

Klinefelter Syndrome

What is Klinefelter Syndrome?

- The most common sex chromosomal disorder
- A genetic condition that occurs in males when they have an extra X chromosome
 - A chromosome carries our DNA, most people have 46
 - Males typically XY, Females XX, Males with Klinefelter XXY
- Difficult to diagnose before puberty
- Affects about 1 in every 700 males

Physical Characteristics of Klinefelter Syndrome

- Tendency to grow fewer chest hairs
 - Absence of frontal forehead baldness
 - Poor beard growth
 - Breast development and wide hips
 - Female-type pubic hair pattern
 - Small testicular size
 - Narrow shoulders
 - Long arms and legs
- Some XXY males may not show signs or symptoms of the condition while others display these physical attributes
- Elective surgery and testosterone treatments are options to manage physical characteristics. These options should be discussed with your doctor.

Other signs

- Poor motor skills (clumsiness and delayed walking)
- Depression or anxiety
- Behavioral problems
- Delayed language development

When is it diagnosed?

- Before birth with DNA testing
- In school-decreased reading and language skills
- Adolescence-puberty may involve breast development
- Adulthood-infertility issues



UA SCIENCE

Speech, Language,
& Hearing Sciences

Klinefelter Syndrome

Signs Regarding Communication

- Difficulty understanding spoken language
- Reading difficulties
- Trouble coming up with names for items (often use words like *thing/stuff*)
- Social awkwardness
- Behavioral problems
- Difficulty paying attention

Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

- Evaluate to identify areas of communication and learning needs
- Determine helpful communication strategies
- Educate family, caregivers, and school staff on the best ways to communicate with the child

Classroom Modifications and Communication Strategies

- Speak slowly and repeat information
- Present items visually (pictures, written, gestures)
- Use simple and complete sentences with lots of vocabulary
- Teach synonyms and categories of words
- Offer choices rather than open ended questions (Do you want ___? Versus What do you want to do?)
- Reduce distractions
-

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.klinefeltersyndrome.org>

<http://www.healthieryou.com/klinefelter.html>



UA SCIENCE

Speech, Language,
& Hearing Sciences