



# Chromosomal Disorders from Prehistoric Skeletal Remains

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Recently, the researchers have identified [chromosomal disorders](#) in prehistoric skeletal remains dating back approximately 5,500 years, shedding light on the presence of genetic conditions such as **Down syndrome and Edwards syndrome** in ancient populations.

- Individuals with chromosomal **trisomy carry three copies of a chromosome**, leading to conditions like **Down syndrome (trisomy 21)** and **Edwards syndrome (trisomy 18)**.
  - **Down syndrome** is a genetic condition that occurs when a person has an **extra copy of chromosome 21**. It's the most common chromosomal anomaly in humans and can cause intellectual disabilities and health issues.
  - **Edwards syndrome** is a genetic condition that occurs when a baby is born with **three copies of chromosome 18 instead of two**. It causes **physical growth delays** during fetal development.
- Some cases date back to ancient periods, including the **Bronze Age (about 2,700 BCE)** and the **Neolithic period (about 3,500 BCE)**.
  - In early Iron Age Spain (800-400 BCE), three cases of Down syndrome and one case of Edwards syndrome were detected, suggesting a **potentially higher frequency of trisomy carriers in those societies**.

Read more: [Genome Sequencing in India](#)

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