

DID YOU KNOW?

- Increased maternal age is a risk factor for having a child with down syndrome.
- People with Down syndrome are at risk of congenital heart defects, hearing and respiratory problems, childhood leukemia, thyroid conditions and Alzheimer's disease.
- Individuals with Down syndrome often meet age related milestones, however they may learn more slowly than their fellow counterparts.
- The lifespan for an individual with Down syndrome has increased from 10 to 60 thanks to medical advancement.
- Down syndrome is a lifelong condition, however with adequate care and support affected individuals can live a happy, healthy and productive life.

CONTACT US

CLEARLINE HMO

290, IKORODU ROAD,

ANTHONY,

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

TEL: 08076490111

01-4482520

www.clearlinehmo.net

newsletters@clearlinehmo.net

[net](http://www.clearlinehmo.net)

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018
Volume V, Issue II

DOWN SYNDROME

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Down syndrome also called Trisomy 21 is a genetic condition, in which a child is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21

This condition is characterized by certain physical features such as flat face, short neck, small stature, low muscle tone, upward slant of the eyes, a single deep crease along the center of the palm, etc.

Children born with Down syndrome also experience some cognitive delay with the effects ranging from mild to moderate to severe in very rare cases.

HOW IS DOWN SYNDROME DIAGNOSED

Diagnosis is usually done either prenatally or at birth.

Prenatally- tests can either be;

Screening tests - usually does not give a definite diagnosis e.g. ultrasound

Diagnostic tests - are usually 100% accurate. These include tests like Chorionic Villus Sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis.

At Birth: Down syndrome is identified by the presence of certain physical characteristics such as flat face short neck, low muscle tone, etc. Diagnosis is confirmed by doing a karyotype of the chromosomes.

RISK FACTORS

- 1) Increased maternal age; women aged 35 and above are more at risk.
- 2) Having a sibling with Down syndrome.
- 3) Having another child with Down syndrome.

TREATMENT

There is no cure for Down syndrome, however affected individuals can benefit tremendously from developmental interventions and early medical assistance. They may also benefit from speech therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy.

