MYT1L-related syndrome
This guide is not meant to take the place of medical advice.

Please consult with your doctor about your genetic results and health care choices. The information in this guide was up to date at the time it was written in 2019. But new information may come to light with new research. You may find it helpful to share this guide with friends and family members or doctors and teachers of the person who has MYT1L-related syndrome.
What is MYT1L-related syndrome?

MYT1L-related syndrome happens when there are changes to the MYT1L gene. These changes can keep the gene from working as it should.

**Key role**
The MYT1L gene plays a key role in the development of the brain.

**Symptoms**
MYT1L-related syndrome can affect the development of communication skills, social skills, and learning skills. Because MYT1L is important in the development of the brain, many people who have MYT1L-related syndrome have:

- Motor and speech delay
- Mild to moderate intellectual disability
- Excessive hunger and obesity that begins early in life
- Behavior problems, including hyperactivity and autism spectrum disorder
What causes MYT1L-related syndrome?

Our genes contain the instructions, or code, that tell our cells how to grow, develop, and work. Every child gets two copies of the MYT1L gene: one copy from their mother, from the egg, and one copy from their father, from the sperm. In most cases, parents pass on exact copies of the gene to their child. But the process of copying genes is not perfect. A change in the genetic code can lead to physical issues, developmental issues, or both.

Sometimes a random change happens in the sperm or egg. This change to the genetic code is called a ‘de novo’, or new, change. The child can be the first in the family to have the gene change.
De novo changes can take place in any gene. We all have some de novo changes, most of which don’t affect our health. But because MYT1L plays a key role in development, de novo changes in this gene can have a meaningful effect.

Research shows that MYT1L-related syndrome is often the result of a de novo change in MYT1L. Many parents who have had their genes tested do not have the MYT1L gene change found in their child who has the syndrome. In some cases, MYT1L-related syndrome happens because the gene change was passed down from a parent. This is called dominant inheritance.

**Dominant inheritance**

Children have a 50% chance of inheriting the genetic change
Why does my child have a change in the MYT1L gene?

No parent causes their child's MYT1L-related syndrome. We know this because no parent has any control over the gene changes that they do or do not pass on to their children. Please keep in mind that nothing a parent does before or during the pregnancy causes this to happen. The gene change takes place on its own and cannot be predicted or stopped.
Each family is different. A geneticist or genetic counselor can give you advice on the chance that this will happen again in your family.

The risk of having another child who has MYT1L-related syndrome depends on the genes of both birth parents.

- If neither birth parent has the same gene change found in their child, the chance of having another child who has the syndrome is on average 1 percent. This 1 percent chance is higher than the chance of the general population. The increase in risk is due to the very unlikely chance that more of the mother’s egg cells or the father’s sperm cells carry the same change in the gene.

- If one birth parent has the same gene change found in their child, the chance of having another child who has the syndrome is 50 percent.

For a symptom-free sibling, a brother or sister, of someone who has MYT1L-related syndrome, the risk of having a child who has the syndrome depends on the symptom-free sibling’s genes and their parents’ genes.

- If neither parent has the same gene change found in their child who has the syndrome, the symptom-free sibling has a nearly 0 percent chance of having a child who has MYT1L-related syndrome.

- If one birth parent has the same gene change found in their child who has the syndrome, the symptom-free sibling has a small chance of also having the same gene change. If the symptom-free sibling has the same gene change as their sibling who has the syndrome, the symptom-free sibling’s chance of having a child who has MYT1L-related syndrome is 50 percent.

For a person who has MYT1L-related syndrome, the risk of having a child who has the syndrome is about 50 percent.
How many people have MYT1L-related syndrome?

As of 2018, about 15 people in the world with changes in the MYT1L gene had been described in medical research. The first case of MYT1L-related syndrome was described in 2015. Scientists expect to find more people who have the syndrome as access to genetic testing improves.

Do people who have MYT1L-related syndrome look different?

People who have MYT1L-related syndrome generally don't look very different. Appearance can vary and can include some but not all of these features:

- Long chin
- Nose that has a broad base and tip
- Large mouth
- Narrow eyes
- Square-shaped trunk
How is MYT1L-related syndrome treated?

Scientists and doctors have only just begun to study MYT1L-related syndrome. At this point, there are no medicines designed to treat the syndrome. A genetic diagnosis can help people decide on the best way to track the condition and manage therapies. Doctors can refer people to specialists for:

- Physical exams and brain studies.
- Genetics consults.
- Development and behavior studies.
- Other issues, as needed.

A developmental pediatrician, neurologist, or psychologist can follow progress over time and can help:

- Suggest the right therapies. This can include physical, occupational, speech, or behavioral therapy.
- Guide individualized education plans (IEPs).

Specialists advise that therapies for MYT1L-related syndrome should begin as early as possible, ideally before a child begins school.

If seizures happen, consult a neurologist. There are many types of seizures, and not all types are easy to spot. To learn more, you can refer to resources such as the Epilepsy Foundation's website: www.epilepsy.com/learn/types-seizures.
MYT1L-related syndrome is very rare. Doctors and scientists have just recently begun to study it. As of 2018, studies had described around 15 people who have MYT1L-related syndrome.

This section includes a summary of information from major published articles. It highlights how many people have different symptoms. To learn more about the articles, see the Sources and references section of this guide.

Behavior and development concerns linked to MYT1L-related syndrome

**Behavior and development concerns linked to MYT1L-related syndrome**

**Situation and walking**
People who have MYT1L-related syndrome can be slow to reach certain milestones, such as sitting and walking. In a study of 10 people, all had motor delays.

**Learning**
All people who have MYT1L-related syndrome show some degree of intellectual disability. This can range from mild to moderate. Most children need support at school and may need to attend a special school.

**Behavior**
Some people have autism. In a study of 10 people, 4 had autism. Other common behavior problems include hyperactivity and problems with sleep.

**Speech**
Many people have speech and language delays.
Medical and physical concerns linked to MYT1L-related syndrome

**Growth**
In one study, 85 percent were obese. 70 percent were reported to have excessive hunger.

- **85% were obese**
- **70% had excessive hunger**

**Brain**
30 percent of people had seizures.

30%
Where can I find support and resources?

**Simons Searchlight** is another research program sponsored and run by the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative, also known as SFARI. As part of the next step in your research journey, Simons Searchlight offers you the opportunity to partner with scientists and other families who have the same gene change. Simons Searchlight is a registry for more than 200 genetic changes that are associated with neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism spectrum disorder. Simons Searchlight makes it easier for researchers to access the information they need to advance research on a condition.

To register for Simons Searchlight, go to the Simons Searchlight website at [www.simonssearchlight.org](http://www.simonssearchlight.org) and click “Join Us Today”.

- Learn more about Simons Searchlight
  [www.simonssearchlight.org/frequently-asked-questions](http://www.simonssearchlight.org/frequently-asked-questions)

- Simons Searchlight webpage with more information on MYT1L
  [www.simonssearchlight.org/research/what-we-study/myt1l](http://www.simonssearchlight.org/research/what-we-study/myt1l)

- Simons Searchlight MYT1L Facebook community
  [www.facebook.com/groups/913123932368451](http://www.facebook.com/groups/913123932368451)
Sources and References

The content in this guide comes from published studies about MYT1L-related syndrome. Below you can find details about each study, as well as links to summaries or, in some cases, the full article.

  www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25232846

  www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26240977

  www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28859103