What is the cause of Prader-Willi Syndrome?

—Prader-Willi Syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by the absence of genetic material on the chromosome 15 contributed by the father.

—PWS affects 1 in every 12,000-15,000 people both male and female, and all races and ethnic groups.

—A genetic disorder is a disease caused by a different form of a gene called a variation, or an alteration of a gene called a mutation.

—Most cases of PWS are attributed to a spontaneous genetic error that occurs at or near the time of conception for unknown reasons.

Helpful Resources for MORE information

*Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA)
http://www.pwsausa.org/

*American Academy of Family Physicians
http://www.aafp.org/afp/20050901/827.html

*Genetic Disorders
http://library.thinkquest.org/06aug/00440/bhome.html

*Genetic Testing
www.genetests.org

*Special Child: Disorder Zone Archives
http://www.specialchild.com/archives/dz-009.html

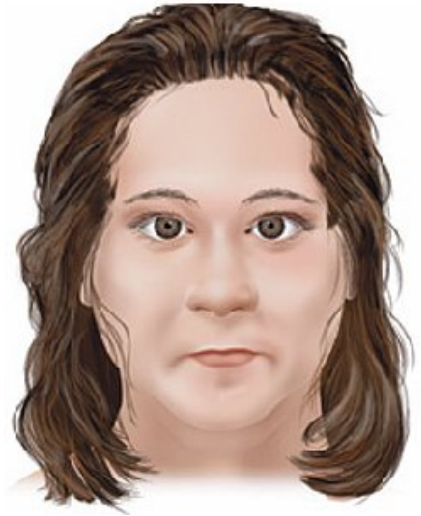
*Your Child: Prader-Willi Syndrome from University of Michigan
www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/praders.htm

PRADER – WILLI Syndrome

What are the characteristics of Prader-Willi Syndrome?

Picture from Genetic Disorders: See Resources for website.

- Low Muscle Tone (*hypotonia, or* floppy baby)
- Feeding problems and poor weight gain during infancy
- Chronic feeling of hunger that can lead to excessive eating and life-threatening obesity
- Distinctive facial features: narrow face, almond shape eyes, small mouth with thin upper lip and down turned corners



Picture from American Academy of Family Physicians: See Resources for website

Special Child: Disorder Zone Archives: See Resources for website

Features of PWS continued:

- Hypogonadism: incomplete or late sexual development
- Small stature, small hands and feet
- Behavior regulation problems, such as difficulties with transitions and unexpected changes
- Developmental delay, including mild to moderate mental retardation and learning difficulties.

How is Prader-Willi Syndrome Prevented?

There is no cure for PWS at this time. Genetic Testing is available for PWS, and people with signs and symptoms of PWS should get tested. All families with a child diagnosed with PWS should see a geneticist for genetic counseling in order to fully understand their chances of having another child with PWS.

How is Prader-Willi Syndrome Treated?

*While there is no cure, there are health problems that can be treated.

*Managing weight and creating a balanced healthy diet.

*Behavior management—daily routines, structure, firm rules and limits.

*Physical and occupational therapy help promote motor development

*Growth and sex hormone replacement