

Facts About AS

Consensus Criteria for Diagnosis of Angelman Syndrome

Angelman syndrome is usually not recognized in early infancy since the developmental problems are nonspecific during this time. The most common age of diagnosis is between two and five years when the characteristic behaviors and features become most evident. Parents may first suspect the diagnosis after reading about AS or meeting a child with the condition. Children with AS may have a relatively wide mouth and a protruding tongue, sometimes associated with a prominent chin (see figure). Most children with AS also appear to share the normal familial facial traits of the family and so it is unusual for them to be considered to have a “dysmorphic” facial appearance. Angelman syndrome is a distinctive clinical condition however, mainly because of its distinctive behaviors and developmental course. A summary of the developmental and physical findings has been published for the purpose of establishing clinical criteria for the diagnosis and these are listed below. All of the features do not need to be present for the diagnosis to be made and the diagnosis is often first suspected when the typical behaviors are recognized.

