



Disability Awareness Begins With You: W.A.G.R. Syndrome

WAGR Syndrome is a rare genetic syndrome in which there is a predisposition to several conditions, including certain malignancies, distinctive eye abnormalities, and/or mental retardation. "WAGR" is an acronym for the characteristic abnormalities associated with the syndrome. The acronym stands for (W)ilms' Tumor, the most common form of kidney cancer in children; (A)niiridia, partial or complete absence of the colored region of the eye(s) (iris or irides); (G)onadoblastoma, cancer of the cells that form the testes in males or the ovaries in females (gonads); and Mental (R)etardation. A combination of two or more of these conditions must be present for an individual to be diagnosed with WAGR Syndrome. The clinical picture varies, depending upon the combination of associated abnormalities. The only feature that has been present in all documented cases of WAGR Syndrome, with only one known exception, is Aniridia.

WAGR Syndrome is caused by defects (mutations) of adjacent genes on a region of chromosome 11 (11p13). In most cases, such genetic changes (e.g., deletions at band 11p13) occur spontaneously during early embryonic development (de novo) for unknown reasons (sporadic).

Resources

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

1275 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605
Tel: (914)428-7100 Fax: (914)997-4763
Tel: (888)663-4637
Email: Askus@marchofdimes.com
Internet: <http://www.marchofdimes.com>

Ambiguous Genitalia Support Network

P.O. Box 313, Clements, CA 95227-0313
Email: agsn@inreach.com

American Kidney Fund, Inc.

6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 1010
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel: (301)8813052, Fax: (301)8810898
Tel: (800)6388299
Email: helpline@kidneyfund.org
Internet: <http://www.kidneyfund.org>

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Found.

P.O. Box 498, Kensington, MD 20895-0498
Tel: (301)962-3520, Fax: (301)962-3521
Tel: (800)366-2223
Email: staff@candlelighters.org
Internet: <http://www.candlelighters.org>

National Kidney Foundation

30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016
Tel: (212)889-2210 Fax: (212)689-9261
Tel: (800)622-9010
Email: info@kidney.org
Internet: <http://www.kidney.org>

American Cancer Society, Inc.

1599 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329
Tel: (404)320-3333 Tel: (800)227-2345
Internet: <http://www.cancer.org>

National Eye Research Foundation

910 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 207A
Northbrook, IL 60062
Tel: (847)564-4652 Fax: (847)564-0807
Tel: (800)621-2258
Email: nerf1955@aol.com
Internet: <http://www.nerf.org>

Glaucoma Research Foundation

490 Post Street, Suite 1427
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tel: (415)986-3162 Fax: (415)986-3763
Tel: (800)826-6693
Email: info@glaucoma.org
Internet: <http://www.glaucoma.org>

NIH/National Eye Institute

Building 31 Rm 6A32, 31 Center Dr MSC 2510
Bethesda, MD 20892-2510
Tel: (301)496-5248 Fax: (301)402-1065
Email: 2020@nei.nih.gov
Internet: <http://www.nei.nih.gov/>

International WAGR Syndrome Association

2063 Regina, Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Tel: (313)3814302 Fax: 7752953693
Email: ReachingOut@wagr.org
Internet: <http://www.wagr.org>
<http://www.peacehealth.org/kbase/nord/nord1014.htm>