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**An infant with Down syndrome and
retinoblastoma. A possible non-fortuitous
association**

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Dear editor,

Satge et al.¹ reported in *Ophthalmic Genetics* an infant with Down syndrome and retinoblastoma and presented also a review of the literature. They are to be commended with a very interesting study.

As the authors stated in their article, it is unlikely that all cases with both Down syndrome and retinoblastoma are reported in the literature and included in their study. In fact, they missed at least one study² published in your journal regarding the prevalence of mental retardation in patients with hereditary retinoblastoma. We did an epidemiological study and found in the Dutch retinoblastoma Register a 8.7% cumulative incidence of mental retardation in 241 patients with hereditary retinoblastoma born in a 50 year period between 1945–1994. Two patients (females) of the 241 hereditary retinoblastoma patients had both Down syndrome (trisomy 21) and sporadic bilateral retinoblastoma (no 13q deletion found).² That is much higher than the 1 Down syndrome in 690 life births reported by the WHO.

In summary, our epidemiological study supports the idea of Statge et al.¹ that hereditary retinoblastoma patients may have an increased risk for Down syndrome.

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Sincerely,
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- 2 Moll AC, Imhof SM, Bleeker-Wagemakers EM, Den Otter W, Bouter LM, Kolen JW, Tan KEWP. Prevalence of mental retardation in patients with hereditary retinoblastoma. *Ophthalmic Genetics* 1997;18:217-220.
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