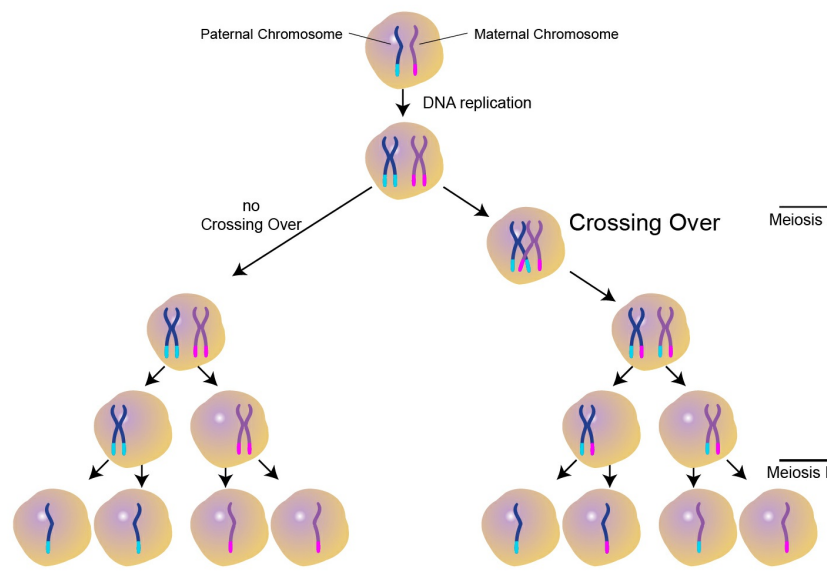


Crossing Over

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

Source

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). *Crossing Over*.



Crossing over is the swapping of genetic material that occurs in the germ line. During the formation of egg and sperm cells, also known as meiosis, paired chromosomes from each parent align so that similar DNA sequences from the paired chromosomes cross over one another. Crossing over results in a shuffling of genetic material and is an important cause of the genetic variation seen among offspring.