Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia

Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia is a disorder of cartilage and bone development primarily affecting the ends of the long bones in the arms and legs (epiphyses). There are two types of multiple epiphyseal dysplasia, which can be distinguished by their pattern of inheritance. Both the dominant and recessive types have relatively mild signs and symptoms, including joint pain that most commonly affects the hips and knees, early-onset arthritis, and a waddling walk. Although some people with multiple epiphyseal dysplasia have mild short stature as adults, most are of normal height. The majority of individuals are diagnosed during childhood; however, some mild cases may not be diagnosed until adulthood.

Recessive multiple epiphyseal dysplasia is distinguished from the dominant type by malformations of the hands, feet, and knees and abnormal curvature of the spine (scoliosis). About 50 percent of individuals with recessive multiple epiphyseal dysplasia are born with at least one abnormal feature, including an inward- and upward-turning foot (clubfoot), an opening in the roof of the mouth (cleft palate), an unusual curving of the fingers or toes (clinodactyly), or ear swelling. An abnormality of the kneecap called a double-layered patella is also relatively common.

Frequency

The incidence of dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia is estimated to be at least 1 in 10,000 newborns. The incidence of recessive multiple epiphyseal dysplasia is unknown. Both forms of this disorder may actually be more common because some people with mild symptoms are never diagnosed.

Causes

Mutations in the COMP, COL9A1, COL9A2, COL9A3, or MATN3 gene can cause dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia. These genes provide instructions for making proteins that are found in the spaces between cartilage-forming cells (chondrocytes). These proteins interact with each other and play an important role in cartilage and bone formation. Cartilage is a tough, flexible tissue that makes up much of the skeleton during early development. Most cartilage is later converted to bone, except for the cartilage that continues to cover and protect the ends of bones and is present in the nose and external ears.

The majority of individuals with dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia have mutations in the COMP gene. About 10 percent of affected individuals have mutations in the MATN3 gene. Mutations in the COMP or MATN3 gene prevent the release of the proteins produced from these genes into the spaces between the chondrocytes. The
absence of these proteins leads to the formation of abnormal cartilage, which can cause the skeletal problems characteristic of dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia.

The COL9A1, COL9A2, and COL9A3 genes provide instructions for making a protein called type IX collagen. Collagens are a family of proteins that strengthen and support connective tissues, such as skin, bone, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments. Mutations in the COL9A1, COL9A2, or COL9A3 gene are found in less than five percent of individuals with dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia. It is not known how mutations in these genes cause the signs and symptoms of this disorder. Research suggests that mutations in these genes may cause type IX collagen to accumulate inside the cell or interact abnormally with other cartilage components.

Some people with dominant multiple epiphyseal dysplasia do not have a mutation in the COMP, COL9A1, COL9A2, COL9A3, or MATN3 gene. In these cases, the cause of the condition is unknown.

Mutations in the SLC26A2 gene cause recessive multiple epiphyseal dysplasia. This gene provides instructions for making a protein that is essential for the normal development of cartilage and for its conversion to bone. Mutations in the SLC26A2 gene alter the structure of developing cartilage, preventing bones from forming properly and resulting in the skeletal problems characteristic of recessive multiple epiphyseal dysplasia.

**Inheritance Pattern**

Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia can have different inheritance patterns.

This condition can be inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, which means one copy of the altered gene in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder. In some cases, an affected person inherits the mutation from one affected parent. Other cases may result from new mutations in the gene. These cases occur in people with no history of the disorder in their family.

Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia can also be inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means both copies of the gene in each cell have mutations. Most often, the parents of an individual with an autosomal recessive condition each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but do not show signs and symptoms of the condition.

**Other Names for This Condition**

- EDM1
- EDM2
- EDM3
- EDM4
- EDM5
- epiphyseal dysplasia, Fairbank type
• epiphyseal dysplasia, multiple, 1
• epiphyseal dysplasia, multiple, 2
• epiphyseal dysplasia, multiple, 3
• epiphyseal dysplasia, multiple, 4
• epiphyseal dysplasia, multiple, 5
• epiphyseal dysplasia, Ribbing type
• MED
• multiple epiphyseal dysplasia, autosomal dominant
• multiple epiphyseal dysplasia, autosomal recessive
• rMED

**Diagnosis & Management**

**Genetic Testing Information**

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

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 1

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 2

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 3

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 4

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 5

- Genetic Testing Registry: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia 6

**Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov**

- ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22multiple+epiphyseal+dysplasia%22+OR+%22Epiphyseal+Dysplasias%22+OR+%22Epiphyseal+Dysplasia%22+OR+%22Multiple+Epiphyseal+Dysplasia%22+OR+%22Dysplasias%22+OR+%22Dysplasia%22+OR+%22Multiple+Epiphyseal+Dysplasia%22+OR+%22Multiple+Epiphyseal+Dysplasia%22
Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

- Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
  https://www.cedars-sinai.edu/Patients/Health-Conditions/Skeletal-Dysplasia.aspx
- GeneReview: Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, Dominant
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1123
- GeneReview: Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, Recessive
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1306

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

- Health Topic: Bone Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/bonediseases.html

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia

Additional NIH Resources

- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases: Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
  https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/heritable-disorders-connective-tissue

Educational Resources

- MalaCards: multiple epiphyseal dysplasia
  https://www.malacards.org/card/multiple_epiphyseal_dysplasia
- Nemours Children’s Health System
  https://www.nemours.org/services/skeletal-dysplasia/multipleepiphyseal.html?tab=about
- Orphanet: Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=251

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- Human Growth Foundation
  https://www.hgfound.org/
- Little People of America
  https://www.lpaonline.org/
- Little People UK
  https://littlepeopleuk.org/
• National Organization for Rare Disorders
https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/dominant-multiple-epiphyseal-dysplasia/

• Resources from the University of Kansas Medical Center
http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/dwarfism.html

Clinical Information from GeneReviews
• Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, Dominant
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1123

• Multiple Epiphyseal Dysplasia, Recessive
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1306

Scientific Articles on PubMed
• PubMed
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28multiple+epiphyseal+dysplasia%5BTIAB%5D%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+1800+days%22+5Bdp%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM
• COLLAGEN, TYPE IX, ALPHA-1
http://omim.org/entry/120210

• EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA, MULTIPLE, 1
http://omim.org/entry/132400

• EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA, MULTIPLE, 2
http://omim.org/entry/600204

• EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA, MULTIPLE, 3
http://omim.org/entry/600969

• EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA, MULTIPLE, 4
http://omim.org/entry/226900

• EPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA, MULTIPLE, 5
http://omim.org/entry/607078
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12525546  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1735262/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20301483

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11968079

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20301302

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20358595  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3557369/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15503005

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11241838

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24629099  
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3984757/
  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10465113
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1762965/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11891674

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:

Reviewed: November 2014
Published: September 3, 2019

Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications
U.S. National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health & Human Services