What is Dwarfism?

Dwarfism is a group of conditions that is characterized by shorter than normal skeletal growth. This shortness can occur in the arms, legs or trunk. The average height for adults with dwarfism signs is four feet and ten inches.

Dwarfism is not a disease but individuals affected by this condition are prone to a greater risk for developing health problems or complications.

Nonetheless, many dwarfs are as intelligent as other people and live as long. Affected individuals often feel embarrassed, suffer in self esteem or get ridiculed upon and face discrimination in adulthood.

Causes of Dwarfism

Majority of the causes are associated with genetic disorders or mutations. There are other causes of dwarfism that remain unexplained.

Although many conditions can be held responsible, the majority of cases are caused due to dwarfism types such as achondroplasia – a genetic disorder condition. Kidney disease, other genetic conditions and metabolic or hormonal problems can also cause dwarfism.
Although there are well over two hundred medical conditions responsible for the condition, among causes of dwarfism that has been well researched is achondroplasia, the commonest type of dwarfism.

Turner syndrome, growth hormone deficiency and primordial dwarfism are causes that are either a result of hormonal deficiencies or genetic mutations.

Dwarfism can be a result of a myriad of medical conditions. Each medical condition has its own specific symptoms and causes.

**Symptoms of Dwarfism**

The spectrum of causative disorders may bring about variations in dwarfism symptoms. Dwarfism is generally categorized into two types, disproportionate dwarfism and proportionate dwarfism.

Now let’s see what these types of dwarfism mean. Disproportionate dwarfism leads to body size that is not proportionate. This means some parts of the body are small but others parts can be of normal or abnormal size.

Proportionate dwarfism means all the body parts are smaller than average and stunted uniformly, often this type of dwarfism causes embarrassment too.

**Treatment for Dwarfism**

The diagnosis of dwarfism is often done during childhood when symptoms are visible. Generally, a physical examination is sufficient to diagnose some types of dwarfism.

Genetic testing, diagnostic imaging and growth charts are other methods of diagnosing other forms of dwarfism.
After diagnosing the cause for this condition treatment for dwarfism begins. It does not include measures that increase the stature but helps alleviate related problems or complications.

Treatment for dwarfism differs from one individual to other and is also decided depending on its types. The symptoms and signs vary, such as disorders related to bone growth, which can be treated through surgery.

Some hormonal deficiency disorders are tackled with dwarfism treatment including medications. Nonetheless, it is not possible to say whether all symptoms associated with dwarfism can be successfully treated.

Individuals may be prescribed accommodations including specialized furniture which can be used to simplify activities that are often difficult to perform (by people with dwarfism).

Moreover, support groups help provide services in aiding individuals with dwarfism to face challenges of social stigma, embarrassment along with other dwarfism related personal issues.