

THE MOST DIFFICULT WORD

Terminology used to refer to persons with achondroplasia and other skeletal dysplasia with dwarfism is always either arguable or too long. On one side, it must include all persons with a certain kind of dwarfism (skeletal), but not any kind of dwarfism (congenital short height, hormone deficit...). On the other, not all skeletal dysplasia (most, yes) entails dwarfism.

Acronyms are words built with the initials of other words: MRI, UNESCO, radar, SEDC...

Creating an acronym is useful to define specifically the field of references that can be addressed by it, that is, the persons referred to by it; and it's very useful to get rid of words that have negative resonances, so to say. An acronym is connotatively neutral; it is not associated to anything perceived as "negative", that is, in our case, the social stigma these alterations are subjected to.

This is our proposal: to start referring to persons with Acondroplasia and/or other Skeletal Dysplasia with Dwarfism as persons with ASDD, (in Spanish, persons with ADEE: Acondroplasia y/u otras Displasias Esqueléticas con Enanismo). We invite all organizations and persons to adhere to it. Some examples of its use would be "as for the ASDD", "in the area of the ASDD", "patients with ASDD", "women with ASDD", etc.

All experts consulted (politics, social and disability advocacy, medical) agree to consider this initiative useful and promising.

A new word, free of the connotations of the word *dwarf* and others, which are not specific and carry with themselves the history of an unfair and excluding society. A new word we hope you make yours, because it has no owner, and add to your usual vocabulary for the sake of persons with ASDD.

