

About Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a progressive muscle disorder that affects only boys, causing the loss of both muscle function and independence. It is the most common of the 20 muscular dystrophies and is the number one fatal genetic disorder diagnosed during childhood today. Nearly all boys with DMD die by the age of 20 from respiratory and/or cardiac complications.

The facts about DMD:

- Approximately 20,000 children worldwide, or one in every 3,500 boys, are born with DMD. A boy inherits DMD when he receives an X chromosome that fails to make the protein dystrophin, an essential building block of healthy muscle.
- Boys with DMD show signs of muscle weakness as early as age 3.
- Walking, running, or riding a bike is a challenge for a boy with DMD, as the disease gradually weakens the skeletal or voluntary muscles in the arms, legs and trunk. Nearly all boys with DMD lose the ability to walk sometime between ages 7 and 12 and require full-time use of a wheelchair.
- By the early teens or even earlier, the disease may also affect the boy's heart and respiratory muscles.
- There is no way to stop or reverse the muscle degeneration of DMD. Accepted treatments can only lessen symptoms and improve the quality of life.
- The only significant breakthrough in DMD research was the discovery of the defective gene causing DMD – dystrophin – in 1986 at the Children's Hospital in Boston, MA.

The Jett Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Massachusetts that is committed to increasing the awareness of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and raising money for research to develop new treatments and find a cure.

**For more information about the Jett Foundation,
please call 1-877-FLY-JETT or visit www.jettfoundation.org.**