

Information for Psychiatrists and Psychologists

Challenging behaviour and mental health

Challenging behaviour is common in PWS, but varies considerably from one individual to another. It can be present even in those who do not have a learning disability. Mental health problems may emerge in late childhood or adulthood.

Mental capacity

The consequences of having uncontrolled access to food has been backed up by research which shows, using brain imaging, that the response in the brains of people with PWS to having eaten food is abnormal - it is as if the brain doesn't recognise that the person has eaten. This affects the capacity of the person to make reasoned decisions around food.

Further information

Behaviour management

<https://www.pwsa.co.uk/information-for-families/behaviour-management>

The mental health of people with Prader-Willi syndrome with a specific focus on psychotic illness

<https://www.pwsa.co.uk/pdfs/mental-health-with-specific-focus-on-psychotic-illness>

Mental capacity

<https://www.pwsa.co.uk/about-pws/mental-capacity>

Prader-Willi syndrome: a primer for psychiatrists (Pittsburgh Partnership, USA)

[http://pittsburghpartnership.com/handouts/Pittsburgh%20Partnership%20Psychiatrists%20Primer%20for%20Care%20of%20PWS%20\(2\).pdf](http://pittsburghpartnership.com/handouts/Pittsburgh%20Partnership%20Psychiatrists%20Primer%20for%20Care%20of%20PWS%20(2).pdf)

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