Genu varum, otherwise known as bowed legs, is a condition where the legs bend outwardly around or below the knees, even when the ankles are together.

Interestingly enough, both bowed legs and knock knees are actually a natural part of a child’s development that typically goes away with age. However, when a child is two years old or older and still has bowed legs, medical intervention is necessary to prevent the condition.

According to John Hopkins Medicine, Blount’s Disease causes the growth plate near the inside of the knee to slow down or stop making new bone. Meanwhile, the growth plate near the outside of the knee continues to grow normally.

Bowed legs can be caused by rickets, too. Rickets occurs when the bones are soft and weak, usually due to a severe lack of vitamin D. Other causes of bowed legs include bone fractures that were treated but didn’t heal properly and abnormally developed bones.

Condoleeza before surgery

Condoleeza is a 13-year-old girl from Kenya that suffers from severely bowed legs. CURE met her during a mobile clinic near her home. When she was little, her dad thought she was born with rickets and would heal as she grew older.
Children that grow up with bowed legs often have a hard time in school. If they have to walk a long distance to get to school, the child may stop attending. Condi started school late because of the distance and had a hard time focusing on her studies due to the distraction of her condition.

After hearing about the treatment available at CURE Kenya, Condo made her way over and received surgery to straighten her legs shortly after. When Condi returned home, word spread of her transformation, leading two other children with treatable disabilities to CURE Kenya for treatment. Since her surgery, her life has changed! She feels much more confident in herself and does not want to miss school.

Thank you for being a part of the life-changing transformation children with treatable disabilities experience at CURE hospitals.

One of the beautiful things about CURE is that it allows everyone to participate in the life-transforming surgeries provided daily at CURE hospitals worldwide. You don’t need to understand words like bilateral, ventricle, genu valgum, congenital, or cerebral-spinal fluid to take part in the life-changing and life-saving work that is done. But with this said, having an understanding of the conditions CURE treats does allow a deeper appreciation of just how important your donation is.

To support a child’s surgery, click here.