

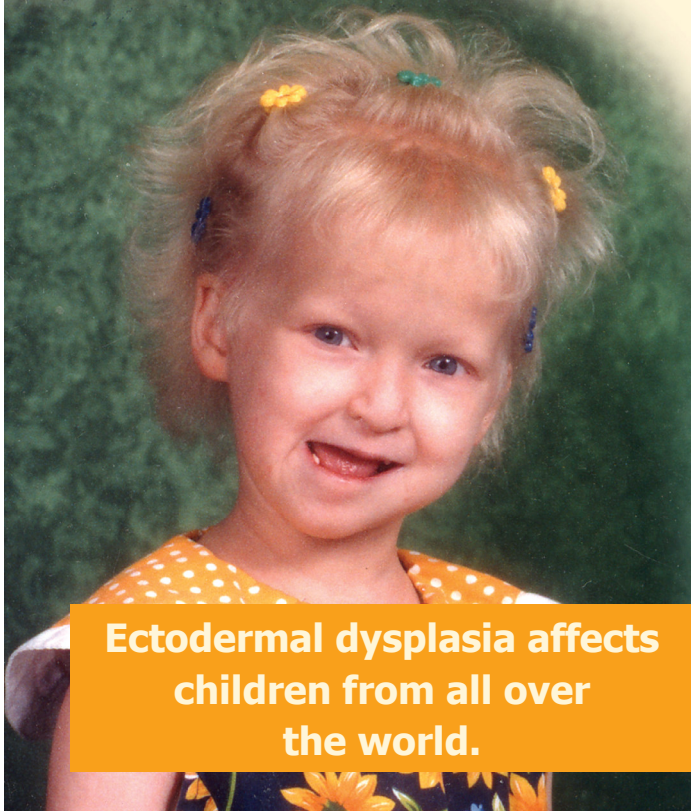
# Ectodermal Dysplasia

## FACTS:

- Ectodermal dysplasia are various types of genetic disorders that affect the outer layer of tissue (ectoderm) in a developing baby.
- The ectoderm is a tissue which eventually forms many parts of a developing baby's body. The skin, sweat glands, mucus glands, hair, teeth, nails, lens of the eye, parts of the inner ear, fingers, toes and nerves may be abnormal.
- Ectodermal dysplasia syndromes affect both males and females of all races and ethnic groups.
- Physical symptoms can range from mild to severe and can affect two or more of the following: eyes, teeth, hair, sweat glands, mucus glands and skin.
- Very few types of ectodermal dysplasia involve learning difficulties.
- All ectodermal dysplasia disorders are genetic. This is something that could not have been prevented or controlled.
- In some case ectodermal dysplasia is apparent at birth. In other cases it may be discovered later.



**Ectodermal dysplasia is a condition inherited from the birth parents.**




**Ectodermal dysplasia affects children from all over the world.**



# Ectodermal Dysplasia


## TREATMENT:

- There is no cure for ectodermal dysplasia, but many treatments are available for the different problems affecting the child.
- Affected children may have thick or abnormally shaped fingernails and toenails. They may also be discolored, ridged or brittle. The cuticles may be prone to infections. Keeping the hands and toes clean may reduce the risk of infection.
- The skin may be lightly pigmented. Skin can be prone to rashes and infections. The skin may become thick over the palms and soles of feet. Cleanliness is important to prevent cracking, bleeding and infection.
- Some children may not be able to sweat due to a lack of sweat glands. Without normal sweat gland function the body cannot regulate temperature properly and can overheat. Care must be taken to prevent overheating, especially in hot weather, as heat exhaustion or stroke may occur easily in these children. Providing a cool environment is important, as is giving a child plenty of fluids.
- Abnormal development of the teeth usually results in missing teeth or teeth that are peg-shaped or pointed. The tooth enamel may also be defective. It is important to have a dentist evaluate a child with these defects as early as possible.



**Offer lots of fluids to a child with this condition when they are playing.**

- Some types of ectodermal dysplasia may affect parts of the eye, resulting in dryness of the eye, cataracts and vision defects. It is important to receive eye examinations and care for the eyes. Sometimes moisturizing eye drops help prevent dryness.
- Abnormalities in the development of the ear may cause hearing problems. Consult with a doctor if this is suspected.
- Children with abnormal mucus glands may have dry nasal and mouth passages. Be aware that they may be more prone to respiratory infections.



**My family loves me just the way I am.**