

Klinefelter Syndrome – 47 XXY

Prenatal Mythbusters Information Sheet



A genetic condition in which a male is born with an extra copy of the X chromosome

An XXY prenatal diagnosis can be an overwhelming and scary time for any parent. The need for robust and accurate information is so important to help alleviate preconceived ideas or fears parents may have. Unfortunately too many parents who had an XXY prenatal diagnosis have been provided inaccurate advice and information around XXY creating false perceptions and unnecessary anxiety about the future of their unborn son.

Here are some common myths that have been busted around XXY:

Myth: XXY is a very rare and uncommon chromosomal condition.

Busted: XXY is one of the most common chromosomal conditions affecting males; it affects between 1 in 500 and 1000 males born each year in Australia.

Myth: XXY boys are intellectually disabled.

Busted: Boys with XXY IQ is generally in the normal range although it may be 10-15 points lower than that of their siblings.

Myth: XXY boys will never be able to father their own children.

Busted: Whilst infertility is a common symptom of XXY, plenty of XXY males have gone on to have biological children through assisted reproductive technology such as IVF.

Myth: Due to your son having two or more copies of the X chromosome he is actually not male.

Busted: This is false, with an XXY male having a Y chromosome this makes him physically a male with male characteristics.

Myth: Your friends and family will be able to tell that your son has XXY.

Busted: This is incorrect, XXY is a spectrum with some males more impacted than others. XXY is not a syndrome that will define your son. Only friends and family will be able to tell your son has XXY if you or your son chose to tell them.

Myth: Individuals with XXY will know straight away that they have this syndrome.

Busted: Incorrect, an alarming 70% of males go through life undiagnosed due to many factors such as mild signs and symptoms or symptoms overlapping significantly with other issues.

Myth: Your son will be autistic due to having XXY.

Busted: There is no solid research that confirms the link between Autism and XXY.

Myth: Your unborn son may be a psychopath.

Busted: This is totally inaccurate with research indicating that boys with XXY are born just like other regular males and do not have an increased predisposition to being a psychopath.

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Myth: It is either your fault or your partner's fault that your son has XXY.

Busted: XXY typically occurs randomly where there is an error made when the cells are dividing and one more copies of the X chromosome are made.

Myth: You should terminate your XXY son as he will lead a poor quality of life.

Busted: Males with XXY can go on to lead a normal and happy life like any other individual. A prenatal diagnosis and early detection and intervention is good knowledge to know as if/when symptoms appear, interventions can be implemented.

Myth: All XXY boys/males have behavioural issues. As a result they have a tendency to have higher anxiety levels which leads to higher impulse decision making, causing undue negative contact with the law.

Busted: This is an inaccurate generalisation that has been formed with no credible studies or research to support this.

Myth: All boys with XXY will have motor and language delays.

Busted: XXY is a very broad spectrum, and whilst some boys do experience motor and/or language delays, some experience no delays at all.

Myth: Don't even try to breast feed your newborn XXY boy as he will be unable to due to low muscle tone.

Busted: Breast feeding is a personal choice and whether a mother is able to successfully feed her child is due to a number of factors. There is no evidence to suggest that a newborn is unable to attach due to having XXY.

Myth: Boys with XXY will lead on to be homosexual.

Busted: Males with XXY are not more likely to be homosexual than the general population.

Myth: A parent of a XXY will go on to conceive another child with chromosomal variation.

Busted: In most cases a male with XXY will be the first and only person affected by the condition in that family.

For further information and support, please contact us on;

- Email: contact@axys.org.au - we'll get back to you very quickly, normally the same day
- Telephone hotline 0412 038 142: we are volunteers but endeavour to answer your questions and you back as soon as we can, normally the same day
- Facebook: [View the public Facebook portal](#) (message us on contact@axys.org.au for entry into the Secret group)