

University of Basrah  
Al-Zahraa Medical College



Ministry of Higher education  
and Scientific Research

## Block: child health

Lecture: genetic counseling

Lecturer: Dr. Miami Kadhim

### Block staff:

Dr. Jawad Ramadan (supervisor)

Dr. Miami kadhim (leader)

Dr. Rehab Abdulwehab (co-leader)

Dr. Ahmad Jaafar (co-leader)

Dr. Ahmad Alsamak (coordinator)

Dr. Dhaighum Imad

Dr. Khalid Ahmad

Dr. Basim Abdulkareem

Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim

Dr. Dheyaa Jameel



Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics, 20th edition.

Nelson Essentials of Pediatrics, 7th Edition 2015

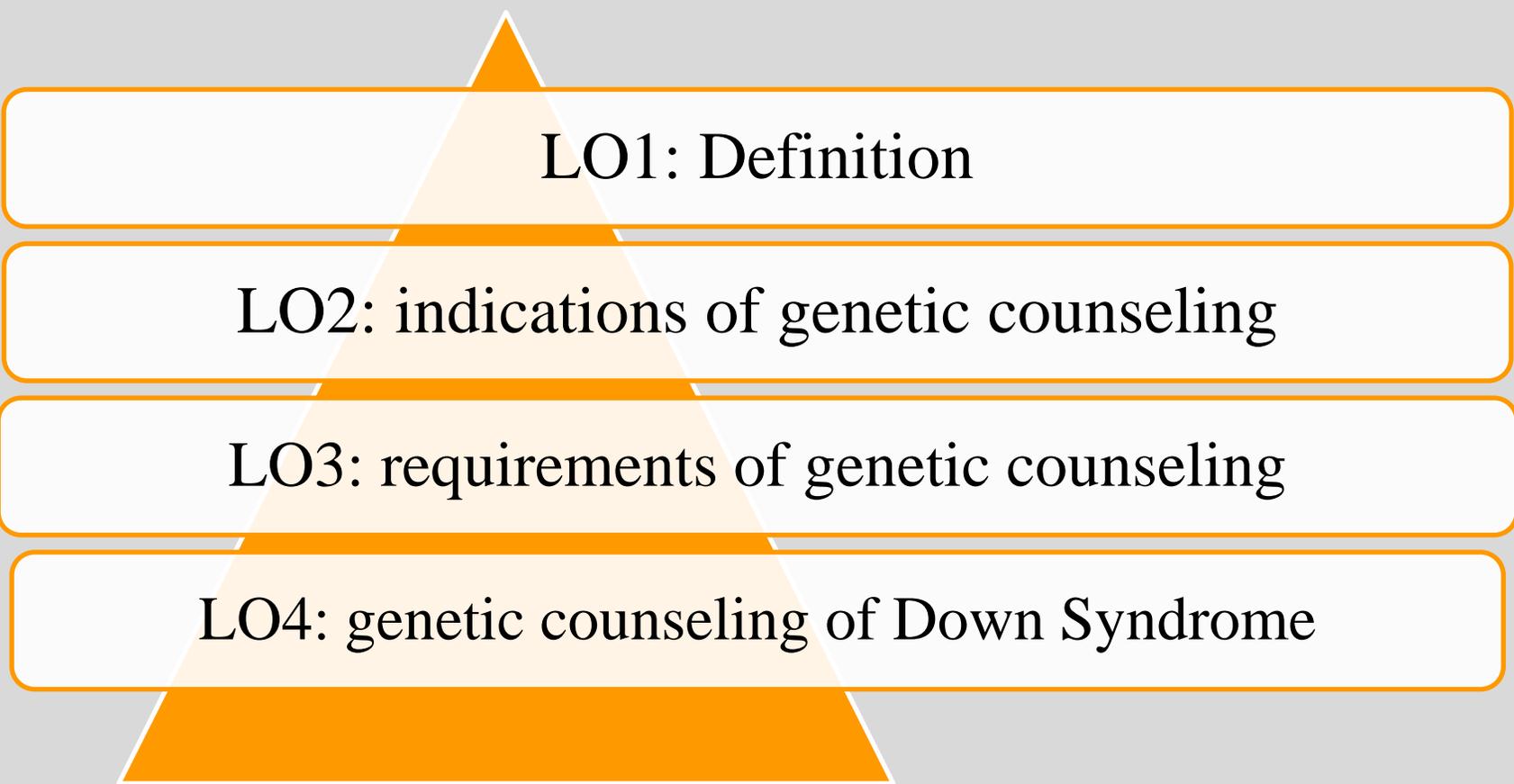
Pediatric Decision-Making Strategies

Illustrated Textbook of Pediatrics

Short Atlas in Pediatrics



# Learning outcomes



LO1: Definition

LO2: indications of genetic counseling

LO3: requirements of genetic counseling

LO4: genetic counseling of Down Syndrome

# Genetic Counseling

L01

Genetic counseling is a communication process in which the genetic contribution to health is explained , along with specific risk of transmission of trait, and options to manage the condition and its inheritance.



# Indications for genetic counseling

LO2

## **1- advanced parental age**

- **Maternal age >35 yr**
- **Paternal age > 50 yr**

## **2- previous child with or family history of:**

- **Congenital abnormality**
- **Dysmorphology**
- **Mental retardation**

- **Metabolic disorder**
- **Chromosomal abnormality**
- **Single gene disorder**

**3- consanguinity**

**4- teratogen exposure**

**5-heterozygote screening**

**6-repeated pregnancy loss**

**7- abnormal neonatal genetic testing**

providing accurate information to families

requires:

LO3

**1- taking a careful family history and constructing a pedigree that lists the relatives with their sex, age and state of health**

**2- documenting prenatal, natal and postnatal histories**

**3- careful physical examination**

**4-reviewing the latest available laboratory and genetic information concerning the disorder**

**5- establishing the diagnosis by diagnostic tests**



# Genetic counseling of Down Syndrome

LO4

**Congratulate the parents for having a new baby and assure them that the doctor / genetic counselor are there to support them**

# Why has this happened?

## A Genetic Disorder

**Incidence: 1/ 600-800 births**

- **Trisomy 21 95%**
- **Translocation 4%**
- **Mosaic 1%**

Will it happen again ?

Recurrence Risk

# Trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) and maternal age

- **Age ( year )**                      **Risk**
- **< 25**                                      **1/ 600-800**
- **> 35**                                      **1/ 350**
- **> 40**                                      **1/ 100**
- **If a couple has a child with DS the risk is higher for the next pregnancy ( 1/ 100 )**

# Translocation

**Frequency : 1/ 500**

## **Recurrence Risk**

- **T( 21;21) 100%**
- **T (14;21) , t (13;21) , t (15;21)**

**12% if the mother is the carrier**

**3% if the father is the carrier**

# What can be done about it ?

## Prenatal diagnosis:

### 1- maternal screening

- **first trimester** - US for nuchal translucency, blood for PAPP( pregnancy associated plasma protein) -A (decreased) and B hcg ( increased)
- **second trimester** - AFP (increased), hcg, estriol (decreased)

### 2- diagnostic testing - chorionic villous sampling at 9-11weeks, Amniocentesis at 14-18 weeks



IQ ?

**The average IQ is 50 – 60 but  
it varies**

# complications

**High risk for development of:**

- **Hypothyroidism**
- **D M**
- **Celiac disease**
- **Leukemia**
- **Congenital heart disease**
- **Hearing loss**
- **epilepsy**

# Health care and maintenance

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- **Echocardiogram at time of diagnosis**
- **Hearing and vision assessment**
- **Thyroid function test**
- **Cervical spine X ray**
- **Health supervision for children with DS**



Thank  
You

