

Spinal Muscular Atrophy Month



August is the time to bring awareness to:

What is SMA

Refers to a group of genetic conditions that cause muscle weakness and atrophy in children and adults. SMA is a disease that affects the body's ability to control muscle movements by attacking and destroying the lower motor neurons.

Causes

SMA is characterized by the loss of nerve cells in the spinal cord called motor neurons and classified as a motor neuron disease. The most common form of SMA (types 1-4) is caused by a defect (mutation) in the SMN1 gene on chromosome 5, which is responsible for creating a protein needed for healthy motor neurons.

Diagnosis

Spinal muscular atrophy is a rare disease and often some medical professionals are not familiar with the condition. The first steps in diagnosis of a neuromuscular disease are usually an in-office physical examination and family history, with some simple tests to distinguish SMA from similar conditions. Diagnosis is then also determined through blood testing to detect a specific gene, a muscle biopsy, or electromyography-electrical testing of the muscles.

source and for more information : <https://unicityhealthcare.com/sma-awareness-month-is-this-august-learning-about-spinal-muscular-atrophy-in-seniors/>

