

## Key Facts

---

If a person has a diagnosis of Smith-Magenis syndrome it does not mean they will show all behaviours associated with the syndrome and it is extremely important to remember that everyone with Smith-Magenis syndrome **is an individual**.

---

Most people with Smith-Magenis syndrome have an [intellectual disability](#), typically in the moderate intellectual disability range

---

Individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome have been described as having an “endearing” and affectionate personality and a strong sense of humour

---

[Sleep difficulties](#) begin in childhood and carry on into adulthood and may change over time

---

[Repetitive and stereotyped behaviours](#) such as hand flapping, spinning/twirling objects or body rocking are commonly reported in Smith-Magenis syndrome.

---

‘Attachment’ to particular people (shown by continually asking to see, speak to or contact a particular favourite person) is very common in Smith-Magenis syndrome compared to other genetic syndromes

---

[Challenging behaviour](#) including self-injury and aggression frequently occurs in Smith-Magenis syndrome with prevalence rates between 70-96% for self-injury and 70-88% for aggression.

---

Individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome are more likely to display behaviours related to [physical discomfort](#) and pain

---

[Impulsivity](#) is more common in individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome than in others with an intellectual disability without this syndrome and when compared to a range of other syndromes

---

Emotional control may be impaired in Smith-Magenis syndrome, so there may be problems controlling emotional responses which may result in temper outbursts.

---

[Communication](#) impairments are reported in individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome with weaknesses in expressive language compared to receptive language

---

Individuals with Smith-Magenis syndrome have been found to have relative strengths in long-term memory, computer skills, perceptual skills and [socialisation](#)

---

[Download a summary of common behavioural characteristics in Smith-Magenis syndrome here](#)