

SARCOIDOSIS

What is Sarcoidosis:

Sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that affects many organs in the body, but it is most frequently found in the lungs.

Sarcoidosis occurs when abnormal masses or nodules (granulomas) consisting of inflamed tissue form in organs of the body. These masses may affect the normal function of the organ. Sarcoidosis is generally a chronic disease which can last several years or a lifetime, but some people may have a type that lasts only a few months.

What Organs Sarcoidosis Can Affect?

1. Lungs
2. Skin
3. Eyes
4. Liver
5. Lymph Glands
6. Nervous System
7. Heart
8. Bones/Muscles
9. Kidneys

What Causes Sarcoidosis?

The cause of Sarcoidosis are generally unknown, although some possible causes might include:

1. Hereditary factors
2. Viral/bacterial infection
3. Defect in body's immune system
4. Hypersensitivity to environmental factors

What are the Symptoms?

(Symptoms vary by site affected)

- Lung: Cough
Chest pain
Breathing problems
- Skin: Rashes or bumps
- Eyes: Dry, burning, itchy
Vision changes
- Nervous System:
Muscle weakness
Seizures
Tremors
Poor coordination
Hearing loss
Problems walking
- Heart: Abnormal beat,
Congestive heart failure (CHF)
- Bones: Pain
Swelling
Joint stiffness
- Kidney: Kidney stones

A patient may not experience any symptoms

How is it Diagnosed?

Medical history and physical exam by physician
Chest X-Ray
CT scan of chest
Bronchoscopy (biopsy)
Pulmonary function testing
Blood test

What is the Treatment?

1. Use of corticosteroids
2. Follow up with physician regularly
3. At times, treatment is not necessary

