



# MICROCEPHALY

WITHOUT MICROCEPHALY



WITH MICROCEPHALY



**2-12** babies out of every 10,000 live births are born with microcephaly. There is likely a higher occurrence in areas where disease and poverty rates are high. <sup>1</sup>

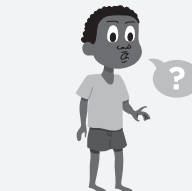
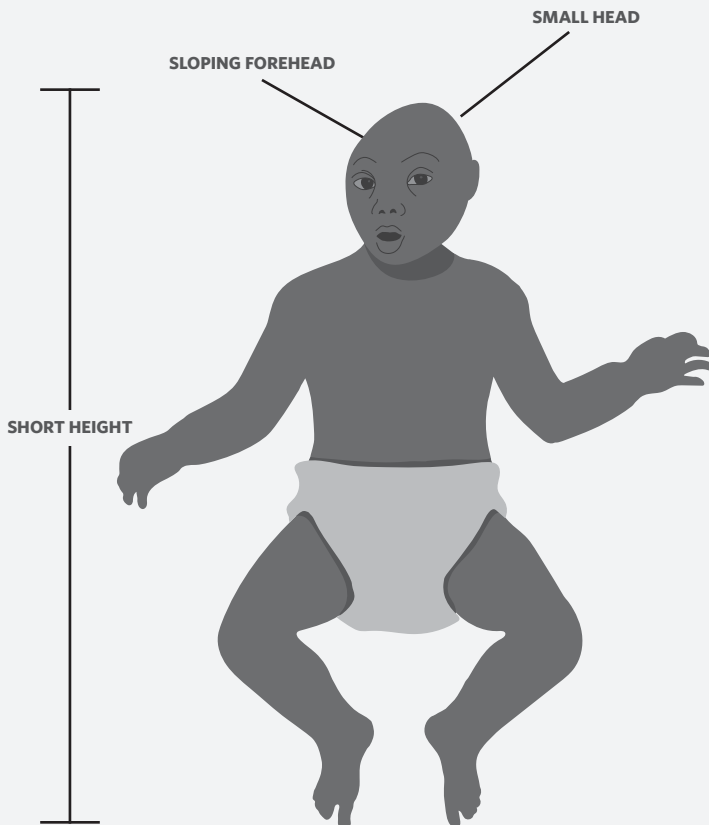
One open dot = 10

## DESCRIPTION <sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

Microcephaly is a condition where a baby has a head and brain size much smaller than other children of the same age and sex.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS <sup>6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11</sup>

There is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience.



SPEECH CHALLENGES



LEARNING CHALLENGES



DIFFICULTY WITH BALANCE



DELAYED SITTING, STANDING, CRAWLING, AND WALKING



VISION PROBLEMS



HEARING PROBLEMS



SEIZURES (FITS)



DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING

## POSSIBLE CAUSES AND RISK FACTORS <sup>12, 13</sup>



**INFECTION**  
during pregnancy



**MALNUTRITION**  
pregnant mother or  
child not getting enough  
food or nutrients



**EXPOSURE**  
to alcohol or drugs  
during pregnancy



**OXYGEN DEPRIVATION**  
during pregnancy or  
delivery



**FAMILY MEMBERS**  
with microcephaly



**DISABILITIES**  
like Down syndrome

## INTERVENTIONS <sup>14, 15</sup>

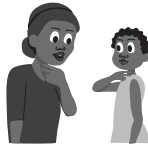
### Professional



**MEDICATION**  
FOR SYMPTOMS



**SPECIALIZED**  
EDUCATION



**SPEECH**  
THERAPY

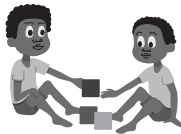


**PHYSICAL**  
THERAPY

### Family/Community



**HEALTHY DIET**



**DAILY PLAY**



**HOME-BASED**  
THERAPY



**DO NOT**  
MOCK OR STARE



**DO NOT ABUSE OR**  
PHYSICALLY PUNISH



**JOIN/FORM A**  
SUPPORT GROUP



### CHARO FAMILY

Kadzo was told she had children with microcephalus because demons came upon her when she was pregnant. She tried going to local healers for help but was unsuccessful. She was isolated and in such despair that she wanted to take her own life.

Participating in a parent workshop sponsored by Kupenda/Kuhenza showed her that she was not alone. She also discovered the true biological causes of her children's microcephaly.

Today, her sons are in school and Kadzo is the leader of a parent support group. She spends her time teaching other families that their children with disabilities can go to school and be a part of the community, too.

## NOTES

1. Deborah Fields, "Microcephaly Epidemiology," News Medical, last modified December 30, 2022, <https://www.news-medical.net/health/Microcephaly-Epidemiology.aspx#:~:text=Globally%2C%201%20in%20every%2030%2C000,per%2010%2C000%20of%20live%20births.>
2. David Werner, *Disabled Village Children* (Berkeley: Hesperian Health Guides, 2018), 279.
3. "Microcephaly," World Health Organization, last modified February 16, 2018, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/microcephaly>.
4. Emily Hanzlik and Joseph Gigante, "Microcephaly," *Children (Basel)* 4, no. 6 (2017): 47. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5483622/>.
5. "Facts About Microcephaly," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified December 16, 2022, <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/microcephaly.html>.
6. Hanzlik and Gigante, "Microcephaly," 47.
7. Werner, *Disabled Village Children*, 279.
8. "Microcephaly," World Health Organization.
9. Hanzlik and Gigante, "Microcephaly," 47.
10. "Facts About Microcephaly," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
11. "Microcephaly," National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, accessed March 27, 2023, <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/microcephaly>.
12. "Microcephaly," World Health Organization.
13. "Facts About Microcephaly," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
14. "Facts About Microcephaly," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
15. "Microcephaly," Mayo Clinic, accessed March 27, 2023, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/microcephaly/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20375056>.