

Achondroplasia

(Dwarfism)

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History

- ★ A group of scientists headed by Dr. John Wasmuth discovered Achondroplasia in 1994, though it had been looked into many years before.

What is it?

- ★ Achondroplasia is a bone growth disorder.
- ★ Most people with this disorder have normal parents, a condition formed by a mutation in the fibroblast growth receptor 3 gene. (Scientists are unsure why this happens)
- ★ It can also be inherited and is a dominant allele.

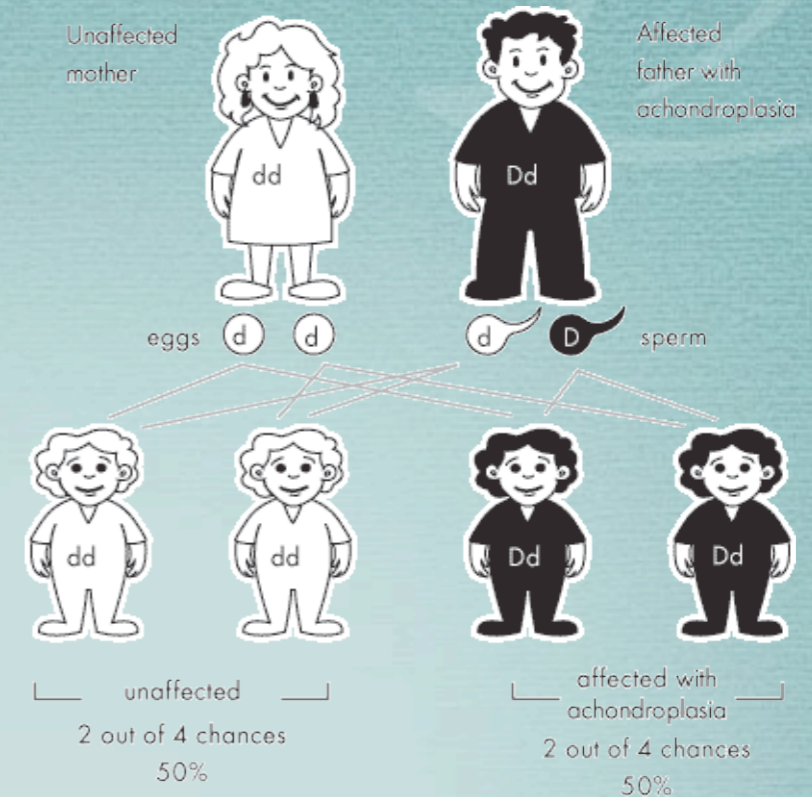


Symptoms

- ★ A newborn that has inherited the gene from both parents have a more severe form of Achondroplasia and only live for less than 1 year.
- ★ An average sized trunk with short arms, legs, and fingers, a large head, and a prominent forehead.
- ★ Short stature. Adult males grow to be about 4 feet 4 inches, females 4 feet 1 inch.
- ★ Often have many health conditions such as breathing disorders, ear infections, obesity, reduced muscle strength, bowed legs, and permanent sway of the lower back.

Treatment

- ★ There is no cure, but the people who are afflicted get treatment for any resulting health conditions.



More information

- ★ KidsHealth.org
- ★ eMedtv.com
- ★ Achonroplasia.co.uk



Bibliography

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- ★ Nicholson, Linda “Dwarfism.” TeensHealth. 2008. 23 Feb. 2010 http://kidshealth.org/teen/disease_conditions/growth/dwarfism.html
- ★ Schoenstadt, Arthur “Achondroplasia Dwarfism.” eMedTV. 2006. 23 Feb. 2010 <http://bones.emedtv.com/achondroplasia/achondroplasia-dwarfism.html>

