Oral-facial-digital syndrome is actually a group of related conditions that affect the development of the oral cavity (the mouth and teeth), facial features, and digits (fingers and toes).

Researchers have identified at least 13 potential forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome. The different types are classified by their patterns of signs and symptoms. However, the features of the various types overlap significantly, and some types are not well defined. The classification system for oral-facial-digital syndrome continues to evolve as researchers find more affected individuals and learn more about this disorder.

The signs and symptoms of oral-facial-digital syndrome vary widely. However, most forms of this disorder involve problems with development of the oral cavity, facial features, and digits. Most forms are also associated with brain abnormalities and some degree of intellectual disability.

Abnormalities of the oral cavity that occur in many types of oral-facial-digital syndrome include a split (cleft) in the tongue, a tongue with an unusual lobed shape, and the growth of noncancerous tumors or nodules on the tongue. Affected individuals may also have extra, missing, or defective teeth. Another common feature is an opening in the roof of the mouth (a cleft palate). Some people with oral-facial-digital syndrome have bands of extra tissue (called hyperplastic frenula) that abnormally attach the lip to the gums.

Distinctive facial features often associated with oral-facial-digital syndrome include a split in the lip (a cleft lip); a wide nose with a broad, flat nasal bridge; and widely spaced eyes (hypertelorism).

Abnormalities of the digits can affect both the fingers and the toes in people with oral-facial-digital syndrome. These abnormalities include fusion of certain fingers or toes (syndactyly), digits that are shorter than usual (brachydactyly), or digits that are unusually curved (clinodactyly). The presence of extra digits (polydactyly) is also seen in most forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome.

Other features occur in only one or a few types of oral-facial digital syndrome. These features help distinguish the different forms of the disorder. For example, the most common form of oral-facial-digital syndrome, type I, is associated with polycystic kidney disease. This kidney disease is characterized by the growth of fluid-filled sacs (cysts) that interfere with the kidneys' ability to filter waste products from the blood. Other forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome are characterized by neurological problems, particular changes in the structure of the brain, bone abnormalities, vision loss, and heart defects.
Frequency

Oral-facial-digital syndrome has an estimated incidence of 1 in 50,000 to 250,000 newborns. Type I accounts for the majority of cases of this disorder. The other forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome are very rare; most have been identified in only one or a few families.

Causes

Only one gene, OFD1, has been associated with oral-facial-digital syndrome. Mutations in this gene cause oral-facial-digital syndrome type I. OFD1 gene mutations were also found in an affected family whose disorder was classified as type VII; however, researchers now believe that type VII is the same as type I.

The OFD1 gene provides instructions for making a protein whose function is not fully understood. It appears to play an important role in the early development of many parts of the body, including the brain, face, limbs, and kidneys. Mutations in the OFD1 gene prevent cells from making enough functional OFD1 protein, which disrupts the normal development of these structures. It is unclear how a shortage of this protein causes the specific features of oral-facial-digital syndrome type I.

Researchers are actively searching for the genetic changes responsible for the other forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome.

Inheritance Pattern

Oral-facial-digital syndrome type I is inherited in an X-linked dominant pattern. The gene associated with this condition is located on the X chromosome, which is one of the two sex chromosomes. In females (who have two X chromosomes), a mutation in one of the two copies of the gene in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder. Some cells produce a normal amount of OFD1 protein and other cells produce none. The resulting overall reduction in the amount of this protein leads to the signs and symptoms of oral-facial-digital syndrome type I.

In males (who have only one X chromosome), mutations result in a total loss of the OFD1 protein. A lack of this protein is usually lethal very early in development, so very few males are born with oral-facial-digital syndrome type I. Affected males usually die before birth, although a few have lived into early infancy.

Most of the other forms of oral-facial-digital syndrome are inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which suggests that both copies of a causative 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

- dysplasia linguofaciialis
- OFDS
• oro-facio-digital syndrome
• orodigitofacial dysostosis
• orodigitofacial syndrome
• orofaciiodigital syndrome

**Diagnosis & Management**

**Genetic Testing Information**

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

• Genetic Testing Registry: Mohr syndrome

• Genetic Testing Registry: Oral-facial-digital syndrome

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofacial-digital syndrome III

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofacial-digital syndrome IV

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 5

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 6

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 8

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 9

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 10

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome 11

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndrome VII

• Genetic Testing Registry: Orofaciodigital syndromes

**Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov**

• ClinicalTrials.gov
Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

- GeneReview: Oral-Facial-Digital Syndrome Type I
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1188
- MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Cleft Lip and Palate
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001051.htm
- MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Polycystic Kidney Disease
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000502.htm
- MedlinePlus Encyclopedia: Polydactyly
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003176.htm

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

- Encyclopedia: Cleft Lip and Palate
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001051.htm
- Encyclopedia: Polycystic Kidney Disease
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000502.htm
- Encyclopedia: Polydactyly
  https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003176.htm
- Health Topic: Craniofacial Abnormalities
  https://medlineplus.gov/craniofacialabnormalities.html
- Health Topic: Hand Injuries and Disorders
  https://medlineplus.gov/handinjuriesanddisorders.html

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Orofaciodigital syndrome 1
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/4121/orofaciodigital-syndrome-1
- Orofaciodigital syndrome 2
- Orofaciodigital syndromes
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/10692/orofaciodigital-syndromes

Additional NIH Resources

- National Human Genome Research Institute
  https://www.genome.gov/27529974/ofd-general-information
Educational Resources

- MalaCards: orofaciiodigital syndrome
  https://www.malacards.org/card/orofaciiodigital_syndrome

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 1
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2750

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 2
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2751

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 3
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2752

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 4
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2753

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 5
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2919

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 7
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=90649

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 8
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2755

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 9
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=141007

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 10
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=2756

- Orphanet: Orofaciodigital syndrome type 11
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=141000

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- AmeriFace
  http://www.ameriface.org/

- Children's Craniofacial Association
  https://ccakids.org/

- FACES: The National Craniofacial Association
  http://www.faces-cranio.org/

- National Kidney Foundation
  https://www.kidney.org/

- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
Clinical Information from GeneReviews

• Oral-Facial-Digital Syndrome Type I
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1188

Scientific Articles on PubMed

• PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28Orofaciodigital+Synromes%5BMAJR%5D%29+AND+%28%28oral-facial-digital%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28orofaciodigital%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28oral+facial+digital%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

• MOHR SYNDROME
  http://omim.org/entry/252100
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME I
  http://omim.org/entry/311200
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME III
  http://omim.org/entry/258850
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME IV
  http://omim.org/entry/258860
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME IX
  http://omim.org/entry/258865
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME V
  http://omim.org/entry/174300
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME VI
  http://omim.org/entry/277170
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME VII
  http://omim.org/entry/608518
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME VIII
  http://omim.org/entry/300484
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME X
  http://omim.org/entry/165590
• OROFACIODIGITAL SYNDROME XI
  http://omim.org/entry/612913
Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11179005 
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1274470/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17963220

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19876934

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14598343

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18546297

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19817772

  S072-9752(07)87018-7. 
  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18809032

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16397067 
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2564504/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19396822

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference: 

Reviewed: February 2010
Published: June 25, 2019