



Trisomy 13 (Patau Syndrome)

Trisomy 13, also known as Patau syndrome, is a genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome 13. Babies with trisomy 13 generally have many complex medical complications, including heart defects, brain and spinal cord abnormalities, very small or poorly developed eyes, cleft lip and/or cleft palate, and low muscle tone (hypotonia).



TRISOMY 13

Because of the severity of medical complications associated with trisomy 13, more than 80% of babies do not survive past the first month of life. Children with trisomy 13 that survive infancy have severe developmental and intellectual disabilities, and may have an increased risk for certain types of cancer.

Finding out your pregnancy has trisomy 13 can be very difficult. [Determining](#) what to do next can be even more challenging. Some people who know that their pregnancy has trisomy 13 would choose to [carry the pregnancy to term](#), and use the information to be prepared for the baby's arrival. Others would choose to [terminate](#) a pregnancy that has many significant medical complications.

There is no right or wrong answer; only the answer that is right for you and your family. GSF aims to provide you with the information you need to make that difficult decision, and are here to support you in any way that we can.

Find more information about trisomy 13 at the Support Organization for Trisomies 18, 13,



and related disorders (SOFT) on their [web site](#).

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for pregnancy-related questions.

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for infertility or preconception questions.

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for questions about pediatric or adult genetic conditions.

Related Articles

- [Down Syndrome](#)

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- [Trisomy 18 \(Edwards Syndrome\)](#)

Trisomy 18, also known as Edwards syndrome, is a genetic condition caused by an extra chromosome 18. Babies with trisomy 18 generally have many complex medical complications, including heart defects, growth restriction, a small abnormally shaped head, and clenched fingers with overlapping fingers. Because of the severity of medical complications...

- [Open Neural Tube Defects](#)

Open neural tube defects (ONTDs), which includes spina bifida and anencephaly, is a range of birth defects that can include the brain and/or spinal cord. This is generally something that happens very early in pregnancy, and can vary widely in severity and expected outcome. Although the cause of most cases...

- [Sex Chromosome Variations](#)

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- [Microdeletion Syndromes](#)

There are many different kinds of genetic conditions. Some are caused by whole extra or missing chromosomes (such as Down syndrome), while others are caused by changes in a specific gene (such as sickle cell anemia). There is a third group of



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genetic conditions called microdeletion syndromes. A microdeletion is...