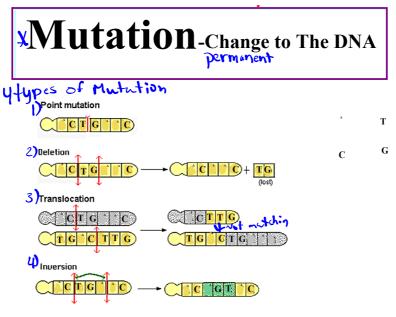
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Mutations of Chromosomes

What is a gene mutation and how do mutations occur?

A gene mutation is a permanent hange in the DNA sequence that makes up a gene.

Mutations range in size from a single DNA building block (DNA base) to a large segment of a chromosome.

Gene mutations occur in two ways:

1) They can be inherited from a parent

Mutations that are passed from parent to child are called hereditary mutations. This type of mutation is present throughout a person's life in virtually every cell in the body

Gene mutations occur in two ways:

2)Acquired mutations - a change in the DNA due to some environmental factor, such as ultraviolet radiation from the sun, or can occur if a mistake is made as DNA copies itself during cell division.

Acquired mutations in somatic cells (cells other than sperm and egg cells) cannot be passed on to the next generation.

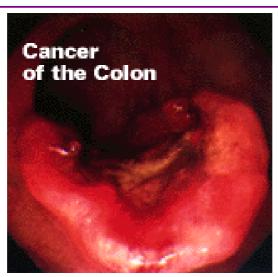
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Carcinogen -A substance that can cause a mutation



Ex. -Viruses, radiation & hazardous chemicals

Cancer -Out of control cell division (mitosis)



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