[This publication is available in its entirety free of charge as a 28 page pdf from the PWSA website. It is also available for $3.00 in a compact booklet. Encourage any family under your care to have several coppies readily available for emergencies. [example: keep 1 copy in the glove compartment of of each car and in Mom's purse.]

PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME

MEDICAL ALERTS

PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME ASSOCIATION USA

Still hungry for a cure.

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PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a complex neurobehavioral genetic disorder resulting from abnormality on the 15th chromosome. It occurs in males and females equally and in all races. Prevalence estimates ranges from 1:12,000 to 1:15,000. Incidence in newborns is unknown.

PWS typically causes low muscle tone, short stature if not treated with growth hormone, cognitive deficits, incomplete sexual development, problem behaviors, and a chronic feeling of hunger that, coupled with a metabolism that utilizes drastically fewer calories than normal, can lead to excessive eating and life-threatening obesity.

At birth the infant typically has low birth weight for gestation, hypotonia, and difficulty sucking due to the weak muscles ("failure to thrive"). The second stage ("thriving too well"), with onset between the ages of two and five throughout lifetime, may show increased appetite, weight control issues, and motor development delays along with behavior problems.

Other factors that may cause difficulties include negative reactions to medications, high pain tolerance, gastro-intestinal and respiratory issues, lack of vomiting, and unstable temperature.

Severe medical complications can develop rapidly in individuals with PWS.

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