

# Putting A Spotlight On...

## Williams Syndrome

### What is Williams Syndrome?

- Williams Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder characterized by mild to moderate delays in cognitive development or learning difficulties, a distinctive facial appearance, and a unique personality that combines over-friendliness and high levels of empathy with anxiety. WS occurs equally in males and females and in all cultures worldwide.

### What are the signs/symptoms?

- Symptoms include:
  - Chronic ear infections and/or hearing loss
  - Dental abnormalities, such as poor enamel and small or missing teeth
  - Elevated calcium level in the blood
  - Endocrine abnormalities: hypothyroidism, early puberty and diabetes in adulthood
  - Farsightedness
  - Feeding difficulties in infancy
  - Scoliosis (curve of the spine)
  - Sleep problems
  - Unsteady walk (gait)

### What is Williams Syndrome a result of?

- Williams Syndrome is a result of missing a portion of chromosome 7. This genetic change happens around the time of conception.

### What are the complications of Williams Syndrome?

- problems involving vision or hearing (sensitivity to sound)
- problems with digestive tract
- problems with the urinary system
- obesity or diabetes can occur in adulthood

### References:

- <https://williams-syndrome.org/what-is-ws>
- <https://bit.ly/nindsnih>
- <https://cle.clinic/3URiqm0>
- <https://bit.ly/medlineplusws>

