

Research: Reproductive system research in young women with WS

WS affects many body systems and recently it has been found that WS affects fertility in some young men. However, the effect of WS on women's fertility has been less studied. Researchers in Birmingham, Dr Annie de Bray, Dr Renuka Dias and colleagues, have looked into this. They looked at the medical records of young women with classic WS within the national WS services.

They found that around half of young women with WS have problems with their periods (heavy periods, painful periods). Some people were in an intimate relationship, and one person had a successful pregnancy. Most young women went through puberty and started their periods at the expected age. However, because it has not been clear if WS causes reproductive issues, they also found that the WS clinics were not asking or testing most young women with WS for reproductive issues.

They recommend that, where appropriate, the WS clinics should ask about periods, think about doing blood tests for reproductive hormones and ask about relationships and plans for pregnancy.

This research will be presented at the 2026 WSUK conference. Also, it will be published in a medical journal and presented at an international medical conference. They hope the findings will improve care for young women with WS around the world by prompting discussions about periods and fertility.