

# Arterial Tortuosity Syndrome (ATS) Questions and Answers

ATS is an extremely rare disease. Giving someone who is new to ATS some background information is essential to help them understand the disease. Print out this card and have it on hand to help explain to new doctors, nurses, teachers, family members, and friends the basics of ATS.

## What is ATS?

ATS is a rare genetic disorder that causes problems with people's arteries, including elongation, tortuosity (twisting), and/or aneurysms, among other symptoms.

## What causes ATS?

ATS is an inherited genetic disorder. It is caused by a mutation in a gene called *SLC2A10* that encodes (creates) a protein known as GLUT10, which moves sugars such as glucose around the body. People with ATS do not have functioning (working) GLUT10 protein and this disrupts the body's development of connective tissue and the circulatory system.

## How does ATS affect people's lives?

ATS affects people in a wide variety of ways. People with ATS have the potential for aneurysm formation. Aneurysms are concerning because they can rupture, causing internal bleeding and dangerous clotting. People with ATS often develop cardiovascular complications related to their tortuosity, which often need surgery to be corrected. Some other common symptoms of ATS include distinctive facial features such as a long face or downward slanting eyes, hernias, and loose joints and skin.

## How many people have ATS?

There have only been about 100 cases of ATS reported in medical literature, meaning there is still a lot that is unknown about ATS. Recently, researchers have provided encouraging information that the overall progress of ATS is less severe than previously reported, and the ATS patients in recent studies were significantly older than in previous ones.

For more information about Arterial Tortuosity Syndrome (ATS),  
visit [www.arterialtortuositysyndrome.com](http://www.arterialtortuositysyndrome.com).