

Request an Appointment
Find a Doctor
Find a Job
Give Now

Log in to Patient Account



Patient Care & Health Information > Diseases & Conditions

Vasculitis



Request an Appointment

Symptoms & causes

Diagnosis & treatment

Doctors & departments

Overview



Print

Advertisement

Vasculitis is inflammation of your blood vessels. It causes changes in the blood vessel walls, including thickening, weakening, narrowing or scarring. These changes can restrict blood flow, resulting in organ and tissue damage.

There are many types of vasculitis, and most of them are rare. Vasculitis might affect just one organ, or several. The condition can be short term (acute) or long lasting (chronic).

Vasculitis can affect anyone, though some types are more common among certain groups. Depending on the type you have, you may improve without treatment. Some types require medications to control the inflammation and prevent flare-ups.

Vasculitis is also known as angiitis and arteritis.

Types

[Behcet's disease](#)

[Buerger's disease](#)

[Churg-Strauss syndrome](#)

[Cryoglobulinemia](#)

[Giant cell arteritis](#)

NOW APPROVED

Important Safety Information & Indication

What is the most important information I should know about HEMLIBRA®?

HEMLIBRA increases the potential for your blood to clot. Carefully follow your healthcare provider's instructions regarding when to use an on-demand bypassing agent or factor VIII, and the dose and schedule to use for breakthrough bleed treatment. HEMLIBRA may cause serious side effects when used with activated prothrombin complex concentrate (aPCC; FEIBA®), including thrombotic microangiopathy (TMA) and blood clots

[Granulomatosis with polyangiitis](#)

[Henoch-Schonlein purpura](#)

[Kawasaki disease](#)

[Takayasu's arteritis](#)

Symptoms

The signs and symptoms of vasculitis vary greatly. They're often related to decreased blood flow throughout the body.

General signs and symptoms common to most vasculitis types

General signs and symptoms of vasculitis include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Weight loss
- General aches and pains
- Night sweats
- Rash
- Nerve problems, such as numbness or weakness

Signs and symptoms for specific types of vasculitis

Other signs and symptoms are related only to certain types of vasculitis. The symptoms can develop early and rapidly or in later stages of the disease.

- **Behcet's (beh-CHETS) disease.** This condition causes inflammation of your arteries and veins. Signs and symptoms include mouth and genital ulcers, eye inflammation, and acne-like skin lesions.



Giant cell arteritis



Henoch-Schonlein purpura

Mayo Clinic does not endorse companies or products. Advertising revenue supports our not-for-profit mission.

Advertising & Sponsorship

[Policy](#) | [Opportunities](#) | [Ad Choices](#) ▶

Mayo Clinic Marketplace

Check out these best-sellers and special offers on books and newsletters from Mayo Clinic.

[The Last Diet You'll Ever Need](#)

[Improve Your Hearing and Balance](#)

[Get the Facts on Alternative Medicine](#)

[Stop Osteoporosis in its Tracks](#)

[NEW - Genetic Insights from Mayo Clinic](#)

Advertisement

Treatment Option - Mantle Cell Lymphoma

www.mcl-btk-inhibitor.com

HCPs - Learn More About A Treatment For Mantle Cell Lymphoma.

Stage III Lung Cancer Patients - Medication Information

www.stage-3-lung-cancer-drug.com

Stage III NSCLC Can Spread After CRT. View An Available Treatment That May Help.

Mantle Cell Lymphoma - Treatment Option

www.mcl-btk-inhibitor.com

HCPs - View Dosing Information For An Oral Mantle Cell Lymphoma Therapy.

- **Buerger's disease.** This condition causes inflammation and clots in the blood vessels of your hands and feet, resulting in pain and ulcers in these areas. Rarely, Buerger's disease can affect blood vessels in the abdomen, brain and heart. It is also called thromboangiitis (throm-boe-an-jee-l-tis) obliterans.
- **Churg-Strauss syndrome (Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis).** This condition is very rare. It mainly affects the lungs, skin, kidneys, heart and nerves in your limbs. Signs and symptoms vary greatly and include asthma, skin changes, nerve pain and nasal allergies.
- **Cryoglobulinemia.** This condition results from abnormal proteins in the blood. Signs and symptoms include rash, joint pain, weakness, and numbness or tingling.
- **Giant cell arteritis.** This condition is an inflammation of the arteries in your head, especially at the temples. Giant cell arteritis can cause headaches, scalp tenderness, jaw pain, blurred or double vision, and even blindness. It is also called temporal arteritis.
- **Granulomatosis with polyangiitis.** This condition causes inflammation of the blood vessels in your nose, sinuses, throat, lungs and kidneys. Signs and symptoms include nasal stuffiness, sinus infections, nosebleeds and possibly coughing up blood. But most people don't have noticeable symptoms until the damage is more advanced.
- **Henoch-Schonlein purpura (IgA vasculitis).** This condition is more common in children than in adults, and causes inflammation of the smallest blood vessels (capillaries) of your skin, joints, bowel and kidneys. Signs and symptoms include abdominal pain, blood in the urine, joint pain, and a rash on your buttocks or lower legs.
- **Hypersensitivity vasculitis.** Sometimes called allergic vasculitis, the primary sign of this condition is red spots on your skin, usually on your lower legs. It can be triggered by an infection or an adverse reaction to medicine.
- **Kawasaki disease.** This condition most often affects children younger than age 5. Signs and symptoms

include fever, rash and redness of the eyes. It is also called mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome.

- **Microscopic polyangiitis.** This form of vasculitis affects small blood vessels, usually those in the kidneys, lungs or nerves. You may develop abdominal pain and a rash, fever, muscle pain and weight loss. If the lungs are affected, you may cough up blood.
- **Polyarteritis nodosa.** This form of vasculitis usually affects the kidneys, the digestive tract, the nerves and the skin. Signs and symptoms include a rash, general malaise, weight loss, muscle and joint pain, abdominal pain after eating, high blood pressure, muscle pain and weakness, and kidney problems.
- **Takayasu's (tah-kah-YAH-sooz) arteritis.** This form of vasculitis affects the larger arteries in the body, including the aorta. Signs and symptoms include joint pain, loss of pulse, high blood pressure, night sweats, fever, general malaise, appetite loss, headaches and visual changes.

When to see a doctor

Make an appointment with your doctor if you have any signs or symptoms that worry you. Some types of vasculitis can worsen quickly, so early diagnosis is key to getting effective treatment.



[Request an Appointment at Mayo Clinic](#)

Causes

The exact cause of vasculitis isn't fully understood. Some types are related to a person's genetic makeup. Others result from the immune system attacking blood vessel cells by mistake. Possible triggers for this immune system reaction include:

- Infections, such as hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Blood cancers
- Immune system diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis,

lupus and scleroderma

- Reactions to certain drugs

Blood vessels affected by vasculitis may bleed or become inflamed. Inflammation can cause the layers of the blood vessel wall to thicken. This narrows the blood vessels, reducing the amount of blood — and therefore oxygen and vital nutrients — that reaches your body's tissues and organs.

Risk factors

Vasculitis can occur in any sex or race or at any age. But some factors can increase the risk, such as:

- Smoking
- Having chronic hepatitis B or C infections
- Having some types of autoimmune conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma or lupus

Complications

Vasculitis complications depend on the type and severity of your condition. Or they may be related to side effects of the prescription medications you use to treat the condition.

Complications of vasculitis include:

- **Organ damage.** Some types of vasculitis can be severe, causing damage to major organs.
- **Blood clots and aneurysms.** A blood clot may form in a blood vessel, obstructing blood flow. Rarely, vasculitis will cause a blood vessel to weaken and bulge, forming an aneurysm (AN-yoo-riz-um).
- **Vision loss or blindness.** This is a possible complication of untreated giant cell arteritis.
- **Infections.** These include serious and life-threatening conditions, such as pneumonia and blood infection (sepsis).

By Mayo Clinic Staff



Request an Appointment at Mayo Clinic

Diagnosis &
treatment



Share on: Facebook Twitter Print Oct. 18, 2017

References

Related

Unexplained weight loss

Joint pain

Abdominal pain

Fatigue

Numbness

Muscle pain

Vasculitis

Symptoms & causes

Diagnosis & treatment

Doctors & departments

Patient Care & Health Information > Diseases & Conditions > Vasculitis

CON-20337539





- [Request Appointment](#) | [Contact Us](#)
- [About Mayo Clinic](#) | [Employees](#) | [Find a Job](#)
- [Site Map](#) | [About This Site](#)



Mayo Clinic is a not-for-profit organization. Make a donation.

PATIENT CARE & HEALTH INFO

- [Healthy Lifestyle](#)
- [Symptoms A-Z](#)
- [Diseases and Conditions A-Z](#)
- [Tests and Procedures A-Z](#)
- [Drugs and Supplements A-Z](#)
- [Appointments](#)
- [Patient and Visitor Guide](#)
- [Billing and Insurance](#)
- [Patient Online Services](#)

DEPARTMENTS & CENTERS

- [Doctors and Medical Staff](#)
- [Medical Departments and Centers](#)
- [International Services](#)
- [Research Centers and Programs](#)
- [About Mayo Clinic](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

RESEARCH

- [Explore Research Labs](#)
- [Find Clinical Trials](#)
- [Research Faculty](#)
- [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#)
- [Discovery's Edge Magazine](#)
- [Search Publications](#)
- [Training Grant Programs](#)

EDUCATION

- [Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences](#)
- [Mayo Clinic School of Medicine](#)
- [Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development](#)
- [Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education](#)
- [Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences](#)
- [Alumni Center](#)

FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

- [Provider Relations](#)
- [Referring Physician Portal](#)
- [AskMayoExpert](#)
- [Video Center](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Continuing Medical Education](#)
- [Mayo Medical Laboratories](#)


PRODUCTS & SERVICES

- [Healthy Living Program](#)
- [Sports Medicine](#)
- [Books and more - Mayo Clinic Marketplace](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Health Letter](#)
- [Medical Products](#)
- [Population Health and Wellness Programs](#)
- [Medical Laboratory Services](#)
- [Mayo Clinic Voice Apps](#)

Any use of this site constitutes your agreement to the [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) linked below.

- [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Notice of Privacy Practices](#)
- [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)
- [Manage Cookies](#)

A single copy of these materials may be reprinted for noncommercial personal use only. "Mayo," "Mayo Clinic," "MayoClinic.org," "Mayo Clinic Healthy Living," and the triple-shield Mayo Clinic logo are trademarks of Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research.



This site complies with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information: [verify here.](#)