Pseudoachondroplasia

Pseudoachondroplasia is an inherited disorder of bone growth. It was once thought to be related to another disorder of bone growth called achondroplasia, but without that disorder’s characteristic facial features. More research has demonstrated that pseudoachondroplasia is a separate disorder.

All people with pseudoachondroplasia have short stature. The average height of adult males with this condition is 120 centimeters (3 feet, 11 inches), and the average height of adult females is 116 centimeters (3 feet, 9 inches). Individuals with pseudoachondroplasia are not unusually short at birth; by the age of two, their growth rate falls below the standard growth curve.

Other characteristic features of pseudoachondroplasia include short arms and legs; a waddling walk; joint pain in childhood that progresses to a joint disease known as osteoarthritis; an unusually large range of joint movement (hyperextensibility) in the hands, knees, and ankles; and a limited range of motion at the elbows and hips. Some people with pseudoachondroplasia have legs that turn outward or inward (valgus or varus deformity). Sometimes, one leg turns outward and the other inward, which is called windswept deformity. Some affected individuals have a spine that curves to the side (scoliosis) or an abnormally curved lower back (lordosis). People with pseudoachondroplasia have normal facial features, head size, and intelligence.

Frequency

The exact prevalence of pseudoachondroplasia is unknown; it is estimated to occur in 1 in 30,000 individuals.

Genetic Changes

Mutations in the \textit{COMP} gene cause pseudoachondroplasia. This gene provides instructions for making a protein that is essential for the normal development of cartilage and for its conversion to bone. 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 COMP protein is normally found in the spaces between cartilage-forming cells called chondrocytes, where it interacts with other proteins. \textit{COMP} gene mutations result in the production of an abnormal COMP protein that cannot be transported out of the cell. The abnormal protein builds up inside the chondrocyte and ultimately leads to early cell death. Early death of the chondrocytes prevents normal bone growth and causes the short stature and bone abnormalities seen in pseudoachondroplasia.
Inheritance Pattern

Pseudoachondroplasia is 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. Most cases result from new mutations in the gene and occur in people with no history of the disorder in their family.

Other Names for This Condition

• PSACH
• pseudoachondroplastic dysplasia
• pseudoachondroplastic spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia syndrome

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing

• Genetic Testing Registry: Pseudoachondroplastic spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia syndrome

Other Diagnosis and Management Resources

• GeneReview: Pseudoachondroplasia
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1487

General Information from MedlinePlus

• Diagnostic Tests
  https://medlineplus.gov/diagnostictests.html
• Drug Therapy
  https://medlineplus.gov/drugtherapy.html
• Genetic Counseling
  https://medlineplus.gov/geneticcounseling.html
• Palliative Care
  https://medlineplus.gov/palliativecare.html
• Surgery and Rehabilitation
  https://medlineplus.gov/surgeryandrehabilitation.html

Additional Information & Resources

MedlinePlus

• Health Topic: Dwarfism
  https://medlineplus.gov/dwarfism.html
Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Pseudoachondroplasia
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/4540/pseudoachondroplasia

Educational Resources

- Disease InfoSearch: Pseudoachondroplasia
  http://www.diseaseinfosearch.org/Pseudoachondroplasia/6018
- KidsHealth
- MalaCards: pseudoachondroplasia
  http://www.malacards.org/card/pseudoachondroplasia
- Nemours Children’s Health System
  https://www.nemours.org/services/skeletal-dysplasia/pseudoachondroplasia.html?tab=about
- Orphanet: Pseudoachondroplasia
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=750
- University of Kansas Medical Center
  http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/dwarfism.html

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- Human Growth Foundation
  http://hgfound.org/
- Little People of America
  http://www.lpaonline.org
- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
  https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/pseudoachondroplasia/
- The MAGIC Foundation
  https://www.magicfoundation.org/

GeneReviews

- Pseudoachondroplasia
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1487

ClinicalTrials.gov

- ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22pseudoachondroplasia%22+OR+%22Dwarfism%22
Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28Dwarfism%5BMAJR%5D%29+AND+%28%28pseudoachondroplasia%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28psach%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28pseudoachondroplastic+dysplasia%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D+AND+%22last+3600+days%22%5Bdp%5D

OMIM

- PSEUDOACHONDROPLASIA
  http://omim.org/entry/177170

Sources for This Summary

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20301660

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21644213

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15183431

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21922596
  Free article on PubMed Central: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3272220/

  Citation on PubMed: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18193163

Reprinted from Genetics Home Reference:
https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/pseudoachondroplasia

Reviewed: January 2013
Published: July 17, 2018