

formation. However, when the centromeres are close to each other, the inactivation process can occur later, leading to mosaicism for centromere inactivation. Vig and Zinkowski²³ observed centromere separation in dicentric chromosomes at the metaphase-anaphase point. In prometaphase, most dicentrics showed two primary constrictions. However, 18% already showed premature centromere separation of one centromere, suggesting the activity of only one centromere. There was consistency from cell to cell with respect to which centromere separated early. By metaphase, 95% of the dicentrics showed premature separation of one centromere.

After the acrocentrics, chromosome 18 is most frequently involved in non-Robertsonian heterodiscentrics (10 cases). The high frequency of involvement of this chromosome may reside in the fact that both 18p- and 18q- are viable syndromes. Other chromosomes are involved more or less randomly (table 1).

In conclusion, our cases indicate further the predominance of acrocentric chromosomes in stable dicentric autosomes. Most of them will reach stability by inactivating one centromere and will be functionally monodiscentric. If an acrocentric is involved, its centromere is most often the inactivated one.

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Correction

In the February 2000 issue of the journal, on page 88, in the paper "Haim-Munk syndrome and Papillon-Lefèvre syndrome are allelic mutations in cathepsin C", we regret that Dr Zlotogorski's name was misspelt.