

Prader-Willi Syndrome

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/praderwillisyndrome.html>

Also called: PWS

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a rare genetic disorder. It causes poor muscle tone, low levels of sex hormones and a constant feeling of hunger. The part of the brain that controls feelings of fullness or hunger does not work properly in people with PWS. They overeat, leading to obesity.

Babies with PWS are usually floppy, with poor muscle tone, and have trouble sucking. Boys may have undescended testicles. Later, other signs appear. These include

- Short stature
- Poor motor skills
- Weight gain
- Underdeveloped sex organs
- Mild intellectual and learning disabilities

There is no cure for PWS. Growth hormone, exercise, and dietary supervision can help build muscle mass and control weight. Other treatments may include sex hormones and behavior therapy. Most people with PWS will need specialized care and supervision throughout their lives.

NIH: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Start Here

- Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) Overview [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-willi/Pages/default.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Overviews

- Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/prader-willi-syndrome/DS00922/METHOD=print>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- Questions and Answers on Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.pwsausa.org/faq.htm>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.pwsausa.org/Spanish/Broch1.html>]
- What Is Prader-Willi Syndrome? [<http://www.pwsausa.org/syndrome>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)

Diagnosis/Symptoms

- Diagnostic Criteria for Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.pwsausa.org/syndrome/Diagnos.htm>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)
- How Do Health Care Providers Diagnose Prader-Willi Syndrome? [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-willi/conditioninfo/Pages/diagnose.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)
- What Are the Symptoms of Prader-Willi Syndrome? [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-willi/conditioninfo/Pages/symptoms.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Treatment

- Prader-Willi Syndrome Growth Hormone Deficiency and Treatment [<http://www.pwsausa.org/GH/>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)

- What Are the Treatments for Prader-Willi Syndrome? [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-willi/conditioninfo/Pages/treatments.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Nutrition

- Prader-Willi Food Pyramid [<http://www.pwsausa.org/syndrome/foodpyramid.htm>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)

Disease Management

- Prader-Willi Syndrome Weight and Behavior Management [<http://www.pwsausa.org/pdf/weight.pdf>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association) - PDF
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.pwsausa.org/Spanish/Broch3.html>]

Specific Conditions

- Low Testosterone and Men's Health [<http://www.hormone.org/questions-and-answers/2010/low-testosterone-and-mens-health>] (Hormone Health Network)

Related Issues

- Health Concerns and the Student with Prader-Willi Syndrome: Information for School Staff [<http://www.pwsausa.org/Educator/HealthConcernsStudentHO8-07.pdf>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association) - PDF
- Speech and Language and Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.pwsausa.org/PDF/speech.pdf>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association) - PDF

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Prader-Willi+Syndrome%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Genetics

- Genes and Disease: Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=gnd&part=praderwillisyndrome>] **NIH** (National Center for Biotechnology Information)
- Genetics Home Reference: Prader-Willi syndrome [<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/prader-willi-syndrome>] **NIH** (National Library of Medicine)
- Genetics of Prader-Willi Syndrome: An Explanation for the Rest of Us [http://www.pwsausa.org/syndrome/Genetics_of_PWS.htm] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)
- Prader-Willi Syndrome: Other FAQs [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-willi/conditioninfo/Pages/faqs.aspx>] **NIH** (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Two years of growth hormone treatment in adults with Prader-Willi... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23436915?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Magel2 is required for leptin-mediated depolarization of POMC neurons in... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23341784?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: Nutritional and metabolic findings in patients with Prader-Willi syndrome diagnosed... [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23329756?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Prader-Willi Syndrome -- see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=prader-willi+syndrome\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=prader-willi+syndrome[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Dictionaries/Glossaries

- Glossary of Terms That May Appear in Literature about Prader-Willi Syndrome [<http://www.pwsausa.org/glossary.htm>] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association)

Organizations

- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] **NIH**
- Prader-Willi Syndrome Association [<http://www.pwsausa.org/>]

Patient Handouts

- Prader-Willi syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001605.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001605.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Prader-Willi syndrome [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001605.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Obesity in Children [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/obesityinchildren.html>]
- Genetics/Birth Defects [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/geneticsbirthdefects.html>]
- Mental Health and Behavior [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/mentalhealthandbehavior.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Prader-Willi Syndrome* is the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/>]

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