



Are You Aware?

Moebius Syndrome results from the underdevelopment of the sixth and seventh cranial nerves, which control lateral eye movement and facial Expression. The absence of these nerves leaves the diagnosed person unable to blink or smile. This mask-like expression is sometimes confused with below average intelligence.

Symptoms that sometimes occur with Moebius Syndrome are: Limb abnormalities such as clubbed feet and missing fingers or toes. Chest wall abnormalities. Crossed eyes. Difficulty in breathing and/or in swallowing Corneal erosion resulting from difficulty in blinking. Children may have delayed speech due to paralysis of lips.

Little more is known about this disorder than when it was first discovered in the late 1880's, including what actually causes Moebius Syndrome. We do know that most people that have been diagnosed with Moebius Syndrome would love to share their personal stories with you. Sometimes the lack of a smile can be mistaken as a sign of unfriendliness or that the person is unapproachable, when in reality they are wearing their smiles broadly across their hearts and waiting to share their experiences.

www.moebius syndrome awareness day.org

