

Dwarfism

What is Dwarfism?

There are many conditions that can cause short stature. Some of these conditions involve a primary bone disorder -- the bones do not grow and develop normally. These conditions are called skeletal dysplasias or chondrodystrophies. People with disproportionate short stature often refer to themselves as dwarfs or short-statured persons. More than 100 specific skeletal dysplasias have been identified. Of these, achondroplasia is the most common. It occurs in all races and with equal frequency in males and females, and affects about one in every 25,000 children. Achondroplasia is recognisable at birth and after the 24th week of gestation using ultrasound. It is estimated that there are about 650 000 individuals with dwarfism in the world.



Types of dwarfism

Disproportionate



Some average-size parts of the body & some shorter-than-usual parts of the body
e.g. Achondroplasia is the most common type, causing usual size torso but short limbs

Proportionate



The individual is smaller than average all over.
e.g. growth-hormone deficiency dwarfism, primordial dwarfism and Seckel syndrome

Don't say...

- How's the weather down there?
- Dynamite comes in small packages!
- Where's Snow White / your mom / the other 6 dwarves...
- Can I take a photo? / pick you up?
- Is it all in proportion?
- Midget



- Occurs in all races and ethnicities
- People with dwarfism are usually no taller than 4 foot 10 inches
- The word "midget" is considered highly offensive.
- 80% of people with dwarfism are born to average height parents
- Most types of dwarfism have medical complications, some more severe than others