Necessary Criteria of Rett Syndrome

- Apparently normal prenatal and perinatal history.

- Physchomotor development largely normal through the first six months or may be delayed from birth.

- Normal head circumference at birth.

- Postnatal deceleration of head growth in the majority.

- Loss of achieved purposeful hand skill between 6 months to 2.5 years old.

- Stereotypic hand movements such as hand writing/squeezing, clapping/ tapping, mouthing and rubbing automatisms.

"Parents of children with Special Needs create their own world of happiness and believe in things that others cannot yet see."
Anonymous

Repetitive Hand Movement

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What is Rett Syndrome (RS)

- Rett Syndrome was first described in 1966 by *Dr. Andreas Rett (Pediatrician in Vienna, Austria)*, who reported in German his findings in 22 patients.

- Is a **Unique** development disorder that is first recognized in infancy.

- Occurs almost **Exclusively** in girls.

- RS results from a chain of events beginning with a genetic mutation (change in a specific piece of DNA).

- The name of the mutated gene is MECP2.

- Impairements in ability to talk, walk, eat and breathe.

When Rett Syndrome begin

- The age when RS begins and the severity of diffrent symptoms may vary.

- The child with RS is ussually born healthy and shows as early period of apparently normal or near normal development until Six to Eighteen months of life, when there is a slowing down or stagnation of skills.

- A period of regression then follows when she loses communication skills and purposeful use of her hands.

How often and who does RS occur

- RS is estimated to affect one in every 10,000 to 15,000 live female births and in all racial and ethnic groups worldwide.

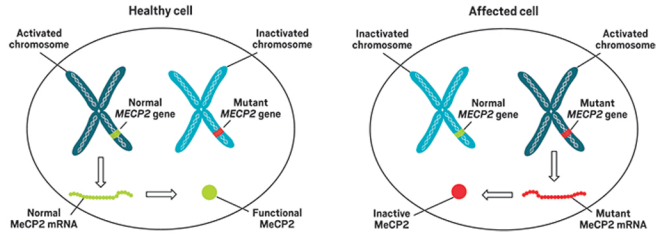
- RS even rarer in boys.

- Among families with a child affected by RS the chance of having a second child with the syndrome is very low.

Symptoms may include for RS

- Loss of speech
- Loss of purposeful use of hands
- Involuntary hand movements such as handwashing.
- Loss of mobility or gait disturbances.
- Loss of muscle tone.
- Seizures or Rett 'episodes'
- Scoliosis
- Breathing issues
- Sleep disturbances.
- Slowed rate of growth for head, feet and hands

MeCP2 Gene



Because female cells inactivate one of their two X chromosomes, about half of brain cells affected by Rett syndrome have the X chromosome containing the mutated version of the MECP2 gene (red) turned on (right), and half have it turned off (left). Cells with the mutated version turned on produce a broken MeCP2 protein, leading to improper expression of myriad genes.