

Mutation (point)

Modul no. 1: Animal Genetics

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Mutation

Mutation is a sudden, heritable change appearing in an individual as the result of :

- change in the structure of a gene (**gene mutation**);
- changes in the structure of chromosomes (**chromosome mutation**);
- changes in the number of chromosomes (**genome mutation**).

Gene mutation

Gene = point mutation is a change in the DNA sequence that makes up a gene. That mutation caused change in the order or number of nucleotides in the DNA structure of a gene.

We distinguish mutations with an effect on:

- DNA sequence
- amino acid sequence
- reading frame
- function of the protein

Effect on DNA sequence

- **substitution** – a single nucleotide is substituted with (or exchanged for) a different nucleotide:
 - *transition mutation* – when a purine base is substituted for the other purine or one pyrimidine is substituted for the other pyrimidine
 - *transversion mutation* – when a purine replaces a pyrimidine (or vice versa)
- **inversion** – section of DNA is reversed
- **insertion** – add one or more extra nucleotides into the DNA
- **deletion** – remove one or more nucleotides from the DNA

Insertions and deletion can alter the reading frame of the gene.



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Effect on DNA sequence

Transition **TA** for **CG**

G C **C** A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C G **G** T C T G A T

Transversion **TA** for **GC**

G C **G** A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C G **C** T C T G A T

↙ **T** Insertion

G C T A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C G A T C T G A T

↗ **C** Deletion

G ~~X~~ T A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C G A T C T G A T

G C T A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C G A T C T G A T

ORIGINAL DNA MOLECULE

G **T** C T A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C **A** G A T C T G A T

Inversion

G **T** C A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C **A** G T C T G A T

G T A G A C T A
| | | | | | | |
C A T C T G A T

Effect on amino acid sequence

- *missense mutations* - a codon change causes a different amino acid to be inserted into the polypeptide chain
- *neutral mutations* - mutations cause one amino acid to be replaced with another amino acid with similar properties, so the change is less pronounced
- *silent mutations* - on the basis of the degeneracy of the genetic code, the inclusion of the same amino acid occurs despite a different codon



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Effect on amino acid sequence

ORIGINAL DNA MOLECULE

```
GCTAGACTA
| | | | |
CGATCTGAT
Ala Arg Leu
```

Missense mutation

```
GCTAGCCTA
| | | | |
CGATC GGAT
Ala Ser Leu
```

Neutral mutation

```
GCTAAACTA
| | | | |
CGATT TGAT
Ala Lys Leu
```

Silent mutation

```
GCTAGGCTA
| | | | |
CGATC CGAT
Ala Arg Leu
```

Effect on reading frame

The **reading frame** is the way in which nucleotide sequences are interpreted into amino acid sequences.

- ***nonsense mutations*** - changing the codon for an amino acid to a STOP codon (UAG, UAA or UGA) causes premature termination of translation on the ribosome
- ***frameshift mutations*** - are a special type of mutations, the essence of which is the insertion or deletion of a number of nucleotides that is not a multiple of 3, leading to a shift in the reading of codons on the ribosome, resulting in the insertion of completely different amino acids from the site of the mutation



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Effect on reading frame

ORIGINAL DNA MOLECULE

GCTAGATACCTA
| | | | | | | |
CGATCTATGGAT
Ala Arg Tyr Leu

Nonsense mutation

GCTAGATA**G**CTA
| | | | | | | |
CGATCTAT**C**GAT
Ala Arg **STOP**

Deletion

GCTA**X**ATACCTA
| | | | | | | |
CGATCTATGGAT

Frameshift mutation

GCTAATACCTA
| | | | | | | |
CGATTATGGAT
Ala **Asn Thr**

Effect on function of the protein

- ***gain-of-function mutation*** - the mutated protein acquired new new properties, and therefore the phenotype of such a mutation is predominantly dominant
- ***loss-of-function mutation*** - the mutated protein is non-functional, but the second copy (normal allele) is usually sufficient to cover the needs of the organism, therefore this mutation is recessive.
- ***dominant negative mutation*** - the mutant allele has such a dominant phenotype that its product is antagonistic in expression to the product of the normal allele, resulting in loss of function despite the presence of one normal allele.





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