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Dwarfism

Also called: Little person

People with dwarfism have short stature. This means that their height is under 4' 10" as an adult. They are usually of normal intelligence. Dwarfism most often does happen in families where both parents are of average height.

More than 300 different conditions can cause dwarfism. Achondroplasia is the most common type of dwarfism. Achondroplasia is a genetic condition that affects about 1 in 15,000 to 1 in 40,000 people. It makes your arms and legs short in comparison to your head and trunk. You may also have a larger head and weak muscle tone. Other genetic conditions, kidney disease, and problems with metabolism or hormones can also cause dwarfism.

The conditions that cause dwarfism can also cause other health problems. Most of them are treatable. It is important to have regular checkups throughout your life. With proper medical care, most people with dwarfism have active lives and live as long as other people.





Start Here





















- **Achondroplasia: About the Disease** [<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/8173/achondroplasia/>]
 (Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center)
Also in Spanish [<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/espanol/12001/acondroplasia/>]
- **Dwarfism** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/dwarfism/symptoms-causes/syc-20371969?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/dwarfism/symptoms-causes/syc-20371969?p=1>]
- **Dwarfism (For Parents)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/dwarfism.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/dwarfism.html>]

Diagnosis and Tests



- **Genetic Testing (For Parents)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/genetics.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/genetics.html>]

Genetics

- **3-M syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics** [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/3-m-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- **Achondrogenesis: MedlinePlus Genetics** [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/achondrogenesis>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- **Achondroplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics** [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/achondroplasia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
- **Anauxetic dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics** [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/anauxetic-dysplasia>]
 (National Library of Medicine)

- Asphyxiating thoracic dystrophy: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/asphyxiating-thoracic-dystrophy>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Atelosteogenesis type 2: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/atelosteogenesis-type-2>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Campomelic dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/campomelic-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Cartilage-hair hypoplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cartilage-hair-hypoplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Diastrophic dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/diastrophic-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Fibrochondrogenesis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/fibrochondrogenesis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Hypochondrogenesis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hypochondrogenesis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Hypochondroplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hypochondroplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Isolated growth hormone deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/isolated-growth-hormone-deficiency>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Kniest dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/kniest-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Laron syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/laron-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Meier-Gorlin syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/meier-gorlin-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Metatropic dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/metatropic-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Osteoglophonic dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/osteoglophonic-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Robinow syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/robinow-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Saul-Wilson syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/saul-wilson-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Spondyloepimetaphyseal dysplasia, Strudwick type: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spondyloepiphyseal-dysplasia-with-marked-metaphyseal-changes>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spondyloepiphyseal-dysplasia-congenita>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Spondylothoracic dysostosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spondylothoracic-dysostosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
 - Thanatophoric dysplasia: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/thanatophoric-dysplasia>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Achondroplasia [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Achondroplasia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Dwarfism [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Dwarfism%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

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

- Article: Identification of NPR2 gene mutations affecting chondrocyte differentiation in short stature...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40750885>]
- Article: Development of the QoLISSY 0-4 questionnaire: a health-related quality of life...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40711690>]
- Article: ACAN Repeat Number Polymorphism in Patients with Idiopathic Short Stature.
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40517756>]
- Dwarfism -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Dwarfism%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://espanol.nichd.nih.gov/>]

Children

- Achondroplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/achondroplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/achondroplasia.html>]
- Campomelic Dysplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/campomelic-dysplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/campomelic-dysplasia.html>]
- Diastrophic Dysplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/diastrophic-dysplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/diastrophic-dysplasia.html>]
- Dwarfism (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/dwarfism.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/dwarfism.html>]
- Ellis-Van Creveld Dysplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/ellis-dysplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/ellis-dysplasia.html>]
- Hypochondroplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hypochondroplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hypochondroplasia.html>]
- Kniest Dysplasia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/kniest-dysplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/kniest-dysplasia.html>]
- Primordial Dwarfism (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/primordial-dwarfism.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/primordial-dwarfism.html>]
- Spondyloepiphyseal Dysplasia Congenita (SEDC) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sedc-dysplasia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/sedc-dysplasia.html>]

Teenagers

- Dwarfism [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/dwarfism.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/dwarfism.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Achondroplasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001577.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001577.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Achondrogenesis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001247.htm>]

Achondroplasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001577.htm>]

Ellis-van Creveld syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001667.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Growth Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/growthdisorders.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Dwarfism* is the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/Pages/index.aspx>]

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