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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/scoliosis.html>

Scoliosis

Scoliosis causes a sideways curve of your backbone, or spine. These curves are often S- or C-shaped. Scoliosis is most common in late childhood and the early teens, when children grow fast. Girls are more likely to have it than boys. It can run in families. Symptoms include leaning to one side and having uneven shoulders and hips. Sometimes it is easy to notice, but not always.

Children may get screening for scoliosis at school or during a [checkup \[https://medlineplus.gov/healthcheckup.html\]](https://medlineplus.gov/healthcheckup.html) . If it looks like there is a problem, your doctor will use your medical and family history, a physical exam, and imaging tests to make a diagnosis. Treatment depends on your age, how much more you're likely to grow, how much curving there is, and whether the curve is temporary or permanent. People with mild scoliosis might only need checkups to see if the curve is getting worse. Others might need to wear a brace or have surgery.

NIH: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Start Here

- [Scoliosis \[https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/scoliosis.html\]](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/scoliosis.html) (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/scoliosis.html>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- [X-Ray Exam: Scoliosis \[https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/xray-scoliosis.html\]](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/xray-scoliosis.html) (Nemours Foundation)

Treatments and Therapies

- [Diagnosis and Treatment \[https://www.srs.org/Patients/Diagnosis-And-Treatment\]](https://www.srs.org/Patients/Diagnosis-And-Treatment) (Scoliosis Research Society)
- [Halo-Gravity Traction \(For Parents\) \[https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/halo-gravity-traction.html\]](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/halo-gravity-traction.html) (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/halo-gravity-traction.html>]




Related Issues

- [Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome \[https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis/Thoracic-Insufficiency-Syndrome-TIS\]](https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis/Thoracic-Insufficiency-Syndrome-TIS) (Scoliosis Research Society)

Specifics

- [Congenital Scoliosis \[https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/congenital-scoliosis.html\]](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/congenital-scoliosis.html) (Nemours Foundation)
- [Neuromuscular Scoliosis \[https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis/Neuromuscular-Scoliosis\]](https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis/Neuromuscular-Scoliosis) (Scoliosis Research Society)
- [Scoliosis \[https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis\]](https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis) (Scoliosis Research Society)


Genetics

- Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/adolescent-idiopathic-scoliosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Horizontal gaze palsy with progressive scoliosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/horizontal-gaze-palsy-with-progressive-scoliosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Spondylocostal dysostosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spondylocostal-dysostosis>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Images

- Spinal fusion - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100121_1.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/esp_presentations/100121_1.htm]

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Scoliosis [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Scoliosis%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Effectiveness of conditioning + open-label placebo for post-operative pain management in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40536435>]
- Article: Effectiveness of nighttime vs full-time bracing in the treatment of moderate-grade... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40485598>]
- Article: Perioperative Intravenous Lidocaine Infusion Therapy as an Adjunct to Multimodal Analgesia... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40326715>]
- Scoliosis -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Scoliosis%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/es/portal-en-espanol/>]

Children

- Scoliosis in Children and Teens [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/scoliosis>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/es/informacion-de-salud/escoliosis>]

Teenagers

- Early Onset Scoliosis [<https://www.srs.org/Patients/Conditions/Scoliosis/Early-Onset-Scoliosis>] (Scoliosis Research Society)

Patient Handouts

- Cervical MRI scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007354.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007354.htm>]
- Scoliosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001241.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001241.htm>]

Scoliosis surgery in children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007383.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007383.htm>]

- Spinal fusion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002968.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002968.htm>]

- Thoracic spine x-ray [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003806.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003806.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Cervical MRI scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007354.htm>]

Lumbar MRI scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007352.htm>]

Lumbosacral spine x-ray [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003807.htm>]

Scoliosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001241.htm>]

Scoliosis surgery in children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007383.htm>]

Spinal fusion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002968.htm>]

Spinal fusion - series [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/presentations/100121_1.htm]

Thoracic spine x-ray [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003806.htm>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Scoliosis* is the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<http://www.niams.nih.gov/>]

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