case of partial trisomy 14q an adolescent girl had precocious puberty. In our case normal puberty occurred in a severely mentally and physically retarded male, approximately 10 years later than normal. He would appear to be the oldest case reported.

The main medical problem is the establishment of an adequate anticonvulsant medication regimen without causing undue sedation.

**References**


Correspondence and requests for reprints to Dr A Smith, Cytogenetics Unit, Oliver Latham Laboratory, Macquarie Hospital, PO Box 169, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Australia.

**Familial transmission of autosomal whole arm translocation**

Centric fission followed by centromeric fusion of either heterologous or homologous non-acrocentric chromosomes is a very rare chromosome rearrangement leading to whole arm translocations in man. Familial transmission has been reported by Breg et al and Schober and Fonatsch. Breg et al reported an apparently balanced t(11p17q;11q17p) in a five year old girl with 18q deletion and her phenotypically normal mother. Schober and Fonatsch described seven balanced carriers of a t(1p19q;1q19p) in a large family without any evidence of reproductive failure or chromosomal imbalance.

We recently studied another type of heterologous whole arm translocation, t(6p10q;6q10p) (fig 1), in a 24 year old normal female (II.1, fig 2) who had three first trimester spontaneous abortions after the birth of a normal daughter. Chromosomal analysis was normal in her two sisters, but the same type of translocation was found in a maternal cousin (II.4) whose second and third pregnancies ended in spontaneous abortion. Prenatal diagnosis was performed in the fourth pregnancy and showed a male fetus with a normal chromosome complement.

The present family is the first in which a heterologous whole arm translocation was detected by the occurrence of

![Figure 1](http://jmg.bmj.com/)

**Fig 1** G banded partial karyotype of II-1 with the whole arm translocation t(6p10q;6q10p); the rearranged chromosomes are on the right.

![Figure 2](http://jmg.bmj.com/)

**Fig 2** Pedigree of the family.

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recurrrent fetal wastage in the translocation carriers. As in the two other reported families, the balanced transmission of the heterologous whole arm translocation appeared to be harmless for the carrier offspring in the present family.

**J P Fryns, A Kleczkowska, and H Van den Berghe**

*Centre for Human Genetics, University of Leuven, Herestraat 49, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.*

**References**


Correspondence and requests for reprints to Dr J P Fryns, Centre for Human Genetics, University of Leuven, Herestraat 49, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium.
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