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Frequency, Association and Genetic Implications of Chromosomal Fragile Sites in Mental Retardation

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KEY WORDS Mental retardation; chromosomal fragile sites; association; genetic implications.

ABSTRACT Population studies have shown that overall prevalence of mild to severe mental retardation ranges from 2.5 to 5 per thousand. Genetic contribution to this group accounts for 15-30%. The role of chromosomal fragile sites in cancer, recurrent abortions and fertility failure were reported in the literature, which prompted us to look in to the possible causative role of fragile sites with mental retardation. Herein, we discuss the frequency, association and genetic implications of chromosomal fragile sites with mental retardation.

[Home](#)

[Back](#)
