



The European consensus guideline for Phelan-McDermid syndrome

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on behalf of the
European PMS guideline consortium
<https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/phelan-mcdermid-guideline>





SCAN ME



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UNIEK: UMCG Center of Expertise for NeuroDevelopmental Disorders

Multidisciplinary care for:

- Diagnostics in NDD
- CHARGE syndrome
- Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Chromosome 6 disorders

European Reference Network
ITHACA

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Donde es Ulm?









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The PMS centre in Ulm







Interdisziplinäre Spezialsprechstunde für Betroffene mit Phelan-McDermid-Syndrom (Deletionssyndrom 22q13)



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Neurologie
Kontakt



Phelan-McDermid-Gesellschaft e.V.
Deutschland Österreich Schweiz



Interdisziplinäre Phelan-McDermid-Sprechstunde

Neurologische, urologische, orthopädische, kardiologische Anliegen sowie Teilnahme an Patiententagen

Hier erfolgt die individuell notwendige Diagnostik und Therapie sowie Vorstellung in der Klinik für Neurologie, Universitätsklinikum Ulm, RKU Oberer Eselsberg 45, 89081 Ulm
bei Frau PD Dr. Jesse
Terminkoordination über die Telefonnummer 0731-177-5243 oder per email: sarah.jesse@uni-ulm.de

Psychiatrische Anliegen/Verhaltensauffälligkeiten

Die individuell notwendige Diagnostik und Therapie sowie Unterstützung im sozialen Bereich erfolgt durch die Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie, Universitätsklinikum Ulm, Krankenhausweg 3, 89075 Ulm
Terminkoordination über die Telefonnummer 0731/500 61636

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Conflicts of interest



- This project was administratively supported by ERN-ITHACA, ERN-ITHACA is partly co-funded by the EU Health Programme
- Funding for the consensus meeting was obtained from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the EJP RD COFUND-EJP N° 825575
- Individual consortium member were not paid for their contributions to the guideline
- Nothing else to declare

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Towards a European consensus guideline



1. How it all started
2. Patient/parent participation
3. The methods used
4. For whom is the guideline?
- 5. What are the main topics?**
 - parental survey and clinical definition of PMS
6. How consensus was reached
7. [The recommendations]
- 8. Clinical synopsis, Surveillance Scheme & Emergency Card**
9. Lessons learned

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1. How it all started

- Since 2015 UMCG is an accredited Centre of Expertise for PMS
- 2018 Dutch guideline for 22q13 deletion syndrome



- 2020 ERN - ITHACA's request for European guidelines
- Email to all known professionals involved in PMS research, all ITHACA members and PMS support organisations within Europe → European consortium

1. How it all started

- Dutch guideline translated into English
- Feedback asked on main content and approach
- Working groups formed for each PMS-related topic
- Administrative support by ITHACA (Klea Vyshka)
- First online meeting on PMS awareness day 22-10-2020





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7. The recommendations, a few examples
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2. Patient participation



- Patient representative in each working group
- Teams meetings of patient representatives
- Worldwide survey to explore the needs of families
- Feed back on all chapters of the guideline
- Represented in organising committee of final consensus meeting (June 2022, Groningen)

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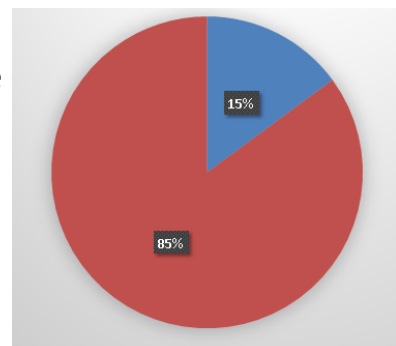
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3. The methods used



- AGREE II: www.agreetrust.org
- Define who are the patients and users of the guideline
- Perform a bottleneck analysis to decide
 - Based on expert opinions
 - Based on parental survey
 - E.g.: *Do professionals have enough knowledge about PMS in order to deliver appropriate care?*



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4. Who are the patients? Phelan-McDermid syndrome



- *SHANK3*-related:
 - Deletion 22q13.3, including *SHANK3*
 - Pathogenic variant in *SHANK3*
- *SHANK3*-unrelated:
 - Deletion 22q13, not including *SHANK3*
- Deletion 22q13.3:
 - Simple terminal deletion
 - Translocation
 - Ring chromosome 22


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4. For whom is the guideline? Professionals



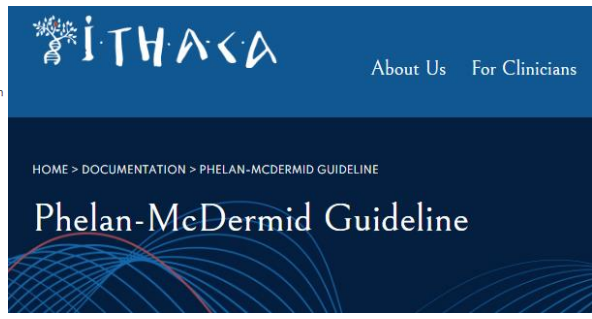


European Journal of Medical Genetics

Supports open access


Phelan-McDermid syndrome; towards a European consensus guideline

Edited by Dr. Conny Van Ravenswaaij-Arts, Dr. Sarah Jesse, Dr. Maria Clara Bonaglia, Dr. Ingrid DC van




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4. For whom is the guideline? Lay version for families



PHELAN-MCDERMID



EPILEPSY

Many individuals with PMS suffer epilepsy during their life. Epilepsy is an electrical discharge of the cells of the brain resulting in a rhythmic motor or sensory expression of the body. These epileptic seizures can be elicited by febrile periods. It is important to recognize the seizures and their frequency. The most common type of seizure is an atypical absence (see glossary) which can be difficult to detect. The seizure starts with staring into space, usually with a blank look, while the child does not respond to e.g. calling their name. Symptoms can be a sudden stop in motion, gazing and 'sp' smacking. The age at onset is different in every patient and the frequency of epilepsy increases with age.

SLEEP DISORDERS

Most people with PMS suffer sleep problems that alter the good functioning of the body during the day: fatigue, sleepiness, irritability, and/or reduced concentration and performance. These problems affect patient and the well-being and resilience of their parents and caregivers.

WHAT IS THE BEST TREATMENT FOR LYMPHEDEMA?

- Physical activity to increase to stimulate fluid circulation.
- A healthy diet to avoid overweight.
- Compression therapy (such garments and Velcro wraps).
- Skin care to prevent skin infection.
- Surgical treatment is generally regular treatment is not, but multidisciplinary expertise centre.




WHAT IS THE BEST TREATMENT FOR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES?

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED TO MANAGE SLEEP DISORDERS?

- Develop a constant bedtime routine with fixed bedtimes.
- Control the noise/sound/smells, ambient light, room temperature, mattress, bed linens, etc.
- Use techniques such as gradual distancing or bedtime fading (glossary).
- Treat other physical conditions that may affect sleep.
- Investigate possible mental health difficulties, such as anxiety or depression.
- Check side effects of current medical treatments.
- Do not offer caffeine or caffeinated drinks or stimulate activities before bedtime.

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED TO MANAGE LYMPHEDEMA?

- Follow a healthy diet and do regular physical exercise to prevent obesity.
- Use a soap-free cleanser and carefully dry the skin to avoid infections or tissue maceration.
- In case of fluid retention in the legs, elevate the foot-end of the bed.
- Check the skin daily for any changes such as breaks in the skin (scratches, cuts, burns, abrasions), leakage of lymph fluid, pressure points from compression garments or changes in colour.
- Pay attention with nail care, obtain a medical pedicure, or see a podiatrist for toenail problems.
- Seek medical attention when there is a suspicion of a skin infection (redness, rash, warmth, or tenderness/pain).
- Seek medical attention if there is a leakage of lymph fluid. Seek a doctor and keep the skin clean and dry while still applying compression garments or bandages.

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5. What are the main topics?



- AGREE II: www.agreetrust.org
- Define who are the patients and users of the guideline
- Perform a bottleneck analysis
 - Parental survey
 - Review of literature: clinical definition of PMS
- selection of **topics** for the guideline

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5. Selection of topics based on parental survey






Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)


European Journal of Medical Genetics

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmg



Parental perspectives on Phelan-McDermid syndrome: Results of a worldwide survey

Annemiek M. Landlust^{a,b,1,*}, Sylvia A. Koza^{b,1}, Maya Carbin^c, Margreet Walinga^b, Sandra Robert^d, Jennifer Cooke^e, Klea Vyshka^f, the European Phelan-McDermid syndrome consortium




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5. Selection of topics based on review






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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmg

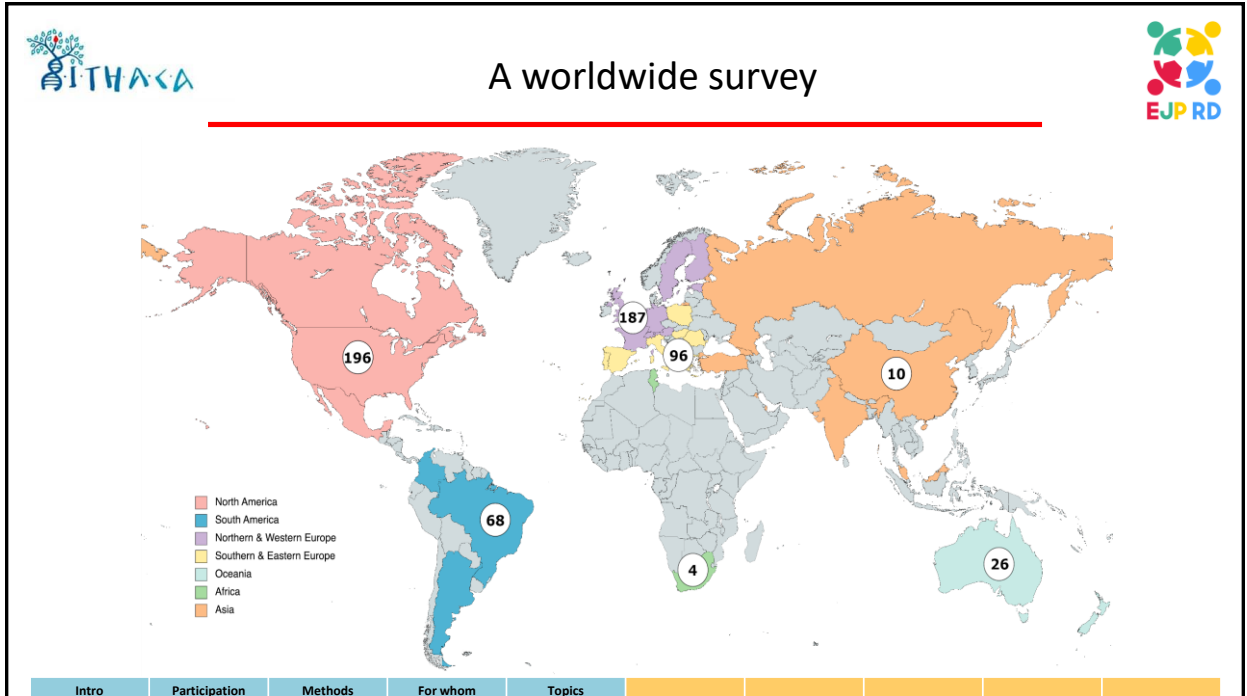


Definition and clinical variability of *SHANK3*-related Phelan-McDermid syndrome

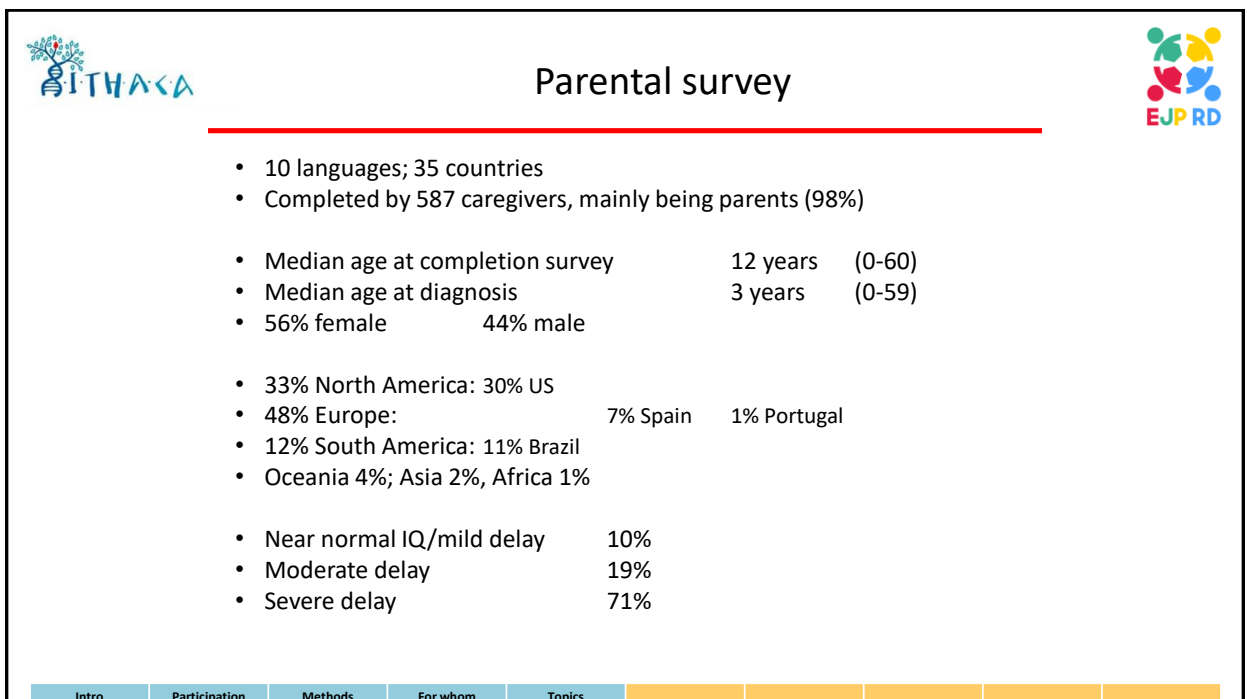
Michael Schön^{a,*}, Pablo Lapunzina^b, Julián Nevado^b, Teresa Mattina^c, Cecilia Gunnarsson^d, Kinga Hadzsiev^e, Chiara Verpelli^f, Thomas Bourgeron^g, Sarah Jesse^h, Conny M.A. van Ravenswaaij-Artsⁱ, the European Phelan-McDermid syndrome consortium^{1,1}, Raoul C. Hennekam¹

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How many are known?



Epidemiology

Numbers from Netherlands, Spain, Portugal Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Sweden, Lithuania

More than 1000 (**less than 10 %** known)

Some do better (the Dutch way)

At least 1 in 30.000

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What is PMS?



Definition:

PMS-*SHANK3* related: either **deletion 22q13** or pathogenic/likely pathogenic **variant of *SHANK3***

Ziats et al., 2019

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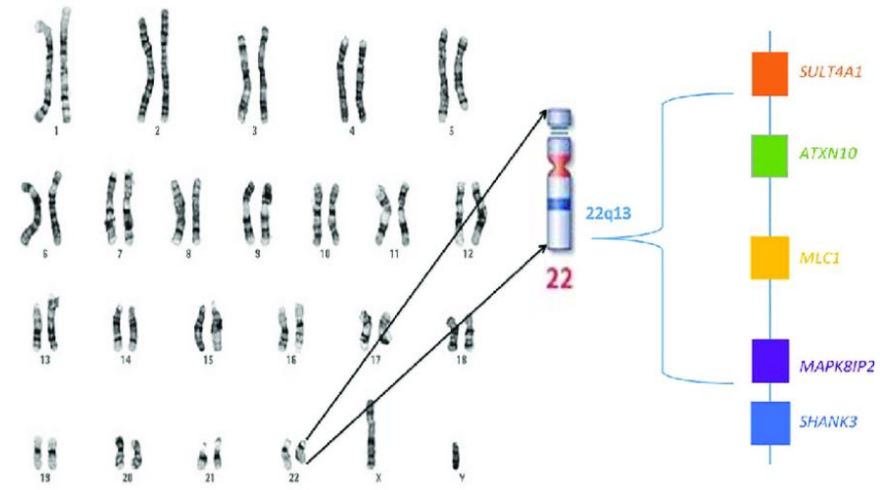
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What is PMS?







Ziats et al., 2019

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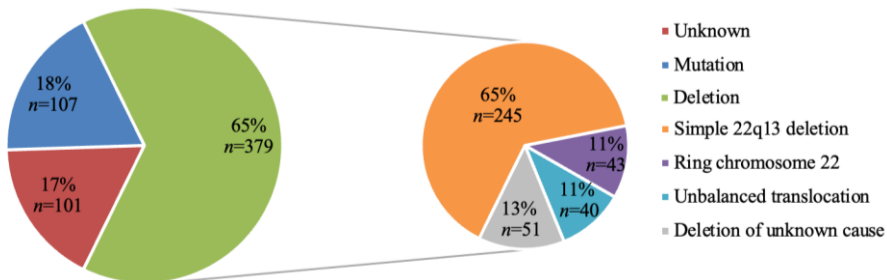
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Survey: genetics



Cause of PMS (n=587)



- Unknown
- Mutation
- Deletion
- Simple 22q13 deletion
- Ring chromosome 22
- Unbalanced translocation
- Deletion of unknown cause

SHANK3 variants in

Parental survey:

Literature:

22%

8%

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Importance correct diagnosis and counselling



Every child with a developmental delay should receive proper **genetic counselling**

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The clinical signs



Genotype-phenotype correlations

It is important to know the genotype because:

- 1) Deletions and variants have partly different phenotypes
- 2) Ring chromosomes: increased risk for certain types of tumours
- 3) Translocation: increased risk for recurrence

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Clinical signs



Sign / Symptom	22q13.3 deletions (%)	SHANK3 variants (%)	Sign / Symptom	22q13.3 deletions (%)	SHANK3 variants (%)
Development			External phenotype		
Developmental delay	493/504 (98%)	48/50 (96%)	Dolichocephaly	84/319 (26%)	2/28 (7%)
Speech impairment	507/572 (88%)	31/44 (70%)	Long eyelashes	149/312 (48%)	19/39 (49%)
Neurology			Down-slanting fissures	16/74 (22%)	3/10 (30%)
Seizures (one or more)	148/542 (27%)	14/53 (26%)	Periorbital fullness	69/239 (29%)	7/39 (18%)
Hypotonia	333/451 (74%)	42/51 (82%)	Ptosis	62/286 (22%)	2/28 (7%)
Structural brain anomalies	118/223 (53%)	12/42 (29%)	Epicanthal folds	122/378 (32%)	8/39 (21%)
Senses			Ear anomalies	232/492 (47%)	16/41 (39%)
Vision disturbances	70/316 (22%)	9/34 (26%)	Wide nasal bridge	156/349 (45%)	15/42 (36%)
Strabismus	59/243 (24%)	4/28 (14%)	Broad nose	169/349 (48%)	15/40 (38%)
Hearing loss	32/372 (8%)	3/29 (10%)	Short philtrum	22/138 (16%)	0/21 (0%)
Increased pain tolerance	204/314 (65%)	38/48 (79%)	Thin upper vermillion	15/56 (27%)	3/11 (27%)
Behaviour			Thin lower vermillion	4/44 (9%)	5/21 (24%)
ASD	162/282 (57%)	26/33 (79%)	Malocclusion	109/297 (37%)	10/29 (34%)
Hyperactivity	33/112 (29%)	21/29 (72%)	Retrognathia	29/115 (25%)	0/31 (0%)
Aggression	50/267 (19%)	18/49 (37%)	Pointed chin	154/309 (50%)	18/29 (62%)
Self-injury	10/80 (13%)	8/27 (30%)	Large fleshy hands	180/392 (46%)	11/28 (39%)
Sleep disorder	62/237 (26%)	24/46 (52%)	Clinodactyly 5 th finger	79/405 (20%)	10/28 (35%)
Internal organs			Clinodactyly of toes	65/232 (28%)	5/11 (45%)
Gastro-oesophageal reflux	31/122 (25%)	5/29 (17%)	Sandal gap	30/56 (54%)	6/9 (7%)
Cardiac anomalies	49/387 (13%)	3/46 (7%)	Small / malformed nails	138/438 (32%)	13/29 (45%)
Freq. airway infections	75/280 (27%)	15/47 (32%)	Lymphedema	29/270 (11%)	0/34 (0%)
Urogenital problems	9/62 (15%)	0/24 (0%)	Eczema	48/225 (21%)	14/46 (30%)
Renal abnormalities	20/137 (15%)	0/17 (0%)	Hypohidrosis	31/84 (37%)	2/24 (8%)
Growth			Hyper-extensible joints	4/18 (22%)	6/10 (60%)
Short stature (≤ P3)	37/392 (9%)	4/41 (10%)			
Tall stature (≥ P98)	84/392 (21%)	3/41 (7%)			
Macrocephaly (≥ P98)	55/329 (17%)	6/39 (15%)			
Microcephaly (≤ P3)	53/329 (16%)	5/52 (10%)			

57% in survey

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Comparison per age group



Problem/symptom	0-4 years (n=86)	5-12 years (n=227)	13-18 years (n=119)	>18 years (n=156)
Epilepsy	9%	19%	23%	43%
Sleeping problems	41%	55%	62%	73%
Mood problems	16%	23%	42%	54%
Loss of skills	30%	44%	51%	64%
Lymphedema	6%	5%	13%	15%

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Survey: stress in parents





Table 4
Mean scores (0–3 Likert scale) and percentage extremely stressful scores on items GSSS (n = 507) and extra added item 15.


Topic item	Mean (0–3 Likert scale)	Percentage (%) “extremely stressful”		
1.10 A genetic diagnosis causing tension within the immediate and extended family	0.94	11.1	8.	Going to see professionals who are not knowledgeable about my child’s genetic syndrome 1.93 36.6
2. People staring when I go out in public with my child	1.12	9.9	9.	An educational placement that does not meet all of my child’s needs 1.93 37.3
3. Having to make extensive preparations for my child before leaving the house	1.39	16.2	10.	The large amount of effort required to help my child reach developmental milestones (e.g. sitting up, self-feeding) 1.94 33.2
4. Having to explain my child’s condition to new people I meet	1.42	13.8	11.	Not being able to fully relax at home, as I need to attend to my child 24 h a day 1.96 36.5
5. Sleep deprivation, due to my child’s sleeping patterns	1.58	29.8	12.	Having to be constantly vigilant about my child’s state of health in case of a sudden change 2.03 39.7
6. Getting my child’s complex needs met through social services	1.81	30.5	13.	Arranging care (e.g. babysitting, respite) that is suitable for my child 2.08 43.6
7. Not having access to professionals who have knowledge about child’s condition	1.82	32.7	14.	Not knowing what is bothering my child due to limited communication possibilities 2.42 61.2
			15.	worrying about the future for my child because of the lack of specialist services once they reach adulthood 2.56 68.1

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How is a life with PMS?



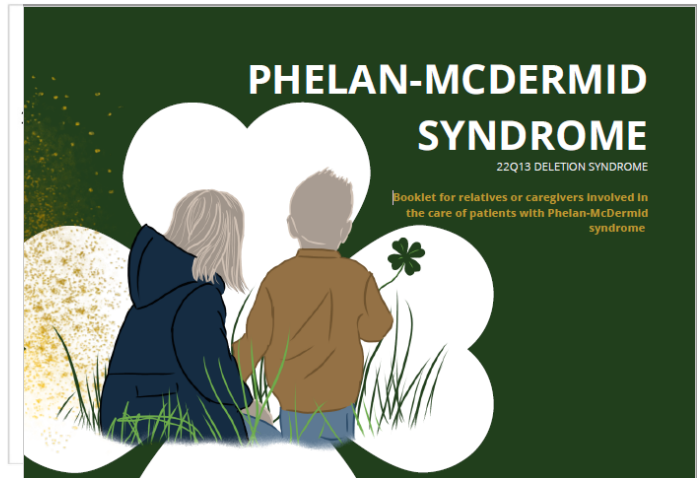
Natural history

- Pregnancy: normal
- Newborns: hypotonia
- Infancy/childhood: delayed milestones
- Adolescence: mental health, regression, seizures
- Adulthood: little known, no reduced life expectancy

COVID-19: vaccination most likely more important than in general population

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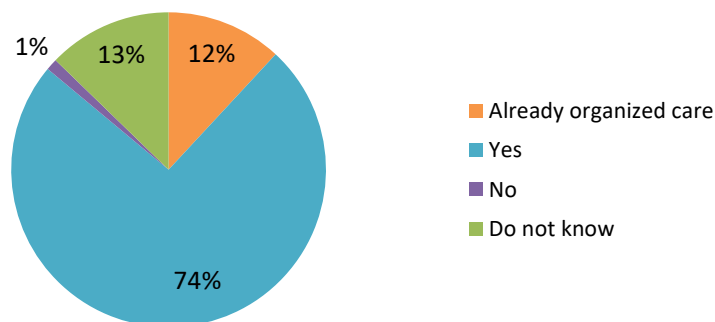
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Would a PMS guideline help to better organize and personalize care? (n=587)



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5. The main topics → working groups



Introduction: Definition and clinical overview of PMS

Genetic counselling, including ring chromosome 22

Communication, language and speech problems

Chewing, swallowing and gastrointestinal problems

Sensory dysfunction

Epilepsy

Sleep Disorders

Lymphedema

Mental health issues

Organization of care

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5. What about other topics → surveillance scheme



Clinical features that were not regarded as “big issues” or for which general, non-specific PMS guidelines were appropriate, were not reviewed in depth, but were included in the surveillance scheme.

Example:

		AT DIAGNOSIS	0-2 YEARS	2-12 YEARS	12-16 YEARS	>16 YEARS
HEART AND LUNGS	Cardiac ultrasound					
	Congenital abnormalities (including TI- tricuspid insufficiency, ASD- atrial septal defect, PDB- Persistent ductus Botalli)	Consult cardiology: ECG, US (<2 years) if indicated.				
	Recurrent upper airway infections					

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5. Task of working groups:

- Write a chapter with:
 - Introduction: what is the chapter about?
 - Fundamental questions 
 - Search and selection of literature sources 
 - Conclusions from literature 
 - Recommendations 
 - References & other sources

5. Example: Lymphedema

- **Fundamental questions**
 - How often does lymphedema occur in PMS and what is known about the origin and pathogenesis?
 - What is the best management for lymphedema in individuals with PMS?
 - Are there options for early diagnosis and early management?
- **Conclusions from literature**
 - Primary lymphedema may occur in up to 25% of individuals with PMS, due to a deletion 22q13.3
 - The mechanism causing lymphedema in PMS is unknown
 - Lymphedema in PMS can be treated using existing general management guidelines, taking the functioning of the PMS patients into account
- **Recommendations**
 - The health care provider should pay attention to the possible development of lymphedema in individuals with a 22q13 deletion and start treatment when needed.
 - Refer individuals with PMS with lymphedema impacting daily functioning to a lymphedema centre of expertise for further investigations and treatment



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6. How consensus was reached



- Each chapter was reviewed at least twice
 - by the members of the European consortium
 - Patient representatives were actively invited
 - Discussed at Teams meetings every 6 weeks
- Final consensus meeting
 - in Groningen (June 2022)
 - 30 participants, including 5 patient representatives, representing 12 European countries
 - Fine-tuning of the text of the recommendations and voting until consensus was reached (hybrid)

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6. Why are most recommendations precise, but not detailed?



- The good clinical practise guideline should be workable for professionals. If there are too many recommendations, there is a risk that the guideline will not be used.
- Care should always be personalised. Therefore, sometimes we state “it should be discussed with parents...” Instead of “the doctor should do [this or that] ...”
- The guideline hopefully will be endorsed by and therefore should be applicable to many different countries. This has legal implications: a doctor can only deviate from the guideline when a good motivation is given.

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6. How consensus was reached: the june 2022 meeting



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7. Recommendations: which shall we discuss?



Genetic counselling
Ring chromosome 22
Communication, language and speech problems
Chewing, swallowing and gastrointestinal problems
Sensory dysfunction
Epilepsy
Sleep Disorders
Lymphedema
Mental health issues
Organization of care
Clinical Trials

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7. Recommendations: Genetic counseling



- All individuals with PMS and their parents should be referred for genetic counselling. [genotype – phenotype; recurrence risk]
- After a diagnosis of PMS has been made, further genetic studies should be performed for proper genetic counselling.
- Follow-up of individuals with PMS should include a check whether genetic work-up has been complete and up-to-date.
- In subsequent pregnancies, the parents of the child with PMS should be offered prenatal diagnostic testing.

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7. Recommendations: Ring chromosome 22



- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, personalised monitoring for potential NF2-tumours should be discussed with the patient or their representatives.
- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, cerebral imaging (MRI) is recommended at the age of 14 to 16 years, if not already available. In case of obvious hearing loss discuss with the patient or their representatives repeating of the MRI.

(supported by OncoDefi)

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7. Recommendations: Communication



- Hearing should be checked in every individual with PMS at the time of diagnosis and subsequently put into surveillance according to national guidelines.
- Every individual with PMS should be assessed by a specialized multidisciplinary team to evaluate all factors that may influence communication, speech and language.
- Preverbal and verbal communicative skills and cognitive development should be thoroughly evaluated in individuals with PMS prior to intervention and treatment.
- Parents of individuals with PMS should be counselled by a specialist on supporting, facilitating, and stimulating communication, language and speech from an early age on.
- Use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) tools is recommended to facilitate communication for individuals with PMS when communication is limited.

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7. Recommendations: Gastrointestinal



- Both gastroesophageal reflux and constipation should be considered if behavioural changes are observed in individuals with PMS.
- In individuals with PMS, evaluation of faecal incontinence is advised. Somatic causes should be excluded, and behavioural modifications should be considered.
- For treatment of gastroesophageal reflux, diarrhoea and constipation in individuals with PMS, refer to general national or international guidelines.
- If zinc deficiency is present in an individual with PMS, dietary zinc supplementation should be considered.
- A referral to a pre-verbal speech therapist for chewing and swallowing disorders should be considered.

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7. Recommendations: Altered sensory function



- Caregivers and health care providers should be aware that individuals with PMS often have a reduced responsiveness to sensory stimuli such as pain, sudden sounds and heat. After every (suspected) trauma or physical incident the individual should be carefully examined.
- Every individual with PMS needs to be screened for hearing and visual disturbances at the time of diagnosis and subsequently put under surveillance according to national guidelines.
- Sensory integration functioning should be checked in every person with PMS using a validated screening instrument. If altered sensory function is present a sensory integration therapist should be consulted.
- In case of behavioural changes in individuals with PMS, evaluation of possible causes should include a search for pain and altered sensory function. The use of a validated non-verbal pain scale is recommended.

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7. Recommendations: Epilepsy



- In every individual with PMS, irrespective of age, caregivers should be alert for seizures and epilepsy.
- In every individual with PMS in whom seizures are suspected but EEG studies are nonconclusive, overnight prolonged EEG studies should be considered.
- Brain imaging, preferably by MRI, is advised in every individual with PMS who has epileptic seizures, and indicated when new neurological signs and symptoms, including seizures, occur.
- A paediatric neurologist or neurologist should be involved in the therapy for epilepsy.
- Anticonvulsant treatment of epilepsy in individuals with PMS should be provided according to national guidelines.

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7. Recommendations: Sleep problems



- Every individual with PMS and sleep problems should be evaluated for somatic, and/or environmental and/or neuropsychiatric causes.
- Mental health conditions co-occurring with sleep problems in individuals with PMS need to be investigated and treated.
- In individuals with PMS with sleep problems, sleep hygiene should be evaluated, and caregivers should be supported in establishing a structured approach (behavioural interventions).
- If sleep problems persist despite appropriate interventions, the individual with PMS should be referred to a specialist experienced in sleep problems or a specialist sleep centre.

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7. Recommendations: Lymphedema



- The health care provider should pay attention to the possible development of lymphedema in individuals with a 22q13 deletion, including ring chromosome 22, and start treatment (e.g., compression bandages and garments, skincare and advice) when needed.
- Refer individuals with PMS with lymphedema impacting daily functioning to a lymphedema centre of expertise for further investigations and treatment.

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7. Recommendations: Mental Health 1/2



- At diagnosis for individuals with PMS a comprehensive evaluation should be made of factors influencing mental health, which include physical, psychiatric, psychological, developmental, communicative, social, educational, environmental, and economic domains, and general wellbeing as informed by caregivers.
- In individuals with PMS cognitive and socio-emotional level, communication, adaptive and sensory functioning should be assessed at diagnosis using appropriate tools, which may include a Functional Behavioural Assessment.
- In individuals with PMS a baseline measurement of individual functioning and skill level is useful, preferably in early childhood.

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7. Recommendations: Mental Health 2/2



- Monitor behavioural status regularly including mood, affect, communication, interests and day/night routines in every individual with PMS, especially at important changes in daily environment, allowing early recognition of behavioural changes.
- Individuals with PMS who demonstrate noteworthy behavioural changes should be physically examined and evaluated for the presence of medical issues, including physical signs of abuse.
- If concerns are raised regarding mental health, functioning and behaviour of an individual with PMS, a psychiatric assessment is indicated to determine (comorbid) diagnoses, considering the developmental level of the individual.

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7. Recommendations: Organisation of care



- Every person with PMS should receive PMS-specific care by a dedicated expert team.
- A coordinating professional should initiate and monitor the multidisciplinary care. The multidisciplinary team should be established based on the surveillance scheme.
- For every person with PMS, specific care needs and the responsible professionals should be recorded in the medical record and the individual care plan.
- For every teenager with PMS the transition from paediatric to adult care should be timely initiated, monitored and documented.
- Caregivers of individuals with PMS should be informed about the PMS patient registry when established

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7. Recommendations: Organisation of Care



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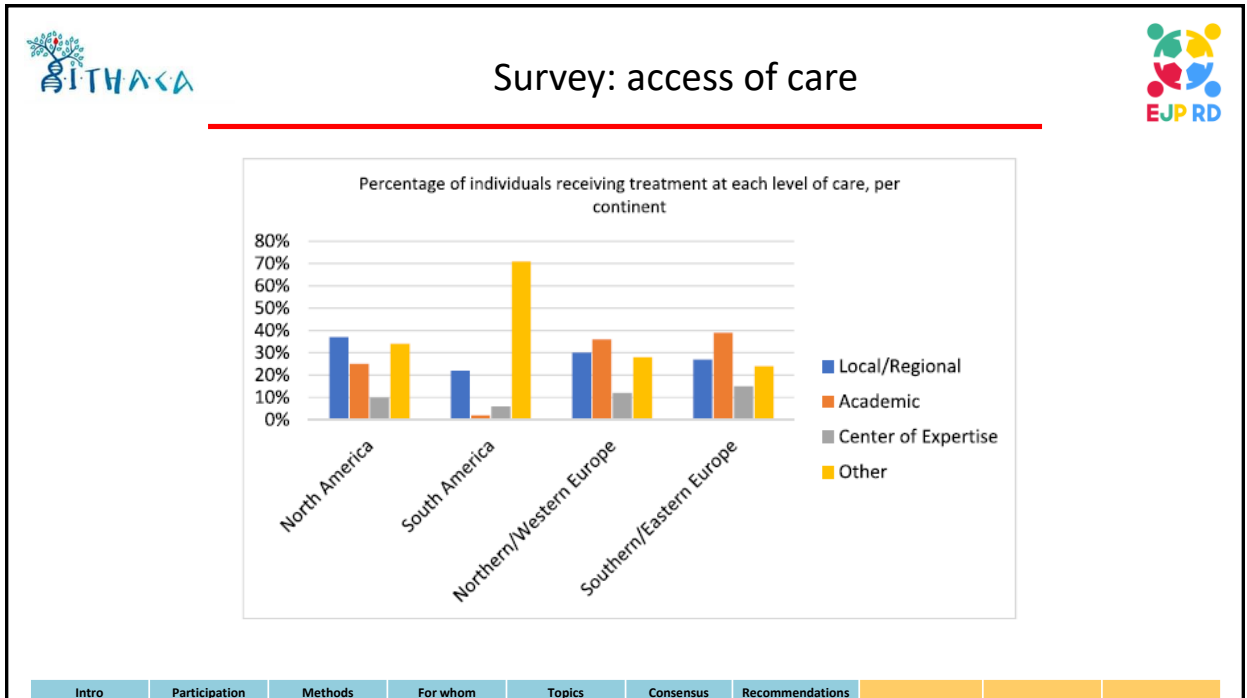
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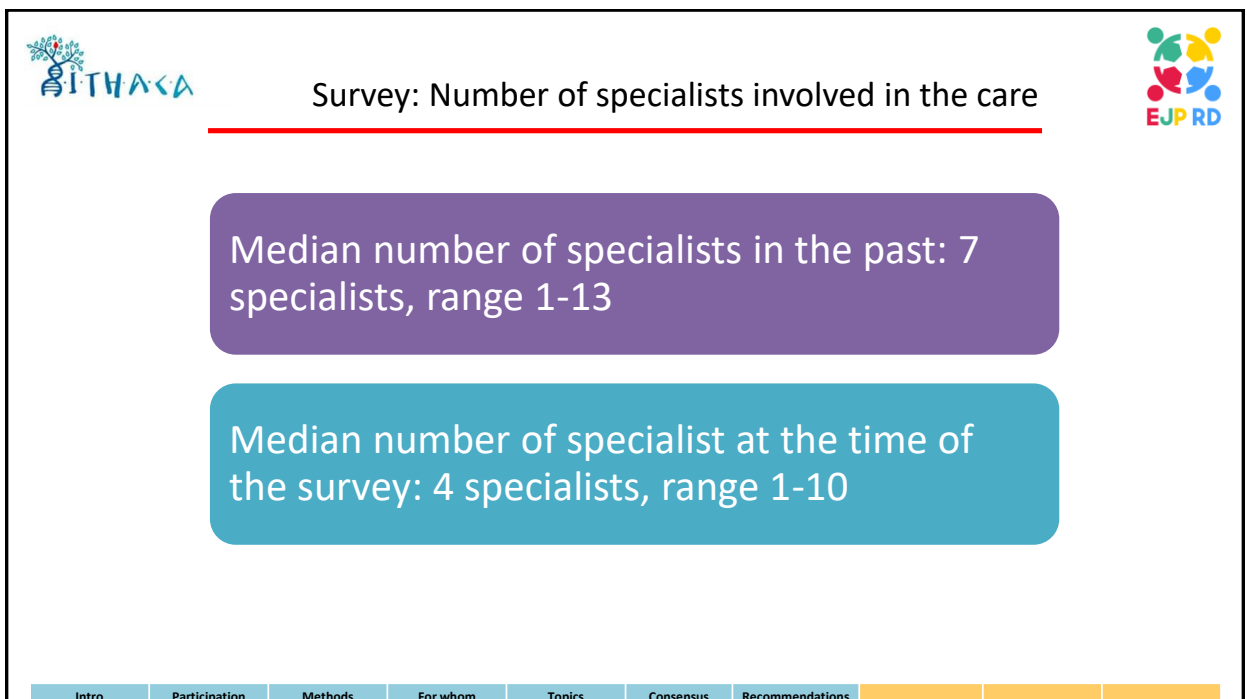
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7. Recommendations: Clinical trials



Clinical trials

- IGF-1: successful (the „US drug“)
- Insulin intranasal: successful (the „European drug“)
- Oxytocin: failed

Consensus

Enrolment in a clinical treatment trial may be considered and discussed with individuals with PMS (if possible) or their representatives.

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Towards a European consensus guideline



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8. Clinical synopsis





European Journal of Medical Genetics


Supports open access

12 extensive papers:

- Good background information
- Not practical


Phelan-McDermid syndrome; towards a European consensus guideline

Edited by Dr. Conny Van Ravenswaaij-Arts, Dr. Sarah Jesse, Dr. Maria Clara Bonaglia, Dr. Ingrid DC van B...



Website with:

- Clinical synopsis
- Surveillance scheme
- Emergency card



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8. Clinical synopsis





Introduction to the European Consensus Guideline for Phelan-McDermid syndrome

Members of the European Phelan-McDermid syndrome guideline consortium

Clinical synopsis of the European consensus guideline for Phelan-McDermid syndrome

Surveillance scheme summarizing recommendations for follow-up of individuals

Clinical synopsis of the European consensus guideline for Phelan-McDermid syndrome

Introduction


This is a shortened version of the European consensus guideline for Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS). More information including extended background information, methods and literature references can be found in the [Special Issue](#) of the European Journal of Medical Genetics published in 2023.

This guideline covers recommendations for individuals with **SHANK3-related PMS**, but may also partly be applicable for non-*SHANK3*-related PMS. It is written for professionals. A [clinical surveillance scheme](#), [emergency card](#) and lay versions in multiple languages are available.


A pdf of this clinical synopsis can be down loaded here



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8. Clinical synopsis: example





 SCAN ME

PMS due to a ring chromosome 22

For detailed background information see: [Koza et al., EJM 2023](#)


Few genotype-phenotype relationships have been reported. However, certain clinical characteristics distinguish Phelan-McDermid syndrome due to a ring chromosome 22 from a simple deletion 22q13.3. A ring chromosome 22 confers increased risk of NF2-related schwannomatosis (formerly neurofibromatosis type 2) and atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumours associated with the tumour suppressor genes NF2 and SMARCB1, respectively, both located on chromosome 22. The prevalence of PMS due to ring chromosome 22 is estimated at 10-20%, while the risk of developing a tumour although not fully known is estimated at 2-4%. However, those who do develop them, often have multiple tumours.

European consensus recommendations concerning ring chromosome 22


- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, personalized monitoring for potential NF2-tumors should be discussed with the patient or their representatives¹.
- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, cerebral imaging (MRI) is recommended at the age of 14 to 16 years, if not already available. In case of obvious hearing loss discuss with the patient or their representatives repeating of the MRI².


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8. Surveillance scheme





 SCAN ME

Surveillance scheme summarizing recommendations for follow-up of individuals with *SHANK3*-related Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS)

A pdf of this scheme can be down-loaded here 



For background information see [Special issue EJM](#)

	AT DIAGNOSIS	0-2 YEARS	2-12 YEARS	12-16 YEARS	>16 YEARS
GENETICS	Genetic counselling of relatives to discuss:				
	- phenotype PMS - Recurrence risk: FISH and karyotyping (also to exclude ring 22) - reproductive options - family support groups				
	Referral to (PMS) centre of expertise (CE) for follow-up, general updates on PMS, participation in research, collecting data and providing (new) information to families.	Yearly	Every 2 years	Every 2 to 3 years	Every 3 to 5 years

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Surveillance scheme summarizing recommendations for individuals with SHANK3-related Pheila


SCAN ME

	AT DIAGNOSIS	0-2 YEARS	2-12 YEARS	12-16 YEARS	>16 YEARS	
GENETICS	Genetic counselling of relatives to discuss: - phenotype PMS - Recurrence risk: FISH and karyotyping (also to exclude ring 22) - reproductive options - family support groups Referral to (PMS) centre of expertise (CE) for follow-up, general updates on PMS, participation in research, collecting data and providing (new) information to families	Be extra alert for (underlying) somatic problems	Be extra alert for (underlying) somatic problems	Be extra alert for (underlying) somatic problems	Be extra alert for (underlying) somatic problems	Be extra alert for (underlying) somatic problems
MENTAL HEALTH	Cognition and development Adaptive and sensory functioning Psychiatric and behavioural status	Comprehensive evaluation. Baseline measurement of functioning level Comprehensive evaluation. Baseline measurement of functioning level Baseline measurement				
COMMUNICATION, SPEECH & LANGUAGE	Difficulties with communication, language and speech	Refer to an audiology specialist. Assess and initiate intervention by (verbal) speech therapist				
SLEEP DISORDERS	Sleep disorders/problems at all ages: - Check somatic causes - Check mental health issues - Use structured questionnaires - Check parental stress	Check for sleep problems & parental stress				
VISION & HEARING	Strabismus, refraction errors and cortical visual impairment Recurrent middle ear infections, hearing problems Delayed response to verbal and auditory clues	Refer to eye specialist Refer to an ENT specialist: audiometry and tympanometry Keep in mind in communication				
ALTERED SENSORY FUNCTIONING	Reduced pain response Heat regulation problem, decreased Hypersensitivity to touch Altered sensory functioning					
GASTROINTESTINAL	Feeding problems (reduced sucking) Gastroesophageal reflux Cyclic vomiting Overweight Constipation					
HEART & LUNGS	Cardiac ultrasound Congenital abnormalities (including insufficiency), ASD (atrial septal defect (persistent ductus botalli)) Recurrent upper airway infections					
NEUROLOGY	Brain structural abnormalities Hypotonia: poor head control, feeding fatigue, insufficient movement Delayed motor development, motor hyperflex joints Epilepsy, frequent febrile seizures					
ENDOCRINE	Height Hypothyroidism	TSH	Investigate only if behavioural changes consistent with thyroid dysregulation	Investigate only if behavioural changes consistent with thyroid dysregulation	Investigate only if behavioural changes consistent with thyroid dysregulation	Investigate only if behavioural changes consistent with thyroid dysregulation
RENAL & UROGENITAL	Congenital abnormalities: vesicoureteral reflux, cystic or dysplastic kidneys, or hydronephrosis Recurrent urinary tract infections	Perform US of kidneys/urinary tract at least once				Exclude underlying problems and consider prophylaxis
SKIN & LYMPH	Birth control and family planning Dysplastic, thin toenails that frequently become ingrown Primary lymphedema, prevalence increasing with age Be alert to overheating and/or decreased					Exclude underlying problems and consider prophylaxis Consider referral to a CC for lymphedema Consider referral to a CC for lymphedema
TUMOURS & INFECTS	Monitoring for potential NF2-tumours, including eye and neurological examinations Baseline cerebral/spinal imaging (MRI) MRI in case of symptoms of lethargy, unilateral weakness and/or ataxia and hearing loss				Every 1 to 2 years	Every 1 to 2 years
ANAESTHESIA & PAIN	Assistance with preparing the individual for procedures like an MRI or anaesthesia should be discussed with parents Close monitoring of anaesthetic depth*					

General note: The coloured boxes in the scheme indicate when a specific check is recommended. The columns contain items that are advised at least once when making the diagnosis. All follow-up appointments may be more often when indicated.
AAC = Augmentative and alternative communication;
ECG = electrocardiogram;
EEG = electroencephalogram;
US = ultrasound
* According to national guidelines
* Close monitoring of anaesthetic depth seems useful because there may exist an increased sensitivity to anaesthetics, based on hypersensitivity for isoflurane in Shank3-haploinsufficient mice (Li et al. 2017). However, to date there is no clear hint of anaesthesia complications in humans with PMS.

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8. Emergency Card

Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Emergency Card

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS INFORMATION ABOUT PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME (PMS)




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General information

Phelan McDermid syndrome (PMS) is a clinically variable disorder, mainly characterized by intellectual disability (mostly moderate to severe), absent or severely delayed speech, behaviour that may include autism characteristics, and a variety of other signs and symptoms. Typically, PMS is caused by a deletion of chromosome 22, including band 22q13.33, or a pathogenic variant in *SHANK3*.

Listed below are the features that are important in an emergency situation. For a full overview of all features see [Schön et al., EJMGM 2023](#).



A pdf of this Emergency Card can be down-loaded here



<https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/phelan-mcdermid-guideline>

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SCAN ME

PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME EMERGENCY CARD

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS INFORMATION ABOUT PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME (PMS)
General information
 Phelan McDermid syndrome (PMS) is a clinically variable disorder, mainly characterized by intellectual disability (mostly moderate to severe), absent or severely delayed speech, behaviour that may include autism characteristics, and a variety of other signs and symptoms. Typically, PMS is caused by a deletion of chromosome 22, including band 22q13.33, or a pathogenic variant in SHANK3.
 Listed below are the features that are important in an emergency situation. For a full overview of all features see Schön et al., 2023, this issue.

Frequently occurring problems (>30%)

- Developmental delay/intellectual disability
- Marked speech impairment
- Hypotonia
- Decreased pain response
- Hypohidrosis*
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Hyperactivity*
- Sleeping problems*
- Regression
- Cyclical mood disorders
- Gastro-intestinal problems (constipation, diarrhoea)
- Dysmorphisms (a.o. long eyelashes, ptosis, broad nose, pointed chin, ear anomalies, malocclusion, retrognathia, large fleshy hands)

Less frequently occurring problems (<30%)

- Seizures
- Vision disturbances, including strabismus
- Hearing loss
- Aggression against others and self
- Gastro-oesophageal reflux
- Cardiac anomalies
- Recurrent airway infections
- Renal anomalies/urogenital problems*
- Hyperextensible joints
- Lymphedema*
- Eczema

*only or mainly observed in deletions 22q13.3
 *more common in SHANK3 variants

Acute life-threatening complications

- Seizures
- Burning accidents due to decreased pain response
- Complications due to gastro-oesophageal reflux
- Over-heating due to hypohidrosis
- Airway infections

Further information can be obtained from the International Phelan-McDermid syndrome Foundation <https://pmsf.org> and the Consensus guidelines on Phelan-McDermid syndrome, Special Issue EJMG 2023

PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME EMERGENCY CARD (Updated ___/___/20__)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____
 DOB: _____ Gender: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____
 Relation: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Typical vital parameters of patient

Oxygen saturation (%): _____
 Breathing rate (breath/min): _____
 Heart rate (bpm): _____
 Blood pressure (mmHg): _____
 Temperature regulation: _____

Allergies: _____

Major malformations

() Cardiac anomaly; type: _____
 Last evaluation: ___/___/20___ surgery no: date: ___/___/20___
 () Structural brain anomaly; type: _____
 Last MRI: ___/___/20___

Psychomotor development

() Normal () Borderline () Delayed
 () Hypotonia, degree: _____

Cognitive development

Degree of delay: () mild () moderate () severe () profound

Verbal communication

() Absent () Strongly limited () Limited
 () Near normal () Normal

Behavioural problems

() Sleeping problems; type: _____
 () Anxiety () Aggression () Self-harmful
 () Hyperactivity () Autism spectrum disorder

Likes: _____
 Dislikes: _____

Medical treatment

Medication	Dosage	Frequency	Reason


COORDINATING PHYSICIAN DETAILS

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____


Medical complications

() Food intolerance: () Lactose () Gluten
 Other: _____ Special diet: _____
 () Gastrointestinal reflux () Cyclic vomiting
 () Constipation () Diarrhoea
 () Hearing loss: () sensorineural () conductive
 () mild () moderate () severe () hearing aids
 () Visual impairment; type: _____ () glasses
 () Increased pain tolerance
 () Pneumonia recurrent; dates: _____
 () Ear infections (repeated); () Sinus infections
 () Renal/genital problems; type: _____
 () Hip problems; type: _____
 () Lymphedema type: _____
 () Dental anomalies: () cavities () crowding
 () allows inspection
 () Other medical problems; type: _____

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9. Lessons learned (presented at a European meeting)



- Start with parental/patient survey
- Ensure good coordination (time!)
- Starting with a (translated) national guideline can be helpful
- Multidisciplinary working groups, including a patient representative
- Regular online meetings on fixed days/time
- Publication and implementation plan
- Have someone in your team with experience in writing guidelines (advisory member)
- **Do you have a national guideline on a rare NDD?
Consider converting it to a European guideline !**

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Thank you

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The guideline's website



[https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/
phelan-mcdermid-guideline](https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/phelan-mcdermid-guideline)



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Thank you