A genetic model for multimorbidity in young adults.

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To study the burden of illness in 22q, we compared young to middle-aged adults with 22q to a large community-based Canadian general population sample of over 25,000 people. We defined burden of illness ("multi-morbidity") as using five or more prescription medications. In the 25-44 year age group the overall burden of illness was most similar to the burden in the general population at age 65. In the 45-64 year age group the burden of illness in 22q was about twice that of the general population. For younger adults, the pattern tended to be consistent with the conditions commonly associated with 22q, but in middle age in 22q the pattern looked more similar to older age groups of the general population. Our results highlight the importance of providing multidisciplinary and personcentred care for adults with 22q.