

Thin Upper Lip

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A thin upper lip can be seen in FAS patients. It is also associated with Prader Willi Syndrome. The upper lip thinness refers to the area demarcated by the vermilion border.

Smooth Philtrum

Smoothie Phil-Drum

The philtrum is the vertical groove between the nose and upper lip. In patients with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a common facial manifestation is an abnormally long, smooth philtrum in the center of the upper lip.

Short Palpebral Fissures

Short-ruler Pulp Fissures

Palpebral fissures are openings between the upper and lower eyelid; the elliptical space between the medial and lateral canthi of the two open eyelids. These can be characteristically shortened in FAS.

Cardiopulmonary Abnormalities

Abnormal Heart and Lungs

Heart defects associated with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome include ventricular septal defect, atrial septal defect, patent ductus arteriosus, and Tetralogy of Fallot. In severe cases, heart-lung fistulas may be seen. The primordial heart begins to beat during the fourth week of gestation and arises from mesoderm. Prenatal alcohol exposure can impact cardiogenesis by altering the retinoic acid pathway. Retinoic acid is critical to early cardiac development, aiding in the specification of cardiac progenitor cells.

Musculoskeletal Abnormalities

Muscle-skeleton with Abnormalities

Growth retardation is a characteristic of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, associated with height, weight, and head circumference deficiencies. Clinically, this can present as a small body size, microcephaly, midface hypoplasia or micrognathia (a receding chin), and/or decreased muscle tone. Additionally, other orthopedic manifestations may be present, such as limb abnormalities or dislocations, joint contractures, scoliosis, hip dislocations, or pectus excavatum.

Genitourinary Abnormalities

Abnormal Genital-gentleman-Urinal

Prenatal alcohol exposure has been linked to urinary and kidney anomalies, such as aplastic / hypoplastic / dysplastic kidneys, urethropelvic junction obstruction, and functional abnormalities. These functional abnormalities can include impaired potassium excretion, impaired urinary concentrating ability, or impaired renal acidification, even in the absence of structural changes.