

What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome (DS) is a genetic condition related to trisomy of chromosome 21.

Besides being considered the most common chromosomal anomaly, it has a very variable prognosis, being the most studied of all malformative syndromes of the human species.

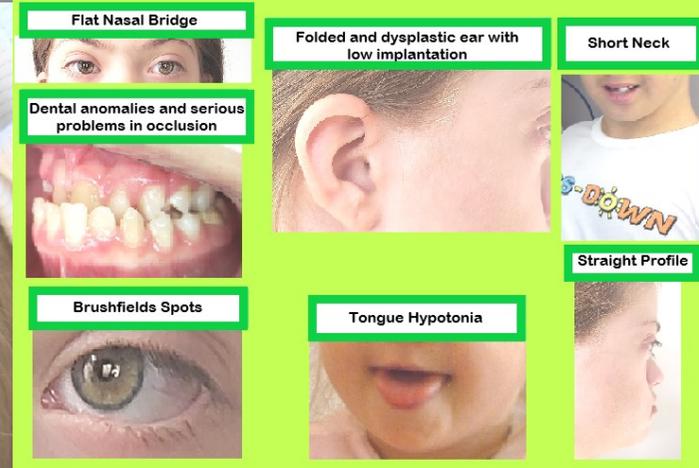
Among the main genetic features of the syndrome are highlighted: brachycephaly, an upward slant to the eyes, flattened nasal base, rounded face, small ears, short and wide neck, a single deep crease across the center of the palm, small hands, short phalanges, small stature – although each person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees, or not at all.

In general, individuals with DS have varying degrees muscle tone and cognitive development. They present alterations of the nervous system and the immune system (it causes a greater susceptibility to infections). Cardiovascular and hematopoietic abnormalities may also be found.

DENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Orofacial - The frequently found abnormalities in face development and in the oral cavity are listed below:

- Hypoplasia of the middle third (third of the small nose)
- Reduced muscle tone of oral musculature
 - Lip incompetence
 - Lingual protrusion
 - Dental shape anomaly
 - Hypocalcification of teeth
- Delay and disorder in tooth eruption
 - Dental agenesis
- Low prevalence of caries
- Class III bone or pseudo-prognathism due to hypoplasia of the jaw
 - Posterior crossbite



March 21st
International
Down Syndrome
Day

Phenotype

Short, thick neck
Flabby skin
Brushfield White Spotted Eyes
Small, wide and thick feet
Small and deep palate
Large, ridged tongue



Short, wide hands
Shortening of the fifth finger's middle phalanx
Cross Bite
Dental malformation
Small ears

WHEN GO TO THE DENTIST?

- To prevent and when you suspect there is a tooth decay
- Inflamed gum and tartar
- Open or cross bite, rash changes and dental malformations

Did you know that people with Down syndrome are more likely to develop gum problems?



Picture: APS Down Londrina / Luciana Belomo



Master in Dentistry Unopar

Discipline of Genetics

Professor Regina Frederico Poli, PhD

Authors:

João Takashi Nakama Jr.

Lucia Glória Diana Aguilar Pizzurno

Luciana Belomo-Yamaguchi

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DOWN SYNDROME and DENTISTRY



Picture: APS Down Londrina / Rosângela Oliveira