

## Treatment

- Since Williams Syndrome is so rare, there is no cure or standard treatment.
- Treatment is usually specific to individual's symptoms
- Require cardiovascular monitoring in case of blood vessels narrowing, high blood pressure or other heart problems.

For more information, please visit these websites:

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/williams/williams.htm>

<http://www.williams-syndrome.org/forparents/whatiswilliams.html>

<http://www.wsf.org/family/photoalbum/wsfphoto.htm>

## Williams Syndrome

What it is, What to look for and treatment

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## What is Williams Syndrome?

- Williams syndrome is a rare genetic disorder, usually caused by the deletion of a small piece of chromosome 7. It is usually caused by a random genetic mutation, not by inheritance.
- If someone does have Williams Syndrome, however, they have a 50% chance of passing it on.
- Occurs 1 time in every 10,000 births.



## Signs and Symptoms

- Physical appearance– Small upturned nose, wide mouth, small chin, puffiness around eyes, full cheeks, sloping shoulders, short stature and in some cases, star like pattern in the iris.
- Heart and blood vessel problems– Narrowing in aorta or other blood vessels, ranging from mild to severe.
- Hypercalcemia– Causes extreme irritability, much like colic. Usually only between 4-10 months old.
- Overly friendly personality
- Dental abnormalities– small, wide spread teeth.
- Feeding abnormalities– Low muscle tone, severe gag reflex, poor suck/ swallow abilities.

## More Symptoms

- Learning disabilities– Most children have an intellectual handicap. Most children have a developmental delay, causing them to take longer to learn how to walk or talk.
- These children are distracted very easily, but this seems to improve as they grow up. Most children with Williams Syndrome have attention deficit disorder.
- Many show strengths in speech, long term memory and social skills and show weakness in fine motor skills and spatial relations.

