

Williams syndrome : The experience in a pediatric hospital

M.Cristina Digilio

Medical Genetics, Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital, Rome

**International Conference Williams Syndrome 2022
October 21-12, 2022
Rome**



• **FACIAL ANOMALIES**

• **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY**

• **CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT**

• **STRABISMUS**

• **HERNIAE**

• **HYPERTENSION**

• **GROWTH DEFICIENCY**



Multidisciplinary medical team

- **NEUROPSYCHIATRY**

- **CARDIOLOGY**

- **OPHTHALMOLOGY**

- **SURGERY**

- **NEPHROLOGY**

- **ENDOCRINOLOGY**

.....





- **THE DIAGNOSIS**

- **CLINICAL MANAGEMENT**

- **GENETIC COUNSELING**

THE DIAGNOSIS

Before the availability of a diagnostic test, the average age of diagnosis was 6.4 years

Colleen A. Morris, 2001



THE DIAGNOSTIC SUSPECT IN THE FIRST YEAR OF AGE

Gastroenterology: Feeding difficulties

Neurology: Developmental delay

Surgery: Inguinal hernia

Cardiology: Congenital heart defect



Scored Points*	
Growth (Past or Present Evidence of) <i>If 3 of 5 items are checked, score 1 point</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-term birth > 41 wk gestation	<input type="checkbox"/> Prolonged colic > 4 m irritability
<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to thrive/height and weight < 5th percentile	<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic constipation
<input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting or gastroesophageal reflux	
Behavior and Development <i>If 3 of 6 items are checked, score 1 point</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Overly friendly personality	<input type="checkbox"/> Visuospatial problems
<input type="checkbox"/> Hypersensitivity to sound	<input type="checkbox"/> Delayed speech acquisition, followed by excessive talking
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety	
<input type="checkbox"/> Developmental delay or mental retardation	
Facial Features <i>If 8 of 17 items are checked, score 3 points</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bitemporal narrowing	<input type="checkbox"/> Broad brow
<input type="checkbox"/> Epicanthic folds or flat nasal bridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Periorbital fullness
<input type="checkbox"/> Strabismus (present or past)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stellate lacy iris pattern
<input type="checkbox"/> Short nose or anteversion of nares	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulbous or full nasal tip
<input type="checkbox"/> Full cheeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Malar hypoplasia (flat cheek bones)
<input type="checkbox"/> Long philtrum	<input type="checkbox"/> Full prominent lips
<input type="checkbox"/> Small, widely spaced teeth	<input type="checkbox"/> Malocclusion
<input type="checkbox"/> Wide mouth	<input type="checkbox"/> Small jaw
<input type="checkbox"/> Prominent ear lobes	
Cardiovascular Problems (by Echocardiography) (a) <i>If 1 of 2 items are checked, score 5 points</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> SVAS*	<input type="checkbox"/> Peripheral pulmonary artery stenosis
Cardiovascular Problems (b) <i>If 1 of 3 items are checked, score 1 point</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other congenital heart disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiac murmur	
Connective Tissue Abnormality <i>If 2 of 6 items are checked, score 2 points</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hoarse voice	<input type="checkbox"/> Long neck or sloped shoulders
<input type="checkbox"/> Inguinal hernia	<input type="checkbox"/> Joint limitation or laxity
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowel or bladder diverticula	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectal prolapse
Calcium Studies <i>If 1 of 2 items are checked, score 2 points</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hypercalcemia	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypercalciuria
Total Points: _____	

* If the score is < 3, a diagnosis of Williams syndrome is unlikely. If the score is ≥ 3, FISH studies should be considered. (Mean score for Williams syndrome was 9 [standard deviation = 2.86]. The scoring system is based on a study of 107 persons with Williams syndrome [confirmed by FISH] evaluated by Colleen A. Morris, MD; Frank Greenberg, MD; Paige Kaplan, MD; Martin Levinson, MD; and Barbara Pober, MD; with data analysis by Carolyn B. Mervis, PhD and Byron F. Robinson, MA; presented at the 1994 Williams Syndrome Association Convention; July 31, 1994; San Diego, CA.)

* If supravulvar aortic stenosis (SVAS) is present, referral to a geneticist and FISH studies are recommended.

THE DIAGNOSIS

PEDIATRICS®

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Score > 3

Suspect of of Williams syndrome

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
Committee on Genetics

**Health Care Supervision for Children With
Williams Syndrome**



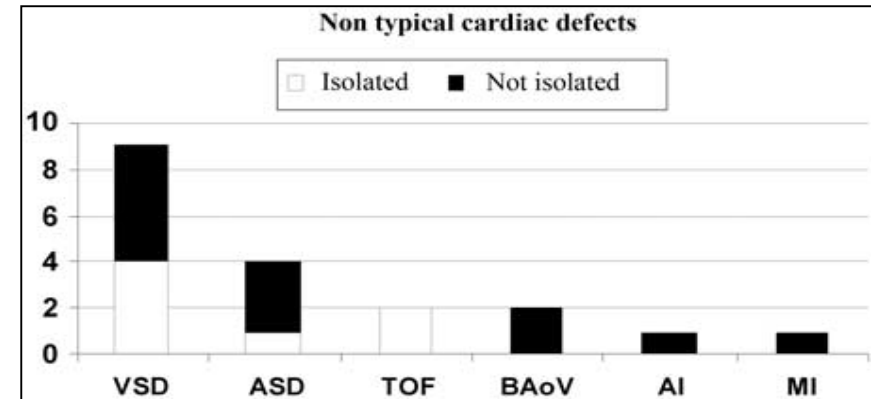
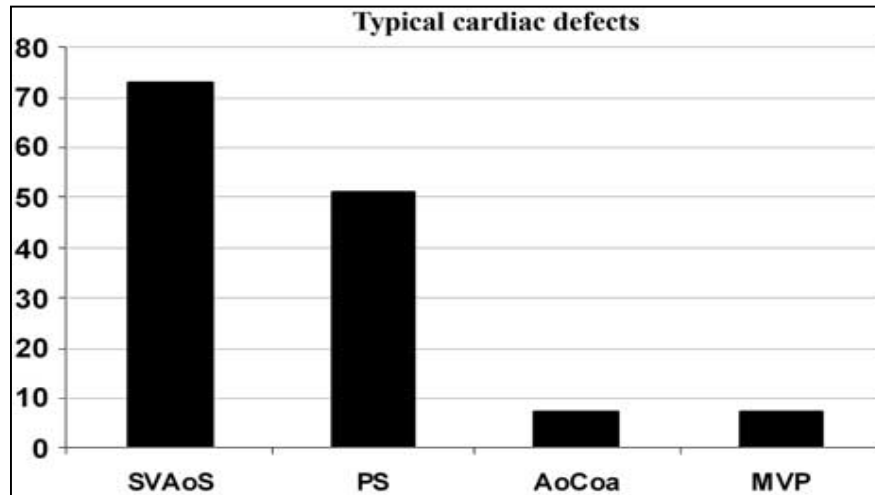
THE DIAGNOSIS

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT

- **SUPRAVALVULAR AORTIC STENOSIS**
- **PERIPHERAL PULMONARY STENOSIS**



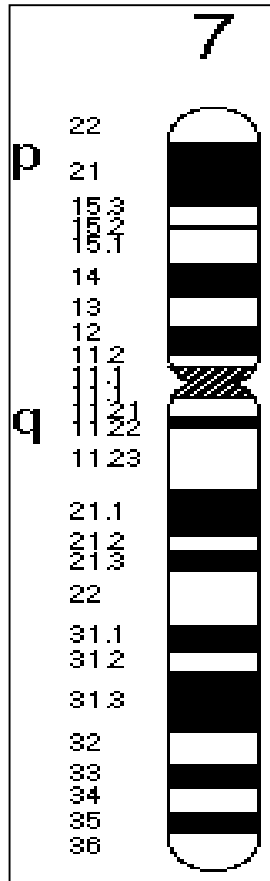
TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL



New Findings concerning Cardiovascular Manifestations emerging from Long-term Follow-up of 150 patients with the Williams-Beuren-Beuren syndrome

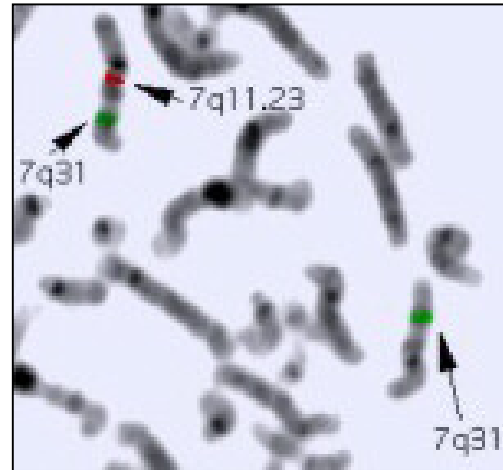
Alessia Del Pasqua, Gabriele Rinelli, Alessandra Toscano, Roberta Iacobelli, Cristina Digilio, Bruno Marino, Claudia Saffirio, Sergio Mondillo, Luciano Pasquini, Stephen Pruett Sanders, Andrea de Zorzi

Cardiology in the Young (2009), 19, 563–567



THE DIAGNOSIS

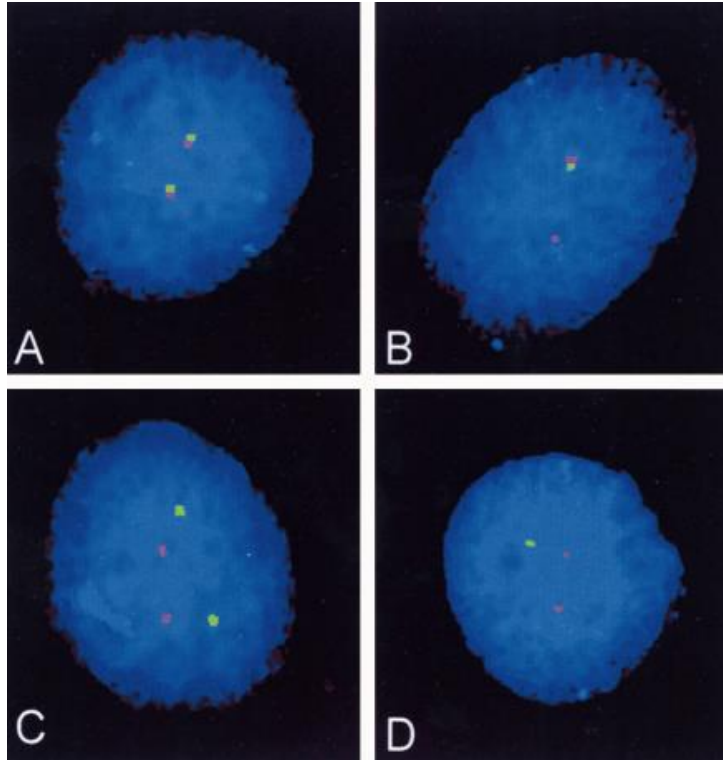
Microdeletion 7q11.23



<p>FISH</p> <p>Fluorescent in situ hybridization</p>
--

Fluorescent in situ hybridization

THE DIAGNOSIS



Diagnosis of DiGeorge and Williams syndromes using FISH analysis of peripheral blood smears

A. Novelli, M. Sabani, A. Caiola, M. C. Digilio, A. Giannotti, R. Mingarelli, G. Novelli* and B. Dallapiccola

Molecular and Cellular Probes (1999) **13**, 303–307

THE DIAGNOSIS

Atypical deletions

- **ELN gene: cardiovascular malformations and facial anomalies**
- **Geni ELN + LIMK-1: cardiovascular anomalies and typical cognitive profile**
- **Large deletions (HIP1 and YWHAG genes): susceptibility to autistic traits and epilepsy**
- **Deletions excluding BAZ1B and FZD9 genes; mild facial features and moderate cognitive deficit**

Smaller and larger deletions of the Williams Beuren syndrome region implicate genes involved in mild facial phenotype, epilepsy and autistic traits

Fusco C, Micale L, Augello B, Pellico MT, Menghini D, Alfieri P, Digilio MC, Mandriani B, Carella M, Palumbo O, Vicari S, Merla G.

Eur J Hum Genet (2014) 22, 64–70



THE DIAGNOSIS

Atypical deletions

**Atypical deletion
DISTAL
NOT including ELN gene**

**Including
CLIP2, GTF2IRD1 e GTF2I,
HIP1 genes**

**Neurobehavioral phenotype
Facial anomalies
Autism (HIP1)**

**Atypical 7q11.23 deletions excluding ELN gene result
in Williams–Beuren syndrome craniofacial features
and neurocognitive profile**

*Viola Alesi | Sara Loddo | Valeria Orlando | Silvia Genovese |
Silvia Di Tommaso | Maria Teresa Liambo | Daniele Pompili | Daniele
Ferretti | Chiara Calacci | Giorgia Catino | Roberto Falasca | Maria Lisa
Dentici | Antonio Novelli | Maria Cristina Digilio | Bruno Dallapiccola*

Am J Med Genet. 2021;185A:242–249



• CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

Clinical Guidelines

- **Dyscherne**
- **American Academy of Pediatrics**
- **Italian guidelines**

Management of Williams Syndrome Clinical Guidelines

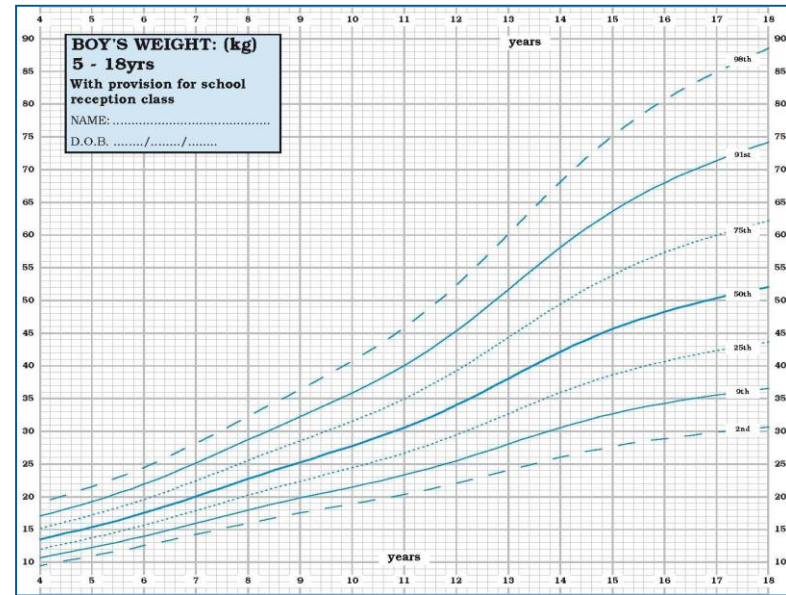
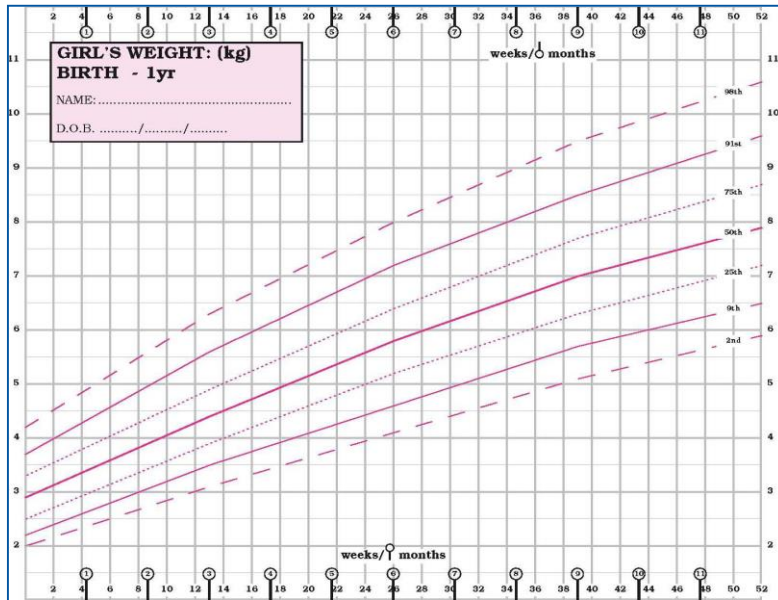
Recommendations for the management of
Williams Syndrome

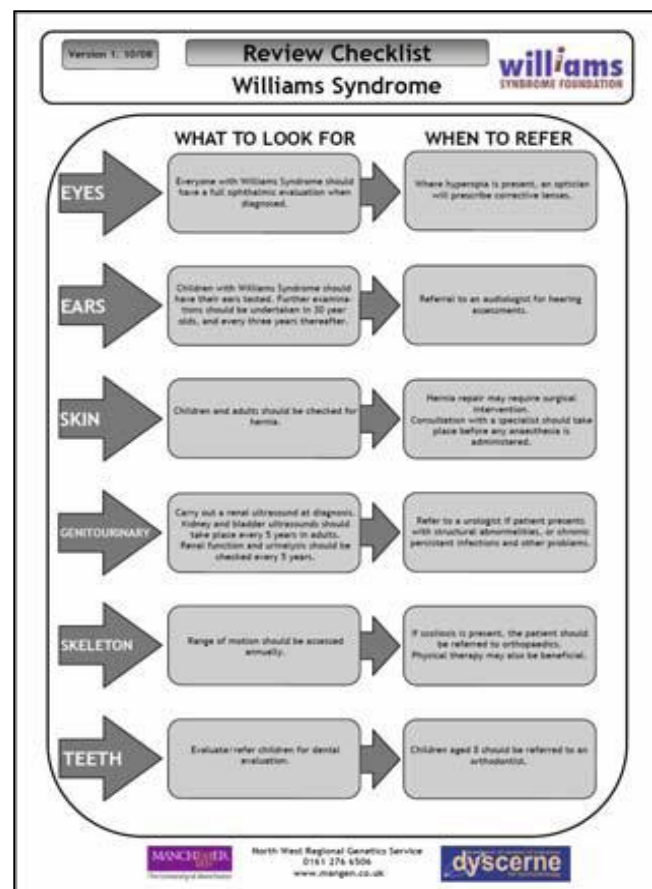
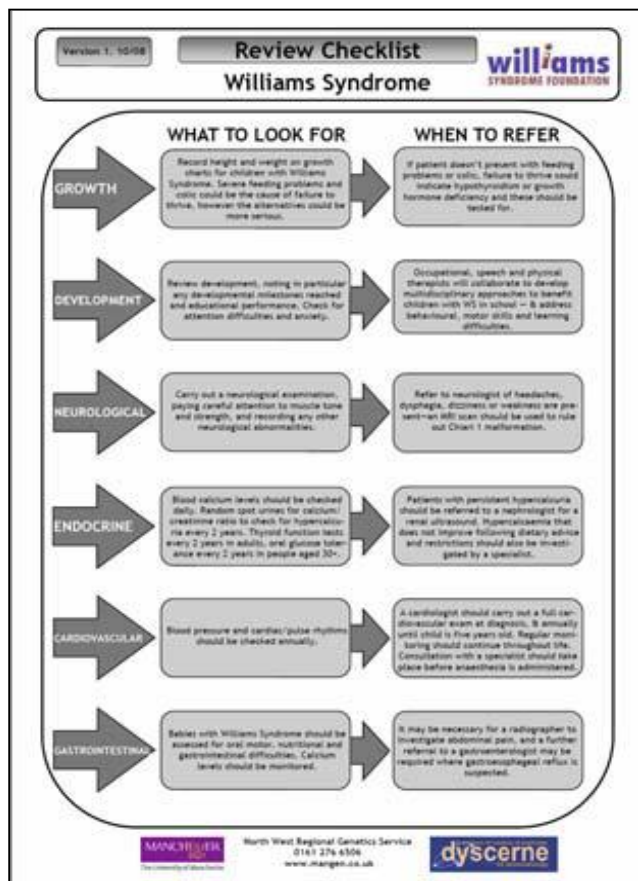
- ~ *in neonates & infancy (1)* ~
- ~ *in childhood (1)* ~
- ~ *in adolescence (1)* ~
- ~ *in adulthood (1)* ~



• CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

Management of Williams Syndrome Clinical Guidelines





- **CLINICAL MANAGEMENT**

FREQUENCY OF CLINICAL FEATURES

- **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY:** 97%
- **CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT:** 80%
- **STRABISMUS:** 50%
- **HERNIAE:** 40%
- **HYPERTENSION:** 20%



• CLINICAL MANAGEMENT

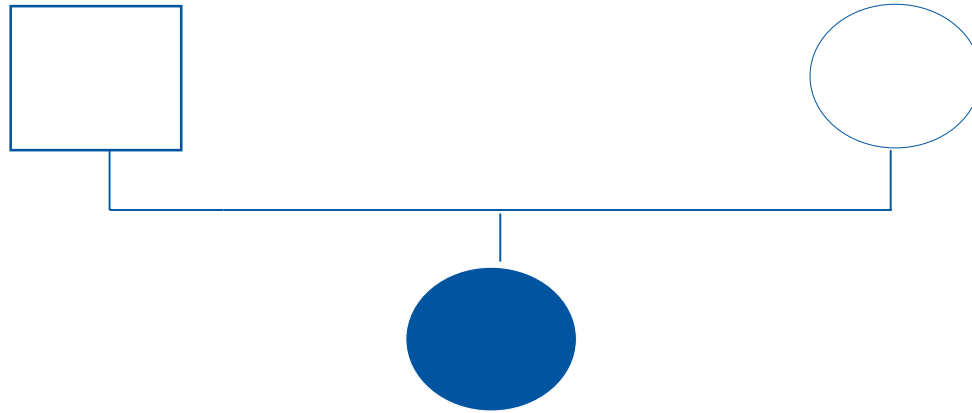
- **Attention to vasculopathies (peripheral, coronaric, cerebral)**
- **Possibility to perform coronaric angiography before cardiac surgery**
- **Consider the possibility to experience intubation difficulties or abnormal reaction to drugs**
- **Attention to miocardial functional anomalies of the left ventricle (also in the absence of SVAS or hypertension)**
- **Attention to coronaric stenosis (also in the absence of SVAS)**

Genetic syndromes and congenital heart defects: how is surgical management affected?

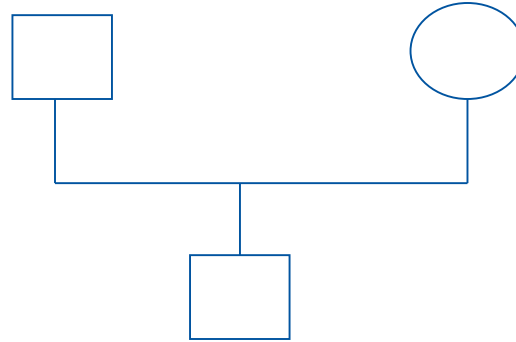
Formigari R, Michielon G, Digilio MC, Piacentini G, Carotti A, Giardini A, Di Donato RM, Marino B.

European Journal of Cardio-thoracic Surgery 35 (2009) 606—614

GENETIC COUNSELING

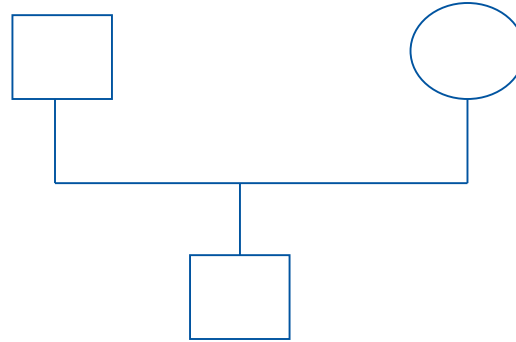


GENETIC COUNSELING



- GENERALLY “**DE NOVO**” DELETION IN THE FAMILY

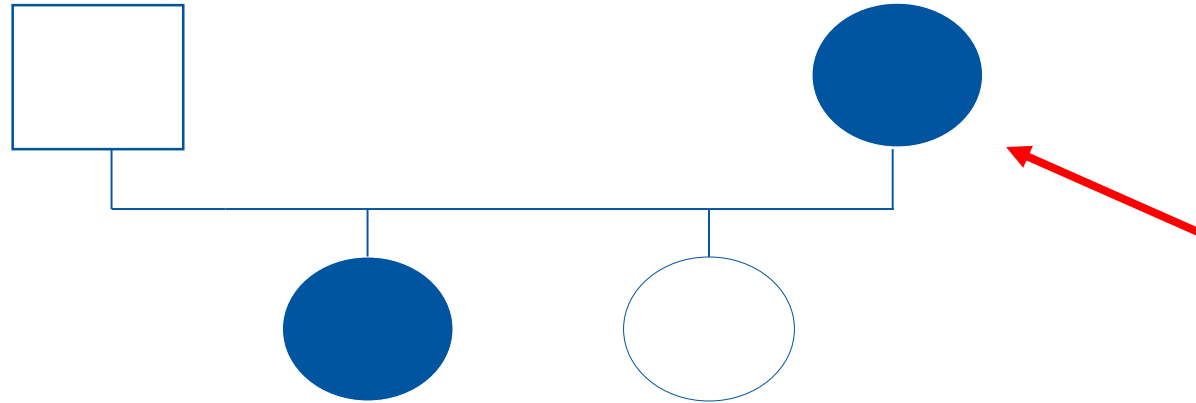
GENETIC COUNSELING



- “DE NOVO” DELETION IN THE FAMILY
- **HEALTHY PARENTS:** REPRODUCTIVE RISK FOR WS IS **THE SAME** OF THAT IN GENERAL POPULATION

GENETIC COUNSELING

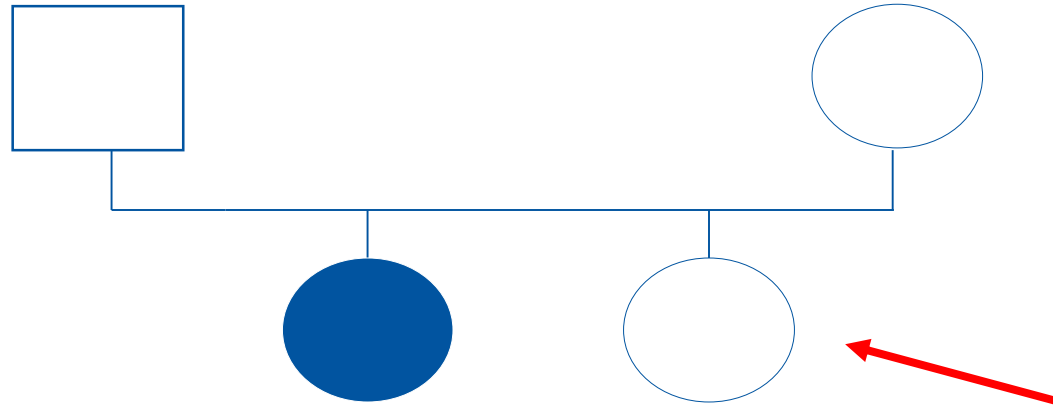
PATIENT WITH WILLIAMS SYNDROME:



RECURRENCE RISK FOR WS : 50%

GENETIC COUNSELING

BROTHERS / SISTERS OF A PATIENT WITH WS



REPRODUCTIVE RISK FOR WILLIAMS SD IS

THE SAME OF THAT OF GENERAL POPULATION



Thank you

