



Weyers acrofacial dysostosis

Weyers acrofacial dysostosis is a disorder that affects the development of the teeth, nails, and bones. Dental abnormalities can include small, peg-shaped teeth; fewer teeth than normal (hypodontia); and one front tooth instead of two (a single central incisor). Additionally, the lower jaw (mandible) may be abnormally shaped. People with Weyers acrofacial dysostosis have abnormally small or malformed fingernails and toenails. Most people with the condition are relatively short, and they may have extra fingers or toes (polydactyly).

The features of Weyers acrofacial dysostosis overlap with those of another, more severe condition called Ellis-van Creveld syndrome. In addition to tooth and nail abnormalities, people with Ellis-van Creveld syndrome have very short stature and are often born with heart defects. The two conditions are caused by mutations in the same genes.

Frequency

Weyers acrofacial dysostosis appears to be a rare disorder. Only a few affected families have been identified worldwide.

Causes

Most cases of Weyers acrofacial dysostosis result from mutations in the *EVC2* gene. A mutation in a similar gene, *EVC*, has been found in at least one person with the characteristic features of the disorder. Little is known about the function of the *EVC* and *EVC2* genes, although they appear to play important roles in cell-to-cell signaling during development. In particular, the proteins produced from these genes are thought to help regulate the Sonic Hedgehog signaling pathway. This pathway plays roles in cell growth, cell specialization, and the normal shaping (patterning) of many parts of the body.

The mutations that cause Weyers acrofacial dysostosis result in the production of an abnormal *EVC* or *EVC2* protein. It is unclear how the abnormal proteins lead to the specific signs and symptoms of this condition. Studies suggest that they interfere with Sonic Hedgehog signaling in the developing embryo, disrupting the formation and growth of the teeth, nails, and bones.

Inheritance Pattern

Weyers acrofacial dysostosis is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, which means one copy of the altered *EVC* or *EVC2* gene in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder. In most cases, an affected person inherits the altered gene from a parent who has the condition.

Other Names for This Condition

- acrodental dysostosis of Weyers
- Curry-Hall syndrome
- Weyers acrodental dysostosis

Diagnosis & Management

Genetic Testing Information

- What is genetic testing?
[/primer/testing/genetictesting](#)
- Genetic Testing Registry: Curry-Hall syndrome
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gtr/conditions/C0457013/>

Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

- Encyclopedia: Nail Abnormalities
<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003247.htm>
- Encyclopedia: Polydactyly
<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003176.htm>
- Encyclopedia: Tooth - Abnormal Shape
<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003064.htm>
- Health Topic: Bone Diseases
<https://medlineplus.gov/bonediseases.html>

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

- Weyers acrofacial dysostosis
<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/497/weyers-acrofacial-dysostosis>

Educational Resources

- Boston Children's Hospital: Polydactyly
<http://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions-and-treatments/conditions/p/polydactyly>
- MalaCards: weyers acrofacial dysostosis
https://www.malacards.org/card/weyers_acrofacial_dysostosis
- Merck Manual Home Health Handbook: Overview of Tooth Disorders
<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/mouth-and-dental-disorders/tooth-disorders/overview-of-tooth-disorders>
- Orphanet: Acrofacial dysostosis, Weyers type
https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=952

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

- National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD): Ellis-van Creveld Syndrome
<https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/ellis-van-creveld-syndrome/>
- Resource list from the University of Kansas Medical Center: Dwarfism / Short Stature
<http://www.kumc.edu/gec/support/skeldysp.html>

Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28weyers+acrofacial+dysostosis%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28curry-hall+syndrome%5BTIAB%5D%29+OR+%28weyers+acrofacial+dysostosis%5BTIAB%5D%29%29+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D>

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- WEYERS ACROFACIAL DYSOSTOSIS
<http://omim.org/entry/193530>

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