What is vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome?

Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (vEDS) is a rare genetic disorder that weakens the body's connective tissue.

Connective tissue is like a glue that supports different parts of the body, like the skin, eyes, and heart. It gets its strength from a protein called collagen.

COMPLICATIONS

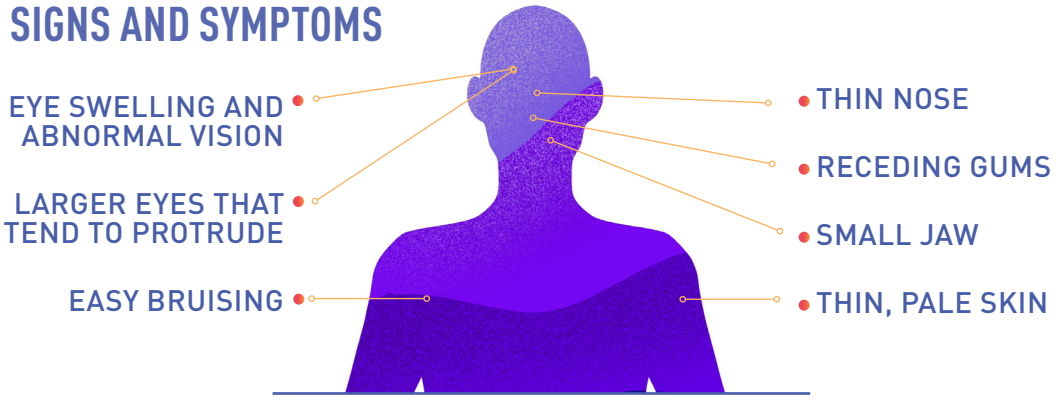
Because their connective tissue is fragile, people with vEDS are prone to life-threatening events, such as:

- Aneurysms
- Arterial ruptures or tears
- Bowel perforations
- Organ ruptures

Up to 25% of people with vEDS experience their **first complication** by age 20

More than 80% of people with vEDS have suffered an **arterial complication** by age 40

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



Every patient with vEDS is different, and may have none, one, or any combination of these characteristics.

CAUSE

vEDS is caused by a defect in a gene called *COL3A1. COL3A1* gives the body instructions for making a type of collagen, a protein that gives connective tissue its strength. This genetic defect can occur randomly, or it can be inherited from a parent.

LIVING WITH vEDS

There is no cure for vEDS, but there are ways to help manage it, including:

- Medication
- Close monitoring by doctors
- Avoiding activities that could cause physical harm

WE ARE vEDS

We Are vEDS is a vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome community resource sponsored by Acer Therapeutics. Intended for US audiences only.
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