

# Medical Professionals

Because of the effects throughout the body, many specialists may play a role in caring for people with achondroplasia. Different specialists may become involved at certain times throughout life. Some will be part of the care team throughout life, while others will be more important at certain ages. Talk with your doctor to learn more about the medical professionals who may be involved.

● Infant/Toddler    ● Child  
● Transition & Adulthood

## Medical geneticist

● ● ●

May be involved in the achondroplasia diagnosis and provide ongoing care, including genetic and family planning guidance

## Paediatrician or primary care doctor

● ● ●

Performs regular checkups and monitors developmental milestones. Your child's primary care doctor may also refer you to a **paediatric endocrinologist**, who may help monitor the growth of your child. Please note that your child's primary care doctor may be a Medical geneticist, Paediatric endocrinologist, Paediatrician or another speciality depending on your country and treatment centre

## Neurologist or neurosurgeon

● ● ●

Monitors for complications like fluid on the brain or pressure on the brain stem or spinal cord and, if necessary, performs surgery to correct them

## Ear, nose, and throat (ENT) specialist or audiologist

● ● ●

May help with hearing assessments or issues, ear infections and sleep apnoea

## Pulmonologist

● ● ●

Addresses any breathing problems, especially in infancy

## Ophthalmologist

● ● ●

Treats problems with the eyes, like blurred vision or eye misalignment (such as crossed, drifting, or wandering eyes), which can happen because of the way the bones develop

## Orthodontist

● ● ●

Treats problems with the teeth or mouth, like misaligned teeth, a narrow palate, open bite or underbite

## Orthopaedic surgeon

● ● ●

Treats spinal and skeletal complications if they arise

## Psychologist or other mental health provider

● ● ●

Provides support and guidance for psychosocial and emotional issues

## Other Health Professionals

- **Occupational therapist helps** to improve physical strength and function for activities of daily living
- **Physical therapist** helps increase mobility, align bones and joints, or lessen pain
- **Nutritionist or dietitian** helps manage weight and avoid obesity through nutritional planning

## Special Considerations When Having Surgery

It is important to work with a surgeon and anaesthesiologist who have experience treating people with achondroplasia. This is because of the special considerations needed to reduce the risks of complications associated with airway management and other anatomical differences.

## GET IN THE KNOW

For more information about living with achondroplasia, visit:

[ACHONDROPLASIA.COM](https://www.achondroplasia.com)