

Of fingers, toes and penises

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Abstract

Vertebrate *Hox* genes are essential for limb development. The posterior-most *Hoxd* and *Hoxa* genes are required for growth and patterning of digits and are also strongly expressed in the genital bud, which gives rise to the urogenital system, including the penis. Here, we show that removal of posterior *Hox* gene function results in a concomitant loss of digits and genital bud-derivatives, illustrating that similar developmental mechanisms are at work in these different buds.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v390/n6655/full/390029a0.html>