

25 Family pedigrees and genetic tests The simplest form of inheritance is Mendelian inheritance or inheritance of dominant and recessive traits. Dominant traits are expressed by the presence of a single allele (dominant allele). On the other hand, recessive traits are expressed in absence of dominant alleles (when both alleles are recessive). Inheritance of different human characters and diseases can be explained by Mendelian laws. Following the history of inheritance for characters in a human family can enable the construction of family tree or pedigree. Pedigree or family tree can help follow the inheritance of human genetic disorders. These genes may be located on somatic chromosomes (autosomes) or sex chromosomes. e.2