



What is Angelman Syndrome?

Angelman syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in males and females of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. It causes health and behavior problems, as well as severe developmental delays. Angelman syndrome occurs in about 1 in 12,000 to 20,000 people.

Michigan Resources & Support

Children's Special Health Care Services

Family Phone Line
Toll-free: 1-800-359-3722
www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Early On® Michigan

Toll-free: 1-800-EARLY ON
www.1800earlyon.org

Michigan Birth Defects Program

Nurse Follow-up Coordinator
Toll-free: 1-866-852-1247
E-mail: BDRfollowup@michigan.gov

Michigan Genetics Connection

www.migeneticsconnection.org

National Resources & Support

Angelman Syndrome Foundation

Toll-free: 1-800-432-6435
www.angelman.org

American Epilepsy Society

Phone: 860-586-7505
www.aesnet.org

Epilepsy Foundation of America

Phone: 301-459-3700
www.efa.org

Family Village

www.familyvillage.wisc.edu

GeneReviews

www.geneclinics.org/profiles/angelman/

Genetics Home Reference

www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition=angelmansyndrome

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/angelman/angelman.htm

How may Angelman syndrome affect my child?

Learning: Angelman syndrome causes severe delays or mental retardation and problems with speech. Most children with Angelman syndrome are never able to communicate with spoken "words" or fluent sign language, even though their understanding may be good.

Behavior: Children with Angelman syndrome may show behaviors such as a unique, unusual happy state; laughing, smiling and excitability at the wrong times; and hyperactivity. They may also have sleep disorders.

Physical: Children with Angelman syndrome may have certain facial features such as a prominent chin, wide mouth, and widely spaced teeth.

Medical: Children with Angelman syndrome often have balance problems with jerky movements of their arms and legs. Small head size (microcephaly), seizures (epilepsy), feeding problems, and constipation are also common.

How does Angelman syndrome occur?

Angelman Syndrome is caused by a problem with some of the genes located on the #15 chromosome. The child is usually the first and only family member affected. Genetic counseling is recommended for parents to learn about the genetic cause of Angelman syndrome in their child, and possible risks for other children.

How is Angelman syndrome treated?

Angelman syndrome cannot be cured, but some symptoms can be treated. Infants and toddlers (birth to 3 years) should be connected with *Early On*® Michigan as soon as possible. When there are concerns about learning, speech, or behavior in a child over 3 years of age, a referral for special education services should be made. Speech therapy is needed with a focus on teaching non-verbal ways of communication. A safe environment, especially at night, needs to be created to prevent injury. Other therapies or treatments may be needed for problems as they arise. Children with Angelman syndrome and their families benefit from having a primary care physician who helps to coordinate their care with medical specialists and community-based services.

For more information, call Michigan's Genetics & Birth Defects Program toll-free at 1-866-852-1247 or e-mail Genetics@michigan.gov

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