IZMIR BIOMEDICINE AND GENOME CENTER

İBG NADİR

RareBoost ERA-CHAIR PROJECT

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Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center - RareBoost Project

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY (DMD)

What is DMD?

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is a common neuromuscular disease that causes progressive muscle weakness and may affect learning abilities.

What causes DMD?

DMD is caused by a mutation in the dystrophin gene, which is crucial for muscle function and repair. Without dystrophin, muscles weaken over time.

Is DMD a genetic disease?

Duchenne can be passed from parent to child, or it can be the result of random spontaneous genetic mutations, which may occur during any pregnancy.

Why does DMD usually affect boys?

DMD mostly affects boys because they have only one X chromosome. If the dystrophin gene on their X chromosome is mutated, they will develop DMD.

What are the symptoms of DMD?

DMD symptoms start with muscle weakness, affecting the proximal muscles first (close to the core of the body). Early signs include difficulty jumping, running, and walking. Later, heart and breathing muscles are also affected.

What is Becker muscular dystrophy?

Becker muscular dystrophy is similar to DMD but progresses more slowly. Symptoms may start in childhood or later.

How is DMD treated?

Treatments aim to slow down the progression of the disease, and there are emerging gene therapies, though options remain limited.

What is the status of DMD research?

Research for DMD treatments include various gene therapy approaches. Some of these are in clinical trials.

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