Chromosomal Disorders from Prehistoric Skeletal Remains

Source: TH

Recently, the researchers have identified **chromosomal disorders** in prehistoric skeletal remains dating back approximately 5,500 years, shedding light on the presence of genetic conditions such as **Down syndrome and Edwards syndrome** in ancient populations.

- Individuals with chromosomal **trisomy carry three copies of a chromosome**, leading to conditions like **Down syndrome (trisomy 21)** and **Edwards syndrome (trisomy 18).**
  - **Down syndrome** is a genetic condition that occurs when a person has an **extra copy of chromosome 21**. It's the most common chromosomal anomaly in humans and can cause intellectual disabilities and health issues.
  - **Edwards syndrome** is a genetic condition that occurs when a baby is born with **three copies of chromosome 18 instead of two.** It causes **physical growth delays** during fetal development.
- Some cases date back to ancient periods, including the **Bronze Age (about 2,700 BCE) and the Neolithic period (about 3,500 BCE).**
  - In early Iron Age Spain (800-400 BCE), three cases of Down syndrome and one case of Edwards syndrome were detected, suggesting a **potentially higher frequency of trisomy carriers in those societies.**

Read more: Genome Sequencing in India