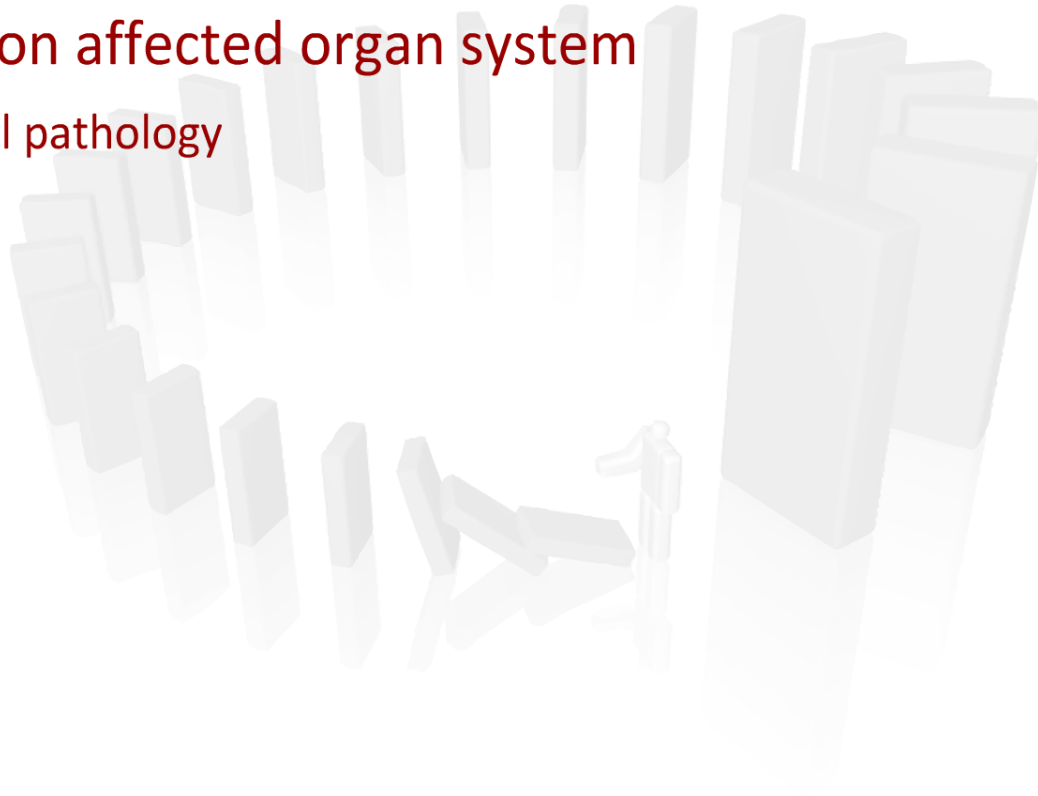
- in cases of **multiple malformations**:

- **syndrome** = multiorgan malformations caused by 1 factor (usually genetics)
- **association** = usual idiopathic combination of malformations (VACTERL...)
- **sequence** = secondary malformation caused by primary one (Potter's)

Malformations

Clinical manifestations

- depends on affected organ system
 - see Special pathology



Environmental causes of human diseases

A faded, light gray illustration of a city skyline with several skyscrapers of varying heights. In the foreground, a person is sitting at a desk, working on a computer. The scene is rendered in a simple, blocky style.

Environmental causes of human diseases

- self study

1) diet problems

- malnourishment
- obesity
- vitamin deficiency + hypervitaminosis
- mineral disorders

2) physical

- thermal damage
- electric damage
- mechanical damage
- radiation damage

3) chemical

- intoxications (poisoning)

Infectious causes of human diseases



Infectious causes of human diseases

- self study + microbiology
 - general principles (transmission, spread...)
 - **CAVE** sepsis / bacteremia / pyemia



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