Geleophysic dysplasia

Geleophysic dysplasia is an inherited condition that affects many parts of the body. It is characterized by abnormalities involving the bones, joints, heart, and skin.

People with geleophysic dysplasia have short stature with very short hands and feet. Most also develop thickened skin and joint deformities called contractures, both of which significantly limit mobility. Affected individuals usually have a limited range of motion in their fingers, toes, wrists, and elbows. Additionally, contractures in the legs and hips cause many affected people to walk on their toes.

The name of this condition, which comes from the Greek words for happy ("gelios") and nature ("physis"), is derived from the good-natured facial appearance seen in most affected individuals. The distinctive facial features associated with this condition include a round face with full cheeks, a small nose with upturned nostrils, a broad nasal bridge, a thin upper lip, upturned corners of the mouth, and a flat area between the upper lip and the nose (philtrum).

Geleophysic dysplasia is also characterized by heart (cardiac) problems, particularly abnormalities of the cardiac valves. These valves normally control the flow of blood through the heart. In people with geleophysic dysplasia, the cardiac valves thicken, which impedes blood flow and increases blood pressure in the heart. Other heart problems have also been reported in people with geleophysic dysplasia; these include a narrowing of the artery from the heart to the lungs (pulmonary stenosis) and a hole between the two upper chambers of the heart (atrial septal defect).

Other features of geleophysic dysplasia can include an enlarged liver (hepatomegaly) and recurrent respiratory and ear infections. In severe cases, a narrowing of the windpipe (tracheal stenosis) can cause serious breathing problems. As a result of heart and respiratory abnormalities, geleophysic dysplasia is often life-threatening in childhood. However, some affected people have lived into adulthood.

Frequency

Geleophysic dysplasia is a rare disorder whose prevalence is unknown. More than 30 affected individuals have been reported.

Causes

Geleophysic dysplasia results from mutations in the ADAMTSL2 gene. This gene provides instructions for making a protein whose function is unclear. The protein is found in the extracellular matrix, which is the intricate lattice of proteins and other molecules that forms in the spaces between cells. Studies suggest that the ADAMTSL2 protein may play a role in the microfibrillar network, which is an organized clustering
of thread-like filaments (called microfibrils) in the extracellular matrix. This network provides strength and flexibility to tissues throughout the body.

Mutations in the ADAMTSL2 protein likely change the protein's 3-dimensional structure. Through a process that is poorly understood, ADAMTSL2 gene mutations alter the microfibrillar network in many different tissues. Impairment of this essential network disrupts the normal functions of cells, which likely contributes to the varied signs and symptoms of geleophysic dysplasia. Researchers are working to determine how mutations in the ADAMTSL2 gene lead to short stature, heart disease, and the other features of this condition.

Inheritance Pattern

This condition is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene in each cell have mutations. The parents of an individual with an autosomal recessive condition each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but they typically do not show signs and symptoms of the condition.

Other Names for This Condition

• geleophysic dwarfism

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

• What is genetic testing? /primer/testing/genetictesting

Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov

• ClinicalTrials.gov https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22skeletal+dysplasias%22+OR+%22geleophysic+dysplasia%22

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

• MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Short Stature https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003271.htm
Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

• Encyclopedia: Short Stature
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003271.htm

• Health Topic: Growth Disorders
  https://medlineplus.gov/growthdisorders.html

• Health Topic: Heart Valve Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/heartvalvediseases.html

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

• Geleophysic dwarfism
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/2449/geleophysic-dwarfism

Educational Resources

• American Heart Association: Atrial Septal Defect

• American Heart Association: Pulmonary Stenosis
  https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/congenital-heart-defects/about-congenital-heart-defects/pulmonary-valve-stenosis

• Boston Children's Hospital: Congenital Anomalies of the Esophagus and Trachea

• MalaCards: geleophysic dysplasia
  https://www.malacards.org/card/geleophysic_dysplasia

• Orphanet: Geleophysic dysplasia
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2623

• Texas Heart Institute: Valve Disease
  https://www.texasheart.org/heart-health/heart-information-center/topics/valve-disease/

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

• Human Growth Foundation
  http://hgfound.org/

• Little People of America
  https://www.lpaonline.org/

• Little People UK
  https://littlepeopleuk.org/
• Resource list from the University of Kansas Medical Center: Dwarfism / Short Stature  
  http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/dwarfism.html

• Resource list from the University of Kansas Medical Center: Heart / Cardiology Conditions  
  http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/conghart.html

• The MPS Society (UK)  
  http://www.mpssociety.org.uk/diseases/related-diseases/geleophysic-dysplasia/

Clinical Information from GeneReviews

• Geleophysic Dysplasia  
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11168

Scientific Articles on PubMed

• PubMed  
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28geleophysic+dysplasia%5BTIAB %5D%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22%5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

• GELEOPHYSIC DYSPLASIA 1  
  http://omim.org/entry/231050

• GELEOPHYSIC DYSPLASIA 2  
  http://omim.org/entry/614185

Sources for This Summary

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  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20301776

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  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2675613/

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