Trisomy 18

Also called: Edwards syndrome, Chromosomal imbalance syndrome, pair 18, trisomy, Complete trisomy 18 syndrome, E3 Trisomy, Trisomy 16-18, Trisomy 18 syndrome, Trisomy E syndrome

Trisomy 18 is a chromosomal condition related to chromosome 18 in which all or part of chromosome 18 appears three times (trisomy) rather than twice in the cells of the body. The extra chromosomal material disrupts the normal course of development, causing the characteristic features of trisomy 18. Trisomy 18 affects approximately 1 in 3,000 to 10,000 live births.

Infants with trisomy 18 have low birth weight; a small, abnormally shaped head; a small jaw; a small mouth; and clenched fists with overlapping fingers. They will have mental retardation, heart defects, hearing loss, eye problems, cleft lip and palate, and organ abnormalities affecting most systems of the body. Affected infants have an extremely high mortality rate; only 5 percent to 10 percent of infants born with trisomy 18 survive the first year of life.

Resources

For a complete list of resources related to birth defects, including state programs and resources, support groups and not-for-profit organizations click on the following link. http://www.health.mo.gov/living/families/genetics/birthdefects/resources.php

- Genetic Alliance
- March of Dimes
- MedlinePlus
- National Institutes of Health
- St. Louis Children's Hospital
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
- Support Organization For Trisomy 18, 13 and Related disorders

Genetic Tertiary Centers

How to Obtain Genetic Services
Your family physician can usually provide information regarding genetic services in your area. Genetic clinics are periodically held in a location near you. For information, contact one of the centers listed below.

Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center
St. Louis, Missouri 314-577-5639

Children's Hospital at University Hospital and Clinics
Columbia, Missouri 573-882-6991

Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas City, Missouri 816-234-3290

St. Louis Children's Hospital
St. Louis, Missouri 314-454-6093