



About Moebius syndrome

What is Moebius syndrome?

Moebius syndrome is a non-progressive, rare neurological disorder that is present at birth and affects the cranial nerves that control facial expression and eye movement. It primarily affects the 6th and 7th cranial nerves, meaning that people with Moebius syndrome are unable to smile, frown, raise their eyebrows, grimace, move their eyes laterally or blink. Their eyelids may not close completely when blinking or sleeping, which can result in dry or irritated eyes. Weakness in the facial muscles may cause problems with sucking and the ability to eat.

Some of the symptoms may include:

- Lack of facial expression; inability or only partial ability to smile or frown
- Feeding, swallowing, or choking issues
- Absence of lateral eye movement
- Limited movement of the tongue
- Dental problems
- Absence of blinking
- Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Drooling
- Submucous cleft palate
- Hearing impairments
- Limb anomalies

Did you know?

It is estimated that Moebius syndrome affects 2 to 20 per 1 million people.

Are treatments available?

There is no cure for Moebius syndrome but there are treatments available. Children with Moebius syndrome usually benefit from physical and speech therapy to improve their gross motor skills and coordination, and to gain better control over speaking and eating. Infants may require special bottles or feeding tubes to maintain sufficient nutrition. Strabismus (crossed eyes) is usually correctable with surgery. Limb and jaw deformities may often be improved through surgery.

What is the Moebius Syndrome Foundation?

Since 1994, the Moebius Syndrome Foundation, a national 501c3 organization, has provided information and support to individuals with Moebius syndrome and their families, promoted greater awareness and understanding of Moebius syndrome, and advocated for scientific research to advance the diagnosis and treatment of Moebius syndrome and its associated conditions. Its goal is to improve and enrich the lives of those living with Moebius syndrome and their families.

*Want to make a difference?
Please donate \$1 or more
to support our mission!*

For more information, visit www.moebiussyndrome.org.

