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Epicanthal folds

An epicanthal fold is skin of the upper eyelid that covers the inner corner of the eye. The fold runs from the nose to the inner side of the eyebrow.

Causes

Epicanthal folds may be normal for people of Asian descent and some non-Asian infants. Epicanthal folds also may be seen in young children of any race before the bridge of the nose begins to rise.

However, they may also be due to certain medical conditions, including:

- Down syndrome
- Fetal alcohol syndrome
- Turner syndrome
- Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Williams syndrome
- Noonan syndrome
- Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome
- Blepharophimosis syndrome

Home Care

In most cases, no home care is needed.

When to Contact a Medical Professional

This trait is most often found before or during the first well-baby exam. Contact your health care provider if you notice epicanthal folds on your child's eyes and the reason for their presence is unknown.

What to Expect at Your Office Visit

Your provider will examine the child and ask questions about the medical history and symptoms. Questions may include:

- Do any family members have Down syndrome or other genetic disorder?

- Is there a family history of intellectual disability or birth defects?

A child who is not Asian and is born with epicanthal folds may be examined for additional signs of Down syndrome or other genetic disorders.

Alternative Names

Plica palpebronasalis

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