

10. Skin / Dermatology

Common skin findings in Progeria

Hair and nails



Common skin findings in Progeria

Skin changes can be the very first indication that there is a problem in a child with Progeria. Skin abnormalities can sometimes be seen at birth, but the changes are most often noticed in the first year of life. Skin findings are variable in severity and include dark spots on the skin, tight skin, and small areas (1-2 cm) of soft bulging skin, particularly on the abdomen.

Tight skin may restrict motion. Skin tightening can be almost absent in some children, or can be severe and restrict chest wall motion and gastric capacity in others.

Skin can get dry and itchy. Gentle cleansers and over the counter creams sometimes help with this. It is recommended that families see a dermatologist for dryness and itching.

Hair and nails

Hair is often normal-looking at birth, but begins to fall out gradually within the first two years of life. The pattern of hair loss usually starts at the back or edges of the scalp hair. The top is usually the last to go. All mature hair is lost on the head and thin, sparse “downy” hair remains.

Eyebrows are lost in the first few years as well, leaving very slight blonde eyebrows behind. Eyelashes are usually not lost.

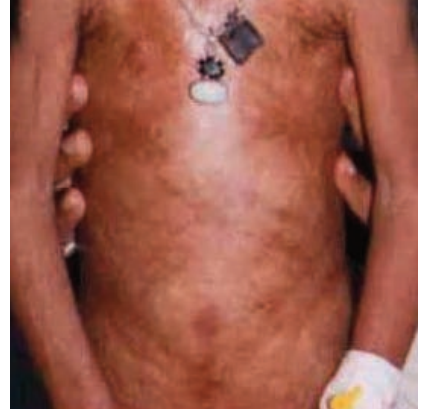
*Hair is lost gradually
(not in large clumps) over
several months to years.*

Fingernails and toenails eventually become abnormally shaped, grow slowly, and at times crack. This does not generally cause functional problems, but watch for ingrown nails that can become infected.

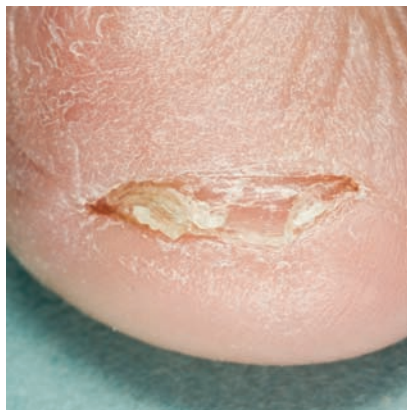
There is no specific treatment that prevents these dermatologic changes.



Hair loss starts at the periphery of the scalp; the top is often the last hair to go



Tight skin and small areas of bulging skin are evident on the abdomen



Nail dystrophy in children with Progeria