Turner Syndrome

Turner syndrome is a genetic condition that affects women and girls of all ages. This handout will explain Turner syndrome, the signs of Turner syndrome and the challenges that come with the disorder.

WHAT IS TURNER SYNDROME?

Turner syndrome (TS) is a genetic condition in which females are missing part of or all of the second sex chromosome in their DNA. The missing gene prevents the female body from growing and developing normally. TS affects only women and girls, and affects each girl or woman differently.

SIGNS OF TURNER SYNDROME

Turner syndrome (TS) affects women and girls differently. Some have all of the signs, while some have only a few. Some signs of TS include:

- Height that is usually under five feet tall
- Droopy eyelids
- Eyes that drift inward (toward the nose) or outward (toward the ear)
- Ears that sit low on the head
- Hairline that is set low on the head
- Webbed neck (extra skin on either side of the neck)
- Arms or feet that are puffy at birth
- Stocky appearance (broad chest, narrow hips)
- High-arched roof of the mouth
- Teeth that are crowded together

HEALTH CHALLENGES WITH TURNER SYNDROME

Females with TS do well despite the health challenges that come with TS. Some include:

- Delayed puberty
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes (a disease that affects the body’s ability to make or control sugar)
- Celiac Disease (a disease in which people cannot eat wheat or rye products, like bread)
- Frequent ear infections or hearing loss
- Thyroid issues
- Problems with the aorta (ay-OR-tah), a large blood vessel that connects to the heart

LEARNING CHALLENGES WITH TURNER SYNDROME

Many females with TS are just as smart as others, but might learn differently. Some learning challenges that come with TS include:

- Difficulty concentrating, especially on tasks that require paying attention for a long time
- Nonverbal abilities, such as making eye contact
- Recognizing people’s faces

SOCIAL SKILLS AND TURNER SYNDROME

Many females with TS have different social skills, preferences and challenges. Some include:

- Preferring one-on-one or small group settings
- Preferring a small group of close friends instead of having many casual friends
- Relating well to older or younger, but having difficulty relating to others the same age

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