

## “La Monstrua Desnuda”: an artistic textbook representation of Prader–Willi syndrome in a painting of Juan Carreño de Miranda (1680)

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Juan Carreño de Miranda (Avilés, 1614–Madrid, 1685) was a Baroque artist who served as court painter during the reigns of Philip IV and Charles II of Spain.

This picture, titled “La Monstrua Desnuda” (The nude monster), is an oil on canvas painting dated 1680, representing Eugenia Martínez Vallejo, a 6-year-old child hosted at Court as object of curiosity for her extreme obesity. She is here depicted as impersonation of the Roman god Bacchus, and presents with the typical phenotype of Prader–Willi syndrome (severe obesity, almond-shaped eyes, small mouth with down-turned corners, small-sized hands and feet) [1, 2].

Interestingly, subjects affected by endocrinological features are frequent in the pictures of the Spanish Courts of Madrid and Naples, where they were commonly recruited as servants or entertainers [3, 4].

The diagnosis of Prader–Willi syndrome was previously reported in this journal by Pozzilli and Khazrai in their analysis of the painting “La Monstrua Vestida” (The dressed monster), where Eugenia is depicted with clothes [1]. This naked version can be considered a very effective artistic illustration encompassing all of the characteristics of the disease.

The work is exposed at the Prado Museum in Madrid.



### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Ethical approval** This paper does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

**Informed consent** No informed consent.

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