



Robertsonian chromosome translocations: pregnancy outcomes

This communication aid has been produced for clinicians to help support and guide conversations about Robertsonian chromosome translocations with their patients.

Can a Robertsonian chromosome translocation be passed on to a child?

When either parent of a pregnancy carries a Robertsonian translocation, there are several possible outcomes:

1. The pregnancy does not carry a translocation.
2. The pregnancy carries the same **balanced** Robertsonian translocation as their parent. In general, this has no effect on the pregnancy or health of the child.
3. The pregnancy inherits an **unbalanced** form of the translocation. This means the pregnancy has inherited too many or too few **chromosomes**. Depending on the chromosomes involved, this may lead to pregnancy loss, or having a child with a chromosome condition.

Potential outcomes of a pregnancy may differ depending on the size and location of the chromosome translocation. Some outcomes may therefore be more likely than others.

Key terms

Chromosomes: Packages of DNA which are found in our cells.

Acrocentric chromosomes: The term used for certain chromosomes with very small short arms (chromosomes 13,14,15,21 and 22).

Balanced translocation: The term used when two or more chromosomes have been rearranged, but no DNA is lost or gained.

Unbalanced translocation: The term used when a chromosome rearrangement has caused DNA to be lost or gained.

Trisomy: Having an extra copy of a chromosome.

Monosomy: Having just one copy of a chromosome instead of two.

Want to learn more?

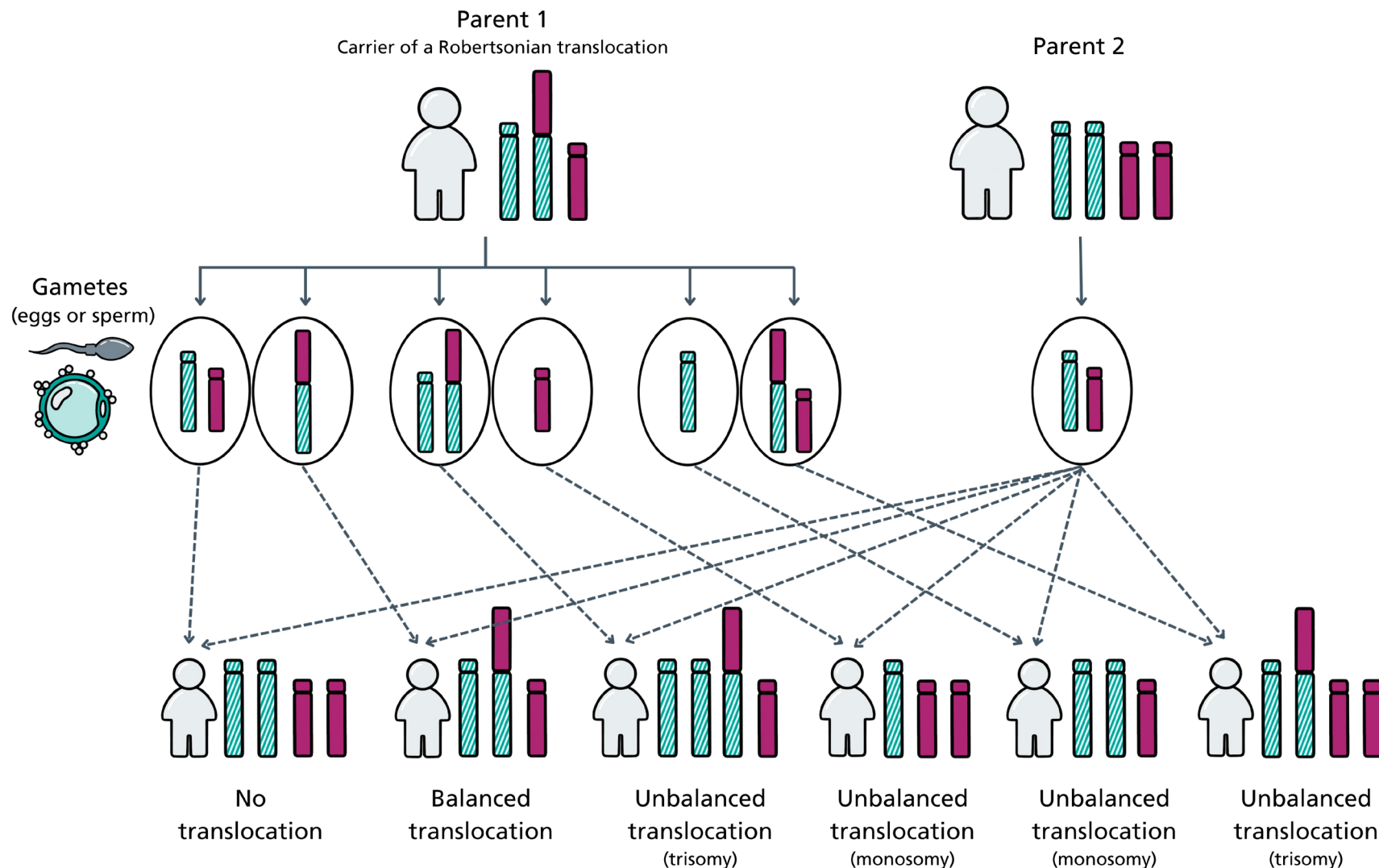
Scan to read or download a guide from Unique on Robertsonian translocations





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