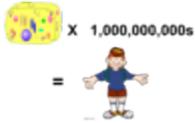
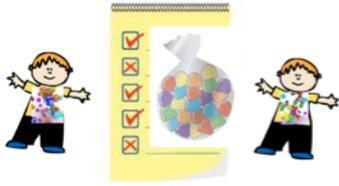


## What Does 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome Mean?

<p><b>What Does It Mean?</b></p>	<p><b>22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome</b></p>	<p>It's not a very easy name to remember, but it does describe exactly what can happen to an affected person's body before they are born.</p>
<p><b>Cells</b></p>		<p>Our bodies are made up of billions of tiny pieces called cells.</p>
<p><b>Instruction Book</b></p>		<p>Inside each cell is an instruction book telling the cell how to grow and work.</p>
<p><b>From One Cell To A Person</b></p>		<p>To go from one cell to a person, the cells have to divide or split over and over again.</p> <p>If something is wrong in the instruction book of the first cell, the mistake will be copied every time the cells split.</p>
<p><b>22 &amp; Deletion</b></p>		<p>In each of an affected person's cells, the instruction books all have part of page 22 missing (which is where the '22' and the word 'deletion' come from).</p>
<p><b>q &amp; 11.2</b></p>		<p>The 'q' tells the scientists and doctors that it is the bottom part of the page which is missing and the '11.2' tells them exactly which lines and words on the bottom part of the page have been lost.</p>
<p><b>Model Aeroplane</b></p>		<p>Not having all the information on how to grow and work, is a bit like if you're building a model aeroplane and the dog has eaten the instruction sheet.</p> <p>You've got a good idea what you're trying to build but don't know exactly which pieces of the kit you need. Although you know it's going to be an aeroplane, you can't remember how many windows it's supposed to have and whether there are two sets of doors or three.</p>
<p><b>The Body's Mistakes</b></p>		<p>For a person with 22q DS, their body tried to guess what it was supposed to do and how it was supposed to look and work. Unfortunately it made mistakes. Some of them aren't too much to worry about and you'd probably never even notice, but others like a heart condition for example can be a big deal and could cause lifelong problems.</p>
<p><b>Syndrome</b></p>		<p><b>'Syndrome'</b> simply means the list of possible mistakes. Each list is special to each person who has 22q DS. This is because there are around 200 possible mistakes in 22q DS but most people usually have 30 – 40 of them during their lifetime. It's a bit like a lucky dip where 10 people each pick 30 mistakes out of a bag containing all 200. The heart condition is in there somewhere but not everybody will pick it out. This means that each person who has 22q DS will have a different set of mistakes, so no two people with 22q DS will have exactly the same problems.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b></p>	<p><b>22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> – the number of the affected 'page' in the 'instruction book'.  <b>q</b> – the bottom part of the 'page'.  <b>11</b> – the affected 'line in the 'instruction book'.  <b>.2</b> – the affected 'words' on 'line 11'.  <b>Deletion</b> – means 'missing'.  <b>Syndrome</b> – the list of 'mistakes'.</p>