

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**

## CHAPTER

**26****Genetics Problem Solving****Sex-Linked Traits**

Sex-linked traits are those whose genes are found on the X chromosome but not on the Y chromosome. In humans the X chromosome is much larger than the Y chromosome and contains thousands of genes more than the Y chromosome. For each of the genes that are exclusively on the X chromosome, females, who are XX, would obviously have two alleles. Males, who are XY, would have only one allele. Thus, females with one recessive allele and one dominant allele for a gene that is unique to the X chromosome will display the dominant phenotype. However, a male with a recessive allele for a gene unique to the X chromosome will always exhibit that recessive trait because there is no other corresponding allele on the Y chromosome.

In humans, each of three different sex-linked genes has a defective recessive allele that causes a disease. The diseases are hemophilia, color-blindness, and Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a condition wherein muscles begin to degenerate in childhood. In hemophilia, the defective allele prevents the synthesis of a factor needed for blood clotting. In the example below, hemophilia is used to illustrate how sex-linked traits are designated.

$X^H$  X chromosome with normal dominant allele (nonhemophilia)

$X^h$  X chromosome with recessive hemophilia allele

Y Y chromosome (does not contain comparable gene)

**SAMPLE PROBLEM**

A man with hemophilia marries a homozygous normal woman. Predict the genotypes and phenotypes of their children.

**Step 1** Determine the genotypes of the parents.  
hemophiliac male  $X^hY$ , normal female  $X^HX^H$   
 $X^hY \times X^HX^H$

**Step 2** Determine the gamete genotypes produced by each parent.  
 $X^hY \rightarrow X^h, Y$ ;  $X^HX^H \rightarrow X^H$

**Step 3** Set up a Punnett square using the gamete genotypes.

|       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
|       | $X^h$ | Y |
| $X^H$ |       |   |

**Step 4** Combine the gamete genotypes of one parent with those of the other parent to show all possible offspring genotypes.

|       |          |        |
|-------|----------|--------|
|       | $X^h$    | Y      |
| $X^H$ | $X^HX^h$ | $X^HY$ |

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY** (continued)**Genetics Problem Solving Sex-Linked Traits****Step 5** State the genotype and phenotype ratios of the offspring.

$$1 X^H X^h : 1 X^H Y = \frac{1}{2} X^H X^h, \frac{1}{2} X^H Y$$

1 normal female: 1 normal male =  $\frac{1}{2}$  normal females,  $\frac{1}{2}$  normal males**EXERCISES**

For each exercise write out the Punnett square where appropriate, and answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. A woman who is heterozygous for hemophilia marries a normal man. What will be the possible phenotype ratio of their children?

|       |           |           |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
|       | $X^H$     | $X^h$     |
| $X^H$ | $X^H X^H$ | $X^H X^h$ |
| $Y$   | $X^H Y$   | $X^h Y$   |

2 Normal ♀ : 1 Normal ♂ : 1 Hemoph. ♂

2. A woman who is a carrier for hemophilia marries a hemophiliac man. What will be their children's possible phenotypes?

|       |           |           |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
|       | $X^H$     | $X^h$     |
| $X^h$ | $X^H X^h$ | $X^h X^h$ |
| $Y$   | $X^H Y$   | $X^h Y$   |

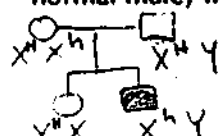
1 Norm ♀ : 1 Hemoph ♀ : 1 Norm ♂ : 1 Hemoph ♂

3. A hemophiliac woman has a phenotypically normal mother. What are the genotypes of her mother and father?

Father  $\times$  Normal Mother  
 $X^h Y$   $\times$   $X^H X^h$

Mother:  $X^H X^h$ Father:  $X^h Y$ 

4. A phenotypically normal woman has phenotypically normal parents. However, she has a hemophiliac brother. (a) What are her chances of being a carrier for hemophilia? (b) If she is a carrier and marries a normal male, what is the chance of a child being a hemophiliac?



|       |           |           |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
|       | $X^H$     | $X^h$     |
| $X^H$ | $X^H X^H$ | $X^H X^h$ |
| $Y$   | $X^H Y$   | $X^h Y$   |

a.  $\frac{1}{2}$  (50%)b.  $\frac{1}{4}$  (25%)

5. A phenotypically normal man who has a hemophiliac brother marries a homozygous normal woman. What is the probability that any of their children will be hemophiliac?

$X^H Y$   $\times$   $X^H X^H$

0% (None)

6. If a normal-sighted woman whose father was color-blind marries a color-blind man, what is the probability that they will have a son who is color-blind? What is the probability that they will have a color-blind daughter?

|       |           |           |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
|       | $X^C$     | $X^c$     |
| $X^c$ | $X^C X^c$ | $X^c X^c$ |
| $Y$   | $X^C Y$   | $X^c Y$   |

 $\frac{1}{2}$  (50%) $\frac{1}{2}$  (50%)

7. What is the probability that a color-blind woman who marries a man with normal vision will have a color-blind child?

|       |           |         |
|-------|-----------|---------|
|       | $X^C$     | $Y$     |
| $X^c$ | $X^C X^c$ | $X^c Y$ |

 $\frac{1}{2}$  (50%)

8. In fruit flies, white eyes is a sex-linked recessive trait. Normal eye color is red. If a white-eyed male is crossed with a heterozygous female, what proportion of the offspring will have red eyes?

|       |           |         |
|-------|-----------|---------|
|       | $X^R$     | $Y$     |
| $X^R$ | $X^R X^R$ | $X^R Y$ |
| $X^r$ | $X^R X^r$ | $X^r Y$ |

R = red

r = white

 $\frac{1}{2}$  (50%)