

DEFINITION

1. **Pes Cavus** is the term applied to a deformity of the foot in which clawing of the toes is combined with a raising of the long arch of the foot.

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

2. Symptoms, in many cases, are negligible and seldom occur in childhood. When symptoms do arise, they take the form of painful corns and callosities and a feeling of tiredness after standing or walking.
3. Depending upon the degree of the deformity, there may be complaint of difficulty in walking and a tendency to fall without apparent cause.
4. As the condition progresses in severity, deformity of the foot becomes noticeable with marked arching of the foot and clawing of the toes.

AETIOLOGY

5. In some cases, the condition is **Secondary**, being caused by conditions such as -
 - 5.1 **Spina bifida** (overt or occult).
 - 5.2 **Poliomyelitis**
 - 5.3 **Friedreich's Ataxia**
 - 5.4 **Pyramidal or Extrapyramidal syndromes** (e.g. cerebral palsy)
 - 5.5 **Progressive peroneal palsy**
 - 5.6 Direct **trauma** to the foot.
 - 5.7 **Myopathies** (e.g. muscular dystrophy)
 - 5.8 **Plantar fibromatosis**
 - 5.9 **Congenital talipes equinovarus**
6. A further group - by far the largest - is the one in which, in individual cases, a specific cause cannot be found. The Pes Cavus is, in this group, termed **idiopathic**. In many cases in this group, there is a family history and it is felt that a hereditary developmental weakness of the muscles of the forefoot is the basic cause.

CONCLUSION

7. **Pes Cavus** is a condition consisting of arching of the foot together with clawing of the toes. The condition may be congenital, acquired or, as in the majority of cases, without obvious cause.

REFERENCES

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7th December 1992