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| **Atypical sex chromosome patterns** | |
| Klinefelter’s syndrome | Turner’s syndrome |
| How does it link to gender? | How does it link to gender? |
| **Can use to see the impact of nature on gender**  If sufferers have these differences compared to non-suffers- more talkative, higher reading ability then we can infer that these differences have a biological basis AND are a direct result of abnormal chromosomes. So therefore “nature” has a powerful effect on behaviour and psychology. | |
| **But nature vs nurture**  It is hard to separate nature and nurture because………..  So difficult when trying to assess the contribution of biology and socialisation in terms of psychological differences. | |
| **Issues with generalisability**  Caution should always be taken when drawing conclusions from such an unusual and unrepresentative sample as there is lack of generalisability from atypical individual to the general population. | Socially sensitive  Both Klinefelter’s syndrome and Turner’s syndrome can be diagnosed prenatally. This makes the research socially sensitive, as it may lead to mother’s opting to have their pregnancies terminated on discovering that the foetus has the atypical chromosomal pattern so although the research leads to useful applications there are serious ethical issues also associated with it. |
| **Application**  Continued research into atypical sex chromosome patterns is likely to lead to earlier and more accurate diagnoses of both syndromes, and could lead to more positive outcomes in the future. **Herlihy et al (2011)** found that those who had been identified and treated from a very young age had significant benefits compared to those who had been diagnosed in adulthood. Also, testosterone replacement therapy can help people with Klinefelter’s syndrome increase their hormone levels towards a normal range, which can help produce bigger muscles, deepen the voice and stimulate facial and body hair growth, potentially increasing the quality of life for these individuals. Growth hormone injections are beneficial for some individuals with Turner’s syndrome, increasing their adult height by a few inches. These injections often begin in early childhood, therefore without early detection of the disorder, made possible by the research,this benefit could not be achieved. So a research into atypical sex chromosome patterns is useful. | |