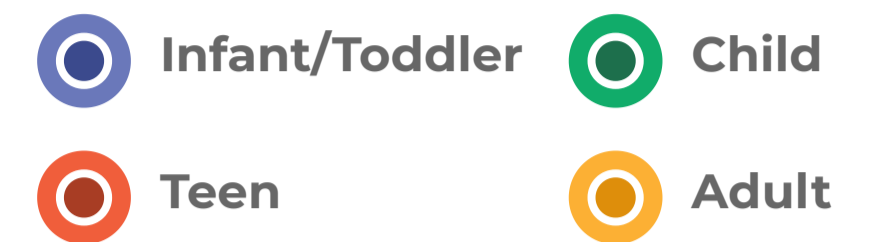


# Medical Professionals

Because of the effects throughout the body, many specialists play a role in caring for people with achondroplasia. Your doctor can help you assemble a care team that includes medical and other health professionals.



## Medical geneticist



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

## Pediatrician or primary care doctor



Performs regular checkups and monitors developmental milestones. Your child's primary care doctor may also refer you to a **pediatric endocrinologist**, who may help monitor the growth of your child

## 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



May insert tubes to prevent chronic ear infections or remove the tonsils and/or adenoids to help with sleep apnea

## Sleep specialist



A medical doctor who has completed additional education and training in the field of sleep medicine and can help monitor for and manage sleep apnea

## 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

## Orthopedic surgeon



Treats overly flexible joints and corrects bone problems that cause pain and affect mobility, including surgery if necessary

## Psychologist or other mental health provider



Provides support and guidance for psychosocial and emotional issues

## Cardiologist



Regularly monitors blood pressure and other risks for heart disease and addresses any heart-related issues

## Occupational therapist

Helps 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 anesthesiologist 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.

## Psychosocial Support

- **Psychologist or other mental health provider** to provide support and guidance for psychosocial and emotional issues
- **Local chapters of advocacy groups** may offer support groups for families to connect with one another

Here are a few questions to ask healthcare providers to help you decide if they have the expertise you are looking for:

1

How many children with achondroplasia or other skeletal dysplasias have you treated?

2

Have you been involved in any research on achondroplasia?

3

What other types of doctors should my child be seeing?

4

How will you coordinate care with the rest of my child's healthcare team?

## GET IN THE KNOW

For more information about living with achondroplasia, visit:

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

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