



find out about

# Gaucher disease

- Gaucher disease is a progressive, debilitating and sometimes life-threatening disease. Symptoms of Gaucher can appear at any age.
- The symptoms of Gaucher can include easy bleeding and bruising, fatigue, anemia, weak bones, bone and joint pain, and enlargement of the spleen or liver.
- Gaucher disease is a genetic disorder that affects fewer than 10,000 people worldwide. Both men and women can develop Gaucher.
- People with Gaucher lack an enzyme that helps the body to break down certain fatty substances. These substances build up in cells in the body – especially in the spleen, liver and bone marrow.
- There is a blood test to determine whether someone has Gaucher.
- Gaucher disease is passed from parent to child. Both parents must be carriers for the disease to present in a child. The carrier rate for Gaucher disease is about 1 in 100 for the general population, but may be as high as 1 in 10 for Jewish people of Ashkenazi descent.
- The National Gaucher Foundation (NGF) is the nation's leading organization focusing specifically on the needs of people living with Gaucher, their families and caregivers. To learn more about the information and support services available from NGF, visit [www.gaucherdisease.org](http://www.gaucherdisease.org).

