WOLF-HIRSCHHORN SYNDROME
Produced by the Centre for Genetics Education. Internet: http://www.genetics.edu.au

Includes: WHS, Wolf syndrome; Wolf-Hirschhorn chromosome region (WHCR), Four p minus (4p-) syndrome, chromosome number 4 short arm deletion syndrome

FACTS

Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome is a rare chromosomal condition. Characteristic features of the syndrome include intellectual and growth deficiency, microcephaly (small head) and distinctive craniofacial features (involving the face and head), heart defects and seizures. Some or all of these features may be present in an individual with Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome.

The condition is caused by an absence of part of the short arm of chromosome number 4 (called a partial deletion). The short arm of a chromosome is called the ‘p’ arm and therefore this condition is sometimes referred to as the 4p- (4p minus) syndrome. The chromosomal difference may occur sporadically (randomly) or may be inherited from a parent who has a balanced chromosomal translocation. There is variability in symptoms between individuals affected with Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, and this is in part because the amount of genetic material that is lost (deleted) from chromosome 4 may vary.

Support Groups can provide individuals and families with information about genetic conditions, community resources and an understanding and empathic ear.

If you are not able to contact the services listed below, please call the Association of Genetic Support of Australasia (AGSA) on (02) 9211 1462 or visit www.agsa-geneticsupport.org.au for support and assistance.

Further information and details of your local genetic counselling service can be found at www.genetics.edu.au, or please call The Centre for Genetics Education on (02) 9462 9599.