Complex aneuploidy triggers autophagy and p53-mediated apoptosis and impairs the second lineage segregation in human preimplantation embryos

Marius Regin[1], Yingnan Lei[1], Edouard Couvreu De Deckersberg[1], Yves Guns[2], Pieter Verdyck[3], Greta Verheyen[2], Hilde Van de Velde[2,4], Karen Sermon[1,#], Claudia Spits[1,#,*]

[1]Research Group Reproduction and Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Jette, Brussels, Belgium

[2]Brussels IVF, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Jette, Brussels, Belgium

[3]Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel (UZ Brussel), Clinical Sciences, Research Group Reproduction and Genetics, Centre for Medical Genetics, Brussels, Belgium

[4]Research Group Reproduction and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Jette, Brussels, Belgium

[#]These authors contributed equally to this work.

*Corresponding author: Claudia.Spits@vub.be

Abstract

About 70% of human cleavage stage embryos show chromosomal mosaicism, falling to 20% in blastocysts. Chromosomally mosaic human blastocysts can implant and lead to healthy new-borns with normal karyotypes. Studies in mouse embryos and human gastruloids have shown that aneuploid cells show proteotoxic stress, autophagy and p53 activation and that they are eliminated from the epiblast by apoptosis while being rather tolerated in the trophectoderm. These observations suggest a selective loss of aneuploid cells from human embryos, but the underlying mechanisms are not yet fully understood. In this study we investigated the cellular consequences of aneuploidy in a total of 85 human blastocysts. RNA-sequencing of trophectoderm cells showed transcriptional signatures of a deregulated p53 pathway and apoptosis, which was proportionate to the level of chromosomal imbalance. Immunostaining revealed that aneuploidy triggers proteotoxic stress, autophagy and apoptosis in aneuploid embryos. Total cell numbers were lower in aneuploid embryos, due to a decline both in trophectoderm and in epiblast/primitive endoderm cell numbers. While lower cell numbers in trophectoderm may be attributed to apoptosis, it appeared that aneuploidy impairs the second lineage segregation and primitive endoderm formation in particular. Our findings might explain why fully aneuploid embryos fail to further develop and we hypothesize that the same mechanisms lead to removal of aneuploid cells from mosaic embryos. This hypothesis needs further study as we did not analyse chromosomal mosaic embryos. Finally, we demonstrated clear differences with previous findings in the mouse, emphasizing the need for human embryo research to understand the consequences of aneuploidy.

Introduction

Aneuploidy is common in human preimplantation embryos from both natural (Munné *et al.*, 2020a) and medically assisted reproduction cycles (Voullaire *et al.*, 2000; Wells and Delhanty, 2000; Vanneste *et al.*, 2009; Johnson *et al.*, 2010; Chavez *et al.*, 2012; Mertzanidou *et al.*, 2013b, 2013a; Chow *et al.*, 2014; Fragouli *et al.*, 2019; Popovic *et al.*, 2020; Starostik *et al.*, 2020; Capalbo *et al.*, 2021; Yang *et al.*, 2021). Depending on the study, up to 80% of human cleavage stage embryos are found to be aneuploid, of which 70% show chromosomal mosaicism, i.e. the presence of at least two cell lineages with different genomic content (Regin *et al.*, 2022). The reasons behind this high rate of chromosomal abnormalities of mitotic origin is still largely unknown (McCoy, 2017) but could be a combination of a weak spindle assembly checkpoint (SAC) that is uncoupled of apoptosis until the blastocyst stage (Jacobs *et al.*, 2017; Vázquez-Diez *et al.*, 2019), in combination with an abundancy of transcripts of anti-apoptotic genes in cleavage-stage embryos (Yan *et al.*, 2013). After embryonic genome activation, the rapidly increasing expression of pro-apoptotic genes along with the full functionality of the SAC establishes the control of mitotic errors.

It is by now well established that chromosomally mosaic embryos can result in healthy new-borns with normal karyotypes, implying a progressive and selective loss of aneuploid cells during development (Greco *et al.*, 2015; Fragouli *et al.*, 2017, 2019; Munné *et al.*, 2017, 2020b; Capalbo *et al.*, 2021; Viotti *et al.*, 2021; Yang *et al.*, 2021). In the preimplantation embryo, several studies have shown that the proportion of aneuploid cells within the embryo decreases three days post fertilization (3dpf) (van Echten-Arends *et al.*, 2011; Fragouli *et al.*, 2019; Yang *et al.*, 2021) with no apparent preferential allocation of aneuploid cells during the first lineage segregation event to either trophectoderm (TE) or inner cell mass (ICM) (Capalbo *et al.*, 2013; Popovic *et*

al., 2018; Starostik et al., 2020; Ren et al., 2022). However, aneuploid cells can be excluded as cell debris (Orvieto et al., 2020) or allocated to the blastocoel cavity and to peripheral cells that do not participate in the formation of the embryo (Griffin et al., 2022). In some studies, (Starostik et al., 2020; Griffin et al., 2022) the TE contained a slightly higher number of aneuploid cells than the ICM, without reaching statistical significance. In their landmark paper, (Bolton et al., 2016) found a quite similar but statistically significant 6% TE enrichment in mouse embryos treated with the SAC inhibitor reversine to induce mosaic aneuploidy. This small enrichment fell in the same confidence interval as the Starostik study, therefore TE enrichment cannot be ruled out in the human embryo. After implantation, aneuploid cells become progressively more frequent in the trophoblast lineage which is derived from TE cells as compared to the epiblast (EPI) and primitive endoderm (PrE) lineages which are derived from the ICM cells during the second lineage segregation (Starostik et al., 2020). This suggests that the trophoblast cells are more tolerant to aneuploidy, in line with the rate of 1-2% of confined placental mosaicism observed in ongoing pregnancies in the general population (Kalousek and Vekemans, 1996) and with the presence of aneuploid cells in the placental lineages only (Zamani Esteki et al., 2019). This is further supported by a recent study showing that genetic mosaicism is a normal feature of the placenta and is due to genetic bottlenecks that occur early in development (Coorens et al., 2021). Taken together, strong evidence supports the selective elimination of aneuploid cells from the embryonic lineage in the pre- and post-implantation development, while the placenta appears to be more tolerant to genetic imbalances.

From a cellular point of view, aneuploidy has two types of consequences. Imbalances of a specific chromosome, such as trisomy 21 or trisomy 18, can result in different phenotypes, as evidenced by the human Down and Edwards syndromes. These

imbalances can manifest early on during early embryo development (Licciardi *et al.*,

2018; Fuchs Weizman *et al.*, 2019; Sanchez-Ribas *et al.*, 2019; Shahbazi *et al.*, 2020).

Moreover, aneuploidy as such also elicits two highly conserved intracellular stress

responses, that have been found from yeast and plants to mouse and human cells

(reviewed in: Santaguida and Amon, 2015; Zhu et al., 2018; Chunduri and Storchová,

2019; Chunduri et al., 2022; Krivega et al., 2022), and which are likely at the basis of

the selective clearance of aneuploid cells during development. First, aneuploidy results

in gene-dosage defects, leading to an unbalanced protein pool and proteotoxic stress

(Torres *et al.*, 2007; Huettel *et al.*, 2008; Williams *et al.*, 2008; Tang *et al.*, 2011;

Oromendia *et al.*, 2012; Stingele *et al.*, 2012; Donnelly *et al.*, 2014; Ohashi *et al.*, 2015).

If this remains unresolved by activation of autophagy (Stingele *et al.*, 2012; Dürrbaum

et al., 2014; Santaguida *et al.*, 2015; Ariyoshi *et al.*, 2016), CASP8/LC3B/p62 may

interact to activate the apoptosis cascade (Pan *et al.*, 2011). Second, aneuploidy

results in replication stress that can lead to DNA-damage, resulting in *p53* activation

(Li *et al.*, 2010; Thompson and Compton, 2010; Santaguida *et al.*, 2017) and ultimately

to cell cycle arrest and apoptosis (reviewed in: Santaguida and Amon, 2015; Zhu et

al., 2018; Regin et al., 2022).

During early embryo development of the mouse, Bolton *et al*. (Bolton *et al.*, 2016)

showed that aneuploid cells are selectively cleared from chimeric embryos generated

from control blastomeres mixed with aneuploid blastomeres obtained using a

treatment with the SAC inhibitor reversine. Later work by the same group showed that

apoptosis of these aneuploid cells requires autophagy and *p53* activation and that

euploid cells in the mouse embryo compensate this cell loss by increased proliferation

(Singla *et al.*, 2020). The authors proposed that the proteotoxic stress in these

aneuploid chimeric mouse embryos activated the p53 pathway, which in turn activated

autophagy and apoptosis. In a recent study using human 2D gastruloids with reversine-induced aneuploidy, apoptosis was only induced in differentiating but not in pluripotent cells, although aneuploidy induced an increase in total nuclear p53 proteins (Yang *et al.*, 2021). The apoptotic response to aneuploidy also seems to be lineage-specific. In the mouse, aneuploid cells in the ICM are eliminated by apoptosis while they are rather tolerated in the TE (Bolton *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, in a follow-up study, (Singla *et al.*, 2020) demonstrated that during the peri-implantation period, aneuploid cells were eliminated from the EPI and the PrE at similar rates, and that the EPI-specific elimination of aneuploid cells by apoptosis is coupled to increased proliferation rates of euploid cells. Similarly, in human gastruloids, aneuploid cells are eliminated by apoptosis from the embryonic germ layers but are tolerated in the TE-like cells (Yang *et al.*, 2021).

The type of aneuploidy and the percentage of aneuploid cells within a euploid/aneuploid mosaic embryo determine its developmental capacity. The viability of mouse embryos inversely correlates to the proportion of aneuploid cells, with 50% of euploid cells being sufficient to sustain normal development (Bolton *et al.*, 2016). This same threshold appears to apply to human embryos, where embryos with less than 50% of aneuploid cells have higher developmental potential than those containing more than 50%, albeit both performing worse than fully euploid embryos (Viotti et al., 2021, Capalbo et al., 2021). Conversely, whole chromosome gains and losses that are present in every cell of the human embryo are usually linked to lethality with the notable exception of trisomies 13 (Patau syndrome), 18 (Edwards syndrome) and 21 (Down syndrome), and sex chromosome abnormalities. Shahbazi *et al.* recently described the consequences of carrying specific meiotic aneuploidies on human embryo development using an *in vitro* implantation model (Shahbazi *et al.*, 2020). They showed

that human embryos with trisomy 15, 16 and 21 and monosomy 21 readily all reached

the blastocyst stage, and that monosomy 21 embryos arrested after implantation while

trisomy 15 and 21 embryos developed further. Interestingly, trisomy 16 embryos

showed a hypoproliferative trophoblast due to excessive *CDH1* expression, a gene

located on chromosome 16.

In this study, we investigated the cellular responses to complex aneuploidy during

human preimplantation development, with a focus on stress response and lineage

segregation events.

Methods

Ethical approval. All experiments have been approved by the local Commission of Medical Ethics of the UZ Brussel (B.U.N. 143201628722) and the Federal Committee for Medical and Scientific Research on Human Embryos *in vitro* (AdV069 and AdV091). Patients from Brussels IVF (UZ Brussel) donated their embryos for research after written informed consent.

Culture of human pre-implantation embryos. We warmed vitrified human blastocysts (5-6dpf) after PGT or at 3dpf using the Vitrification Thaw Kit (Vit Kit-Thaw; Irvine Scientific, USA) following manufacturer's instructions. Embryos were graded before vitrification by experienced clinical embryologists according to Gardner and Schoolcraft criteria (Gardner and Schoolcraft, 1999). Post PGT-embryos were left to recover for 2h in 25 µL droplets of Origio Sequential Blast^{TM} medium (Origio) at 37°C with 5% O_2, 6% CO_2 and 89% N_2, after which they underwent a second TE biopsy (Fig. 1a). For the reversine experiment, we cultured the 3dpf embryos for 24h in the same medium supplemented with 0.5 µM reversine (Stem Cell Technologies) and after wash-out we let them develop until 5dpf and subsequently took a biopsy (Fig. 1b). The PGT embryos (5dpf or 6dpf) used for the second experiment series (Fig. 4a) were cultured for 16h after warming to ensure sufficient time to progress to the second lineage differentiation. Prior to fixation we live-stained all the embryos with either Caspase-3/7 or Caspase-8 (Supplementary Table 30) for 30 min and subsequently removed the zona pellucida using Acidic Tyrode's Solution (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 sec – 2 min and subsequently washed in PBS/2%BSA.

Biopsy procedure. The zona pellucida was opened (15-25µm) on 4dpf using a Saturn Laser (Cooper Surgical). For PGT cycles, expanded good quality embryos were

biopsied on 5dpf; early blastocysts were evaluated again for expansion on 6dpf. Briefly,

embryos were transferred to HEPES buffered medium and biopsied on a Nikon

inversed microscope equipped with a Saturn Laser. The herniated TE cells were then

aspirated and cut using manual laser shoots. In case of sticking cells this was

supported by mechanical cutting. After successful tubing, the blastocysts were vitrified

using CBS-VIT High-Security straws (CryoBioSystem, L'Aigle, France) with

dimethylsulphoxide-ethylene glycol-sucrose as the cryoprotectants (Irvine Scientific

Freeze Kit, Newtownmountkennedy, County Wicklow, Ireland) (Van Landuyt *et al.*,

2011). The TE biopsy for RNA-sequencing (Fig. 1a,b) was performed with the same

procedure, cells were biopsied form the same opening in the zona pellucida.

PGT. During PGT we analyzed a TE sample with multiple cells for each embryo. Next

Generation Sequencing: The chromosomal analysis was performed by WGA

(Sureplex, Illumina) followed by library preparation (KAPA HyperPlus, Roche),

sequencing on a NovaSeq (Illumina) and an *in-house* developed interpretation

pipeline. The analysis has an effective resolution of 5 Mb.

SNP-array: We relied on whole genome amplification (MDA, Repli-G) followed by

genome wide SNP array using Karyomapping (Vitrolife) with Bluefuse software

(Vitrolife). In addition, SNP array data were analyzed with an *in-house* developed

interpretation pipeline for aneuploidy detection.

RNA-sequencing. Multiple (5-10) TE cells were used as input to generate full length

cDNA with the SMART-Seq^{TM} v4 Ultra^{TM} Low Input RNA Kit (Clontech Laboratories,

Inc.) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The quality of cDNA was checked

using the AATI Fragment Analyzer (Advances Analytical). Library preparation was

performed using the KAPA HyperPlus Library Preparation Kit (KAPA Biosystems)

according to the manufacturer's instructions. During cDNA synthesis and library

preparation we used 17 and 11 PCR cycles, respectively. Sequencing was performed

on a NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina) with 25 million reads per sample.

Bioinformatics analysis. Reads were trimmed using cutadapt version 1.11 to remove

the "QuantSEQ FWD" adaptor sequence. We checked the quality of the reads using

the FastQC algorithm (Love *et al.*, 2014). Count tables were generated using STAR

(Dobin *et al.*, 2013) (version 2.5.3) through mapping against the Genome Reference

Consortium Human Build 38 patch release 10 (GRCh38.p10) combined with a general

transfer format (GTF) file, both downloaded from the Ensembl database. The RNA-

sequencing by Expectation Maximization (RSEM) (Li and Dewey, 2011) software

(version 1.3.0) was used to produce the count tables.

Differential gene expression analysis was performed using R-studio (Version 1.1.456)

with the edgeR (Robinson *et al.*, 2009) and limma (Ritchie *et al.*, 2015) packages. We

included genes with a count per million greater than 1 in at least two samples. The

trimmed mean of M values (Robinson and Oshlack, 2010) algorithm was used for

normalization. The normalized counts were then transformed in a log_2 fold-change

(log_2FC) table with their associated statistics. In each comparison, genes with a |

log_2FC | > 1 and an p-value < 0.05 were considered as significantly differentially

expressed.

Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed using the 'investigate gene sets'

function on the website of the Molecular Signature Database (http://www.gsea-

msigdb.org/gsea/msigdb/annotate.jsp). We used all differentially expressed genes

(Supplementary Tables 2, 3) as input and investigated Hallmark, C2 and C5 gene sets

with FDR-q values < 0.05. For the analysis of gene dosage effects, we could only use

the TOP500 differentially expressed genes by p-value since the Molecular Signature

Database changed the cut-off during the period of our data analysis (raw data,

Supplementary Tables 26, 27). In the figures 1f and g we used a supervised approach

and sorted the significantly deregulated gene sets by the total amount of genes in

overlap. Figure 2f was also supervised but the gene sets were sorted by FDR-q value.

Ingenuity Pathway analysis (IPA, Qiagen Inc.) was used to investigate activated,

deregulated and inhibited upstream regulators and canonical pathways. As for the

GSEA we used all differentially expressed genes of our two test sets with their

respective $\log_2$FC and p-value. For the upstream regulators IPA computes z-scores

with associated p-values that are considered significant when $p < 0.05$. If significant, a

z-score > 2 means activated, a z-score < 2 means inhibited and in between means

deregulated. For the canonical pathways IPA computes z-scores with associated p-

values that are considered significant when $p < 0.05$. If significant, we considered a z-

score > 1.5 as activated, a z-score < 1.5 as inhibited and in between as deregulated.

We generated all figures in a supervised approach.

Transcription factor analysis of all differentially expressed genes was performed using

Enrichr (https://maayanlab.cloud/Enrichr/). We selected the outputs from ChEA 2016

and ENCODE ChEA consensus and considered those transcription factors as

significant with a p-value < 0.05.

The copy number variation (CNV) analysis was inferred from our RNA-sequencing

data set using *inferCNV* R package (version 1.7.1) (Inferring copy number alterations

from   tumor   single   cell   RNA-Seq   data

(https://github.com/broadinstitute/inferCNV/wiki"). Our count table was used as input

and compared to the reference set which in our case was the expression data of the

euploid embryos. The analysis followed the standard workflow in inferCNV with the

following parameters: "denoise" mode, value of 1 was used for the "cutoff", prediction

of CNV states using default Hidden Markov Models (HMM) method,

"cluster_by_groups" was set to TRUE, and other values were set by default.

All figures were generated using R-studio (Version 1.1.456).

Gene dosage analysis. We calculated the total number of loci with imbalanced gene

expression based on the genetic abnormalities identified during the PGT. For this, we

used the number of coding loci per chromosomal region as listed in the ENSMBL

database (ensemble.org) and included both gains and losses, either mosaic or

homogeneously present, and both full chromosomal aneuploidy as well as segmental

abnormalities. The embryos were ranked based on the total number of imbalanced loci

and separated into a low- and a high-imbalanced gene dosage group. The low-dosage

group contained the embryos with the lowest 50th percentile in number of unbalanced

loci, the high-dosage group the embryos with 50th percentile or higher (Supplementary

Table 25, 29).

Immunocytochemistry. Embryos were fixed using 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma-

Aldrich) for 10 min, washed three times in PBS/2%BSA for 5 min and then

permeabilized using 0.1% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich) for 20 min followed by another

washing cycle. We used 10% FBS supplemented with 2% BSA for 1h to block non-

specific protein binding. The embryos were then incubated overnight with primary

antibodies (Supplementary Table 30) diluted in blocking buffer at 4°C. The next day,

they underwent another washing cycle using PBS/2%BSA and were then incubated

with secondary antibodies (1:200, Supplementary Table 26) for 1h at room

temperature. After washing, nuclei were stained using Hoechst 33342 (5µg/mL, Life

Technologies) diluted in PBS/2%BSA for 15 min. For imaging we mounted the

embryos on poly-L-lysine coated glass slides (Sigma-Aldrich) in 3µL of PBS. To avoid

flattening of the embryos we used Secure-Seal^{TM} Spacers (9mm diameter, 0.12mm

deep, Thermofisher) before putting the coverslips in place. For the experiments that

required re-staining (Fig. 4a) we imaged the embryos in 3µL PBS/2%BSA in 18 well µ-

Slides (Ibidi) and subsequently recuperated them. After recuperation we

photobleached the embryos stained for CASP3/7 by using maximum laser power of

the 488 nm channel and maximum size of the pinhole for 10 min. The embryos were

then re-stained using rat-anti-GATA4 primary antibody and the matching Alexa Fluor

488 secondary antibody (Supplementary Table 30) (to replace the CASP3/7 staining).

Imaging and image analysis. Confocal imaging was performed using the LSM800

(Zeiss). Z-stacks were taken with a LD C-Apochromat 40x/1.1 NA water immersion

objective in optical sections of 1µm. Nuclei were counted using Arivis Vision 4D (3.4.0).

All other measurements were performed using the Zen 2 (blue edition) software based

on the optical sections and/or orthogonal projections.

Statistics. The type of statistical test and p-values are mentioned in the figure legends.

For experiments that contained groups with small sample sizes we used non-

parametric tests (Mann-Whitney or Kruskal-Wallis test). Fisher-exact test was used to

determine the dependency of the ploidy status on the presence or absence of primitive

endoderm and to test for differences in the quality of the ICM of euploid and aneuploid

embryos. Otherwise we used Student's t-test with Welch's correction when we

assumed normal distribution and unequal standard deviations. We used GraphPad

Prism 9.0.0 or R-studio for statistical testing. The trend analysis regarding gene dosage

effects was performed with SPSS using the Jonkheere-Terpstra test.

Results

Human embryos with meiotic complex aneuploidy show transcriptional signatures of a deregulated p53 pathway and apoptosis

We first tested the hypothesis that chromosomally unbalanced cells are cleared during human preimplantation development by apoptosis, mediated by both sustained p62-LC3B accumulation as a marker for autophagy and DNA-damage-mediated p53 activation. Fifty cryopreserved human blastocysts (5 or 6dpf) that had been previously diagnosed by Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) as either euploid (n=28) or containing non-mosaic complex aneuploidy of at least two whole chromosomes and assumed of meiotic origin (except for one) (n=22, further referred to as aneuploid, Fig. 1a, Supplementary Table 1) underwent a second TE biopsy to collect cells for RNA sequencing. Eleven warmed human cleavage stage embryos that were treated with 0.5 µM reversine from 3dpf to 4dpf and further developed to the blastocyst stage (referred to as reversine-treated embryos, Fig. 1b) were also biopsied on 5dpf to serve as a comparison with the results obtained in the mouse. The concentration of 0.5 µM reversine was chosen based on previous experiments in mouse embryos (Bolton *et al.*, 2016; Singla *et al.*, 2020). Of these, 14 euploid, 20 aneuploid and 11 reversine-treated embryos (total=45) yielded good quality RNA-sequencing results.

Unsupervised hierarchical clustering and principal component analysis using all expressed genes revealed no clustering of the euploid, aneuploid or reversine-treated embryos in distinct groups (Fig. 1c, Supplementary Fig. 1a). We used InferCNV (https://github.com/broadinstitute/inferCNV/wiki") to bioinformatically infer unbalanced chromosomal copy numbers from gene expression data, based on higher or lower expression of genes located on chromosomes with gains or losses respectively (Fig.

1d, Supplementary Fig. 1b, Supplementary Table 1). We compared the outcomes to

the results obtained during PGT and found a match for 45/48 of the full chromosome

aneuploidies, while euploidy was correctly predicted in all cases (Supplementary Fig.

1b). These results show that aneuploidy in human blastocysts results in significant

abnormal gene dosage effects. The exact karyotypes of the reversine-treated embryos

could not be determined since reversine induces different aneuploidies in each cell,

leading to mosaic TE biopsies. However, InferCNV allowed us to determine a trisomy

12 meiotic chromosomal abnormality in one reversine-treated embryo (Supplementary

Figure 1c), confirming that the reversine treatment causes random aneuploidy while

naturally occurring meiotic aneuploidies are readily determined.

Despite the abnormal gene dosage, and in line with the lack of clear clustering in the

PCA, the differential gene expression analysis yielded very few genes with a false

discovery rate (FDR-q-value) under 0.05. These findings are similar to those of other

studies on the transcriptome of aneuploid human embryos (Groff *et al.*, 2019; Maxwell

et al., 2022). Therefore, we used the differential gene expression with a cut-off value

of $|\log_2$ fold change$|>1$ and $-\log_{10}$(p-value)<0.05, and primarily focused on pathway

analysis. We found 547 upregulated and 463 downregulated genes in aneuploid

versus euploid embryos (Fig. 1e, Supplementary Table 2). Amongst the top

upregulated genes was Growth Differentiation Factor 15 (*GDF15*), a gene that has

been found to be upregulated in human aneuploid cells (Dürrbaum *et al.*, 2014)

including aneuploid human embryos (Starostik *et al.*, 2020). When comparing

reversine-treated versus euploid embryos we observed 539 upregulated and 355

downregulated genes (Fig. 1f, Supplementary Table 3). While only 9.6% of the

differentially expressed genes are in common between the aneuploid and reversine-

treated embryos (Fig. 1g, h, Supplementary Table 4), pathway analysis revealed

several commonly deregulated pathways. We identified deregulation of the p53

pathway and apoptosis (FDR q-value < 0.05, Fig. 1i, Supplementary Tables 5, 6) and

deregulation of cell population proliferation, apoptotic process, regulation of cell death,

and cell cycle (Fig. 1j, Supplementary Tables 7, 8). The prediction of p53 activation is

also supported by differential expression of several p53 target genes (Jaiswal *et al.*,

2021), such as *MDM2* and *PPM1D* (feedback); *CDKN1A, BTG2, GADD45A* (cell-cycle

arrest); *TNFRSF10B* (apoptosis), *DDB2* and *RRM2B* (DNA-repair); *FDXR*

(metabolism) and *SESN1* (translation control) (Supplementary Table 2). Other

pathways of interest related to DNA damage and p53, such as cellular response to

DNA damage stimulus and DNA damage response signal transduction by p53 class

mediator were specific to the aneuploid group. Cellular senescence signatures in the

aneuploid embryos and selective autophagy in the reversine-treated group were also

deregulated (Supplementary Tables 9, 10). Ingenuity pathway analysis (IPA) showed

that upstream regulators *CDK19* and *AURK* (cell cycle) and *GAS2L3* and *ANLN* (cell

growth) were inhibited in the aneuploid group (Fig. 1k, Supplementary Table 11). In

line with the GSEA analysis, *p53* was the most activated upstream regulator.

Reversine-treated embryos activated *ATM* which is a well-known sensor of DNA-

damage that mediates target genes such as *p53* (Banin *et al.*, 1998) (Fig. 1l,

Supplementary Table 12). Canonical pathway analysis by IPA confirmed that p53

signalling, autophagy, cell-cycle pathways and senescence are deregulated in

aneuploid embryos (Fig. 1m, Supplementary Table 13). The TE of reversine-treated

embryos showed activated senescence, similar to the mouse reversine-treated

embryos (Bolton *et al.*, 2016) (Fig. 1n, Supplementary Table 14). Transcription factor

analysis identified significant *p53* expression in both aneuploid and reversine-treated

groups (Supplementary Tables 15, 16).

We next compared our set of differentially expressed genes to those identified by other

studies investigating the gene expression of euploid and aneuploid embryos, namely:

mosaic monosomies 4, 7, 10, 15, 19 and mosaic trisomies 15 and 19 (Maxwell *et al.*,

2022), trisomy 16 and monosomy 16 (Fuchs Weizman *et al.*, 2019), monosomy 21

(Sanchez-Ribas *et al.*, 2019) and embryos that contained various types of

chromosomal abnormalities (Vera-Rodriguez *et al.*, 2015; Licciardi *et al.*, 2018;

Starostik *et al.*, 2020; Martin *et al.*, 2023) (detailed overview in Supplementary Table

17). Overall, we found modest overlaps (Supplementary Figure 1d,e, Supplementary

Tables 18-20). Most commonalities were with the data of Starostik et al, where we

found an overlap in 87 genes (2.3%) (Starostik *et al.*, 2020). These included target

genes of the p53 pathway such as *MDM2* and *CDKN1A* (Supplementary Fig. 1d,

Supplementary Table 20). Interestingly, GSEA of these 87 genes identified an

enrichment of intrinsic apoptotic signalling pathway by p53 class mediator and the

apoptotic signalling pathway, in line with the findings of our dataset (Supplementary

Table 19).

High gene-dosage imbalances result in stronger cellular stress signatures in

human embryos

To test if there was a relationship between the level of stress signatures and the size

of chromosomal imbalances in embryos as previously described in cancer (Dürrbaum

and Storchová, 2016), we separated the aneuploid group into a low- and a high-

imbalanced gene dosage group, based on the total number of coding loci that were

affected by the chromosomal abnormalities. The low-dosage group contained the

embryos under the 50th percentile when ranking the embryos from the lowest to the

highest number of unbalanced loci, the high-dosage group the embryos with 50th

percentile or higher (Supplementary Table 21). Hierarchical clustering using the top

500 deregulated genes showed that all high-dosage embryos clustered together and

separated from the euploid embryos, while the low-dosage embryos clustered with

either group (Fig. 2a). Differential gene expression with $|\log_2$ fold change$|>1$ and -

$\log_{10}$(p-value)<0.05 resulted in 404 upregulated and 340 downregulated genes in low-

dosage versus euploid embryos and in 716 upregulated and 627 downregulated genes

in high-dosage versus euploid embryos with an overlap of 104 (10%) between both

aneuploid groups (Fig. 2b-e, Supplementary Tables 22,23). We identified deregulation

of TNFA signalling via NFkB, p53 pathway and apoptosis for both groups (FDR q-value

< 0.05, Fig. 2f, Supplementary Tables 24,25). High-dosage embryos additionally

showed an unfolded protein response, suggesting that this signature may only be

present in the embryos with more and/or larger abnormal chromosomes. In the high-

dosage group more of the genes of the p53 and apoptosis pathways were deregulated,

and with higher significance (Fig. 2g,h, Supplementary Tables 26,27). The gene

expression levels in the p53 and apoptosis pathways show a stepwise distribution

between the gene dosage groups (Fig. 2i).

Aneuploidy triggers proteotoxic stress, autophagy and apoptosis in human

embryos

To further investigate the cellular stress responses identified by the transcriptomic

analysis, we immunostained the same embryos that underwent TE biopsy for

transcriptome analysis. Thirty-seven (18 euploid, 19 aneuploid) of the 50 PGT embryos

and 8 of the 11 reversine-treated embryos were successfully stained for markers of

apoptosis, proteotoxic stress and autophagy (Fig. 3a,b). Aneuploid embryos showed

increased intensity levels of active CASP3/7 (13 euploid and 8 aneuploid embryos

stained) and CASP8 (6 euploid, 9 aneuploid and 8 reversine-treated embryos stained)

(Fig. 3c-f). Both aneuploid and reversine-treated embryos had lower cell numbers than

euploid embryos (Fig. 3g). We investigated whether proteotoxic stress and autophagy

(Oromendia *et al.*, 2012; Stingele *et al.*, 2012; Dürrbaum *et al.*, 2014; Ohashi *et al.*,

2015; Singla *et al.*, 2020) were also present in aneuploid human embryos. The number

of puncta per cell of autophagy markers LC3B (19 euploid, 22 aneuploid and 8

reversine-treated embryos stained) and p62 (6 euploid and 9 aneuploid embryos

stained) and the intensity levels of proteotoxic stress marker HSP70 (13 euploid, 8

aneuploid and 8 reversine-treated embryos stained) were significantly increased in

both aneuploid and reversine-treated embryos (Fig. 3h-k). The gene expression

profiles suggest that the accumulation of autophagic proteins in aneuploid embryos is

caused by increased autophagic flux due to differential expression of the *p53* target

gene DNA Damage Regulated Autophagy Modulator-1 (*DRAM1*), rather than by

inhibition of autophagy (Supplementary Table 2). DRAM1 is located in the lysosomal

membrane and it increases autophagic flux and apoptosis after stress-induced p53

activation in cancer cells (Crighton *et al.*, 2006; Guan *et al.*, 2015).

Aneuploidy increases apoptosis in the trophectoderm and impairs the second

lineage segregation in the inner cell mass

We further investigated if these effects are cell-type specific, as shown in the mouse

(Bolton *et al.*, 2016; Singla *et al.*, 2020) and human 2D gastruloids (Yang *et al.*, 2021),

and how they affect the first lineage segregation event to TE and ICM, and the second

lineage segregation event to EPI and PrE.

We co-stained a new batch of expanded blastocysts for OCT4 (10 euploid, 14

aneuploid, ICM/EPI) and CASP3/7 (10 euploid, 14 aneuploid), LC3B (4 euploid, 5

aneuploid) or Serine 15 p53 (3 euploid, 5 aneuploid) (Fig. 4a). To ensure that there

was sufficient time for differentiation to EPI and PrE, we thawed blastocysts at 5dpf or

6dpf and cultured them for 16 hours. All information on embryo score and

developmental day and stage at time of cryopreservation can be found in

Supplementary Table 28. The latter marker was chosen to demonstrate that the

transcriptomic signature of p53 signalling is caused by DNA-damage-induced

phosphorylation of Serine-15 on p53 (Loughery *et al.*, 2014). Aneuploid embryos

showed a higher percentage of cells with activated p53 (Fig. 4b,c), as suggested by

our transcriptomic data (Figure 1), although these differences did not reach

significance when considering the ICM/EPI (OCT4-positive) cells or TE (OCT4-

negative) separately (Supplementary Fig. 2a-c). We then investigated cell type

specificity of proliferative defects and apoptosis. Both the aneuploid TE and OCT4-

positive cells showed decreased cell numbers (Fig. 4d-f) that led to an overall decrease

of cell numbers in whole aneuploid embryos (Fig. 4g), confirming our previous

experiment (Fig. 3g). The observed increased percentage of nuclear CASP3/7 positive

cells in the TE of aneuploid embryos (Fig. 4h,i) and increased CASP3/7 mean intensity

per cell in whole aneuploid embryos (Fig. 4h,j) points to apoptosis as the cause of this

decrease in cell numbers. However, no OCT4-positive cells of either euploid or

aneuploid group showed nuclear CASP3/7 signal (Fig. 4h). We also found CASP3/7-

positive micronuclei which were increased in number in aneuploid embryos (Fig. 4h,

Supplementary Fig. 2d,e).

The observation (figure 4f) that the ICM/EPI cell numbers of aneuploid embryos fell

into two groups with either low or high cell counts led us to further investigate the

impact of aneuploidies on the second lineage segregation event. All blastocysts were

re-stained for GATA4 (PrE marker) and imaged together with OCT4 (ICM/EPI marker).

We found that while all euploid embryos contained GATA4-positive cells, 7/14

aneuploid embryos had no GATA4-positive cells (Fig. 4k,l) and that in those with

GATA4-positive PrE cells, there was a significantly lower ratio of GATA4-positive to

OCT4-positive/GATA4-negative cells (Fig. 4m). In line with their decreased ICM cell

numbers and absence of PrE, the aneuploid embryos had received a significantly lower

ICM score by the clinical embryologists at time of cryopreservation (1xA/13xB) when

compared to euploid embryos (6xA/4xB, p=0.0088, Fisher-exact test).

We then investigated whether there are different levels of LC3B as marker of

autophagy between the aneuploid TE and ICM in an additional 5 aneuploid and 4

euploid embryos. Aneuploid embryos displayed increased levels of autophagy mainly

attributable to the TE (Fig. 4n-q), while their ICM/EPI cells showed a small increase in

autophagy which did not reach significance (Fig. 4q). The aneuploid embryos could be

separated in two groups: a first group with low levels of autophagy lacking GATA4-

positive cells in 2 out of 3 embryos (Fig. 4n, left and right panels, 2nd row) and a high-

level autophagy group in which both embryos contained GATA4-positive cells (Fig. 4n,

left and right panels 3rd row).

Lastly, we separated the aneuploid embryos into a low- and a high-dosage group as

done for the gene-expression analysis (Supplementary Table 29). Trend analysis

showed that the higher the number of imbalanced loci, the lower the cell numbers in

the TE and PrE but not in the EPI (Fig. 4r).

Discussion

In this work, we studied the consequences of aneuploidy in human preimplantation embryos that carried a uniformly present, presumed meiotic, complex aneuploidy. In our study we find that, while aneuploid embryos had lower cell numbers in both TE and ICM/EPI, the effect of aneuploidy was cell-type dependent. Aneuploid TE presented transcriptomic signatures of p53 signalling and apoptosis, and immunostaining of whole embryos showed that aneuploidy results in increased proteotoxic stress, autophagy, DNA damage-mediated activated p53 and subsequent apoptosis in the TE. In contrast, aneuploidy impairs the second lineage differentiation and affects PrE formation in particular.

Overall, our gene-expression results are in line with previously published RNA-sequencing studies on aneuploid human embryonic cells that identified transcriptional signatures consistent with DNA damage (Vera-Rodriguez *et al.*, 2015; Licciardi *et al.*, 2018; Fuchs Weizman *et al.*, 2019), alteration of cell proliferation (Starostik *et al.*, 2020; Maxwell *et al.*, 2022; Martin *et al.*, 2023), the cell cycle (Vera-Rodriguez *et al.*, 2015; Licciardi *et al.*, 2018; Fuchs Weizman *et al.*, 2019; Starostik *et al.*, 2020; Martin *et al.*, 2023), deregulation of autophagy (Licciardi *et al.*, 2018; Sanchez-Ribas *et al.*, 2019), p53 signalling (Licciardi *et al.*, 2018) and apoptosis (Licciardi *et al.*, 2018; Groff *et al.*, 2019; Sanchez-Ribas *et al.*, 2019; Maxwell *et al.*, 2022; Martin *et al.*, 2023). However, when comparing our dataset of differentially expressed genes to these studies, we only found modest overlaps at the level of individual genes. This is probably because embryos of different developmental stages were included in the studies, containing specific aneuploidies, and of different sample types (overview in Supplementary Table 17). Naturally acquired and induced aneuploidies only share a few differentially expressed genes but show overall equal signatures after pathway analysis, suggesting

that reversine-based models of aneuploidy are very close but may not fully mimic

endogenous aneuploidy. We also observed aneuploidy-mediated gene dosage effects

in the TE cells, as extensively reported in human and mouse aneuploid cancer cell

lines (Dürrbaum and Storchová, 2016), and found that a higher dosage leads to

stronger p53 signalling and apoptosis responses.

We next tested the predictions made based on the gene-expression profiles with

immunostaining. First, we found evidence of proteotoxic stress and increased

expression of autophagy proteins, as well as activation of apoptosis. The most likely

series of events is that p62/LC3B/CASP8 interaction results in autophagy-mediated

apoptosis in aneuploid human embryos. Nevertheless, we cannot rule out indirect

activation of apoptosis mediated by autophagy due to the degradation of cell

organelles (Gump and Thorburn, 2011). This is supported by the observation in the

aneuploid mouse embryo model that autophagy is independent of the mTOR pathway

(Singla *et al*., 2020). Other upstream regulators of autophagy could be involved, such

as the cGAS-STING pathway (Krivega *et al.*, 2021) or, as also observed in our dataset,

p53-mediated activation of DRAM1 (Crighton *et al.*, 2006) that can induce apoptosis

by increasing BAX protein levels (Guan *et al.*, 2015). Second, we confirmed the

presence of activated *p53* in aneuploid human embryos. We specifically stained for

p53 with phosphorylation on Serine 15, mediated by kinases such as ATM and ATR

as a direct result of DNA-damage (Loughery *et al*., 2014). This indicates that

aneuploidy also induces the DNA-damage response in the embryo, as found in the

mouse and 2D gastruloids (Singla *et al*., 2020; Yang *et al.*, 2021). An interesting

observation is that aneuploid embryos contained increased numbers of CASP3/7

positive micronuclei. This is similar to findings in a non-human primate model showing

that abnormal chromosomes can be encapsulated in micronuclei, which can

subsequently be selectively eliminated from the embryo (Daughtry *et al.*, 2019). In

human cleavage stage embryos these micronuclei have been shown to contain genetic

material that originates from chromosome breakages due to replication fork stalling

and DNA-damage (Palmerola *et al.*, 2022), further highlighting how aneuploidy is

leading to DNA-damage in the human embryo. In sum, our results in this part are in

line with previous findings on mouse and 2D gastruloid models (Singla *et al.*, 2020;

Yang *et al.*, 2021), and suggest that these conserved stress responses to aneuploidy

are also activated in fully aneuploid embryos with complex karyotypes, both converging

on apoptosis if not resolved. First, proteotoxic stress resulting from gene-dosage

imbalances mediates the unfolded protein response and autophagy, and second,

replication stress that can lead to DNA-damage, resulting in p53 activation and

ultimately to apoptosis (Li *et al.*, 2010; Thompson and Compton, 2010; Santaguida *et

al.*, 2015, 2017; Zhu *et al.*, 2018; Chunduri and Storchová, 2019; Krivega *et al.*, 2022;

Regin *et al.*, 2022).

In the second part of our work, we focused on studying the lineage-specific response

to complex aneuploidy, as the studies on reversine-treated mouse embryos (Bolton *et

al.*, 2016; Singla *et al.*, 2020) and human 2D gastruloids (Yang *et al.*, 2021) also

identified a cell-type specific effect of aneuploidy. In the mouse, aneuploid cells are

eliminated by apoptosis in the EPI, while tolerated in the TE, and in human 2D

gastruloids, aneuploid cells are eliminated in the post-gastrulation embryonic germ

layers but tolerated in the TE. We found lower cell numbers and increased apoptosis

in aneuploid TE cells. While we also detected lower cell numbers in aneuploid OCT4-

positive ICM/EPI, we did not find any of them to be CASP3/7 positive, i.e. undergoing

apoptosis. These results are in line with the findings of Victor *et al.* (Victor *et al.*, 2019),

where the TE of mosaic and aneuploid embryos showed increased levels of apoptosis,

and the recent RNA-sequencing of TE and ICM samples of mosaic human embryos

(Martin *et al.*, 2023). Mosaic TE cells showed disrupted regulation of apoptosis while

the ICM showed primarily deregulated mitochondrial function. However, in contrast to

our findings, some of the embryos in the study of Victor et al. showed CASP3/7 positive

signals in the ICM; further research will be needed to understand if these differences

with our findings and those of Martin *et al.* are related to technical or to biological

factors. Finally, the differences with the mouse results are possibly due to species-

specific properties of the ICM/EPI cells. For instance, the lack of apoptosis in the

human ICM/EPI could be due to an uncoupling between aneuploidy-induced stress

signals and apoptosis, as observed in human embryonic stem cells (Mantel *et al.*,

2007). In this context, the lower cell numbers in aneuploid embryos could be explained

by two other known effects of *p53* activation which are not apoptosis. First, *p53*

activation could decrease cell proliferation, leading to lower cell numbers. Secondly,

p53 activation may downregulate *OCT4* and *NANOG* expression, as seen in mouse

embryonic stem cells (Lin *et al.*, 2005), leading to loss of pluripotency and driving the

cells to differentiation and out of the ICM/EPI.

Another difference is that we found that the human aneuploid TE had increased levels

of autophagy markers, which did not reach statistical significance in the ICM/EPI, while

the mouse EPI does show increased autophagy (Singla *et al.*, 2020). Interestingly, the

aneuploid OCT4-positive cells separated into a high and a low-level autophagy group,

where the low-level group seemed to lack GATA4-positive PrE cells. Although based

on a few samples, this data suggests that an ICM in a transcriptionally earlier state of

pluripotency, i.e. GATA4-negative and prior to the second lineage segregation event,

might be less sensitive to the consequences of aneuploidy, i.e. show less autophagy.

We thus propose that aneuploid human embryonic cells in the ICM become more

sensitive from the second lineage segregation onwards. We hypothesize that this

effect may even become stronger and more specific to the embryonic lineage after

onset of gastrulation, as elegantly shown in human 2D gastruloids (Yang *et al.*, 2021).

Finally, we found that in those embryos that had already undergone the second lineage

segregation event, the aneuploid embryos had a significantly lower ratio of PrE

(GATA4-positive) to EPI (OCT4-positive/GATA4-negative) cells than euploid embryos.

Our findings are in line with the upregulation of the PrE marker *SOX17* that has been

recently found by gene-expression analysis of euploid and low- and high level mosaic

human embryos (Martin *et al.*, 2023). Further, we observed that this effect was dosage-

dependent, with embryos with larger gene-dosage imbalances showing significantly

lower cell numbers in the TE and PrE than euploid embryos or embryos with lower

gene-dosage imbalances. This suggests that complex aneuploidy both affects TE and

ICM proliferation and PrE formation or that the PrE is more sensitive to aneuploidy-

mediated apoptosis than the less differentiated EPI. An alternative explanation is that

in aneuploid human embryos the PrE forms at a later time point due to their delayed

development. In our study, to minimize the risk of missing the second lineage

segregation, we purposefully used 5-6dpf expanded blastocysts that were kept in

culture for an additional 16 hours after warming, to allow the embryos sufficient time to

recover and develop.

When interpreting the results of this study, it is important to bear in mind that we

identified the ICM/EPI as staining positive for OCT4 and the PrE as positive for GATA4.

We confirmed that the embryos analysed were expanded blastocysts which had

undergone the first lineage segregations, as OCT4 was restricted to the inner cells and

absent in TE cells (Niakan and Eggan, 2013). The identity of human ICM and EPI cells

is currently under vigorous debate (Meistermann *et al.*, 2021; Radley *et al.*, 2022) and

exclusive markers of either cell type are untested. Therefore we cannot assign ICM or

EPI identity to OCT4-positive cells. However, in blastocysts with GATA4-positive cells

the second lineage segregation had occurred and PrE was established, and

consequently we confidently assigned the EPI identity to OCT4-positive cells in these

blastocysts. In GATA4-negative embryos OCT4-positive cells could be either ICM or

EPI cells. Interestingly, we never found GATA4-positive cells in the absence of OCT4-

positive cells, supporting the hypothesis that PrE cells differentiate from EPI cells

(Meistermann *et al.*, 2021). Limitations of our study are that we did not analyse the

transcriptome of the ICM of our embryos, because after the biopsy they were used for

immunostainings instead, and we can therefore not draw any conclusions on their

transcriptome. We did not study embryos with the same type of aneuploidy and can

thus not provide insight on chromosome-specific effects. Although some of our

embryos carried genetic abnormalities in mosaic form as part of their complex

karyotype (aneuploid/aneuploid mosaics), we did not study diploid/aneuploid mosaic

embryos and can therefore not assert that these also activate the same cellular stress

pathways in their aneuploid cells. Since these pathways are common to most cell

types, our guess would however be that they are activated in mosaic embryos too.

Lastly, the possibilities for functional studies and lineage tracing experiments in human

embryos are very limited, which is why we can only present an observational study.

Taken together, our results suggest that while the same pathways appear to be

activated in human and mouse embryos with complex aneuploidy, human embryos

have a different response when it comes to the downstream effect of these pathways

in the different cell lineages. While the mouse readily depletes aneuploid cells by

apoptosis specifically from the embryonic lineage before implantation (Bolton *et al.*,

2016; Singla *et al.*, 2020), in the preimplantation human embryo, apoptosis appears to

be more active in the TE, as also seen by others (Victor *et al.*, 2019; Martin *et al.*,

2023). The results suggest that in the human embryo, undifferentiated pluripotent cells

have a different response to aneuploidy-induced cellular stress than the neighbouring

differentiated cells.

Our results on human embryos with complex meiotic aneuploidy provide further insight

into the mechanisms by which human embryos respond to gene-dosage imbalances,

and may contribute to understanding how aneuploid cells are selectively eliminated in

mosaic embryos. Further research, especially by using human embryos with

endogenous chromosomal mosaicism, will be needed to shed light on the interactions

between proteotoxic stress, the p53 pathway and differentiation during early

development, for which the most novel models of human embryo implantation

(Deglincerti *et al.*, 2016; Shahbazi *et al.*, 2016, 2020; Kagawa *et al.*, 2021) will prove

to be of incalculable value.

References

Ariyoshi K, Miura T, Kasai K, Fujishima Y, Oshimura M, Yoshida MA. Induction of genomic instability and activation of autophagy in artificial human aneuploid cells. *Mutat Res* [Internet] 2016;**790**:19–30. Mutat Res.

Banin S, Moyal L, Shieh SY, Taya Y, Anderson CW, Chessa L, Smorodinsky NI, Prives C, Reiss Y, Shiloh Y, *et al.* Enhanced phosphorylation of p53 by ATM in response to DNA damage. *Science* [Internet] 1998;**281**:1674–1677. Science.

Bolton H, Graham SJL, Aa N Van Der, Kumar P, Theunis K, Fernandez Gallardo E, Voet T, Zernicka-Goetz M. Mouse model of chromosome mosaicism reveals lineage-specific depletion of aneuploid cells and normal developmental potential. *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2016;**7**:1–12. Nature Publishing Group.

Capalbo A, Poli M, Rienzi L, Girardi L, Patassini C, Fabiani M, Cimadomo D, Benini F, Farcomeni A, Cuzzi J, *et al.* Mosaic human preimplantation embryos and their developmental potential in a prospective , non-selection clinical trial. 2021;1–10.

Capalbo A, Wright G, Elliott T, Ubaldi FM, Rienzi L, Nagy ZP. FISH reanalysis of inner cell mass and trophectoderm samples of previously array-CGH screened blastocysts shows high accuracy of diagnosis and no major diagnostic impact of mosaicism at the blastocyst stage. *Human Reproduction* 2013;**28**:2298–2307. Oxford University Press.

Chavez SL, Loewke KE, Han J, Moussavi F, Colls P, Munne S, Behr B, Reijo Pera RA. Dynamic blastomere behaviour reflects human embryo ploidy by the four-cell stage. *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2012;**3**:. Nat Commun.

Chow JFC, Yeung WSB, Lau EYL, Lee VCY, Ng EHY, Ho PC. Array comparative genomic hybridization analyses of all blastomeres of a cohort of embryos from young IVF patients revealed significant contribution of mitotic errors to embryo mosaicism at the cleavage stage. *Reprod Biol Endocrinol* [Internet] 2014;**12**:. Reprod Biol Endocrinol.

Chunduri NK, Barthel K, Storchova Z. Consequences of Chromosome Loss: Why Do Cells Need Each Chromosome Twice? *Cells 2022, Vol 11, Page 1530* [Internet] 2022;**11**:1530. Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.

Chunduri NK, Storchová Z. The diverse consequences of aneuploidy. *Nat Cell Biol* [Internet] 2019;**21**:54–62. Nature Publishing Group.

Coorens THH, Oliver TRW, Sanghvi R, Sovio U, Cook E, Vento-Tormo R, Haniffa M, Young MD, Rahbari R, Sebire N, *et al.* Inherent mosaicism and extensive mutation of human placentas. *Nature* 2021;**592**:80–85. Nature Research.

Crighton D, Wilkinson S, O'Prey J, Syed N, Smith P, Harrison PR, Gasco M, Garrone O, Crook T, Ryan KM. DRAM, a p53-Induced Modulator of Autophagy, Is Critical for Apoptosis. *Cell* 2006;**126**:121–134. Elsevier B.V.

Daughtry BL, Rosenkrantz JL, Lazar NH, Fei SS, Redmayne N, Torkenczy KA, Adey A, Yan M, Gao L, Park B, *et al.* Single-cell sequencing of primate preimplantation embryos reveals chromosome elimination via cellular fragmentation and blastomere exclusion. *Genome Res* [Internet] 2019;**29**:367–382. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

David K Gardner, William B Schoolcraft. Culture and transfer of human blastocysts. *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol* 1999;**11**:307–311.

Deglincerti A, Croft GF, Pietila LN, Zernicka-Goetz M, Siggia ED, Brivanlou AH. Self-organization of the in vitro attached human embryo. *Nature* [Internet] 2016;**533**:251–254.

Dobin A, Davis CA, Schlesinger F, Drenkow J, Zaleski C, Jha S, Batut P, Chaisson M, Gingeras TR. STAR: ultrafast universal RNA-seq aligner. *Bioinformatics* 2013;**29**:15–21.

Donnelly N, Passerini V, Dürrbaum M, Stingele S, Storchová Z. HSF1 deficiency and impaired HSP90-dependent protein folding are hallmarks of aneuploid human cells. *EMBO J* [Internet] 2014;**33**:2374. European Molecular Biology Organization.

Dürrbaum M, Kuznetsova A, Passerini V, Stingele S, Stoehr G, Storchová Z. Unique features of the transcriptional response to model aneuploidy in human cells. *BMC Genomics* [Internet] 2014;**15**:139. BioMed Central.

Dürrbaum M, Storchová Z. Effects of aneuploidy on gene expression: implications for cancer. *FEBS J* [Internet] 2016;**283**:791–802. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Echten-Arends J van, Mastenbroek S, Sikkema-Raddatz B, Korevaar JC, Heineman MJ, Veen F van der, Repping S. Chromosomal mosaicism in human preimplantation embryos: a systematic review. *Hum Reprod Update* [Internet] 2011;**17**:620–627. Oxford University Press.

Fragouli E, Alfarawati S, Spath K, Babariya D, Tarozzi N, Borini A, Wells D. Analysis of implantation and ongoing pregnancy rates following the transfer of mosaic diploid–aneuploid blastocysts. *Hum Genet* [Internet] 2017;**136**:805–819. Springer Verlag.

Fragouli E, Munne S, Wells D. The cytogenetic constitution of human blastocysts: insights from comprehensive chromosome screening strategies. *Hum Reprod Update* [Internet] 2019;**25**:15–33. Oxford University Press.

Fuchs Weizman N, Wyse BA, Antes R, Ibarrientos Z, Sangaralingam M, Motamedi G, Kuznyetsov V, Madjunkova S, Librach CL. Towards Improving Embryo Prioritization: Parallel Next Generation Sequencing of DNA and RNA from a Single Trophectoderm Biopsy. *Sci Rep* [Internet] 2019;**9**:1–11. Nature Publishing Group.

Greco E, Minasi MG, Fiorentino F. Healthy Babies after Intrauterine Transfer of
Mosaic Aneuploid Blastocysts. *New England Journal of Medicine* [Internet]
2015;**373**:2089–2090. Massachusetts Medical Society.

Griffin DK, Brezina PR, Tobler K, Zhao Y, Silvestri G, Mccoy RC, Anchan R, Benner
A, Cutting GR, Kearns WG. The human embryonic genome is karyotypically
complex, with chromosomally abnormal cells preferentially located away from
the developing fetus. *Human Reproduction* [Internet] 2022; Oxford University
Press (OUP)

Groff AF, Resetkova N, DiDomenico F, Sakkas D, Penzias A, Rinn JL, Eggan K.
RNA-seq as a tool for evaluating human embryo competence. *Genome Res*
[Internet] 2019;**29**:1705–1718. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

Guan JJ, Zhang XD, Sun W, Qi L, Wu JC, Qin ZH. DRAM1 regulates apoptosis
through increasing protein levels and lysosomal localization of BAX. *Cell Death
Dis* [Internet] 2015;**6**:e1624–e1624. Nature Publishing Group.

Gump JM, Thorburn A. Autophagy and apoptosis: what is the connection? *Trends
Cell Biol* [Internet] 2011;**21**:387–392. Trends Cell Biol.

Huettel B, Kreil DP, Matzke M, Matzke AJM. Effects of aneuploidy on genome
structure, expression, and interphase organization in Arabidopsis thaliana. *PLoS
Genet* [Internet] 2008;**4**:. PLoS Genet.

Jacobs K, Velde H van de, Paepe C de, Sermon K, Spits C. Mitotic spindle disruption
in human preimplantation embryos activates the spindle assembly checkpoint
but not apoptosis until Day 5 of development. *MHR: Basic science of
reproductive medicine* [Internet] 2017;**23**:321–329. Oxford University Press.

Jaiswal SK, Raj S, DePamphilis ML. Developmental Acquisition of p53 Functions.
Genes (Basel) [Internet] 2021;**12**:1675. MDPI.

Johnson DS, Cinnioglu C, Ross R, Filby A, Gemelos G, Hill M, Ryan A, Smotrich D,
Rabinowitz M, Murray MJ. Comprehensive analysis of karyotypic mosaicism
between trophectoderm and inner cell mass. *MHR: Basic science of
reproductive medicine* [Internet] 2010;**16**:944–949. Oxford University Press.

Kagawa H, Javali A, Khoei HH, Sommer TM, Sestini G, Novatchkova M, Scholte op
Reimer Y, Castel G, Bruneau A, Maenhoudt N, *et al.* Human blastoids model
blastocyst development and implantation. *Nature* [Internet] 2021;1–9. Nature
Publishing GroupAvailable fr

Kalousek DK, Vekemans M. Confined placental mosaicism. *J Med Genet* [Internet]
1996;**33**:529–533. BMJ Publishing Group.

800 Krivega M, Stiefel CM, Karbassi S, Andersen LL, Chunduri NK, Donnelly N, Pichlmair
801   A, Storchová Z. Genotoxic stress in constitutive trisomies induces autophagy
802   and the innate immune response via the cGAS-STING pathway.
803   *Communications Biology 2021 4:1* [Internet] 2021;**4**:1–16. Nature Publishing
804   Group.
805
806 Krivega M, Stiefel CM, Storchova Z. Consequences of chromosome gain: A new
807   view on trisomy syndromes. *Am J Hum Genet* 2022;**109**:2126–2140. Cell Press.
808
809 Landuyt L Van, Stoop D, Verheyen G, Verpoest W, Camus M, Velde H Van De,
810   Devroey P, Abbeel E Van Den. Outcome of closed blastocyst vitrification in
811   relation to blastocyst quality: Evaluation of 759 warming cycles in a single-
812   embryo transfer policy. *Human Reproduction* 2011;**26**:527–534. Oxford
813   University Press.
814
815 Li B, Dewey CN. RSEM: accurate transcript quantification from RNA-Seq data with or
816   without a reference genome. *BMC Bioinformatics* 2011;**12**:323.
817
818 Li M, Fang X, Baker DJ, Guo L, Gao X, Wei Z, Han S, Deursen JM Van, Zhang P.
819   The ATM-p53 pathway suppresses aneuploidy-induced tumorigenesis. *Proc Natl
820   Acad Sci U S A* [Internet] 2010;**107**:14188–14193. National Academy of
821   Sciences.
822
823 Licciardi F, Lhakhang T, Kramer YG, Zhang Y, Heguy A, Tsirigos A. Human
824   blastocysts of normal and abnormal karyotypes display distinct transcriptome
825   profiles. *Sci Rep* [Internet] 2018;**8**:1–9. Nature Publishing Group.
826
827 Lin T, Chao C, Saito S, Mazur SJ, Murphy ME, Appella E, Xu Y. p53 induces
828   differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells by suppressing Nanog expression.
829   *Nat Cell Biol* [Internet] 2005;**7**:165–171. Nat Cell Biol.
830
831 Loughery J, Cox M, Smith LM, Meek DW. Critical role for p53-serine 15
832   phosphorylation in stimulating transactivation at p53-responsive promoters.
833   *Nucleic Acids Res* [Internet] 2014;**42**:7666–7680. Oxford University Press.
834
835 Love MI, Huber W, Anders S. Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion for
836   RNA-seq data with DESeq2. *Genome Biol* 2014;**15**:. BioMed Central Ltd.
837
838 Mantel C, Guo Y, Lee MR, Kim M-K, Han M-K, Shibayama H, Fukuda S, Yoder MC,
839   Pelus LM, Kim K-S, *et al.* Checkpoint-apoptosis uncoupling in human and mouse
840   embryonic stem cells: a source of karyotpic instability. *Blood* [Internet]
841   2007;**109**:4518–4527.
842
843 Martin A, Mercader A, Dominguez F, Quiñonero A, Perez M, Gonzalez-Martin R,
844   Delgado A, Mifsud A, Pellicer A, Los Santos MJ De. Mosaic results after
845   preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidy may be accompanied by changes
846   in global gene expression. *Front Mol Biosci* [Internet] 2023;**10**:264. Frontiers.
847
848
849

Maxwell SM, Lhakhang TC, Lin Z, Kramer YG, Zhang Y, Wang F, Heguy A, Tsirigos
A, Grifo JA, Licciardi F. Investigation of Global Gene Expression of Human
Blastocysts Diagnosed as Mosaic using Next-generation Sequencing.
Reproductive Sciences [Internet] 2022;1–11. Springer

McCoy RC. Mosaicism in Preimplantation Human Embryos: When Chromosomal
Abnormalities Are the Norm. *Trends in Genetics* [Internet] 2017;**33**:448–463.
Elsevier.

Meistermann D, Bruneau A, Loubersac S, Reignier A, Firmin J, François-Campion V,
Kilens S, Lelièvre Y, Lammers J, Feyeux M, *et al.* Integrated pseudotime
analysis of human pre-implantation embryo single-cell transcriptomes reveals
the dynamics of lineage specification. *Cell Stem Cell* 2021;**28**:1625-1640.e6.

Mertzanidou A, Spits C, Nguyen HT, Velde H van de, Sermon K. Evolution of
aneuploidy up to Day 4 of human preimplantation development. *Human
Reproduction* [Internet] 2013a;**28**:1716–1724. Oxford University Press.

Mertzanidou A, Wilton L, Cheng J, Spits C, Vanneste E, Moreau Y, Vermeesch JR,
Sermon K. Microarray analysis reveals abnormal chromosomal complements in
over 70% of 14 normally developing human embryos. *Human Reproduction*
[Internet] 2013b;**28**:256–264. Oxford University Press.

Munné S, Blazek J, Large M, Martinez-Ortiz PA, Nisson H, Liu E, Tarozzi N, Borini A,
Becker A, Zhang J, *et al.* Detailed investigation into the cytogenetic constitution
and pregnancy outcome of replacing mosaic blastocysts detected with the use of
high-resolution next-generation sequencing. *Fertil Steril* [Internet] 2017;**108**:62-
71.e8. Elsevier Inc.

Munné S, Nakajima ST, Najmabadi S, Sauer M v., Angle MJ, Rivas JL, Mendieta L
v., MacAso TM, Sawarkar S, Nadal A, *et al.* First PGT-A using human in vivo
blastocysts recovered by uterine lavage: Comparison with matched IVF embryo
controls. *Human Reproduction* [Internet] 2020a;**35**:70–80. Oxford University
Press.

Munné S, Spinella F, Grifo J, Zhang J, Beltran MP, Fragouli E, Fiorentino F. Clinical
outcomes after the transfer of blastocysts characterized as mosaic by high
resolution Next Generation Sequencing- further insights. *Eur J Med Genet*
2020b;**63**:103741. Elsevier Masson SAS.

Niakan KK, Eggan K. Analysis of human embryos from zygote to blastocyst reveals
distinct gene expression patterns relative to the mouse. *Dev Biol* [Internet]
2013;**375**:54–64. Dev Biol.

Ohashi A, Ohori M, Iwai K, Nakayama Y, Nambu T, Morishita D, Kawamoto T,
Miyamoto M, Hirayama T, Okaniwa M, *et al.* Aneuploidy generates proteotoxic
stress and DNA damage concurrently with p53-mediated post-mitotic apoptosis
in SAC-impaired cells. *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2015;**6**:1–16. Nature Publishing
Group.
899

900   Oromendia AB, Dodgson SE, Amon A. Aneuploidy causes proteotoxic stress in
901   yeast. *Genes Dev* 2012;**26**:2696–2708.
902
903   Orvieto R, Shimon C, Rienstein S, Jonish-Grossman A, Shani H, Aizer A. Do human
904   embryos have the ability of self-correction? *Reprod Biol Endocrinol* [Internet]
905   2020;**18**:. Reprod Biol Endocrinol.
906
907   Palmerola KL, Amrane S, Los Angeles A de, Xu S, Wang N, Pinho J de, Zuccaro M
908   v, Taglialatela A, Massey DJ, Turocy J, *et al.* Replication stress impairs
909   chromosome segregation and preimplantation development in human embryos.
910   *Cell* [Internet] 2022;
911
912   Pan J-A, Ullman E, Dou Z, Zong W-X. Inhibition of protein degradation induces
913   apoptosis through a microtubule-associated protein 1 light chain 3-mediated
914   activation of caspase-8 at intracellular membranes. *Mol Cell Biol* [Internet]
915   2011;**31**:3158–3170. American Society for Microbiology.
916
917   Popovic M, Dhaenens L, Boel A, Menten B, Heindryckx B. Chromosomal mosaicism
918   in human blastocysts: The ultimate diagnostic dilemma. *Hum Reprod Update*
919   [Internet] 2020;**26**:313–334. Oxford University Press.
920
921   Popovic M, Dheedene A, Christodoulou C, Taelman J, Dhaenens L, Nieuwerburgh F
922   Van, Deforce D, Abbeel E Van Den, Sutter P De, Menten B, *et al.* Chromosomal
923   mosaicism in human blastocysts: The ultimate challenge of preimplantation
924   genetic testing? *Human Reproduction* [Internet] 2018;**33**:1342–1354. Oxford
925   University Press.
926
927   Radley A, Corujo-Simon E, Nichols J, Smith A, Dunn SJ. Entropy sorting of single-
928   cell RNA sequencing data reveals the inner cell mass in the human pre-
929   implantation embryo. *Stem Cell Reports* [Internet] 2022;**0**: Cell Press.
930
931   Regin M, Spits C, Sermon K. On the origins and fate of chromosomal abnormalities
932   in human preimplantation embryos: an unsolved riddle. *Mol Hum Reprod*
933   [Internet] 2022; Mol Hum Reprod
934
935   Ren Y, Yan Z, Yang M, Keller L, Zhu X, Lian Y, Liu Q, Li R, Zhai F, Nie Y, *et al.*
936   Regional and developmental characteristics of human embryo mosaicism
937   revealed by single cell sequencing. *PLoS Genet* 2022;**18**:. Public Library of
938   Science.
939
940   Ritchie ME, Phipson B, Wu D, Hu Y, Law CW, Shi W, Smyth GK. Limma powers
941   differential expression analyses for RNA-sequencing and microarray studies.
942   *Nucleic Acids Res* [Internet] 2015;**43**:e47. Oxford University Press.
943
944   Robinson MD, McCarthy DJ, Smyth GK. edgeR: A Bioconductor package for
945   differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. *Bioinformatics*
946   2009;**26**:139–140. Oxford University Press.
947
948
Robinson MD, Oshlack A. *A scaling normalization method for differential expression*
analysis of RNA-seq data [Internet]. 2010

Sanchez-Ribas I, Diaz-Gimeno P, Sebastián-León P, Mercader A, Quiñonero A,
Ballesteros A, Pellicer A, Domínguez F. Transcriptomic behavior of genes
associated with chromosome 21 aneuploidies in early embryo development.
Fertil Steril 2019;**111**:991-1001.e2. Elsevier Inc.
955

956 Santaguida S, Amon A. Short- and long-term effects of chromosome mis-segregation
957   and aneuploidy. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* [Internet] 2015;**16**:473–485. Nature
958   Publishing Group.
959

960 Santaguida S, Richardson A, Iyer DR, M'Saad O, Zasadil L, Knouse KA, Wong YL,
961   Rhind N, Desai A, Amon A. Chromosome Mis-segregation Generates Cell-
962   Cycle-Arrested Cells with Complex Karyotypes that Are Eliminated by the
963   Immune System. *Dev Cell* 2017;**41**:638-651.e5. Cell Press.
964

965 Santaguida S, Vasile E, White E, Amon A. Aneuploidy-induced cellular stresses limit
966   autophagic degradation. *Genes Dev* [Internet] 2015;**29**:2010–2021. Cold Spring
967   Harbor Laboratory Press.
968

969 Shahbazi MN, Jedrusik A, Vuoristo S, Recher G, Hupalowska A, Bolton V, Fogarty
970   NME, Campbell A, Devito LG, Ilic D, *et al.* Self-organization of the human
971   embryo in the absence of maternal tissues. *Nat Cell Biol* [Internet] 2016;**18**:700–
972   708. Nature Publishing Group.
973

974 Shahbazi MN, Wang T, Tao X, Weatherbee BAT, Sun L, Zhan Y, Keller L, Smith GD,
975   Pellicer A, Scott RT, *et al.* Developmental potential of aneuploid human embryos
976   cultured beyond implantation. *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2020;**11**:1–15. Nature
977   Research.
978

979 Singla S, Iwamoto-Stohl LK, Zhu M, Zernicka-Goetz M. Autophagy-mediated
980   apoptosis eliminates aneuploid cells in a mouse model of chromosome
981   mosaicism. *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2020;**11**:1–15. Nature Research.
982

983 Starostik MR, Sosin OA, McCoy RC. Single-cell analysis of human embryos reveals
984   diverse patterns of aneuploidy and mosaicism. *Genome Res* 2020;**30**:814–826.
985

986 Stingele S, Stoehr G, Peplowska K, Cox J, Mann M, Storchova Z. Global analysis of
987   genome, transcriptome and proteome reveals the response to aneuploidy in
988   human cells. *Mol Syst Biol* [Internet] 2012;**8**:608. EMBO Press.
989

990 Tang YC, Williams BR, Siegel JJ, Amon A. Identification of Aneuploidy-Selective
991   Antiproliferation Compounds. *Cell* 2011;**144**:499–512. Cell Press.
992

993 Thompson SL, Compton DA. Proliferation of aneuploid human cells is limited by a
994   p53-dependent mechanism. *J Cell Biol* [Internet] 2010;**188**:369–381. J Cell Biol.
995

996 Torres EM, Sokolsky T, Tucker CM, Chan LY, Boselli M, Dunham MJ, Amon A.
997   Effects of aneuploidy on cellular physiology and cell division in haploid yeast.
998   *Science (1979)* [Internet] 2007;**317**:916–924.   American Association for the
999   Advancement of Science
1000

1001   Vanneste E, Voet T, Caignec C le, Ampe M, Konings P, Melotte C, Debrock S,
1002   Amyere M, Vikkula M, Schuit F, *et al.* Chromosome instability is common in
1003   human cleavage-stage embryos. *Nat Med* [Internet] 2009;**15**:577–583. Nature
1004   Publishing Group.
1005
1006   van Echten-Arends J, Mastenbroek S, Sikkema-Raddatz B, Korevaar JC, Heineman
1007   MJ, van der Veen F, Repping S. Chromosomal mosaicism in human
1008   preimplantation embryos: a systematic review. Hum Reprod Update. 2011 Sep-
1009   Oct;17(5):620-7. doi: 10.1093/humupd/dmr014. Epub 2011 Apr 29. PMID:
1010   21531753.
1011
1012   Vázquez-Diez C, Paim LMG, FitzHarris G. Cell-Size-Independent Spindle Checkpoint
1013   Failure Underlies Chromosome Segregation Error in Mouse Embryos. *Current
1014   Biology* [Internet] 2019;**29**:865-873.e3. Cell Press.
1015
1016   Vera-Rodriguez M, Chavez SL, Rubio C, Pera RAR, Simon C. Prediction model for
1017   aneuploidy in early human embryo development revealed by single-cell analysis.
1018   *Nat Commun* [Internet] 2015;**6**:7601. Nature Publishing Group.
1019
1020   Victor AR, Tyndall JC, Brake AJ, Lepkowsky LT, Murphy AE, Griffin DK, McCoy RC,
1021   Barnes FL, Zouves CG, Viotti M. One hundred mosaic embryos transferred
1022   prospectively in a single clinic: exploring when and why they result in healthy
1023   pregnancies. *Fertil Steril* [Internet] 2019;**111**:280–293. Elsevier Inc.
1024
1025   Viotti M, Victor AR, Barnes FL, Zouves CG, Besser AG, Grifo JA, Cheng EH, Lee
1026   MS, Horcajadas JA, Corti L, *et al.* Using outcome data from one thousand
1027   mosaic embryo transfers to formulate an embryo ranking system for clinical use.
1028   *Fertil Steril* 2021;**115**:1212–1224. Elsevier Inc.
1029
1030   Voullaire L, Slater H, Williamson R, Wilton L. Chromosome analysis of blastomeres
1031   from human embryos by using comparative genomic hybridization. *Hum Genet*
1032   [Internet] 2000;**106**:210–217.
1033
1034   Wells D, Delhanty JD. Comprehensive chromosomal analysis of human
1035   preimplantation embryos using whole genome amplification and single cell
1036   comparative genomic hybridization. *Mol Hum Reprod* [Internet] 2000;**6**:1055–
1037   1062.
1038
1039   Williams BR, Prabhu VR, Hunter KE, Glazier CM, Whittaker CA, Housman DE, Amon
1040   A. Aneuploidy affects proliferation and spontaneous immortalization in
1041   mammalian cells. *Science* [Internet] 2008;**322**:703–709. Science.
1042
1043   Yan L, Yang M, Guo H, Yang L, Wu J, Li R, Liu P, Lian Y, Zheng X, Yan J, *et al.*
1044   Single-cell RNA-Seq profiling of human preimplantation embryos and embryonic
1045   stem cells. *Nat Struct Mol Biol* [Internet] 2013;**20**:1131–1139. Nature Publishing
1046   Group.
1047
Yang M, Rito T, Metzger J, Naftaly J, Soman R, Hu J, Albertini DF, Barad DH,
Brivanlou AH, Gleicher N. Depletion of aneuploid cells in human embryos and
gastruloids. *Nat Cell Biol* [Internet] 2021;**23**:314–321. Nature Research.

Zamani Esteki M, Viltrop T, Tšuiko O, Tiirats A, Koel M, Nõukas M, Žilina O, Teearu
K, Marjonen H, Kahila H, *et al.* In vitro fertilization does not increase the
incidence of de novo copy number alterations in fetal and placental lineages. *Nat*
Med 2019;

1055

1056   Zhu J, Tsai HJ, Gordon MR, Li R. Cellular Stress Associated with Aneuploidy. *Dev*
1057   *Cell* [Internet] 2018;**44**:420–431. Cell Press.

1058
1059

Data availability

Data are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Source data files are provided for figures 3 and 4. Raw files are not provided due to GDPR guidelines concerning human embryo research. Count tables generated from the raw data files are included in the source data files.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Marleen Carlé from the Center for Medical Genetics (UZ Brussel) for assisting during the tubing of trophectoderm samples. We thank Wilfried Cools from the Biostatistics and Medical Informatics Group (VUB) for the statistical advice and the members of the BRIGHTcore facility (UZ Brussel) for performing the RNA sequencing. We thank Prof. Rajiv McCoy for the scientific input and data exchange. This study was funded by the Fonds for Scientific Research in Flanders -G017218N- (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen [FWO]). M.R. and E.C.D.D. are doctoral fellows at the FWO.

Author contributions

M.R. carried out all the experiments unless stated otherwise, interpreted and analyzed the results and co-wrote the manuscript. Y.L. and E.C.D.D. performed the bioinformatics analysis. Y.G. performed the trophectoderm biopsies. P.V. provided and supervised the diagnoses of the PGT embryos. G.V. and H.V.D.V. provided the embryos for this study. K.S. interpreted and supervised the experimental work and co-wrote the manuscript. C.S. designed, interpreted and supervised the experimental work and co-wrote the manuscript. All co-authors proofread the manuscript.

1083 **Competing interests**

1084 The authors declare no competing interests.

1085

Fig. 1: RNA-sequencing of trophectoderm cells reveals deregulation of DNA damage, p53, cell-cycle, autophagy and apoptosis pathways in chromosomally abnormal human embryos.

a. Human blastocysts 5 or 6 days post-fertilization (dpf) underwent Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) for monogenic diseases and/or aneuploidy screening, followed by cryopreservation. Embryos that were not transferred were donated for research after written informed content. After warming and 2hrs recuperation, euploid and fully aneuploid research embryos underwent a second TE biopsy for RNA-sequencing. The remainder of the embryos was live-stained with either CASP3/7 or CASP8 for 30min and fixed for immunostaining for proteins of interest (see figure 3). **b**. 3dpf human embryos were warmed and treated with 0.5µM reversine for 24hrs then transferred to normal culture medium until 5dpf to undergo TE biopsy for RNA-sequencing. After 2hrs recuperation the embryos were live-stained with CASP8 for 30min and fixed for immunostaining for proteins of interest (see figure 3). **c**. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of all coding genes. Color coding: beige = euploid, red = aneuploid and blue = reversine-treated. **d**. Comparison between the diagnosis of aneuploid embryos obtained after PGT (list on the left) and the results obtained after using InferCNV after RNA-sequencing (plot on the right). **e**,**f**. Volcano plots after differential gene expression analysis with a cutoff value of $|\log_2 \text{ fold change}| > 1$ and $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value}) < 0.05$ for aneuploid versus euploid (**e**) and reversine versus euploid (**f**). **g**,**h**. Venn diagrams comparing the upregulated (**g**) and downregulated (**h**) genes in aneuploid versus reversine treated embryos. **i**,**j**. Supervised plot of pathway analysis using the Molecular Signatures Database (FDR < 0.05) based on the list of all differentially expressed genes between aneuploid or reversine versus euploid embryos. Pathways are ranked based on the total number of genes in overlap of both test sets, ranked from sets with

the highest number of genes in overlap to sets with the lowest. Outputs of the Hallmark

library and C5 ontology gene sets are shown in (**i**) and (**j**), respectively. **k**,**l**. Supervised

plots after Ingenuity Pathway Analysis of upstream regulators with an activation z-

score ≤ -2 and ≥ 2 and a p-value < 0.05 in the aneuploid (**k**) or reversine (**l**) versus

euploid embryos. **m**,**n**. Supervised plots after Ingenuity Pathway Analysis of canonical

pathways in aneuploid (**m**) or reversine (**n**) versus euploid embryos. Pathways are

ranked by p-value from the most to the least significant, those with a p-value < 0.05

and with an activation z-score ≤ -1.5 and ≥ 1.5 were considered as inhibited or

activated, respectively. Significant pathways with an activation z-score between -1.5

and 1.5 were considered as deregulated.

1121

Fig. 2: Human embryos with the highest number of genes with abnormal copy

number show stronger p53 pathway and apoptosis response.

a. Supervised hierarchical clustering of the TOP 500 deregulated genes sorted by p-

value. Color coding: blue = euploid , green = Low dosage and red = High dosage. **b**,**c**.

Volcano plots after differential gene expression analysis with a cutoff value of |$\log_2$ fold

change| > 1 and -$\log_{10}$(p-value) < 0.05 for low dosage versus euploid embryos (**b**) and

high dosage versus euploid embryos (**c**). **d**,**e**, Venn diagrams comparing the

upregulated (**d**) and downregulated (**e**) genes in low dosage versus high dosage

embryos. **f**. Supervised plot of pathway analysis using the Hallmark library of the

Molecular Signatures Database (FDR < 0.05) based on the list of the TOP 500

expressed genes by p-value between low or high dosage versus euploid embryos.

Pathways are ranked based on FDR-q-values of both test sets, the most significant

deregulated pathway ranked from top to least significant pathway. **g**,**h**. Dot plots of the

genes in overlap with the Hallmark p53 pathway (**g**) and Hallmark apoptosis pathway (**h**) of both low and high dosage embryos sorted by log$_2$ Fold Change from the highest to the lowest. Dots with an increased size and a darker blue represent a higher value of log$_2$ Fold Change and lower p-value, respectively. **i**, Violin plots with box and whisker plots of the counts per million mapped reads of a supervised set of 10 genes (from Supplementary Table 2) that are part of apoptosis (*BAD, BCL2L1, TNFRSF10B*), p53 pathway (*DRAM1, MDM2, CDKN1A/B, PURPL*), growth arrest (*GADD45A*), and DNA-damage (*DDB2*). *p = 0.027, **p = 0.010, ***p = 0.004, ****p < 0.001 using the Jonkheere-Terpstra test. Box and whisker plots show median and minimum to maximum values.

Fig. 3: Immunostaining reveals increased apoptosis, autophagy, proteotoxic stress and DNA-damage in chromosomally abnormal human embryos.

a,**b**. Same experimental set-up as described in **Fig. 1 a**,**b**, but focused on immunostaining analysis. **c**, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for DNA (white) and CASP3/7 (green). **d**, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid, aneuploid and reversine-treated embryos for DNA (white) and CASP8 (green). **e**, CASP3/7 mean intensity per cell. Euploid n=13, Aneuploid n=8 embryos. Mann-Whitney test, *p = 0.0199. **f**, CASP8 mean intensity per cell. Euploid n=6, Aneuploid n=9, Reversine-treated n=8 embryos. Kruskal-Wallis test, *p = 0.0394, **p = 0.0085. **g**, Number of nuclei per embryo. Euploid n=19, Aneuploid n=18, Reversine-treated n=8 embryos. Kruskal-Wallis test, ****p < 0.0001, *p = 0.0305. **h**, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid, aneuploid and reversine-treated embryos for DNA (white), LC3B (turquoise) and HSP70 (magenta). **i**, LC3B puncta per cell. Euploid n=19, Aneuploid n=22 embryos, Reversine-treated n=8 embryos. Kruskal-Wallis test, *p = 0.0189, **p = 0.0074. **j**, HSP70 mean intensity per

cell. Euploid n=13, Aneuploid n=8, Reversine-treated n=8 embryos. Kruskal-Wallis

test, **p = 0.0077, ***p = 0.0008. **k**, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of

euploid, aneuploid for DNA (white) and p62 (turquoise). **l**, p62 puncta per cell. Euploid

n=6, Aneuploid n=9 embryos. Mann-Whitney test, **p = 0.0076.

Brightfield pictures were obtained during confocal imaging. All scale bars are 20 μm.

Box and whisker plots show median and whiskers show minimum to maximum values.

Bar plots show mean ± s.d. For all plots each dot represents a single embryo and ns

= not significant.

1168

Fig. 4: Aneuploid human embryos show less cells in trophectoderm and OCT4-

positive cells and impaired second lineage segregation

a, 5 or 6dpf post-PGT-A euploid and fully aneuploid human blastocysts were warmed

and kept for 16hrs in culture to allow for the second lineage segregation. The

blastocysts were live-stained with CASP3/7 for 30min and fixed for immunostaining

proteins of interest. In a first scan we analyzed OCT4 (ICM), CASP3/7 (apoptosis),

LC3B (autophagy) and S15p53 (DNA damage) in both lineages. Embryos were then

re-stained with GATA4 as a marker for PrE. **b,** Orthogonal projections after

immunostaining of euploid, aneuploid for DNA (white) and Serine (S) 15 p53

(turquoise). **c**, Percentage (%) of Serine 15 p53 positive cells per embryo. Euploid n =

3, Aneuploid n = 5. Mann-Whitney test, *p = 0.0357. **d**, Orthogonal projections after

immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for DNA (white) and OCT4

(magenta). The first aneuploid panel (Trisomy 14 and 16) shows a similar number of

ICM cells compared to the euploid embryo. The second aneuploid panel (Trisomy 14

and 22) shows an embryo without an ICM. **e,f,g**, Differences in number of nuclei per

embryo between euploid and aneuploid embryos in the OCT4-negative cells

(trophectoderm) (**e**) **p = 0.0092 , OCT4-positive cells (ICM/EPI), *p = 0.0412 (**f**) and

whole embryo **p = 0.0067 (**g**). Euploid n = 10, Aneuploid n = 14. Student's t-test with

Welch's correction. **h**, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid and

aneuploid embryos for DNA (white), CASP3/7 (green) and OCT4 (magenta). **i**,

Percentage (%) of CASP3/7 positive (+) cells in the trophectoderm lineage (OCT4-

negative cells). Euploid n = 9, Aneuploid n = 14. Student's t-test with Welch's

correction, *p = 0.0453. **j**, CASP3/7 mean intensity per cell of whole embryos. Euploid

n = 9, Aneuploid n = 14. Student's t-test with Welch's correction, *p = 0.0332. **k**,

Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for

DNA (white), OCT4 (magenta) and GATA4 (green). The first aneuploid panel (trisomy

13 and 15) shows an embryo with presence of a GATA4 positive cell (PrE). The second

aneuploid panel (Trisomy 7 and monosomies 5, 12 and 21) shows an embryo that did

not contain GATA4 positive cells. **l**, Differences in the number of cells per embryo that

were OCT4 positive and either GATA4 negative (red) or positive (green) between

euploid and aneuploid embryos. In case GATA4-positive cells (PrE) were present we

considered the GATA4-negative cells to be epiblast (EPI). All euploid embryos

contained GATA4-positive cells, 7/14 aneuploid embryos had an ICM completely

lacking GATA4-positive cells (Fisher-exact test, p = 0.0188). **m**, Differences in the

PrE/EPI ratio between euploid and aneuploid embryos that had an ICM containing

GATA4-positive cells. Euploid n = 9, Aneuploid n = 7. Note here that one euploid

embryo (#6, **l**) was lost during re-staining for GATA4. Mann-Whitney test, **p = 0.0089.

n, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for

DNA (white), LC3B (turquoise) and OCT4 (magenta). Yellow circle indicates the ICM.

The first aneuploid panel (Trisomy 1 and 20 and monosomy 18) shows OCT4-positive

cells (ICM/EPI) with low levels of autophagy and, after re-staining for GATA4, without

PrE (right panel, ICM zoom). The second aneuploid panel (Monosomy 14) shows an

embryo with high levels of autophagy in the ICM that contains PrE cells (right panel,

ICM zoom). **o,p,q.** Differences in LC3B puncta per cell between euploid and aneuploid

embryos in the whole embryo,*p = 0.0317 (**o**),(OCT4-negative cells (trophectoderm),*p

= 0.0317 (**p**) and OCT4-positive cells (ICM/EPI) (**q**). Euploid n = 4, Aneuploid n = 5.

Mann-Whitney test. **r**, Violin plots with box plots of OCT4-positive-cells (ICM/EPI) per

embryo (left, ns), OCT4-negative cells (trophectoderm) per embryo (center, *p = 0.043)

and GATA4-positive-cells (PrE) per embryo (right, ****p < 0.001, Jonkheere-Terpstra

test) depending on gene dosage. Euploid (light blue), Low dosage (middle blue) and

High dosage (darkest blue).

Yellow arrows indicate presence of the signal and yellow arrow heads indicate absence

of signal. Brightfield pictures were obtained during confocal imaging. All scale bars are

20 µm. Box and whisker plots show median and minimum to maximum values. Bar

plots show mean ± s.d. For all plots each dot represents a single embryo; ns = not

significant. T = Trisomy, M = Monosomy

1225

Supplementary Fig. 1: Expanded RNA-sequencing analysis

a, Principal component analysis after RNA-sequencing of euploid (green) versus

aneuploid (red) and reversine (blue) embryos. **b**, InferCNV analysis of individual

euploid samples compared to the reference set. **c**, InferCNV analysis of individual

reversine samples compared to the reference set. **d**, Venn Diagram of overlap between

differentially expressed genes of this study with three studies that analyzed human

embryos that contain euploid and diverse types of aneuploidy from cleavage stage

embryos (Vera-Rodriguez et al. 2015), single cells from 4 and 7 dpf human embryos

from TE, ICM, EPI and PrE lineages (Starostik et al. 2020) and ICM and TE samples

of 5 or 6 dpf embryos containing low- and high levels of mosaicism (Martin *et al.*, 2023).

e, Venn Diagram of overlap between differentially expressed genes of this study with

four studies that analyzed specific aneuploidies (Licciardi et al. 2018, Fuchs-Weizman

et al. 2019, Sánchez-Ribas et al. 2019 and Maxwell et al. 2022).

1239

Supplementary Fig. 2: S15-p53 expression in TE vs OCT4-positive cells (ICM/EPI)

and increased micronuclei in aneuploid embryos

a, Orthogonal projections after immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for

DNA (white), S15p53 (turquoise) and OCT4 (magenta). **b**, Percentages of nuclei

positive for S15p53 per embryo in euploid (n = 3) and aneuploid (n = 4) embryos in the

ICM. **c**, Percentages of nuclei positive for S15p53 per embryo in euploid (n = 3) and

aneuploid (n = 5) embryos in the TE. **d**, Left panel: Orthogonal projections after

immunostaining of euploid and aneuploid embryos for DNA (white) and CASP3/7

(green) showing micronuclei. Yellow box indicates zoomed-in region in the right panel.

Yellow arrows indicate presence of micronuclei and overlap between DNA and

CASP3/7. **e**, Number of micronuclei per cell in euploid and aneuploid whole embryos.

Euploid n = 9, Aneuploid n = 14. Student's t-test with Welch's correction, *p = 0.0115.

Brightfield pictures were obtained during confocal imaging. All scale bars are 20 µm.

Box and plots show median and minimum to maximum values. Bar plots show mean

± s.d. For all plots each dot represents a single embryo; ns = not significant. ROI =

Region of interest.

a

dpf5/6

PGT → Euploid, Aneuploid
RNA-sequencing
Immunostaining
CASP3/7, CASP8, LC3B
p62, HSP70

b

dpf3 → dpf4 → washout → dpf5
0.5µM reversine

RNA-sequencing
Immunostaining
CASP8, LC3B, HSP70

c

euploid aneuploid reversine

d

PGT   InferCNV   gain loss

M14/21
M17
T5;M14/19
M14/19;T16
T9;M22
M14
T2/22;M13
T2/10
T18;M22
T7;M11
M14/21/22;T18
M13;T22
T19;M22
T17;M18/19/21
T10/22
T15/22;M18
T1/15/18/22
T2/22;M13
M5/21;T9
M2/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
Chromosomes

e Aneuploid vs Euploid

-log₁₀ p-value vs log₂ Fold change

f Reversine vs Euploid

-log₁₀ p-value vs log₂ Fold change

g upregulated genes

Aneuploid 547 | 118 | 539 Reversine

h downregulated genes

Aneuploid 463 | 84 | 355 Reversine

i Hallmark library

aneuploid reversine

p53 pathway
Hypoxia
Glycolysis
Estrogen response early
Apoptosis
Estrogen response late
G2M checkpoint
Mitotic spindle

Genes in overlap

j C5 library

aneuploid reversine

Cell population proliferation
Identical protein binding
Apoptotic process
Regulation of cell death
Cell cycle
Negative regulation of cell death
Cellular response to DNA damage stimulus
Intrinsic apoptotic in response to DNA damage
DNA damage response by p53 class mediator
Mitotic G1/S transition checkpoint

Genes in overlap

k Aneuploid vs Euploid

activated inhibited

CDK19
AURK
GAS2L3
FGF2
ERK
ANLN
TP73
TP53
TOB1
RB1
RASSF1
TNF
IL1B
IL15
IFNG
RELA
MAP3K8

Activation Z-score

l Reversine vs Euploid

activated

FOXM1
ATM
IKBKB
FGF2
EGFR
DUX4
AREG
TAZ
TNF
CX3CL1
AKT

Activation Z-score

m Aneuploid vs Euploid

activated deregulated inhibited

IL-15 production
p53-signalling
Estrogen-mediated S-phase entry
G1/S Checkpoint regulation
Autophagy
TGF-beta-signalling
STAT3-pathway
Estrogen biosynthesis
Senescence pathway
BRCA1 in DNA damage response
JAK/STAT signalling
Cell cycle regulation by BTG proteins

Activation Z-score

n Reversine vs Euploid

activated deregulated

IL-15 production
JAK/STAT signalling
STAT3-pathway
Senescence pathway

Activation Z-score

a

dpf5/6

PGT
Euploid   Aneuploid

RNA-sequencing

Immunostaining
CASP3/7, CASP8, LC3B
p62, HSP70

b

dpf3 → dpf4 → washout → dpf5

0.5μM reversine

RNA-sequencing

Immunostaining
CASP8, LC3B, HSP70

c Brightfield | DNA | CASP3/7 | MERGE
Euploid
Aneuploid

e
Caspase-3/7 mean intensity per cell
Euploid   Aneuploid
*

f
Caspase-8 mean intensity per cell
Euploid   Aneuploid   Reversine
**   ns   *

g
Nuclei per embryo
Euploid   Aneuploid   Reversine
****   ns   *

d Brightfield | DNA | CASP8 | MERGE
Euploid
Aneuploid
Reversine

h Brightfield | DNA | LC3B | HSP70 | MERGE
Euploid
Aneuploid
Reversine

i
LC3B puncta/cell
Euploid   Aneuploid   Reversine
**   ns   ***

j
HSP70 mean intensity/cell
Euploid   Aneuploid   Reversine
**   ns   *

k Brightfield | DNA | p62 | MERGE
Euploid
Aneuploid

l
p62 puncta/cell
Euploid   Aneuploid
**

a PCA plot

b InferCNV euploid embryos

c InferCNV reversine embryos

d Differentially expressed genes of diverse types of aneuploidy

e Differentially expressed genes of specific aneuploidies