



[Home](#) → [Medical Encyclopedia](#) → Hereditary amyloidosis

URL of this page: //medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000368.htm

Hereditary amyloidosis

Hereditary amyloidosis is a condition in which abnormal protein deposits (called amyloid) form in almost every tissue in the body. Harmful deposits most often form in the heart, kidneys, and nervous system. These protein deposits damage the tissues and interfere with how organs work.

Causes

Hereditary amyloidosis is passed down from parents to their children (inherited). Genes may also play a role in primary amyloidosis.

Other types of amyloidosis are not inherited. They include:

- Senile systemic: seen in people older than 70
- Spontaneous: occurs without a known cause
- Secondary: results from diseases such as cancer of certain blood cells (myeloma)

Specific conditions include:

- Cardiac amyloidosis
- Cerebral amyloidosis
- Secondary systemic amyloidosis

Treatment

Treatment to improve the function of damaged organs will help relieve some symptoms of hereditary amyloidosis. A liver transplant may be helpful to reduce the creation of harmful amyloid proteins. Talk to your health care provider about treatments.

Alternative Names

Amyloidosis - hereditary; Familial amyloidosis

References

Gertz MA, Dispenzieri A. Amyloidosis. In: Goldman L, Cooney KA, eds. *Goldman-Cecil Medicine*. 27th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Elsevier; 2024:chap 174.

Review Date 11/19/2023

Updated by: Jacob Berman, MD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, WA. Also reviewed by David C. Dugdale, MD, Medical Director, Brenda Conaway, Editorial Director, and the A.D.A.M. Editorial team.

Learn how to cite this page



Health Content
Provider
06/01/2028

A.D.A.M., Inc. is accredited by URAC, for Health Content Provider (www.urac.org). URAC's [accreditation program](#) is an independent audit to verify that A.D.A.M. follows rigorous standards of quality and accountability. A.D.A.M. is among the first to achieve this important distinction for online health information and services. Learn more about A.D.A.M.'s [editorial policy](#), [editorial process](#), and [privacy policy](#).

The information provided herein should not be used during any medical emergency or for the diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. A licensed medical professional should be consulted for diagnosis and treatment of any and all medical conditions. Links to other sites are provided for information only – they do not constitute endorsements of those other sites. No warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, is made as to the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, or correctness of any translations made by a third-party service of the information provided herein into any other language. © 1997-2025 A.D.A.M., a business unit of Ebix, Inc. Any duplication or distribution of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited.



National Library of Medicine 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health