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Editorial

Editorial Note on Genetic Disorders

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EDITORIAL NOTE

A genetic disorder is a medical condition caused by one or more genetic defects. A chromosomal abnormality or a mutation in a single gene (monogenic) or several genes (polygenic) may cause it. While polygenic disorders are the most common, the term is most commonly used to refer to disorders that have a single genetic cause, such as a mutation in a gene or chromosome. The mutation may happen naturally before embryonic development, or it can be passed on from two parents who are carriers of a defective gene or from a parent who has the condition. It is often referred to as a hereditary condition when the genetic disorder is inherited by one or both parents. Some diseases have X-linked inheritance and are caused by a mutation on the X chromosome.

Just a small percentage of diseases are inherited from the Y chromosome or mitochondrial DNA. There are over 6,000 identified genetic disorders, and new genetic disorders are described in the medical literature on a regular basis. There are over 600 diseases that can be controlled. A recognized single-gene condition affects about 1 in 50 people, while a chromosomal disorder affects about 1 in 263 people. As a result of congenital genetic defects, about 65 percent of people have some kind of health issue. Because of the vast number of genetic disorders, one out of every twenty-one individuals is affected by a "rare" genetic disorder (usually defined as affecting less than 1 in 2,000 people). The majority of genetic disorders are uncommon in and of themselves. A chromosomal disorder is when a piece of chromosomal DNA is absent, extra, or abnormal.

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