

FACTSHEET #8

FEEDING ISSUES



Many infants with Noonan syndrome have feeding difficulties which tend to improve with age.

Most infants with Noonan syndrome have feeding difficulties. This can include poor sucking, longer feeding times, or repeated vomiting.

About a quarter of infants need to be fed by a tube for 2 weeks or longer. Reflux is also common.

A speech therapist is the best person to assess and treat the feeding difficulties. X rays may be taken to observe the swallowing but the cause is likely to be a problem with the development of swallowing rather than any mechanical blockage.

The feeding problems usually resolve by the age 15 months, but in a few cases feeding difficulties may persist for longer.

Feeding difficulties in infancy can also be an indication of delayed language development and lower educational achievement in the long-term.

REFERENCES/FURTHER READING

Shaw AC, Kalidas K, Crosby AH, Jeffery S, Patton MA. The natural history of Noonan syndrome: a long-term follow-up study. *Arch Dis Child*. 2007 Feb;92(2):128-32. doi: 10.1136/adc.2006.104547.

Roberts AE, Allanson JE, Tartaglia M, Gelb BD. Noonan syndrome. *Lancet*. 2013;381(9863):333-342.