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Women get more work out of hundreds of genes on the X chromosome than men do, and that might help explain biological differences between the sexes, a new study says. The results imply that women make higher doses of certain proteins than men do, which might play out in gender differences in both normal life and disease, researchers said. So far, however, none of the genes identified in the study has been linked to any such observable differences, said senior study author Huntington Willard of Duke University. Chromosomes are the threadlike packages of genes and other DNA found in cells of the body. People have 24 kinds, numbered 1 through 22 plus the X chromosome and its runty partner, the Y. Women carry two copies of the X chromosome, one inherited from each parent, while men have one X plus one Y chromosome. Long before birth, females permanently turn off one copy of their X chromosome in each cell, so that like males they operate with just one copy functioning. The choice of which X chromosome is inactivated is random, an effect made visible in the unusual coats of calico cats. But scientists have long known that inactivation isn't perfect. Some genes on the inactivated copy continue to function, sending out chemical orders for the cell to manufacture specific proteins. First, they found that 15 percent of the inactivated chromosome's genes continue to function to some degree. More surprising, Willard said, was what

researchers discovered about another 10 percent of the genes. For each, the activity level varied widely from one woman to the next, from zero in some women to varying levels in others. 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com