Blount's disease is a growth disorder of the shin bone (tibia) in which the lower leg bows.

CAUSES AND RISK FACTORS

The cause is unknown. Unlike bowlegs, which tend to straighten as the child develops, Blount's disease slowly gets worse. It can cause severe bowing of one or both legs.

SYMPTOMS AND TYPES

One or both of the lower legs bows outward. When the ankles touch, the knees separate widely.

DIAGNOSIS AND TESTS

A physical exam and X-rays are used to diagnose Blount's disease.

TREATMENT AND CARE

Some patients are able to be treated with braces. In some cases, surgery will be needed.

LIVING AND MANAGING

If treatment provides a good position for the leg, a child should resume normal activity after the correction.