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-willii/Pages/default.aspx] (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Overviews
  Also available in Spanish [http://www.pwsausa.org/Spanish/Broch1.html]

Diagnosis/Symptoms

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

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

Disease Management

  Also available in Spanish [http://www.pwsausa.org/Spanish/Broch3.html]

Specific Conditions


Related Issues

- Speech and Language and Prader-Willi Syndrome [http://www.pwsausa.org/PDF/speech.pdf] (Prader-Willi Syndrome Association) - PDF

Clinical Trials


Genetics

- Prader-Willi Syndrome: Other FAQs [http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/prader-will/syndromeinfo/Pages/faqs.aspx] NIH (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Journal Articles

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


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] 
- Prader-Willi Syndrome Association [http://www.pwsausa.org/]

Patient Handouts
  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:

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

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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