

Introduction in medical genetics 7

RNDr. I. Černáková, PhD.

Slovenská zdravotnícka univerzita,
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Prevention and treatment of genetic disorders



The Genetic Approach to Disease

Identify gene variants associated with disease



Demonstrate functional links between gene variants and pathology



Establish genetic profiles to
identify subjects at high risk

"Early Prediction"

Develop novel strategies to
intervene with disease

"Early Prevention"



Current therapy and management of genetic disorders



Prevention

Metabolic manipulation

Gene product replacement

Cell or organ transplantation

Reconstructive surgery

Gene therapy – correction of basic genetic abnormality



Every person and every couple having children is at some risk of seeing a disorder with a genetic component suddenly appear



1. Screening of individuals and couples known **to be at significant or high risk because of positive family history** – **family (targeted) screening**
 - it includes: **carrier (heterozygote) screening**
presymptomatic testing
2. Screening offered to a general population, who are at low risk – **community (population) screening**
 - genetic testing on an equitable basis to all relevant individuals in a defined population
 - goals: a. To enhance autonomy by enabling individuals **to be better informed about genetic risks and reproductive options**
b. **Prevention of morbidity resulting from genetic disease** and alleviation of the suffering
 - *prenatal genetic screening program, premarital screening in some populations, preimplantation genetic screening of aneuploidy in early embryos, neonatal screening of inherited disorders, single gene disorders screening*



Autosomal disorders with delayed onset or reduced penetrance – Presymptomatic diagnosis testing

Breast cancer

Familial adenomatous polyposis

Hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy type I

Hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer

Huntington disease

Inherited cardiac arrhythmias

Marfan syndrome

Myotonic dystrophy

Neurofibromatosis – type I and II

Tuberous sclerosis

Von Hippel-Lindau syndrome



	Criteria for a screening program
Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High incidence in target population - Serious effect on health - Treatable or preventable
Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-invasive and easily carried out - Accurate and reliable (high sensitivity and specificity) - Inexpensive
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widespread and equitable availability - Voluntary participation - Acceptable to the target population - Full information and counseling provided



	Current screening programs in Slovakia
Antenatal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trisomy 13, 18, 21 - Structural abnormalities <i>(fetal anomaly screening at 18 – 20 weeks' gestation)</i>
Newborn	CH - Congenital hypothyreosis CAH - Congenital adrenal hyperplasia CF - Cystic fibrosis PKU - Phenylketonuria MSUD - Leucinosi MCAD - Medium-long chains KK LCHAD – long 3-OH-acyl-CoA KK VLCAD - Very long chains KK CPT-I; CPT-II: Carnitine-palmitoyl-CoA transferase Glutaric aciduria type I Isovaleric aciduria
Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breast cancer - Cervical cancer - Colon cancer
Donors of oocytes, sperm and embryos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karyotype - Cystic fibrosis



Potential advantages and disadvantages of genetic screening

Advantages

- Informed choice
- Improved understanding
- Early treatment when available
- Reduction in births of affected homozygotes

Disadvantages and hazards

- Pressure to participate causing mistrust and suspicion
- Stigmatization of carriers (social, insurance and employment)
- Inappropriate anxiety in carriers
- Inappropriate reassurance if test is not 100% sensitive



	Prevention of genetic disorders
Primary prevention	Preconception single gene disorders screening
	Premarital genetic screening – some populations (Ashkenazi Jewish, Sicilia)
	Preimplantation genetic diagnosis (single gene disorders and translocations)
	Preimplantation genetic screening of aneuploidy in early embryos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve success of low-risk infertile couples by IVF treatment - prevention of chromosomal trisomy in baby
Secondary prevention	Prenatal diagnostics



Single gene disorders

- Phenotypic effects are caused by the mutation in one gene
- Mendelian type of inheritance

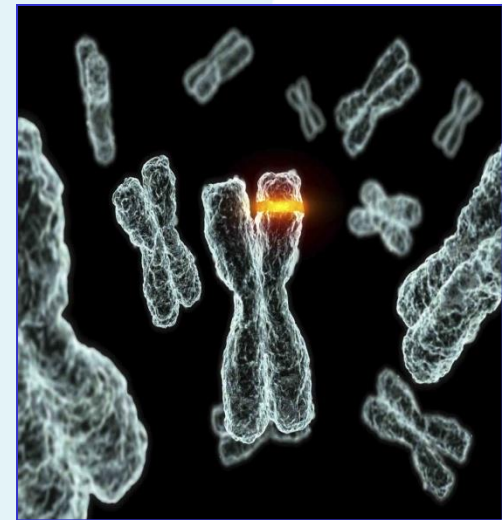
- 7 000 single gene disorders

WHO: Prevalence **10 : 1000**

20% of cases of **child mortality**
in developed countries

40% of medical interventions
in children hospitals

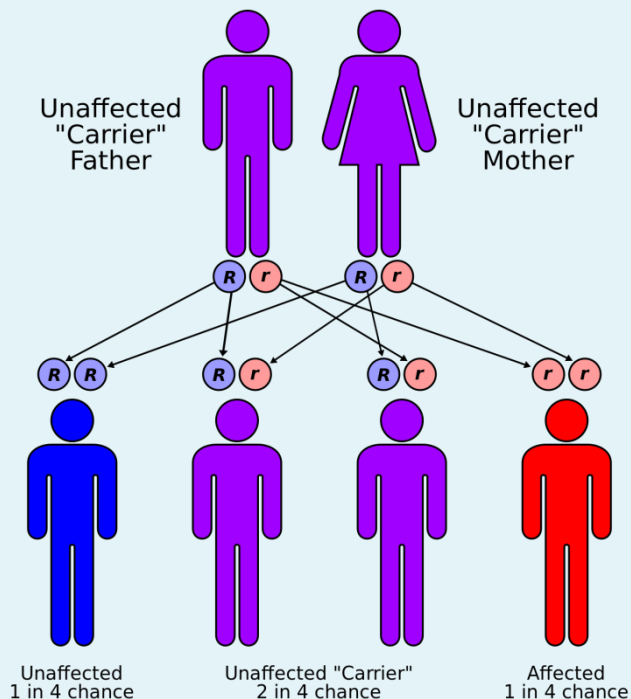
(Kanada – Scriver, 1995)



Carrier screening of single gene diseases

single gene disorders

AR a X-linked inheritance



General population – affected 1 : 100

Carriers

Cystic fibrosis 1 : 25 4 %

Spinal muscular atrophy 1 : 50 2 %

Alpha-/Beta-hemoglobinopathy 1 : 48 2 %



Carrier screening of single gene diseases



- analysis of **549 genes, 600 single gene diseases** using NGS
- high risk of transmission of disease **with recessive inheritance (AD or X-linked)** to the next generation

2.1 pathogenic mutation/person

7.1 % of tested persons don't have pathogenic mutation

8% couples carry the mutation in the same gene

(so called „genetic incompatibility“)



Carrier screening of single gene diseases



For whom?

Before natural conception

Before assisted conception

Oocytebanking and spermbanking

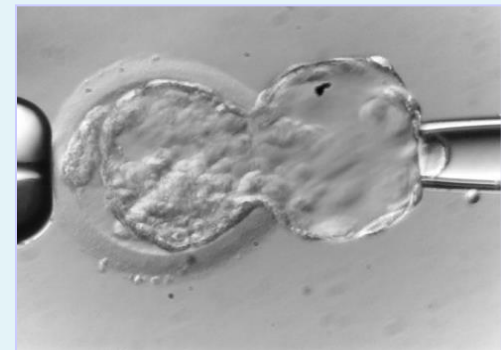


Preimplantation genetic diagnostics



1 : 100

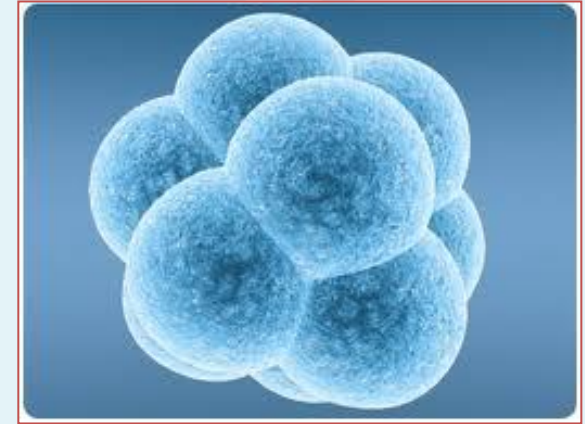
1 : 100 000



PGD / PGS

Preimplantation genetic diagnostics

- analysis of genetic disorders in early human embryos before their embryotransfer in uterus as a prevention of single gene disorders
- Introduced in routine: **1990 – adrenoleukodystrophy**



Preimplantation genetic diagnostics – prevention of genetic disorder transmission to the next generation

- single gene disorders
- chromosomal translocations

Preimplantation genetic screening of aneuploidy – prevention of transfer of chromosomally abnormal embryos of „poor responder“ couples

- older women (35+)
- repeated unsuccessful implantation of embryos
- repeated spontaneous miscarriages
- male infertility



PGD medical indications

Preimplantation genetic diagnosis

- Diagnostics of single gene disorders
- Diagnostics of translocations
- Diagnostics of late-onset genetic diseases or cancer diseases occurring in adulthood
- HLA typization of embryos
- Mitochondrial diseases



PGD - steps

Haplotype analysis of family

– PGD set-up

IVF/ICSI

Hormonal stimulation

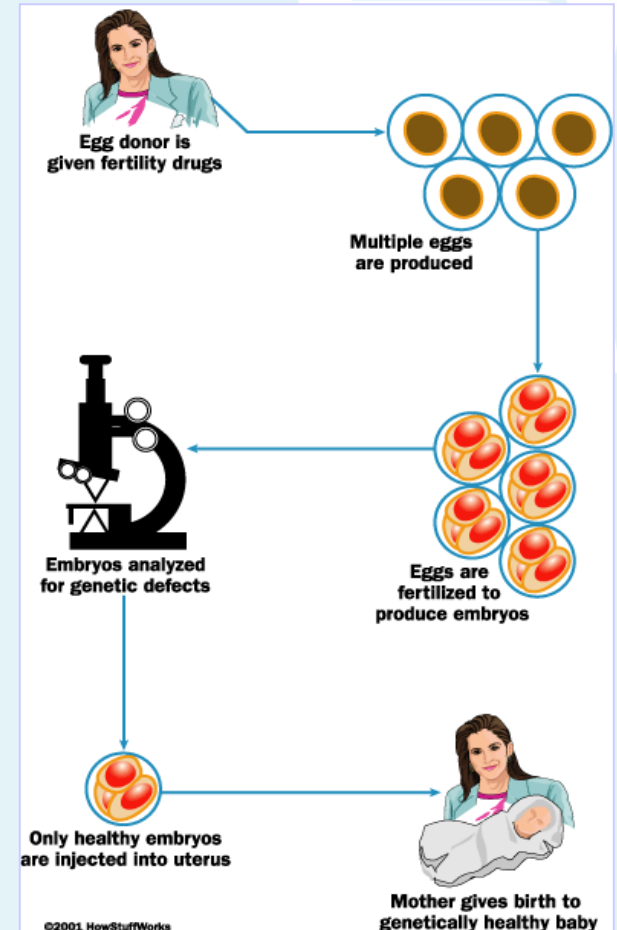
Oocyte pick-up

Fertilization

Embryo biopsy – Day 3,
Day 5 or blastocentesis

Genetic analysis

IVF – Embryo transfer



PGD/PGS schematic representation

Day 0

Oocyte pick-up



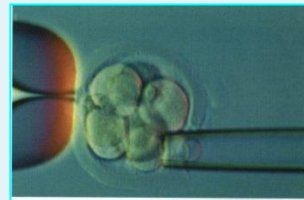
Day 1

Fertilisation



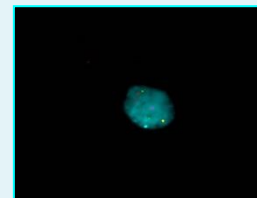
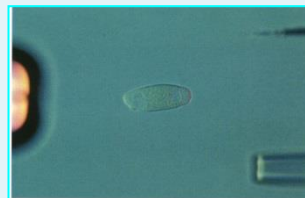
Day 3

Biopsy of blastomere

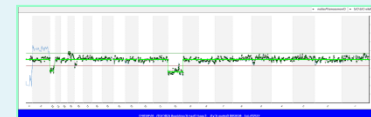


Day 3 + Day 4

FISH, aCGH,
PCR-PGD



results, report



Day 5

Embryo transfer

Biopsy of
trophoectoderm



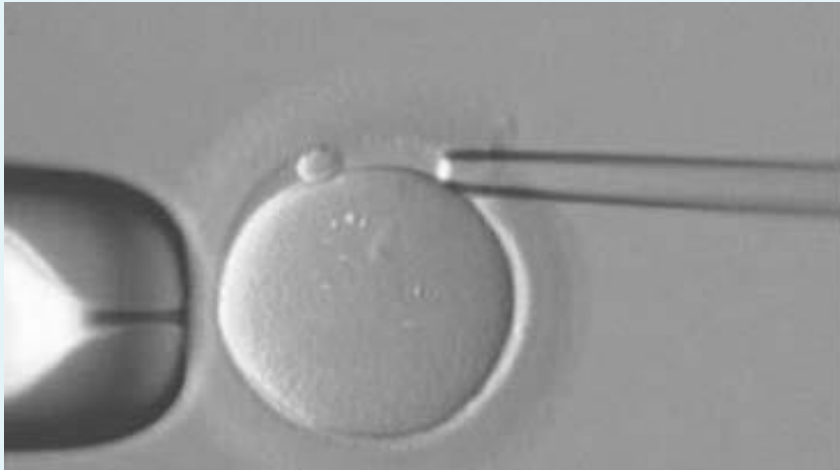
vitrification of biopted embryos
aCGH, NGS
ET in next menstrual cycle



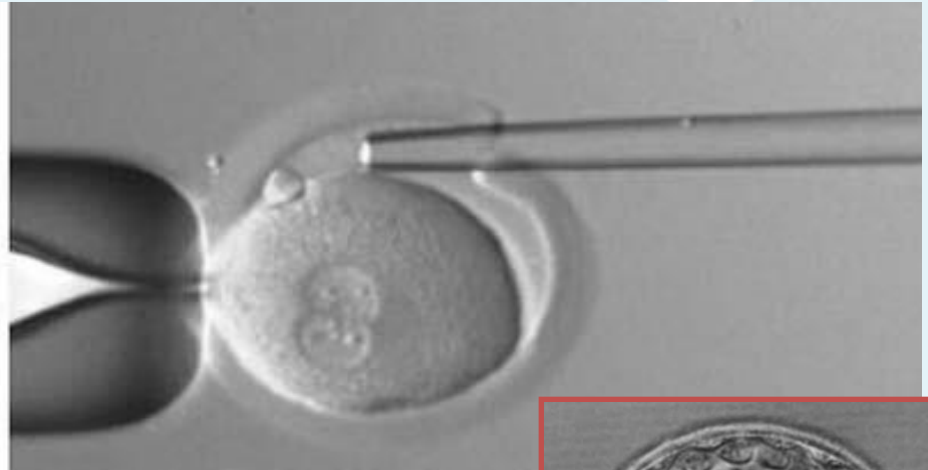
Embryo culture



Embryo biopsy



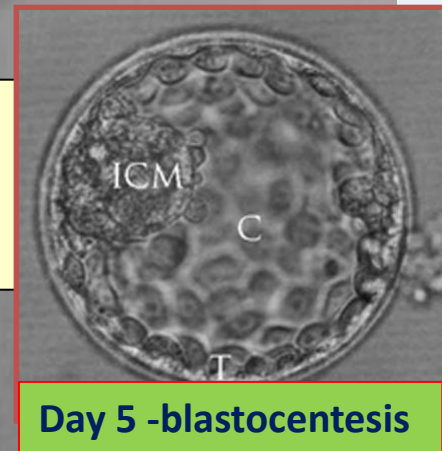
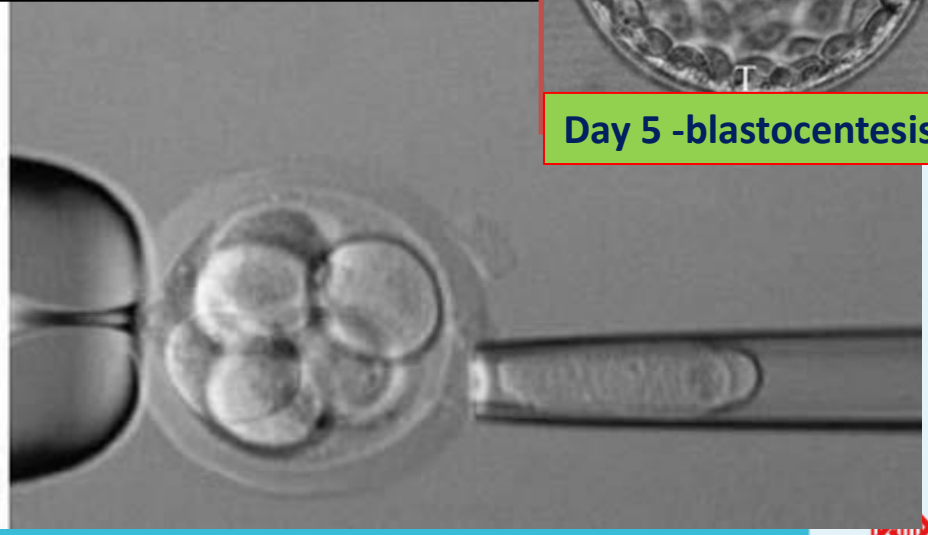
1st polar body



2nd polar body

Trofoectoderm of blastocyst – Day 5

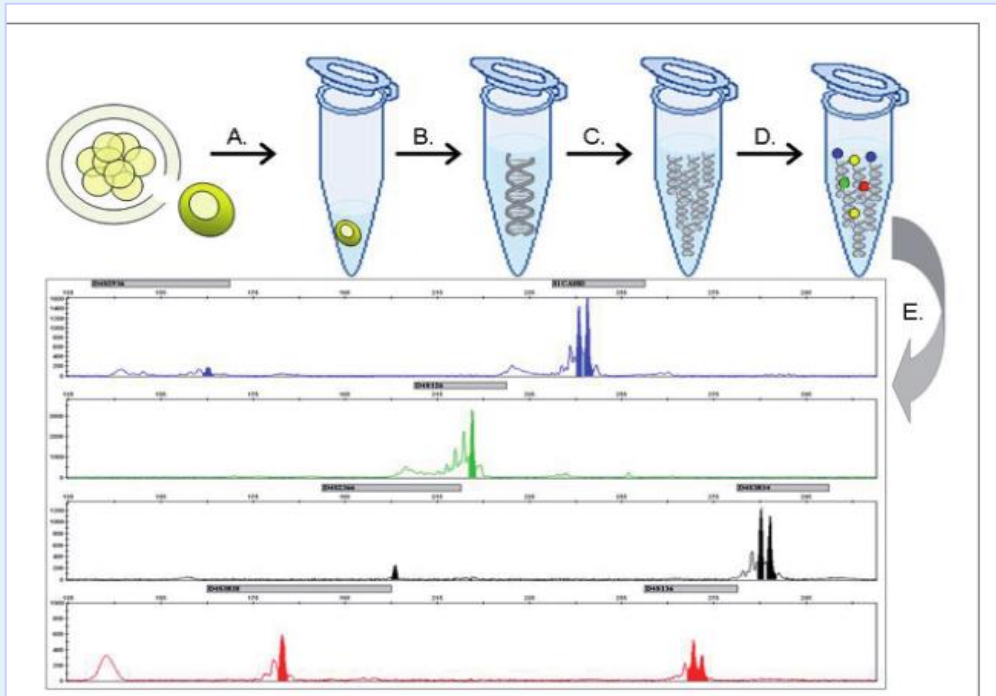
Blastomere - Day 3



Day 5 -blastocentesis



PCR – PGD steps

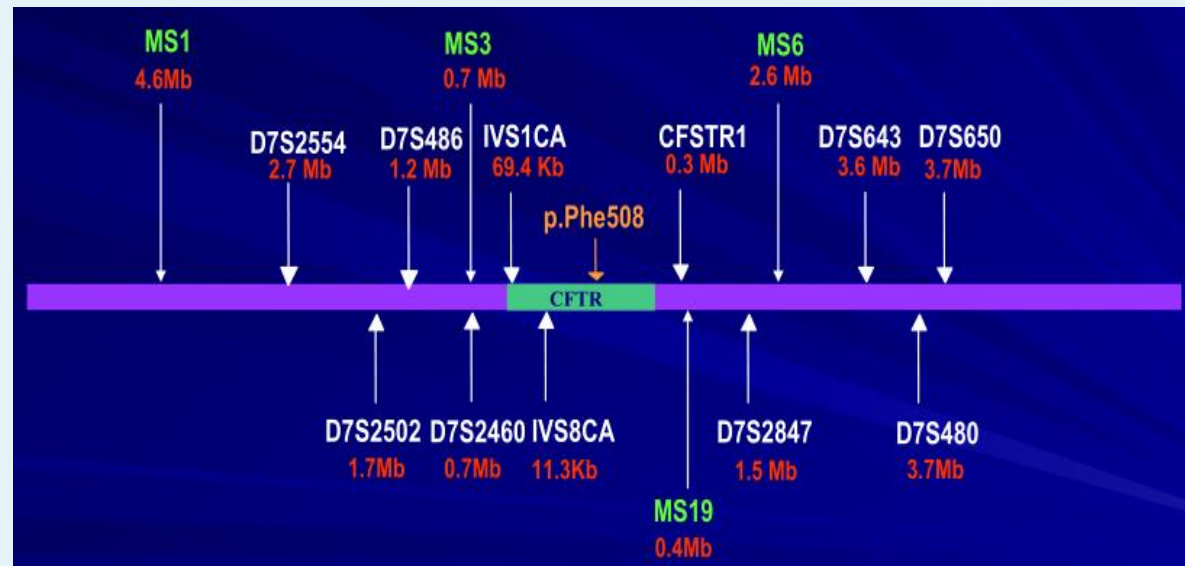
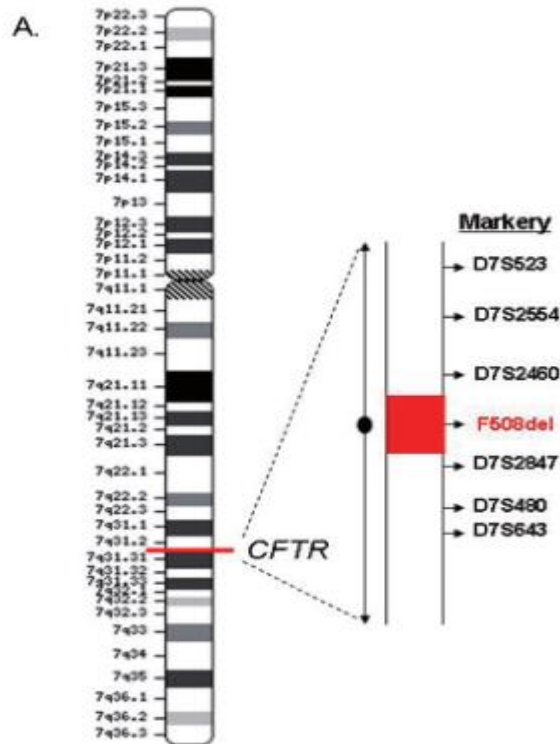
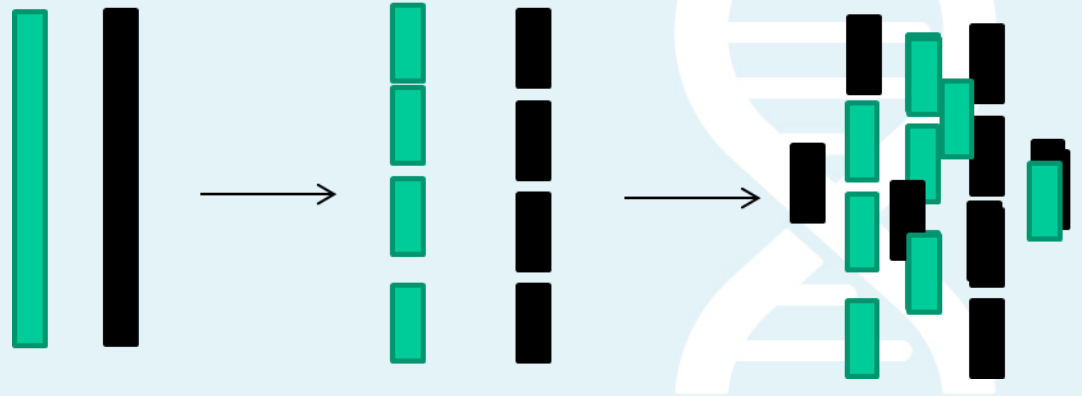


- Bioptovaná bunka (bunky) z embrya je prenesená do lyzačného roztoku.
- Genóm jedinej bunky je uvoľnený z jadra
- Genóm je mnohonásobne namnožený procesom celogenomovej amplifikácie (WGA)
- WGA produkty sú amplifikované multiplexnou fluorescenčnou PCR reakciou (detekujú sa sekvencie špecifických markerov, ktoré sú vo väzbe s vyšetrovaným génom)
- Fragmentačnou analýzou pomocou kapilárnej elektroforézy je určený genotyp vyšetrovaného embrya

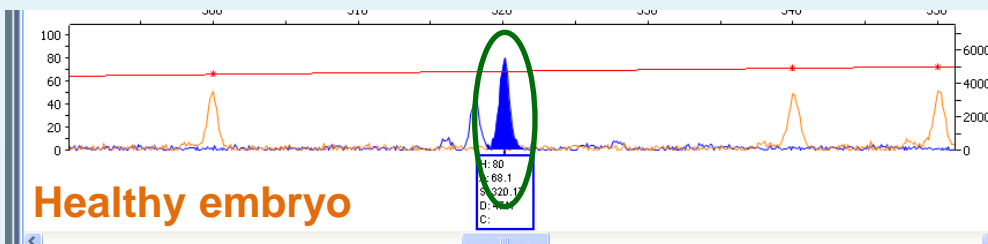
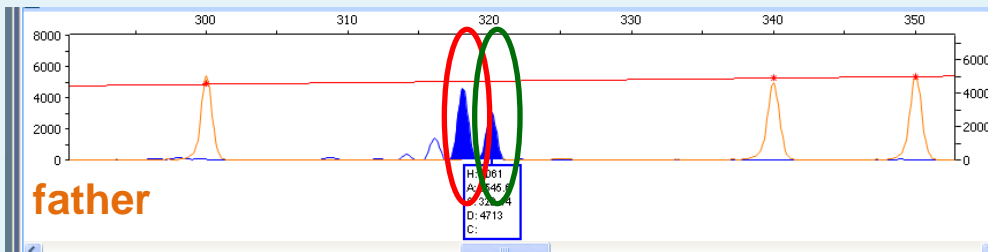
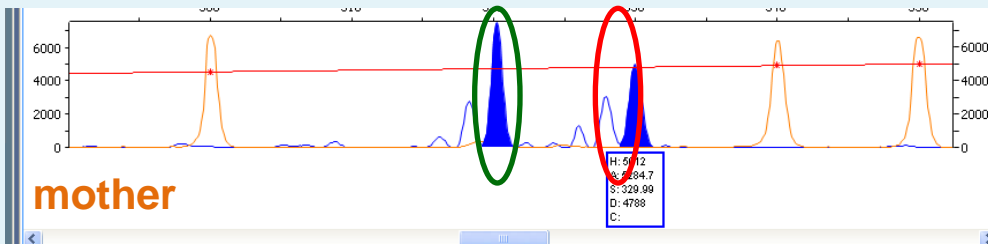
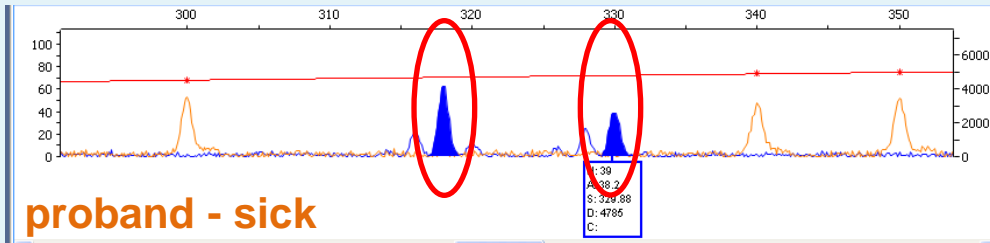
Haplotype analysis

Allelic drop-out risk

Analysis of 5 fully informative DNA markers linked to the mutation



Haplotype analysis of the family



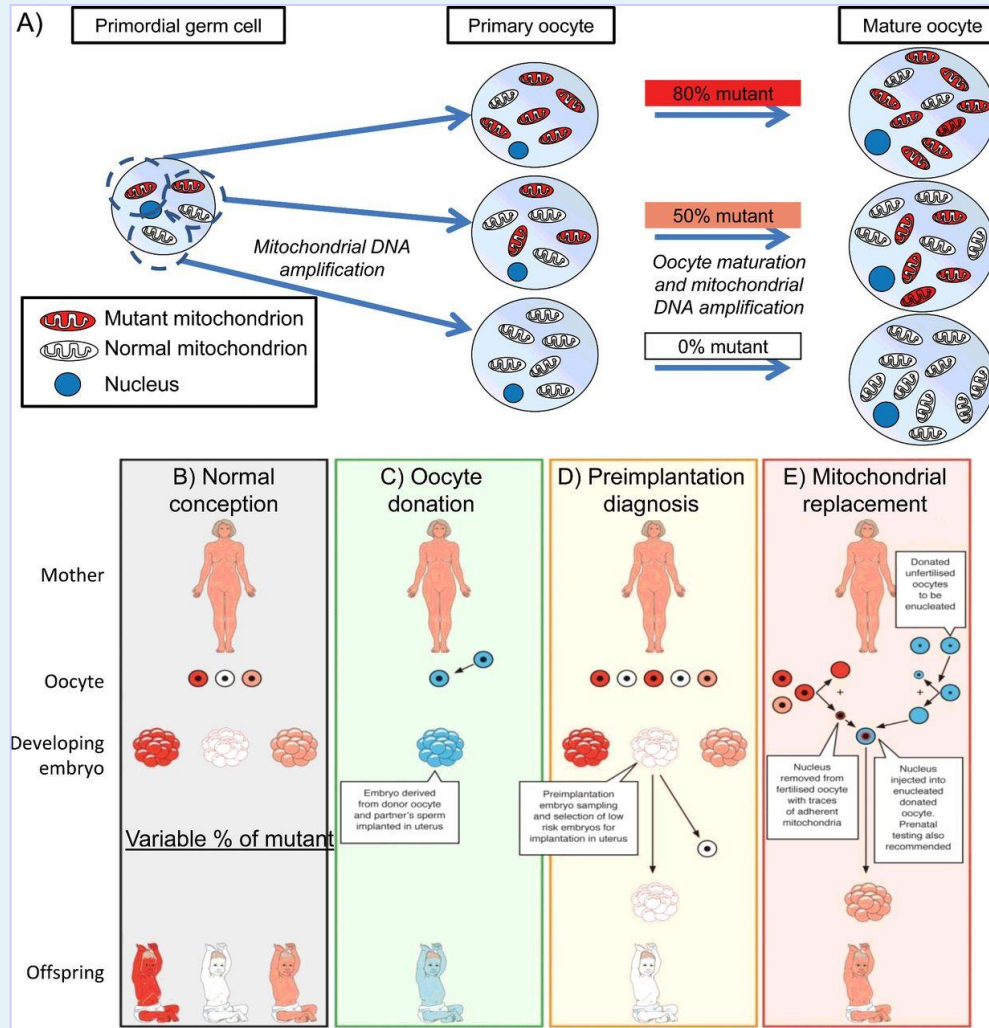
Marker –IVS10CA

IVS10CA	Alela 1	Alela 2
Proband - affected	318	330
Mother	320	330
Father	318	320
Healthy embryo	320	320

Analysed
12 DNA markers
before, inside and
after CFTR gene



Transmission of mtDNA disorders and the strategies of prevention



Alan Diot et al. Biochim. Soc. Trans. 2016;44:1091-1100

PGS medical indications

Preimplantation genetic screening of aneuploidy

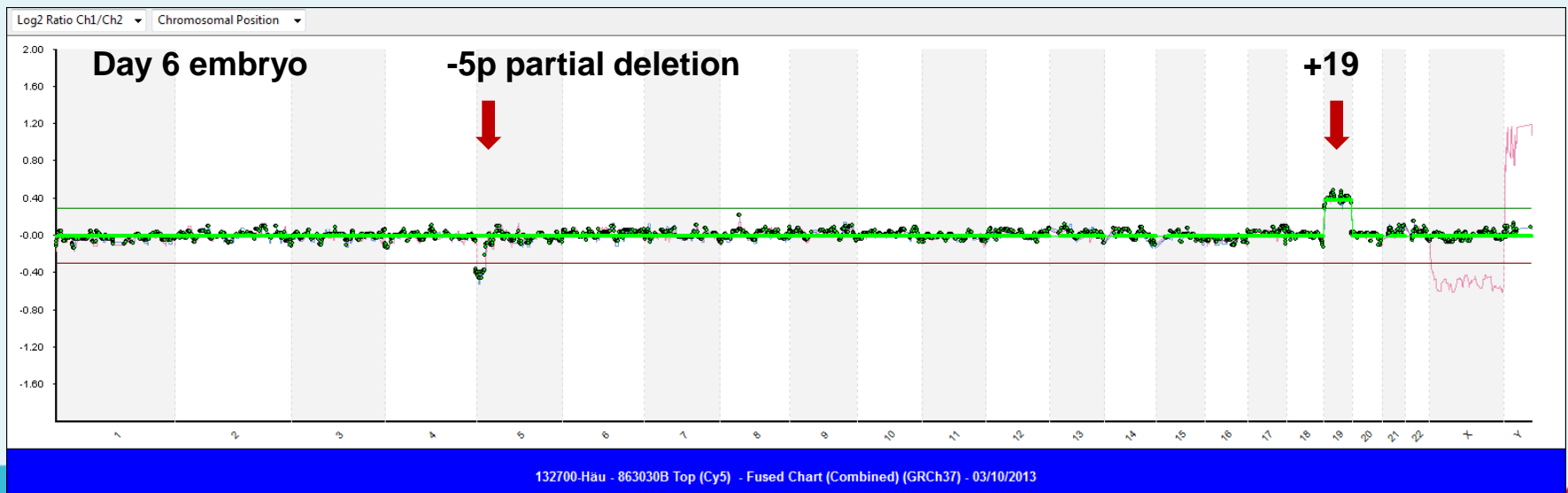
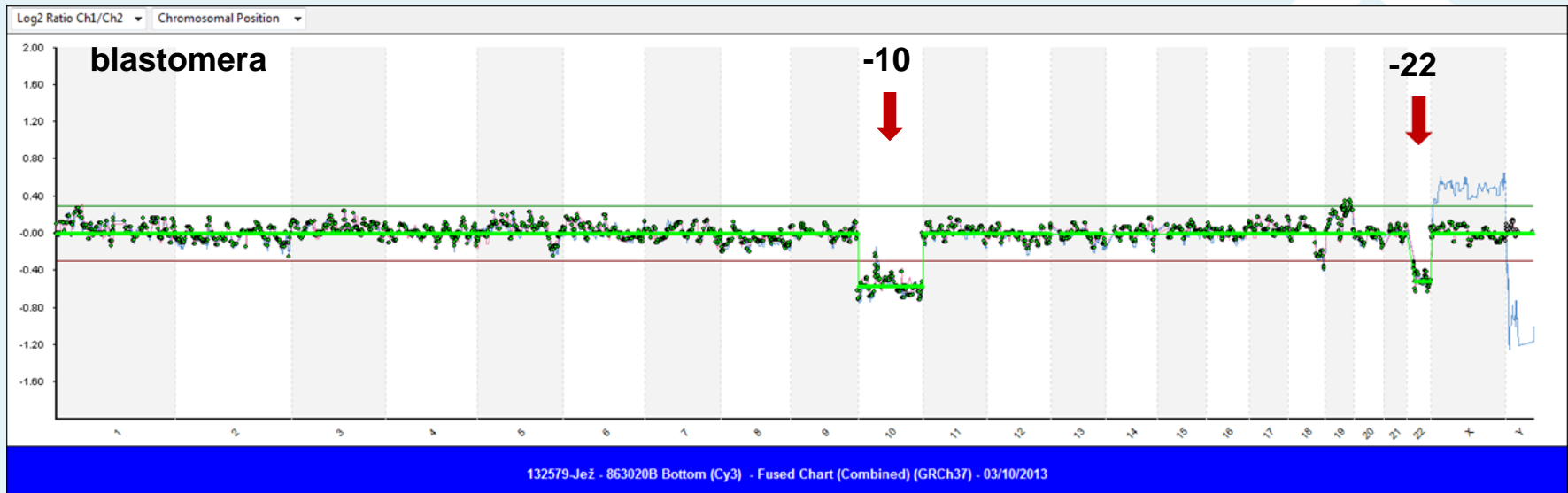
FISH: 8 chromosomes

aCGH / NGS: all chromosomes

- Women older than 35 - 37 years
- Repeated unsuccessful IVF cycles
- Repeated spontaneous miscarriages
- Trisomic fetus in previous pregnancy (Down syndrome)
- Male infertility (OAT gravis, TESE/MESA)



Examples of aCGH results



Spontaneous miscarriages I.

Aneuploidy

Natural conception: 15 %

ART: 23 – 37 %

PGS: 12 - 15 %

2 x ↓ comparing to ICSI



Spontaneous miscarriages II. Translocations



Spontaneous miscarriages:

Natural conception

87 %

PGD

18 %

5 x ↓

Take-home-baby rate:

Natural conception:

11,5 %

PGD:

81,4 %

7 x ↑



Trisomy child delivery

Natural conception:

2,6 % trisomy 13, 18 a 21
(chorionic villi examinations)

PGD cycle:

0,6 % trisomy 13, 18 a 21

independent on type of hormonal stimulation

4 x ↓



Importance of PGD / PGS

Diagnosis

- diagnosis of chromosomal anomaly/single gene disease according to the patient's medical indication

Prevention

- decreasing risk of spontaneous miscarriage in IVF couples to 15%, increase pregnancy rate with healthy embryo

PREVENTION OF DELIVERY OF CHILD WITH GENETIC DISORDER !

Treatment

- higher effectivity of infertility treatment in poor prognosis patients

Prognosis

- prognosis & change of infertility treatment in next IVF cycle

Finance

- next examinations & IVF treatment

Psychology

- psychic status of infertile couple



Premarital screening

- Ashkenazi Jewish carrier testing

Table 1

Diseases included in Ashkenazi Jewish carrier testing

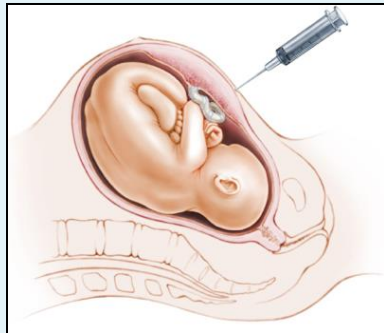
Disease	Carrier frequency in Ashkenazi Jews	Clinical features	Life expectancy
Bloom Syndrome (BS)	1/110	Dysmorphic features Reduced fertility Predisposition to malignancy (leukemia)	Childhood to young adulthood
Canavan disease (CD)	1/59	Progressive neurodegeneration	Childhood to young adulthood
Cystic fibrosis (CF)	1/33	Reduced fertility Pulmonary disease Pancreatic insufficiency	Childhood to young adulthood
Familial dysautonomia (FD)	1/32	Progressive neurodegeneration Autonomic dysfunction	Childhood to young adulthood
Fanconi anemia (FA)	1/89	Dysmorphic features Pancytopenia Predisposition to malignancy (leukemia)	Childhood to young adulthood
Gaucher disease type 1 (GD)	1/13	Thrombocytopenia, anemia and bone lesions	Normal
Hearing loss (DFNB1)	1/21	Hearing loss	Normal
Mucopolidosis type IV (MLP)	1/127 ²⁷	Dysmorphic features Progressive neurodegeneration	Childhood to young adulthood
Niemann-Pick type A (NP)	1/90 ²⁸	Progressive neurodegeneration	Early childhood
Tay-Sachs disease (TS)	1/31	Progressive neurodegeneration	Early childhood

All data from Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, except when noted.



USG / age / biochemical screening

Invasive prenatal genetic test

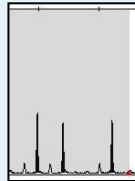


RAPID PND

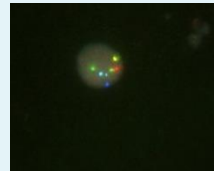
QF-PCR

FISH

amniocentesis / CVS



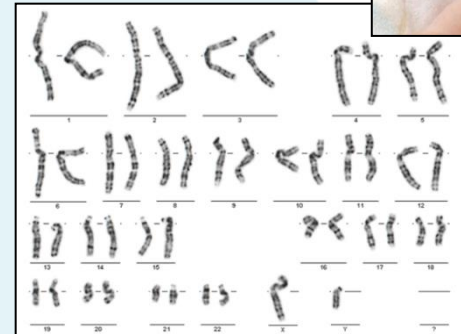
or



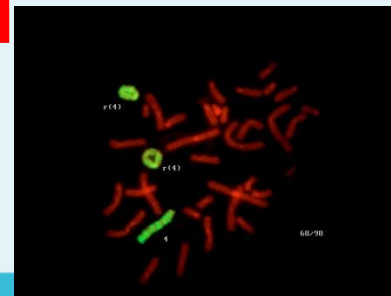
Risk of miscarriage: 0.5 – 1%
diag impossible before 10th week of gestation

Non-invasive prenatal genetic test

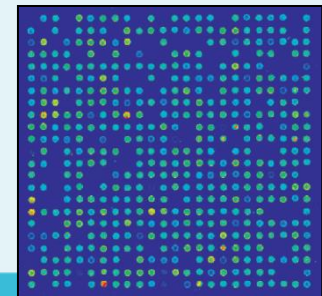
KARYOTYPE

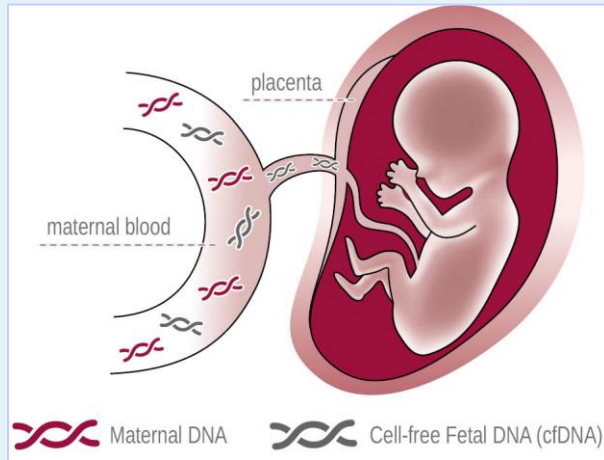


FISH



DNA chip





cffDNA – cell free fetal DNA

Presence of fragments of **cell-free fetal DNA (cffDNA)** in peripheral blood of pregnant woman gives us the opportunity for non-invasive prenatal testing and diagnostics

cffDNA originates from trophoblast

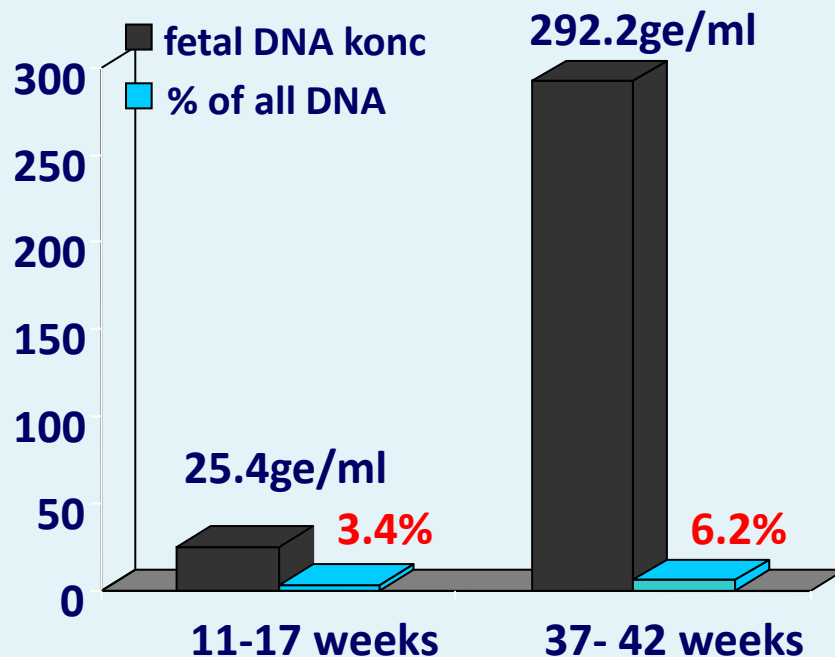
Testing from 10th week of pregnancy

Cell-free DNA extracted from blood of pregnant woman is a mix of DNA of two individuals – mother and her child and for this reason:

We can examine just these parameters, which doesn't occur in mother



cffDNA – cell free fetal DNA



cffDNA constitutes 3-6% of all cell-free DNA (cfDNA) in the blood of pregnant woman

Minimal amount needed for analysis – 2%

cffDNA is destroyed after 16 minutes

We must take into account multiple fetus and vanishing baby

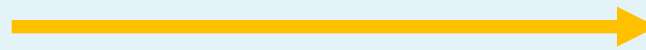


Sampling and cell-free fetal (cffDNA) extraction from maternal blood

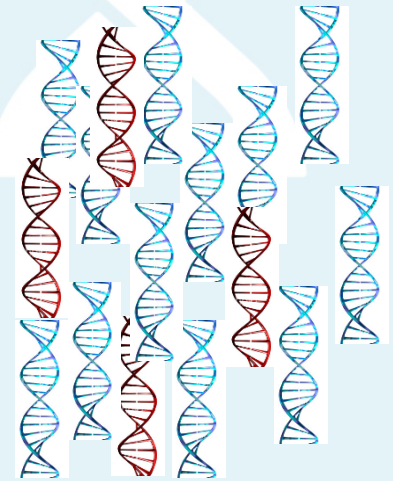


2 - 5ml of blood in EDTA,
Centrifugation up to 24-48 hours
Or
Sampling in Streck test tubes

cffDNA extraction from maternal plasma



QIAGEN – Virus DSP kit



Fetal DNA



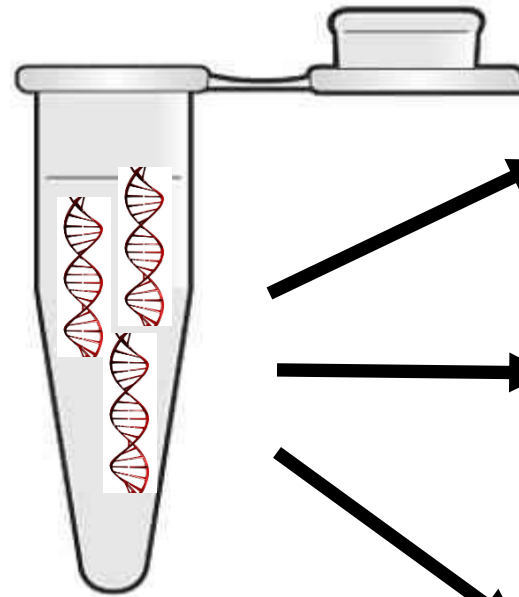
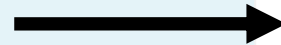
Maternal DNA



Molecular-genetic analysis



PCR



Fetal DNA



Maternal DNA



Applications

Chromosomal abnormalities in fetus

Rhesus factor of fetus

Examination of sex

Paternity test

Non-invasive prenatal diagnostics of single gene disorders

(mutation *de novo* a transmitted from father)

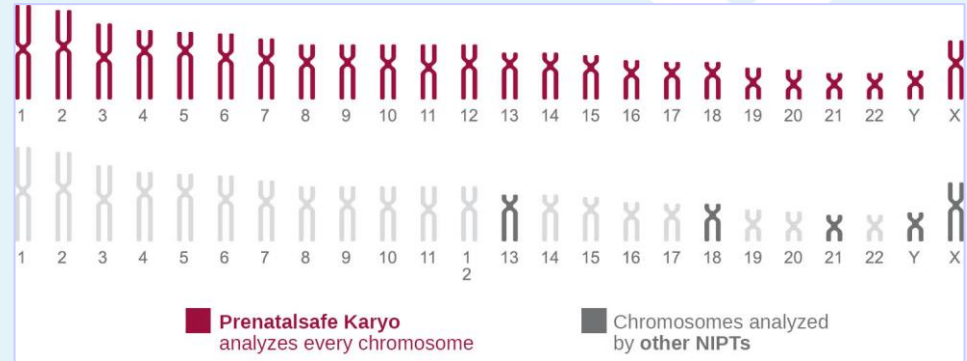


PrenatalSafe KARYO +





PrenatalSafe KARYO Plus



From 10th weeks of pregnancy

Numerical abnormalities of chromosomes – aneuploidy 1 – 22, X, Y

Structural deletion or duplications – resolution 7 Mb (one G-band in karyotype)

Sex chromosome examination

Microdeletion syndromes:

Prader Willi/Angelman syndrome – deletion 15q11.2

Di George syndrome – deletion 22q11.2

Wolf Hirschhorn syndrome – deletion 4p

Cri-du Chat syndrome – deletion 5p

deletion 1p36



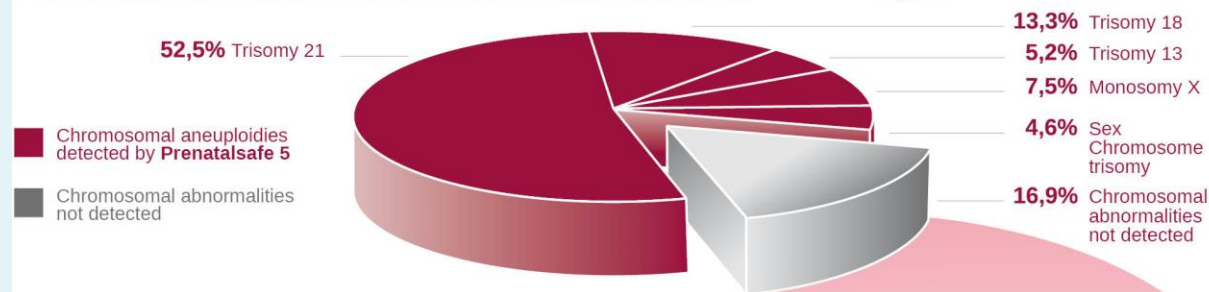
It recognizes **92,6%** of chromosomal abnormalities detected in prenatal development of fetus

	Classical karyotyping	PrenatalSafe® KARYO
Analysis of each of chromosomes	✓	✓
Neinvasive procedure	✗	✓
Unbalanced translocations	✓	✓
Aneuploidy	✓	✓
Mosaics	✓	✗
Marker chromosomes	✓	✓
Microdeletion syndromes	✗	✗
Triploidy	✓	✗
Diagnostic test	✓	✗

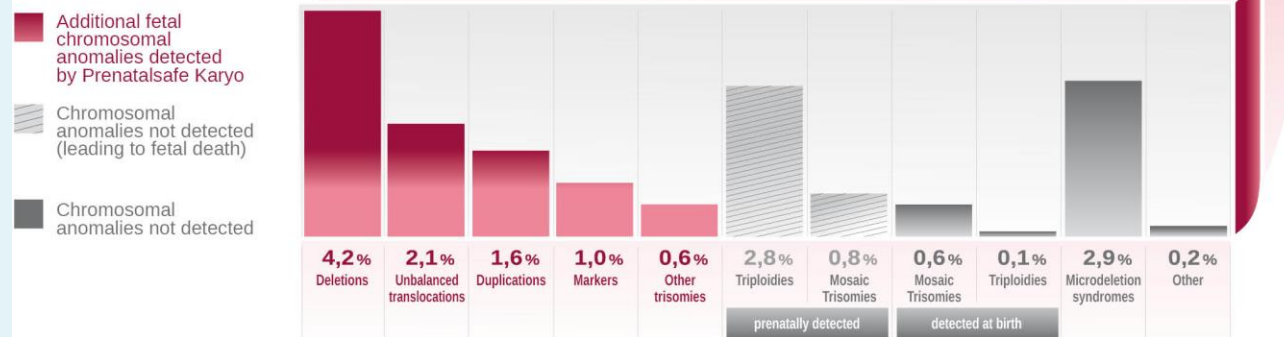


It detects **96,2%** of chromosomal anomalies occurring at the delivery time of baby

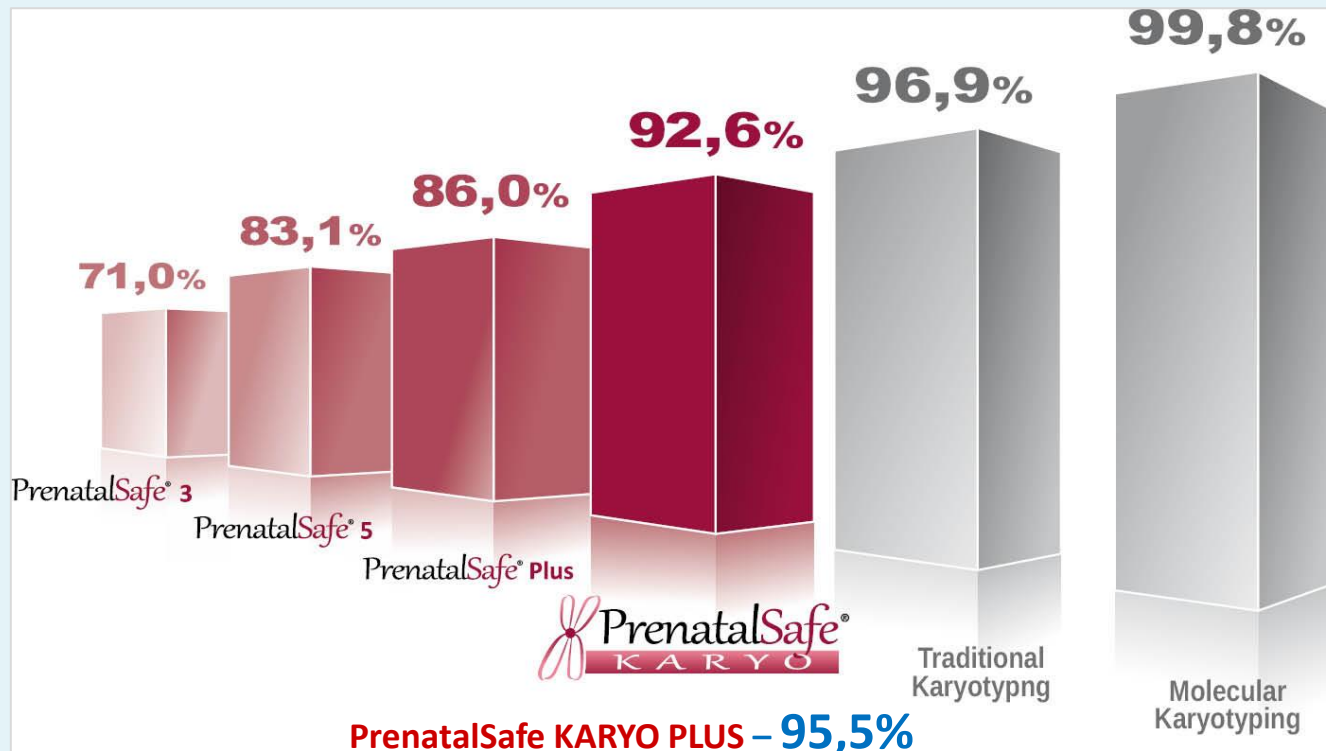
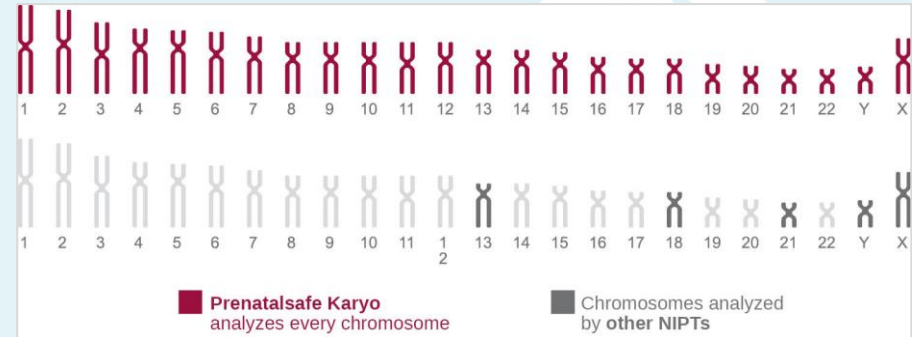
Prevalence of fetal chromosomal aneuploidies detected by PrenatalSafe® 5



Prevalence of additional fetal chromosomal anomalies detected by PrenatalSafe® KARYO



Comparision of non-invasive prenatal tests





PrenatalSafe KARYO +

Medical indications - for whom?

For women with USG finding where chromosomal abnormality is suspect
(numerical, structural, microdeletion syndrome)

Occurrence of balanced translocation carried by one of parents

For women older than 35 years with negative results of biochemical screening

For women with positive biochemical screening

For women with chromosomal abnormality in previous pregnancy

For women after IVF treatment including the twins

For women with repeated spontaneous miscarriages

For women having a risk of complications after amnioicentesis

Psychological reason



Recommendations

Counseling of patient before and after test

- TEST** - is a screening, NOT a diagnostics even it is more precise than conventional biochemical screening
- is giving no additional information about genome
 - is not a part of routine prenatal genetic tests

Positive result of NIPT (chromosomal abnormality finding)

- genetic counseling of patient
- confirmation of result by amniocentesis

Negative results of NIPT (normal finding)

- false negative result possible
- it doesn't mean automatically a healthy child

High risk population of pregnant women

- it is possible to offer the test, but then confirmation of abnormal result by amniocentesis



Therapy of genetic disorders

Metabolic manipulation

Dietary restriction

- *Lactose restriction for lactase deficiency; phenylalanine restriction for phenylketonuria*

Dietary supplementation

- *Vitamine C for scurvey; biotin for biotinidase deficiency; starch for G6PD defficiency*

Chelation and enhanced excretion/remove of excess of stored compound

- *Copper chelation for Wilson disease*
- *Periodic bleeding in hemochromatosis – removal of iron*

Metabolic inhibitors

- *Statins for hypercholesterolemia*



Therapy of genetic disorders

Gene product replacement

Hormone, protein or enzyme replacement or to increase its activity

- Hormone supplementation:

- *Hypothyroidism: thyroid*
- *Congenital adrenal hyperplasia: cortisol*
- *Turner syndrome: growth hormone*
- *Haemophilia: clotting factor*
- *Idiopathic male infertility: FSH treatment based on genotype*
- *Trombophilia: low molecular weight heparine intake based on genotype*

Insulin

- *Diabetes*

Enzyme replacement

- *Gaucher disease: beta glucosidase (Ceredase, Cerenzyme)*
- *Pompe disease: alpha glucosidase*
- *Hunter syndrome: iduronate-2 sulphatase (Elaprase)*
- *Fabry disease: alpha galactosidase A (Fabrazyme)*



Therapy of genetic disorders

Surgery

Cell and organ transplantation

Surgery

- *Cleft lip/palate; polydactylia, syndactylia: surgical reconstruction*
- *Breast cancer, colon cancer: removal of part of body or part of the organ*
- *Female infertility: personalized embryo transfer in IVF treatment [\(genomic approach\)](#)*

Bone marrow transplantation

- *Thalassemia*
- *Chronic myeloid leukemia haemophilia*

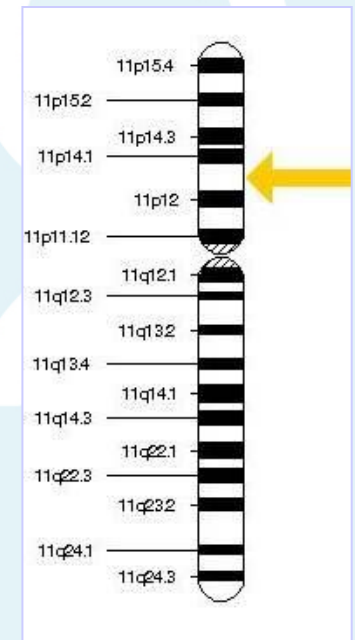
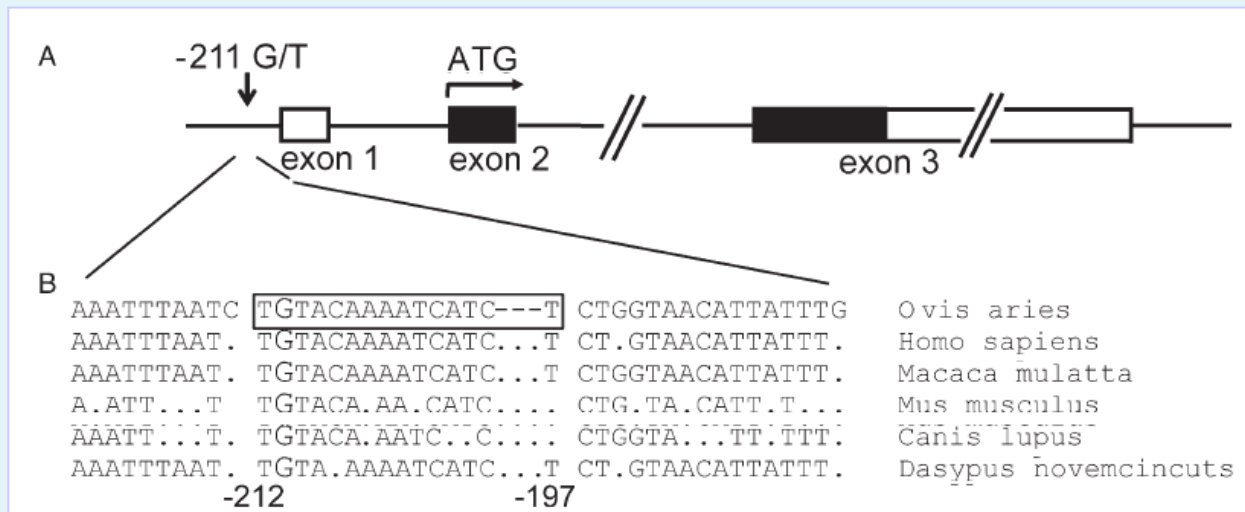
Controlling of environmental factors

- *Neural tube defects and myelomeningocele: folic acid administration in pregnant mothers*
- *Cardiovascular disease, diabetes type II, colon cancer: nutritional/lifestyle management*



Male idiopathic infertility

FSHB – gene encoding β -subunit of FSH



Follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) is produced by adenohypophysis – central hormone of human reproduction, which is essential for development of gonads and production of gametes

FSH stimulates the growth of follicles and oocytes in ovaries and Sertoli cells in testes and supports the production of sperm



Variants in promotor of FSHB gene

FSHB gene promotor : transcription control of FSHB gene

SNP rs10835638 nucleotide substitution -211G>T

Standard allele G

derived allele T (20 – 25% of USA and Europe population)

Function of derived allele T:

significant decrease of transcriptional activity of FSHB gene

Genotypes:

-211G/-211G Normal homozygote

-211G/-211T Heterozygote - 25% of activity of FSHB gene

-211T/-211T Homozygote for derived allele T
.... - 50% of activity of FSHB gene (*lower serum level of FSH*)
.... Oligozoospermia, lower volume of testes, decreased
level of testosterone and higher level of LH in sera



Variants in FSHB gene promotor

1 GGAGCCAGAT CATGAAATGT TTTCTCTTTG TTTGTTTCTT CCTTCACAGC TTTTGATATG CTCTTGGAGC AATTTATTAA CCATATTTTT TAATGCATCT
CCTCGGTCTA GTACTTTTACA AAGAGAAAC AAACAAAGAA GGAAGTGTCT AAAACTATAC GAGAACCCTG TTAATAAATT GGTATAAAAA ATTACGTAGA

101 CCTGAACAGA GTCAAAGCAA TACTTGGAAG GGACTCTGAA TTTCCTGATT TAAAGATACA AAAGAAAAAT CTGGAGTCAC AATTAATTTG AGAAGGTAAA
GGACTTGTCT CAGTTTCGTT ATGAACCTTT CCTGAGACTT AAAGGACTAA ATTTCTATGT TTTCTTTTGA GACCTCAGTG TTAATTAAAC TCTTCCATT

201 GGAGTGGGTG TGCTACTGTA TCAAATTTAA TTTTACAAA ATCATCATCT CTAGTAACAT TATTTTTTCT AATCTACTGC GTTTAGACTA CTTTAGTAAA
CCTCACCCAC ACGATGACAT AGTTTAAATT AAACATGTTT TAGTAGTAGA GATCATTGTA ATAAAAAAGA TTAGATGACG CAAATCTGAT GAAATCATT

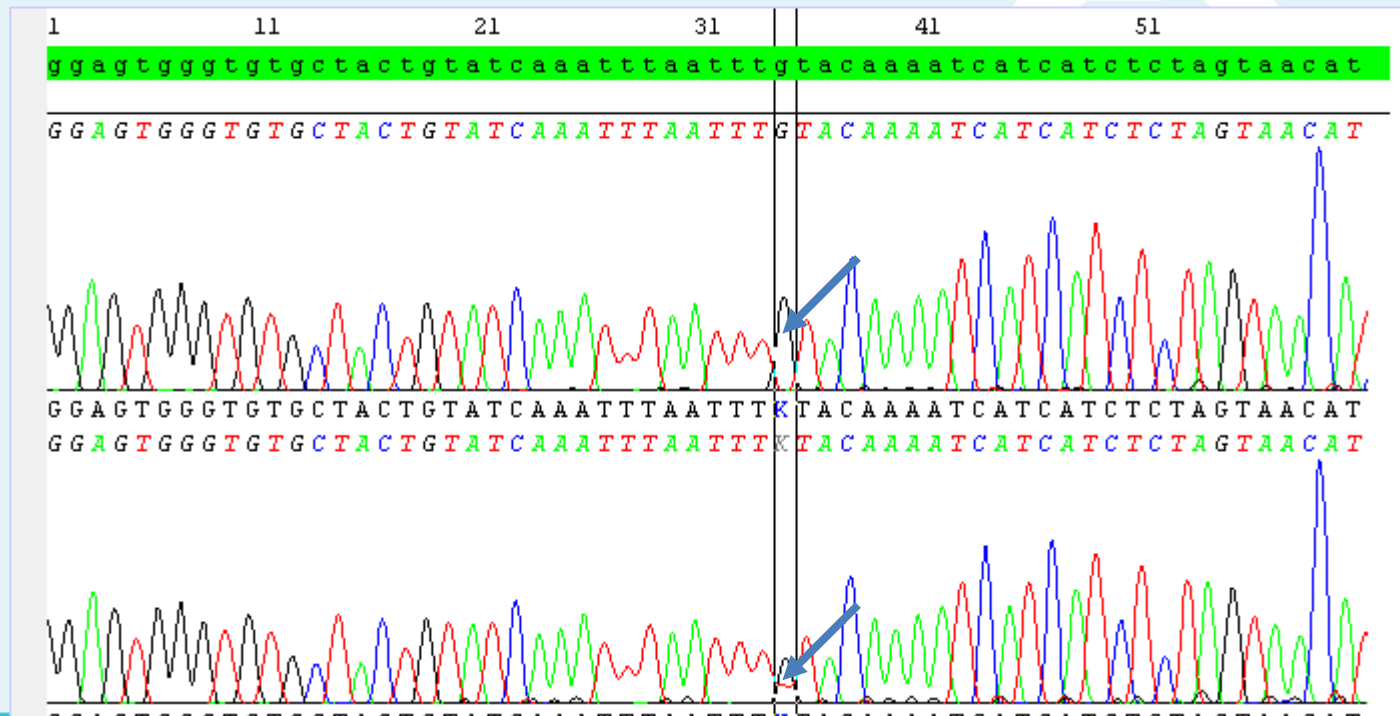
301 GCTTGATCTC CCTGTCTATC TAAACACTGA TTCACCTACA GCAAGCTTCA GGCTAGCATT GGTC
CGAACTAGAG GGACAGATAG ATTTGTGACT AAGTGAATGT CGTTCGAAGT CCGATCGTAA CCAG

RsaI
TatI

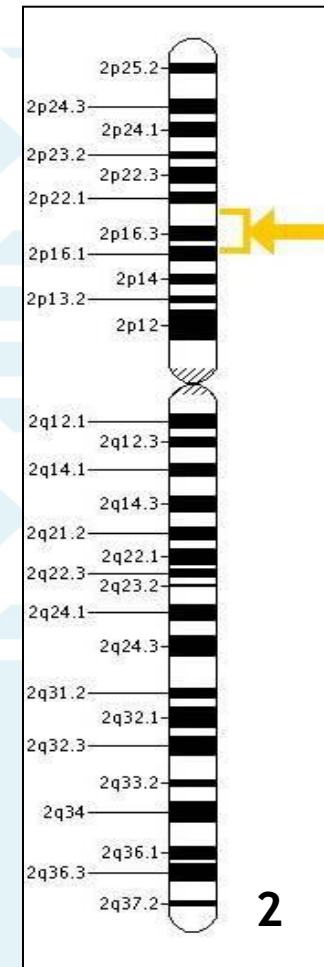
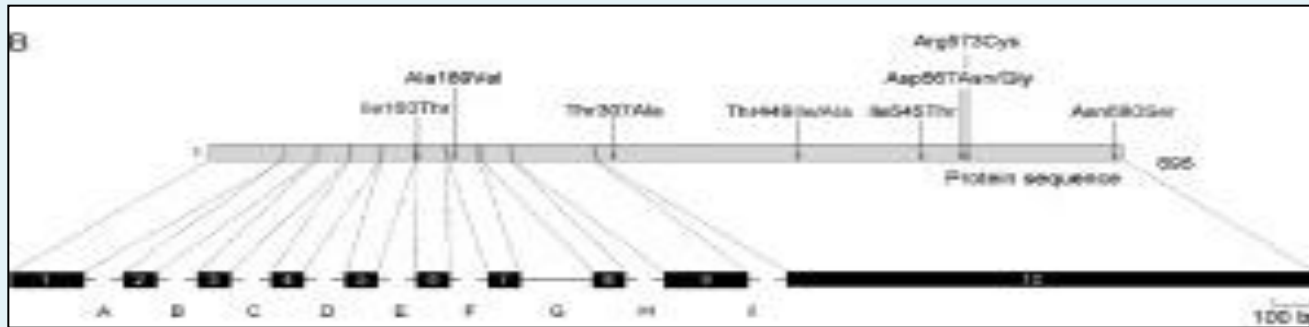
Genotype:

homozygote G/G

heterozygote G/T



FSHR – FSH receptor gene



FSHR gene promotor : SNP rs1394205 -29G>A

Dominant , occurrence independent on SNP in exon 10

Exon 10 of FSHR gene: SNP rs6165 c.919G>A 307: Thr/Ala
SNP rs6166 c.2039A>G 680: Asn/Ser

- genetic linkage



Variants in promotor of FSHR gene

FSHR gene promotor: transcription control of FSHR gene

SNP rs1394205 nucleotide substitution **-29G>A**

Standard allele G

derived allele A

Function of derived allele:

significant decrease of transcriptional activity of FSHB gene

Genotype:

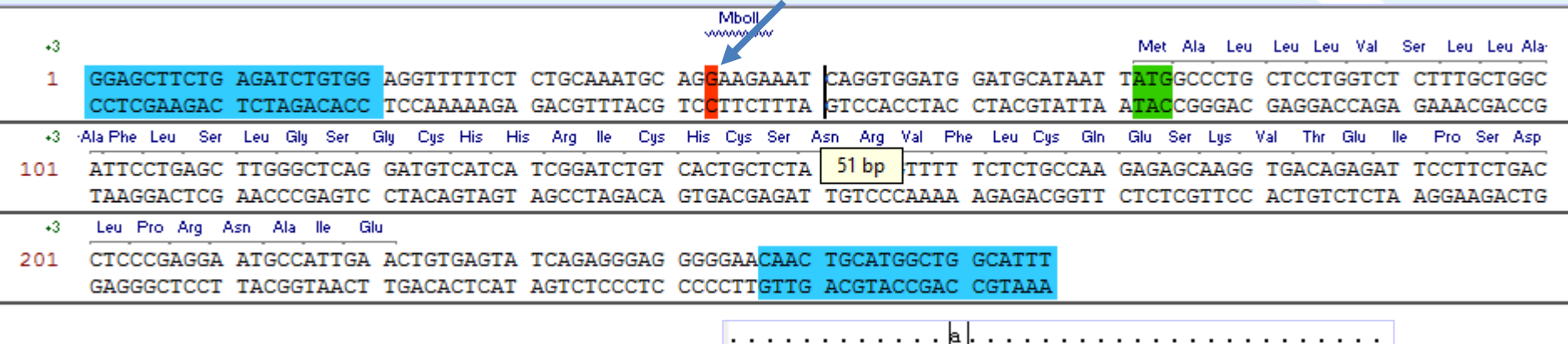
-211G/-211G Normal homozygote

-211G/-211A Heterozygote - 30% of activity of FSHB gene

-211A/-211A Homozygote for derived allele T
.... - 56% of activity of FSHR gene

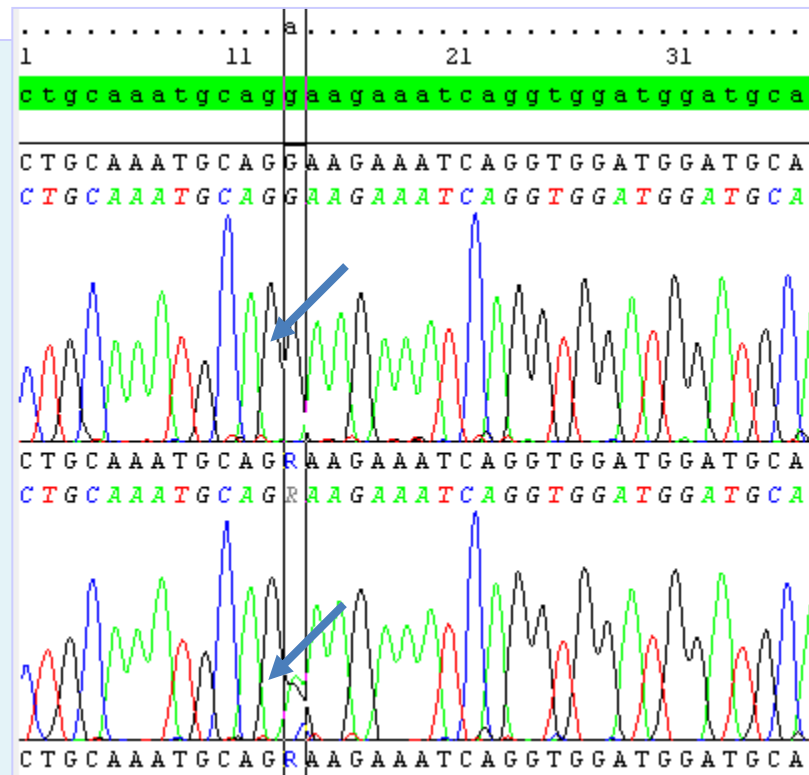


Analysis of FSHR -29G>A (rs1394205) using SNA sequencing



Genotype: homozygote G/G

heterozygote G/A



Variants in exon 10 of FSHR gene

SNP rs6165 nucleotide substitution c.919G>A 307: Thr/Ala

Standard allele G

derived allele A

SNP rs6166 nucleotide substitution c.919G>A 680: Asn/Ser

Standard allele A

derived allele G

Function of derived allele:

- different sensitivity of receptor to FSH hormone according to genotype
- different response to exogenous injection of FSH according to genotype



Variants in exon 10 of FSHR gene

Genotypes:

Thr307Asn680/Thr307Asn680 Normal homozygote

Thr307Asn680/Ala307Ser680 **Heterozygote**
.... Medium decrease sensitivity of receptor to FSH

Ala307Ser680/Ala307Ser680 **Mutated homozygote (40%)**
.... Higher decrease of sensitivity of receptor to FSH

Recombinant genotypes

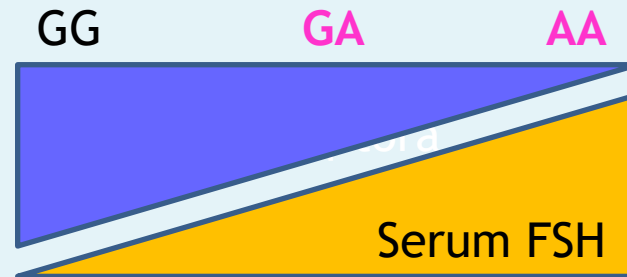
Ala307Asn680 (1%)

Thr307Ser680 (1%)

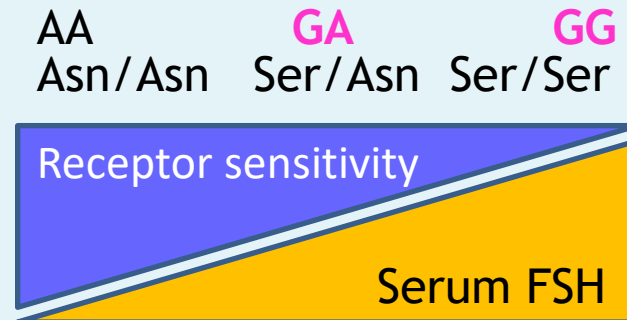


Impact on FSH level

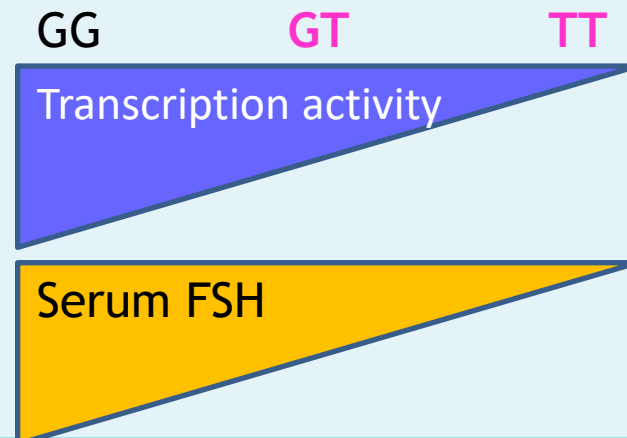
**FSHR -29G>A
(promotor)**



**FSHR p.N680S
(exon 10)**




**FSHB -211G>T
(promotor)**



**Treatment
by FSH - 12 weeks**
(prof. M. Simoni, 2014)



ERA[®] ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ASSAY

 **CME Online Symposium**
REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

EMBRYONIC IMPLANTATION

Healthy embryo at blastocyst stage

To select the best embryo/s

MOLECULAR DIALOGUE

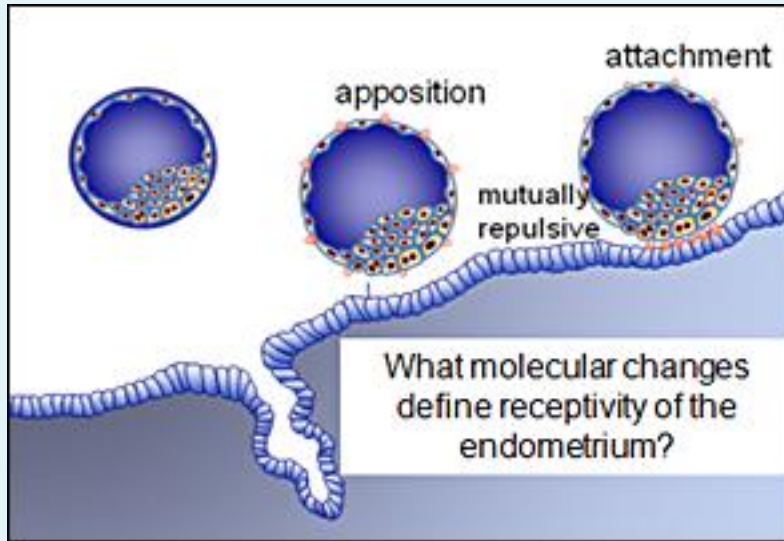
Endometrial Receptivity

To improve the receptivity in the endometria under stimulated cycles
To know the bases of infertility

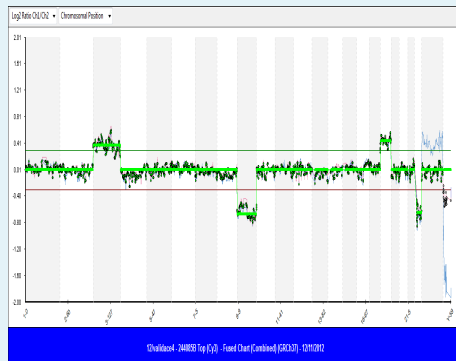
Original image



ERA[®] ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ASSAY



24% of infertile women with repeated implantation failure has changed implantation window (delayed or advanced) even good quality of embryos are transferred



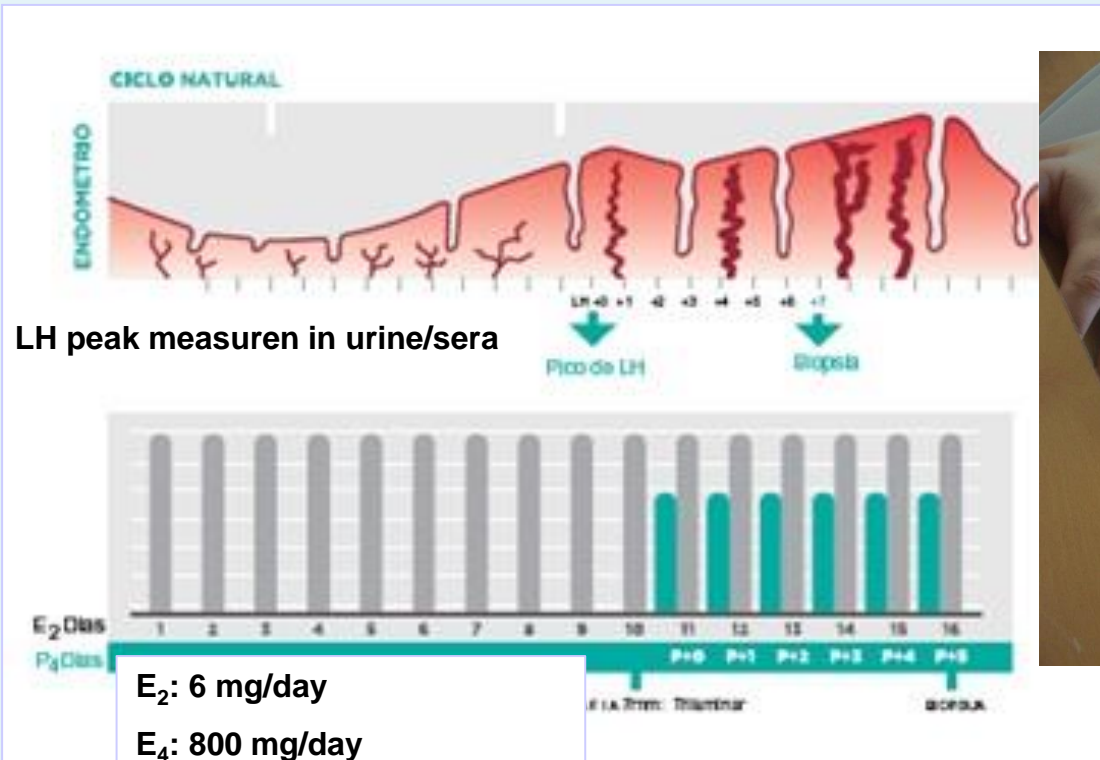
+



=



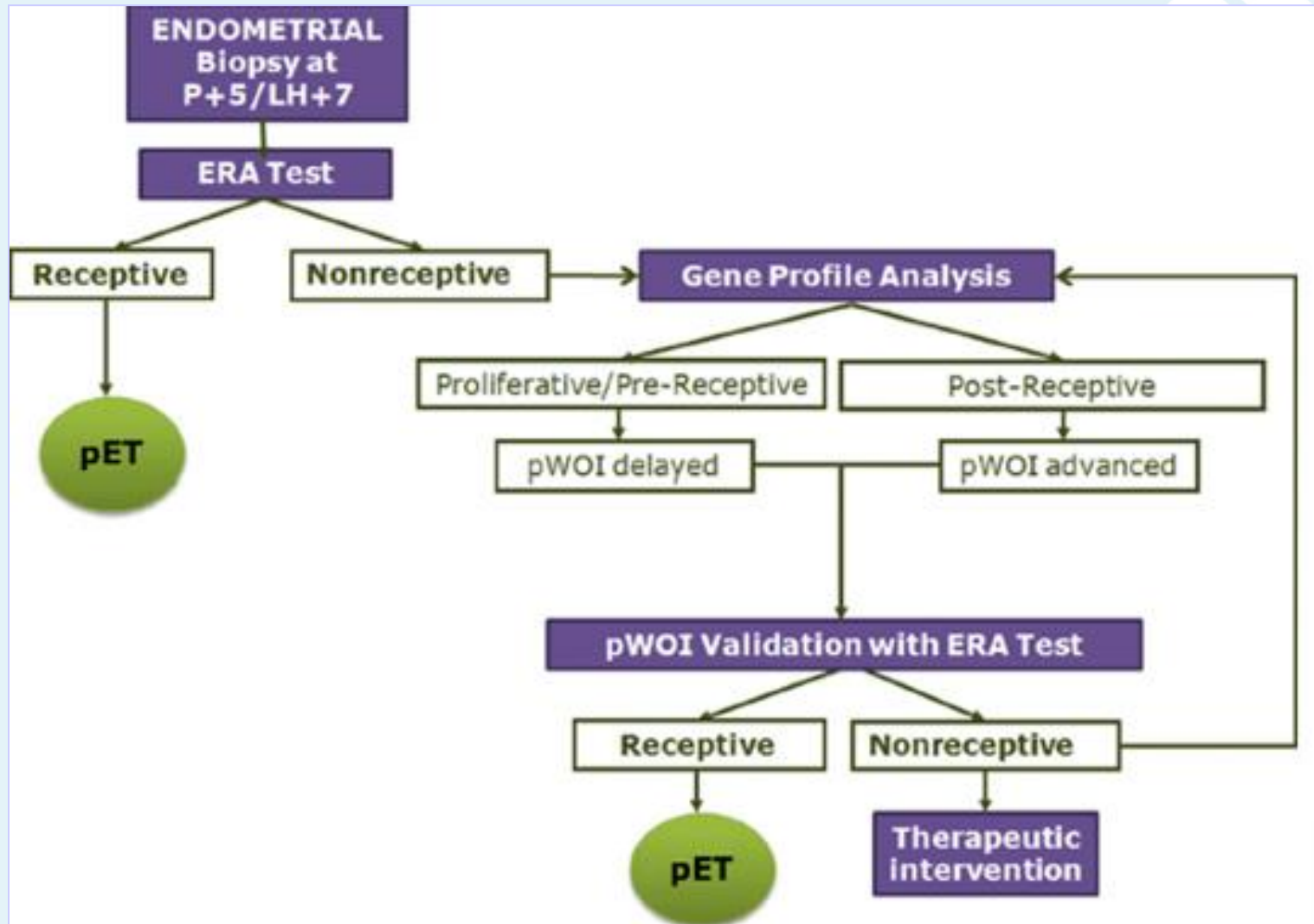
ERA[®] ENDOMETRIAL RECEPTIVITY ASSAY



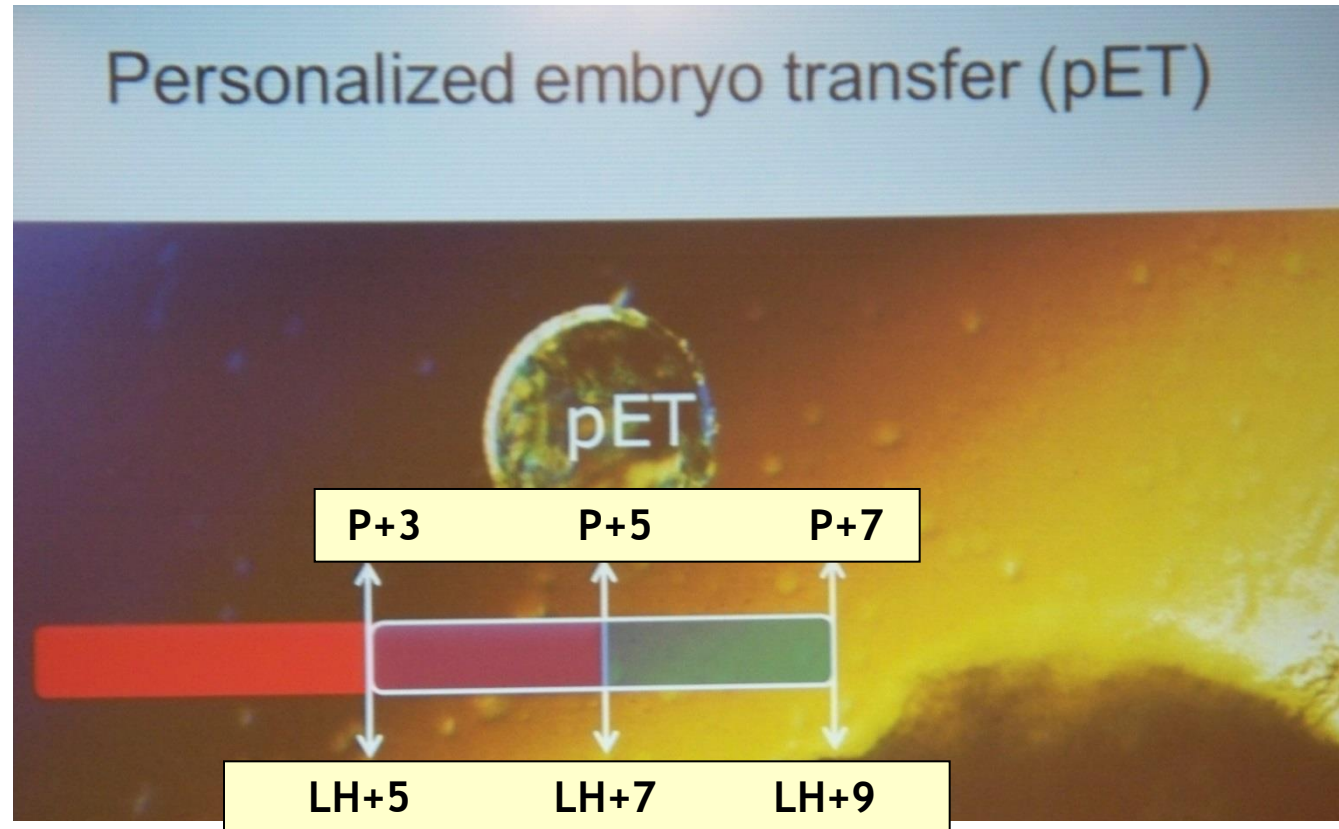
- Molecular customer-made microarray prepared for diagnostics of endometrial receptivity in IVF treatment
- Examination of expression of **238 genes** participating in receptivity of endometrium
- Classification of endometrium as „receptive“ or „non-receptive“



Algorhytm of personalized embryo trasfer



Personalized embryo transfer



ET

pET advanced

pET delayed



CASE REPORT

Previous ART treatments

Routine work-up negative

1. IVF with fresh day-3 ET
2. IVF with fresh day-3 ET

treatments in our
er

3. IVF with fresh day-5 ET
4. IVF with differed day -5 ET in natural cycle
5. OD with day-3 ET in HRT cycle (P+2)
6. OD with day-3 ET in natural cycle
7. OD with day-5 ET in HRT cycle (P+5)

DIAGNOSTIC INTERVENTION ERA

pre-receptive at P+5, being receptive at P+7

8. OD with **pET** using day-5 blastocysts in HRT cycle after 7 days of progesterone (P+7)
- Successful twin pregnancy



Diagnostic importance of ERA[®]

Diagnostics of endometrium during implantation window

Precise detection and timing of embryo transfer according to the molecular characteristics of particular woman



Personalized embryo transfer



Genetic therapy

Duchenne muscular dystrophy classical form

- Progressive neuromuscular disorder
- Loss of walking, invalid at teenager age
- Death as consequence of cardiac or pulmonary failure
- Incidence 1 : 3 500 newborn boys
- Inheritance: X-linked recessive
with symptomatic heterozygotes
- Cause of disorder: mutations in DMD gene



Fenotype variability of Duchenne muscular dystrophy

- **Becker muscular dystrophy**
 - late onset of symptoms, milder form, slower progression
- **Cardiomyopathic form**
 - minimal symptoms of skeletal muscles, dilatation form causing the cardiac arrhythmia and heart failure
- **DMD/BMD heterozygote women**
 - increased levels of creatinine kinase, muscle weakness, some symptoms of myocardiac damage (palpitation, stenocardia, dyspnoe), they need cardiologic dispensarization at adult age

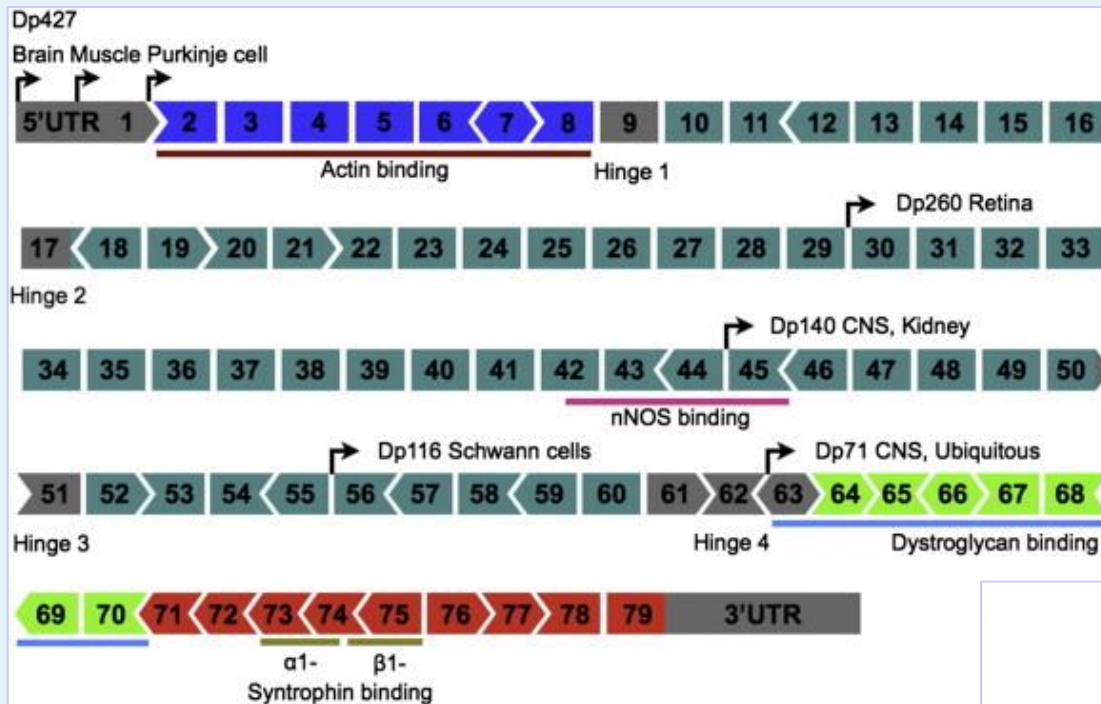


Diagnostics of DMD

- Clinical presentation
- Elevation of serum creatin kinase (5-100x, ref.<2-4 $\mu\text{kat/l}$),
- Increased level of LD a transaminase enzymes
- EMG – severe myogene lesions
- DNA analysis – 97% of patients
- Biopsy ??



DMD gene encoding for dystrophin

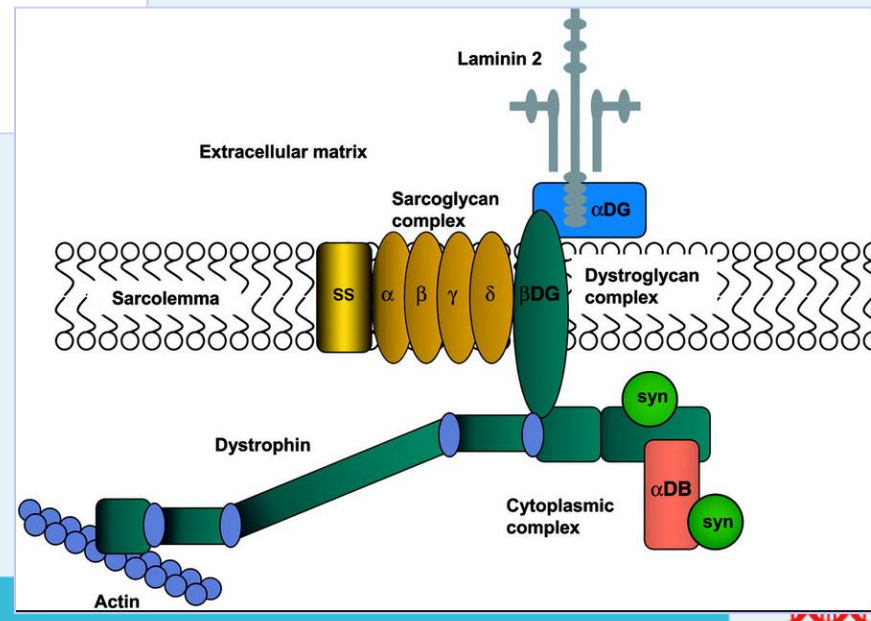


DMD gene has
2.300.000 nucleotides

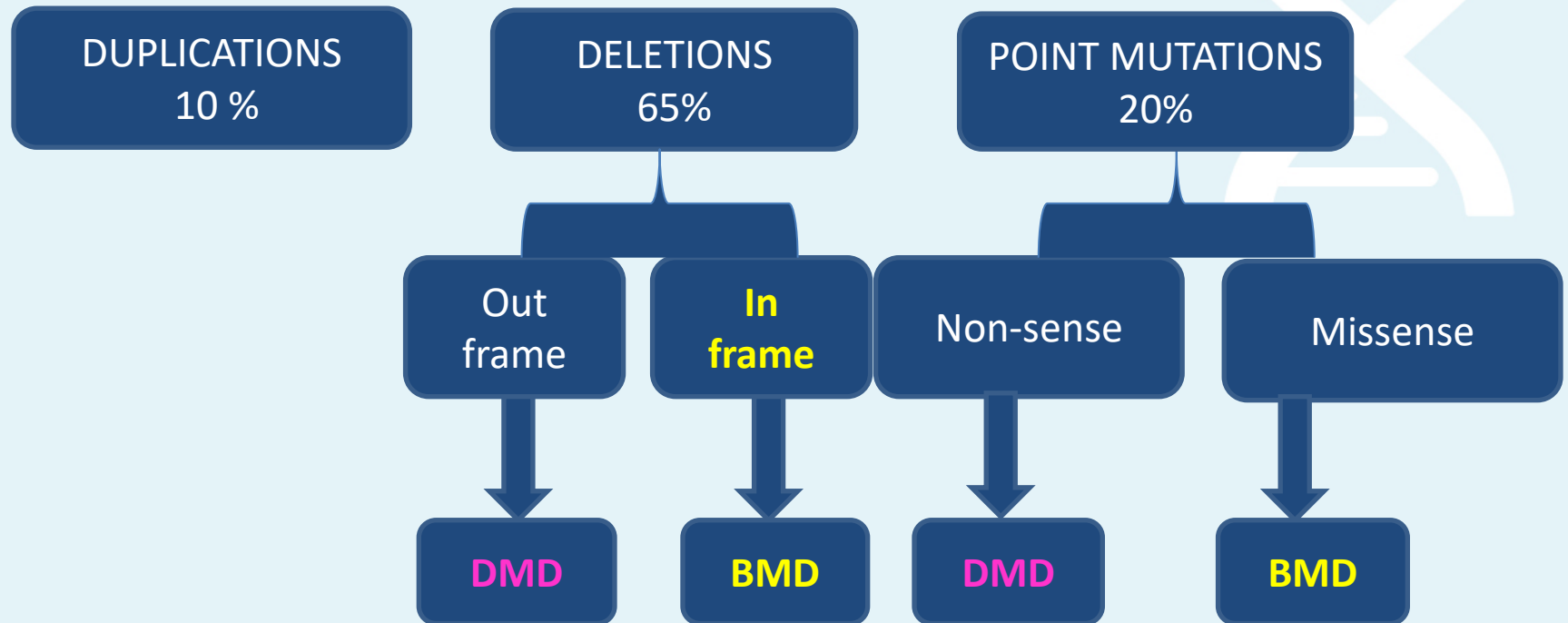
79 exons

Dystrophin – 3685 amino acids

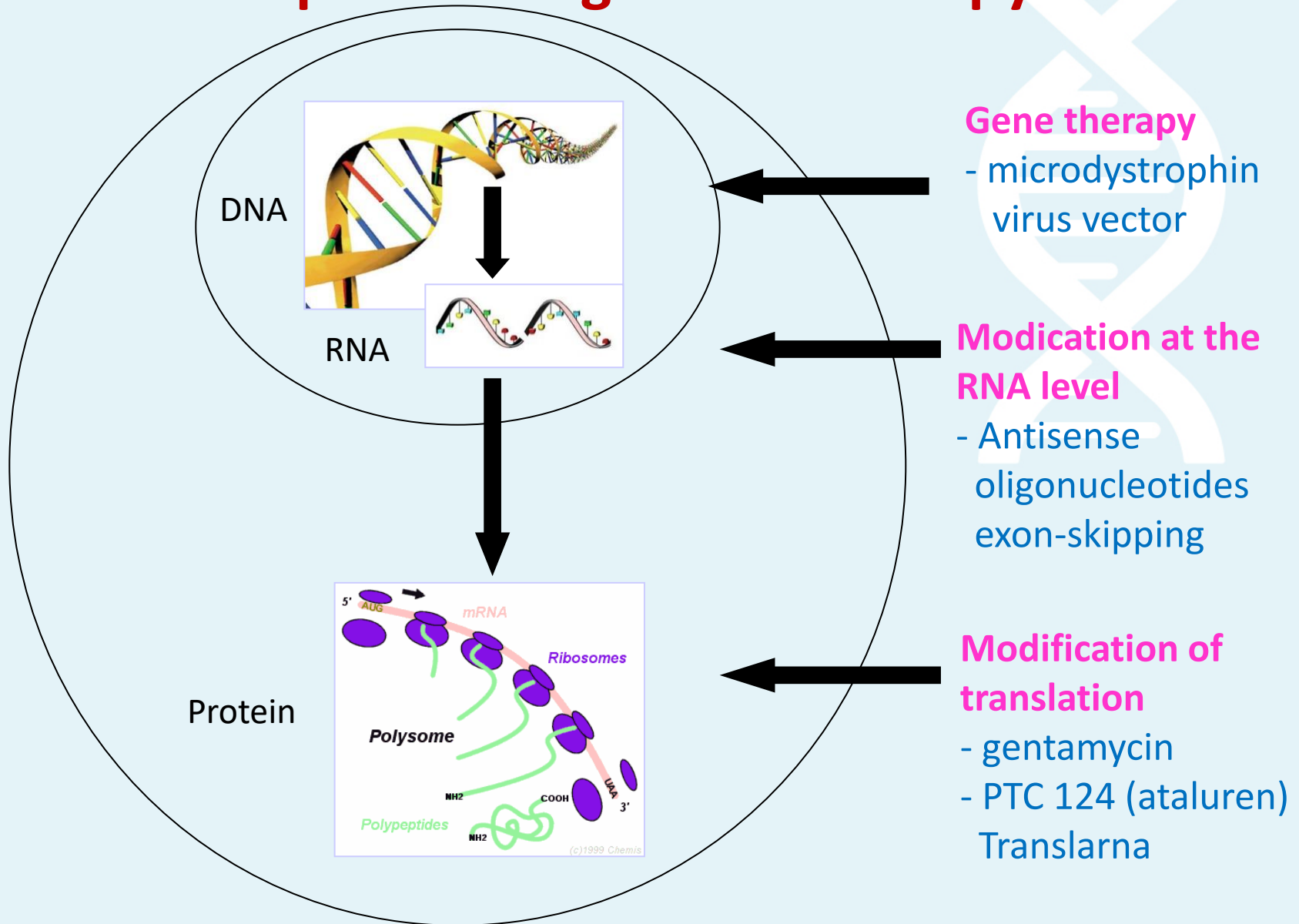
Dystrophin is participating in formation of cytoskeleton (it binds to actin and to signal molecules extracellular matrix – beta dystroglycan)



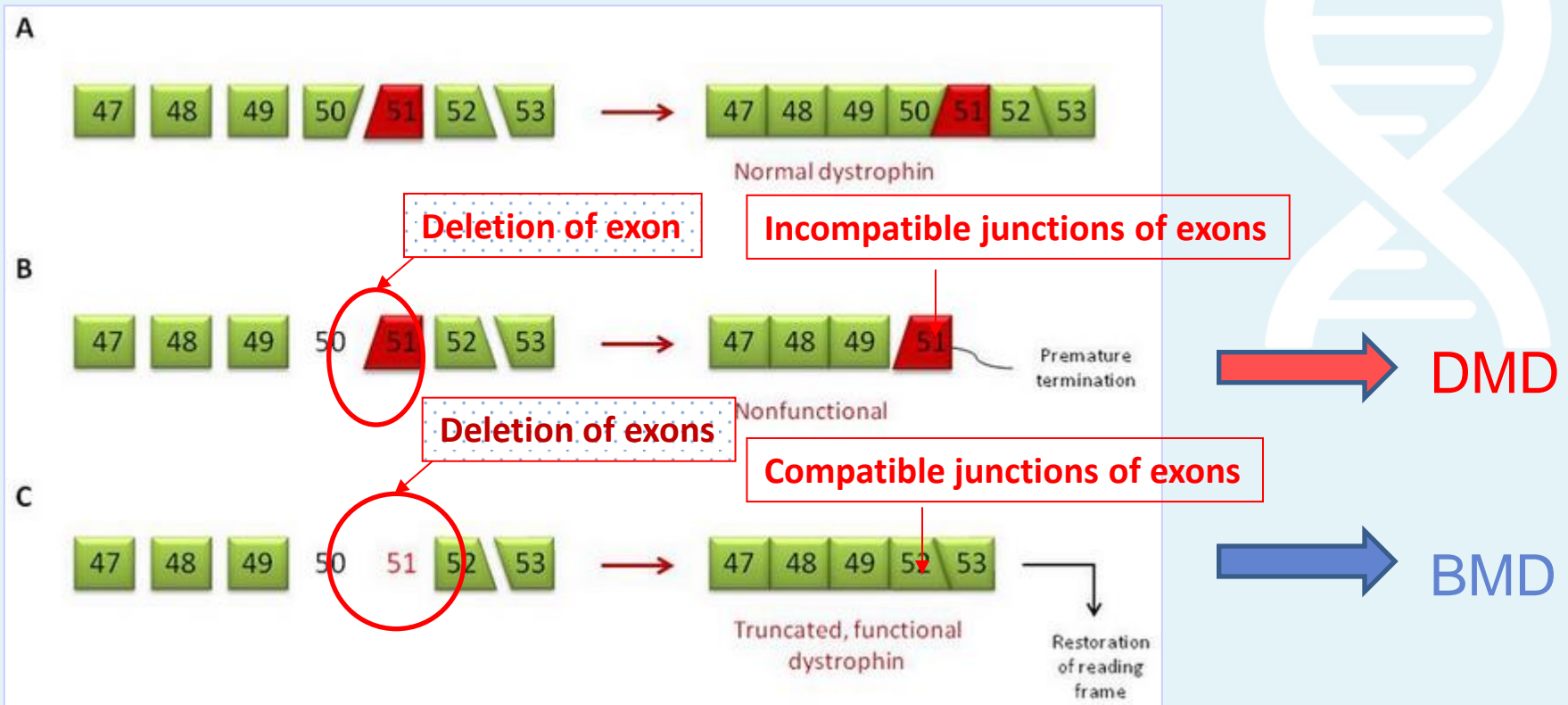
Mutations in DMD gene



The options of "genetic" therapy



Deletions in DMD gene



What happens at Becker MD

- Exons 48 – 54



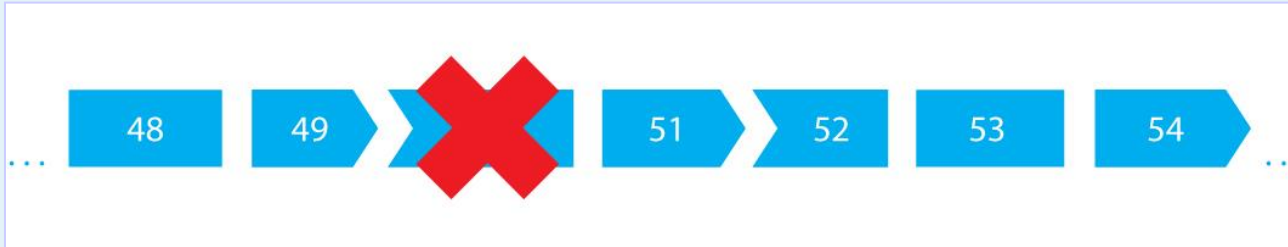
- Part of gene is missing, but exon 52 can connect to exon 54 and all the rest of gene



<http://www.muscular dystrophyuk.org/progress-in-research/background-information/what-is-exon-skipping-and-how-does-it-work/>



What happens at Duchenne MD?



- The deletion of exon 50 is leading in **short protein, which lost its function** and in severe form of DMD – **exon 49 is not able to connect to exon 51**

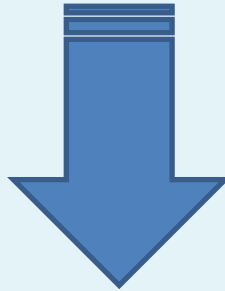
<http://www.muscular dystrophyuk.org/progress-in-research/background-information/what-is-exon-skipping-and-how-does-it-work/>



Exon-skipping

Goal : To connect the exons to restore the open reading frame for translation

DM DUCHENNE



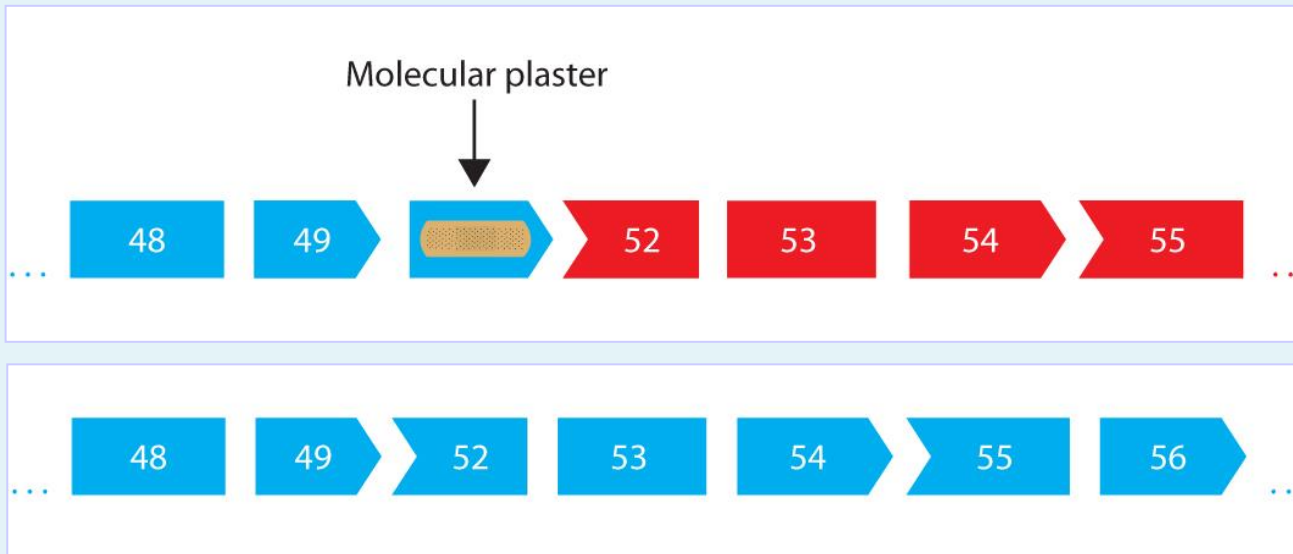
DM BECKER

<http://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/progress-in-research/background-information/what-is-exon-skipping-and-how-does-it-work/>



How can help us the exon-skipping?

- AOs –antisense oligonucleotides or „molecular plasters“
- They mask exons and help to connect the exons with compatible ends



<http://www.musculardystrophyuk.org/progress-in-research/background-information/what-is-exon-skipping-and-how-does-it-work/>



Development ...

- **EXON SKIPPING 51:**

- **BIOMARINE** - Drisapersen, Phase III

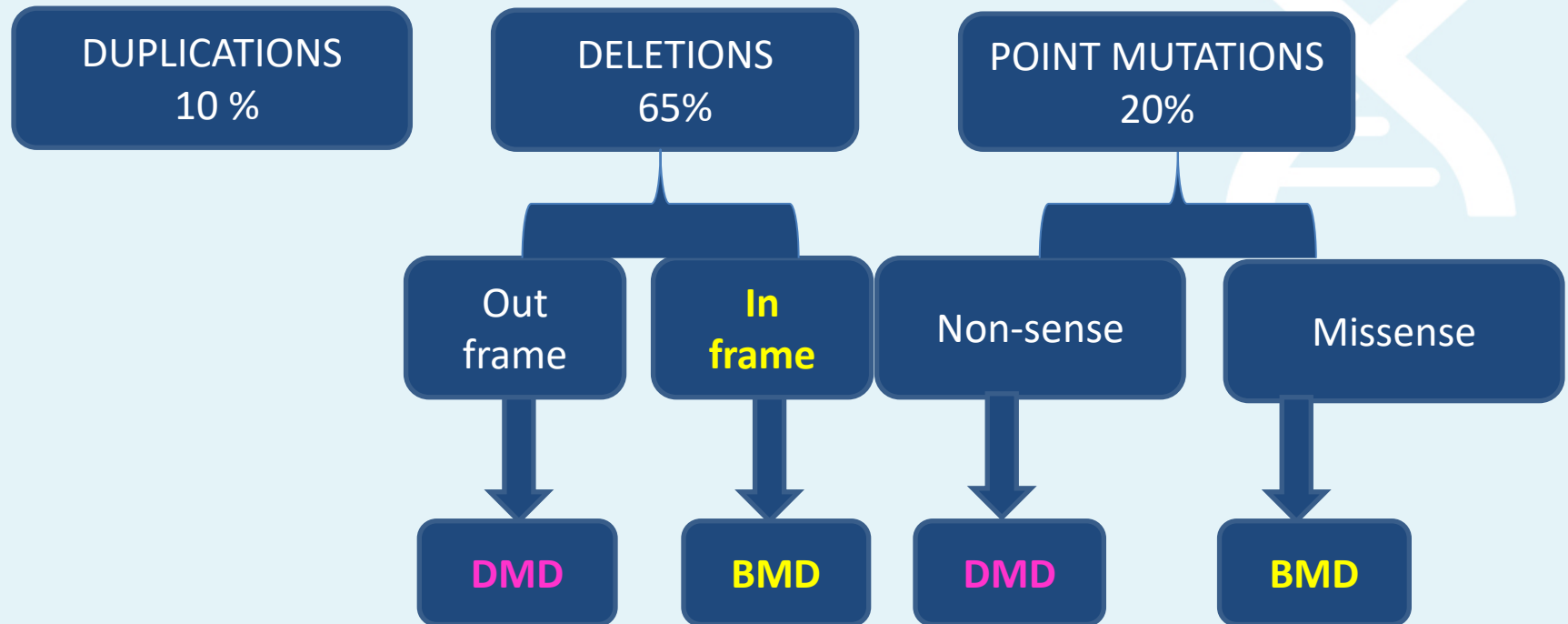
- **SAREPTA** – Eteplirsen, Phase III

} 13% of DMD patients

- **Process of registration by FDA, EMA ?**



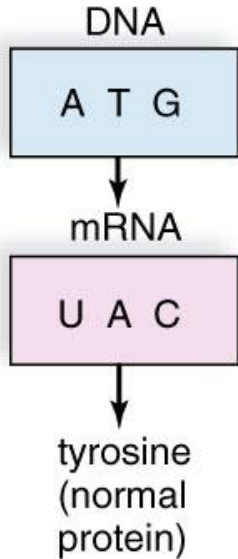
Mutations in DMD gene



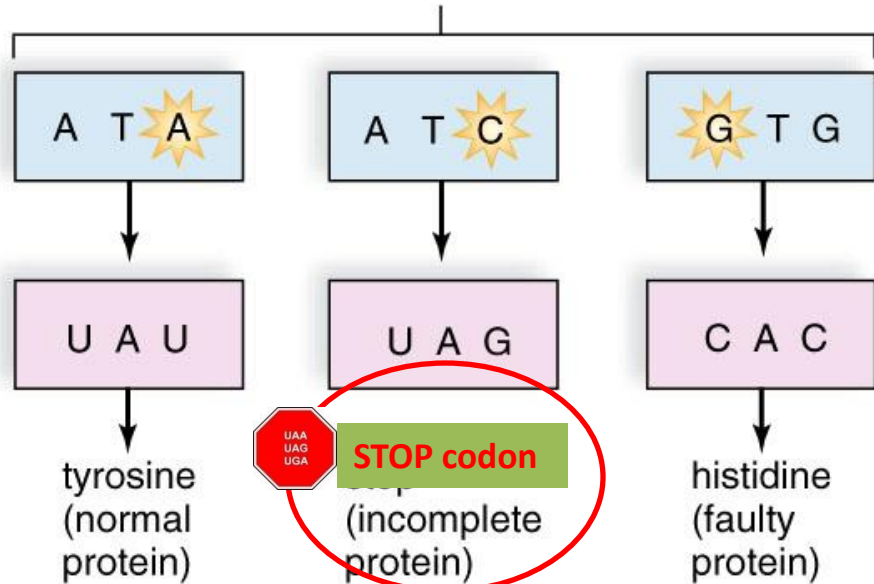
Point mutations

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No mutation



Point mutations



Nonsense

Missense

nmDMD

BMD

Insertion



Shift of reading frame

DMD

Deletion



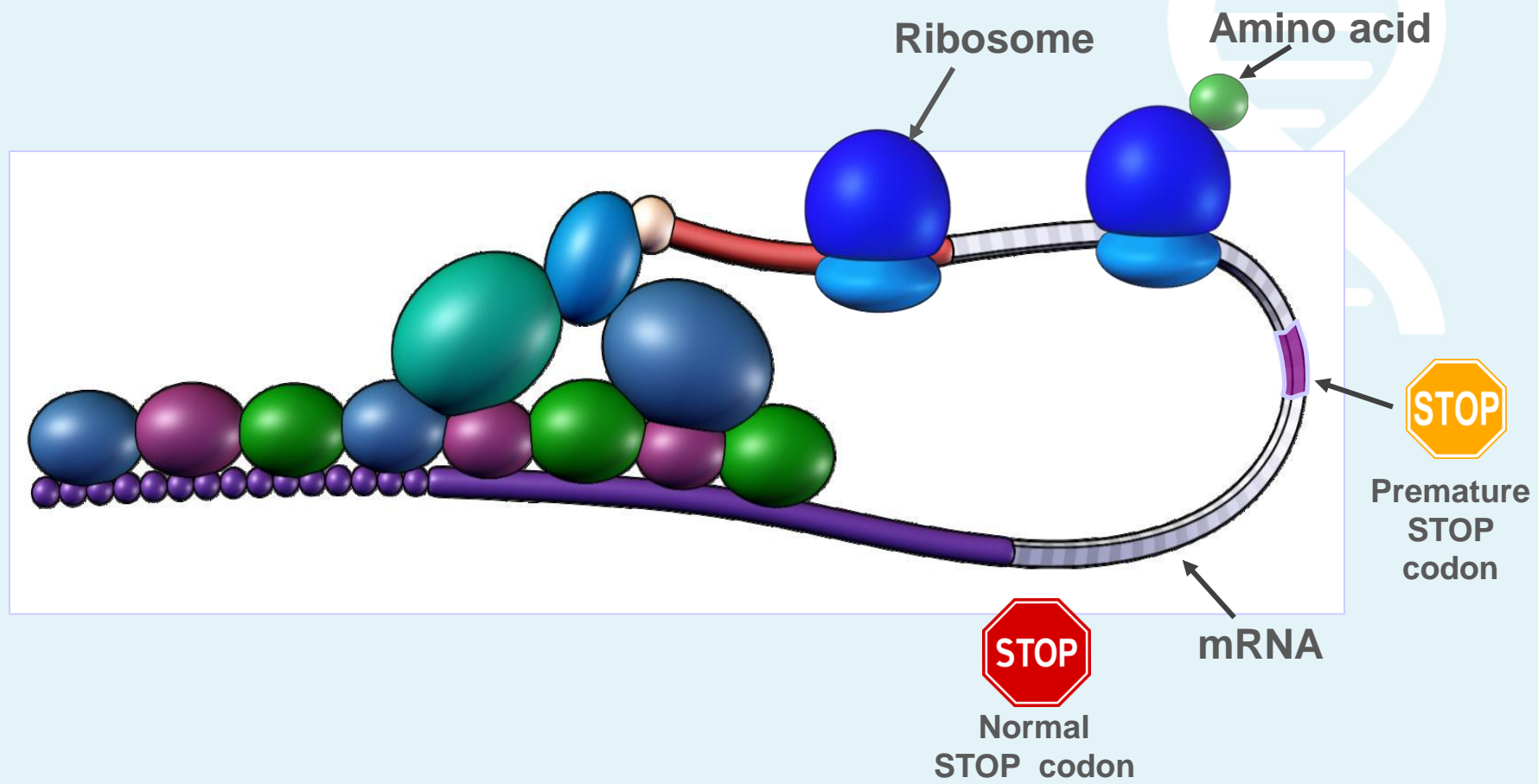
Shift of reading frame

DMD

End of translation
Formation of incomplete,
non-functional protein
Severe form of DMD

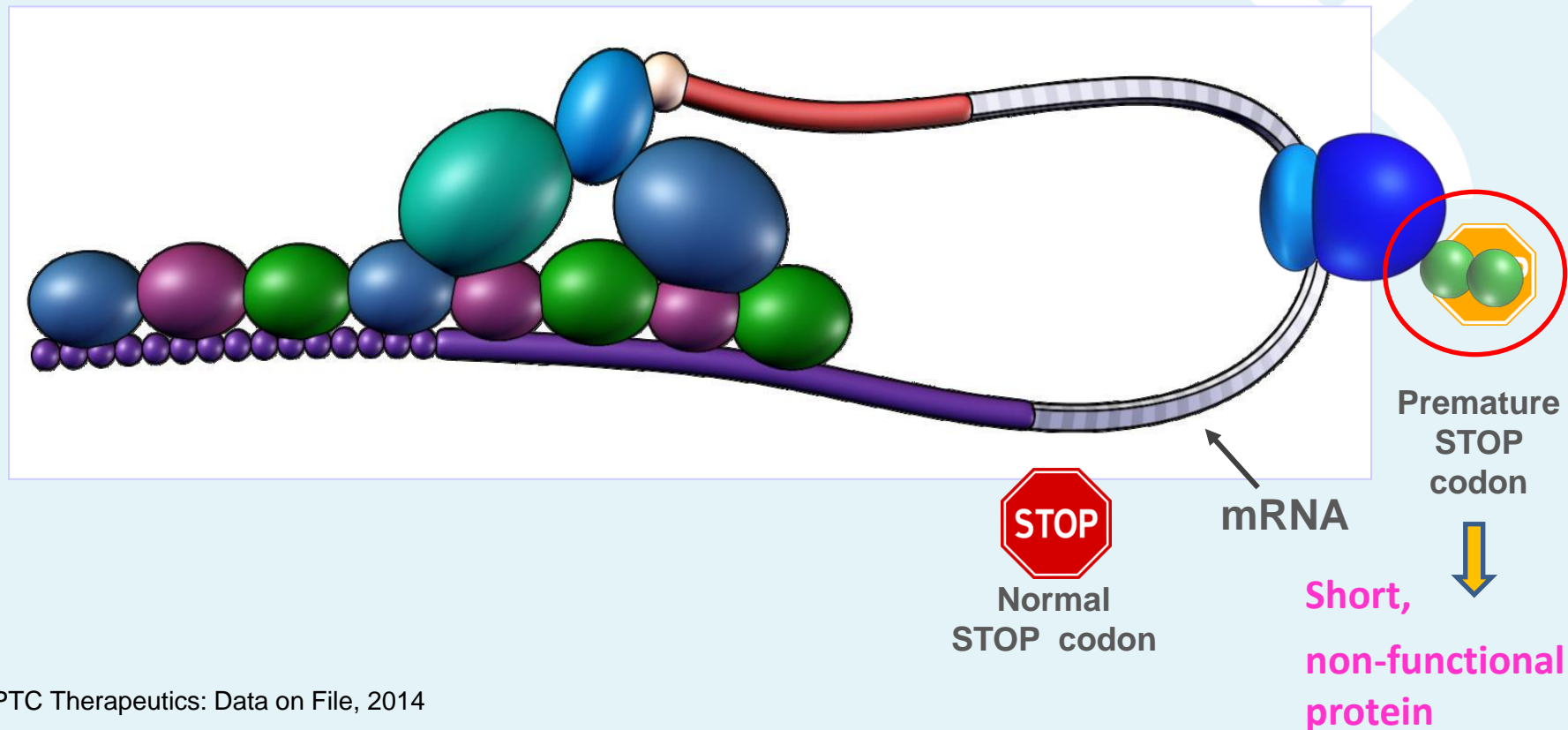


Non-sense mutation DMD/nmDMD

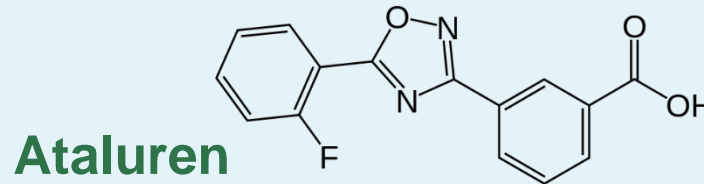


Non-sense mutation DMD/nmDMD

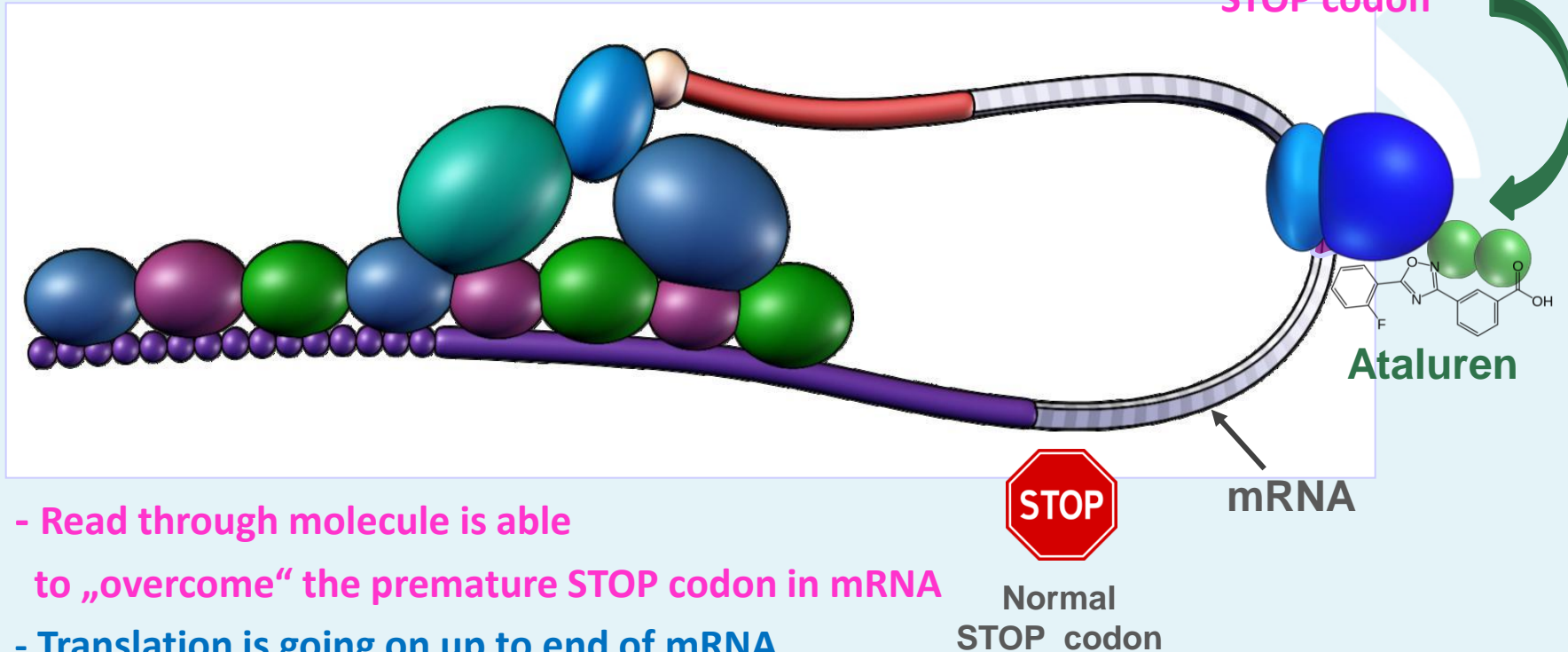
Premature STOP codon results in premature end of translation and in short, non-functional protein



ATALUREN – read through molecule



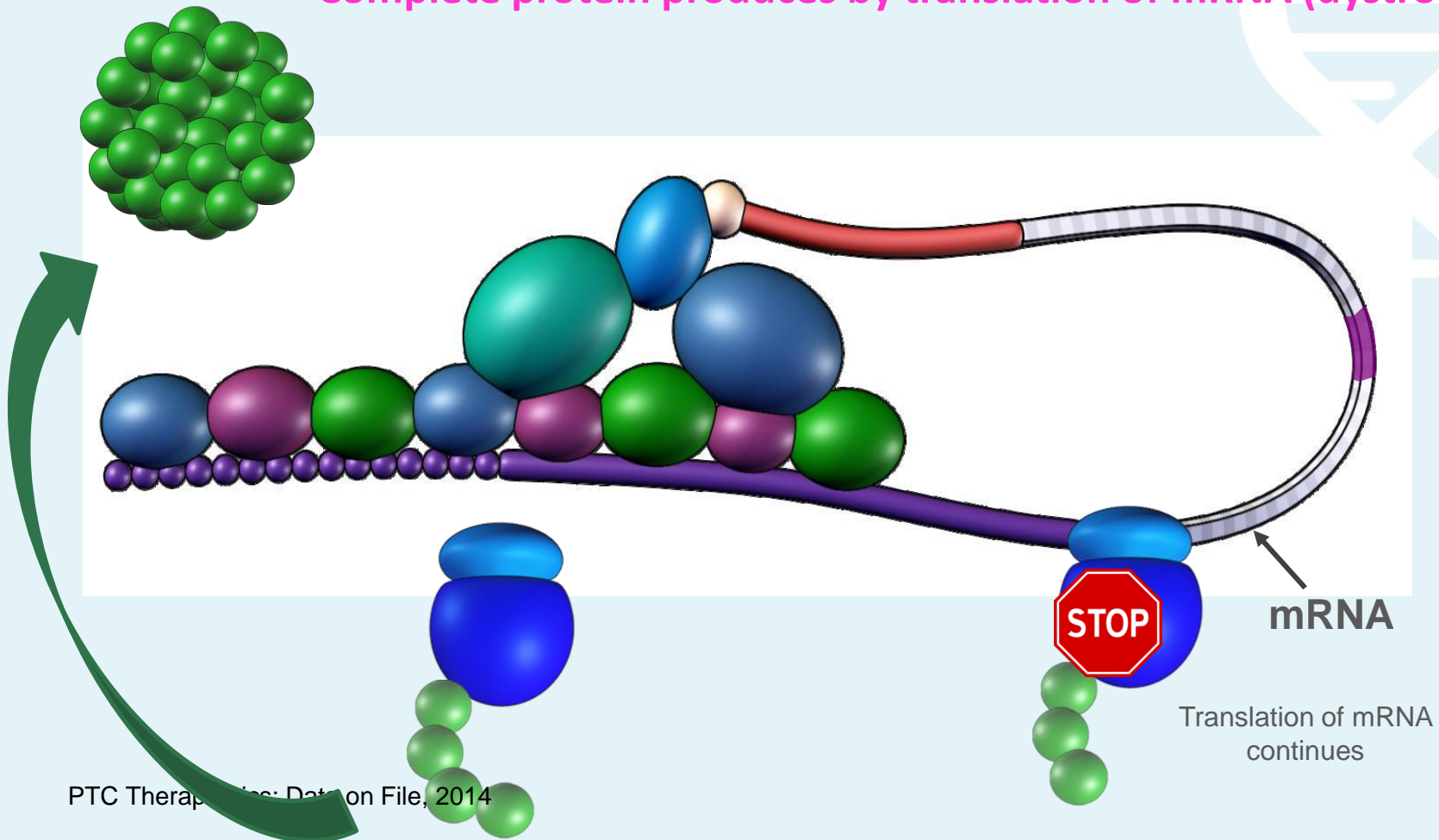
Ataluren is able to read the premature STOP codon



- Read through molecule is able to „overcome“ the premature STOP codon in mRNA
- Translation is going on up to end of mRNA
- Production of full-length functional protein

ATALUREN – read through molecule

Complete protein produces by translation of mRNA (dystrophin)



Which patient is a candidate for Ataluren/Translarna treatment?

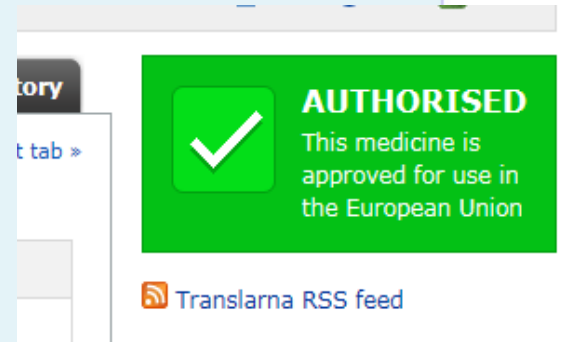
PTC Therapeutics – TRANSLARNA (EMA, 2014 for nmDMD)

- DMD patient with non-sense mutation (nmDMD) confirmed by genetic testing
- Age: 5 years and older
- He/she is able to walk independently

~ 13% of DMD patients

European Medicines Agency: Translarna, EPAR, 2014,

www.ema.europa.eu, PTC Therapeutics: SmPC



Role of clinical geneticist

Clinical genetic examination and counseling + genetic tests

familiar anamnesis - genealogy

- information about occurrence of:
infertility, spontaneous miscarriages, stillbirths, affected children and adult members, mental retardation, cancer, consanguinity
- information about ethnical / geographic origin
- information about pregnancy
(infectious diseases, metabolic disorders, use of alcohol, drugs ...)

physical and laboratory examination of individual



DIAGNOSIS



PROGNOSIS

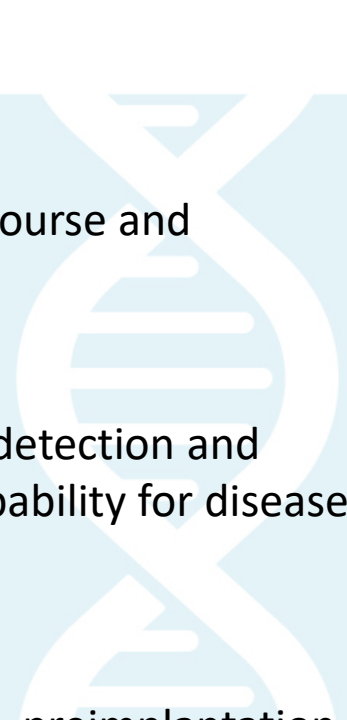


PREVENTION



THERAPY





DIAGNOSIS

- diagnosis and type of inheritance, information about typical the course and development of disorder and variability of symptoms

PROGNOSIS

- calculation of risk of recurrence (general, Mendelian, empirical), detection and examination of other risk members of family, assessment of probability for disease expression

PREVENTION

- information about the reproductive options, primary prevention – preimplantation genetic diagnosis,
- secondary prevention – prenatal diagnosis
- postnatal examination of affected child

THERAPY

- treatment by specialist

OTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR PATIENT

- how to care about affected child, information about patient association, new medications and treatment options, psychological support



Principles of clinical genetic counseling



- To inform the patient and to give him information on the actual level of knowledge in medicine
- To explain all clearly on the level corresponding to intellect and education of the patient
- Non-directive counseling
- Discreetness
- Informed consent for genetic laboratory testing and to store genetic material (DNA)



Roles of a genetic register

- To maintain an informal two-way communication process between the family and the genetics unit
- To offer carrier detection to relevant family members as they reach adult life
- To coordinate presymptomatic and prenatal diagnosis when requested
- To coordinate multidisciplinary management of patients with complex hereditary conditions such as familial cancer syndromes
- To ensure effective implementation of a new technology and treatment
- To provide a long-term source in information and support



Thank you for your attention

*Genetic lab ReproGen
Bratislava, Slovakia*

Tel: 0948 230 661

www.reprogen.sk

