Intersex condition



https://ohiouwomenscenter.wordpress.com

Intersex condition is a general term for a group of conditions where there exists a discrepancy between the sexual anatomy with a typical definitions of male or female[1]. This should not be confused with transsexualism where someone has an evident sex, but feels that he or she belongs to group of opposing sex[2]. Before we ask what causes intersex condition, it is important to understand the basis of genetics.

What are DNA, Gene and Chromosome? [3]

National Human Genome Research Institute

DNA(deoxyribonucleic acid) is a biomolecule that holds the recipe how a living organism is built.

Gene is essentially a segment of DNA transferred from parent to offspring that determines one's trait such as eye color, hair color or blood type.

Genes are packaged and organized into chromosome to prevent damage to DNA and fit into cells. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, and among them, the X and Y chromosome are linked to a person's sex.

How are genes passed down from our parents?

A pair of homologous chromosomes from father and mother undergoes cross-over to exchange genetic materials and undergoes two stages of cell division to produce sex cells with half number of chromosomes.

The sex chromosomes that determines one's gender are the X and Y chromosome. Male has XY chromosomes and female has XX chromosomes.

Classification of Intersex conditions[4]

- 1. Chromosomally intersexed people who are missing a sex chromosome of having extra sex chromosome. This occurs when the chromosome pairs does not separate equally causing individuals with missing or extra chromosomes
- 2. Genetically intersexed usually refers to individuals who have normal chromosomal makeup but a faulty gene on of the chromosome that may be caused by mutation
- 3. Physically intersexed individuals with physical characteristic of both female and male.