

What is Dravet Syndrome?



Dravet Syndrome is a genetic disorder of Chromosome 2 usually affecting a gene called SCN1A, causing epilepsy and other neurological and developmental problems. Dravet Syndrome accounts for **1%** of the epilepsy population.



The condition gets its name from the doctor who first recognised and described it - Dr Charlotte Dravet.

What are the features?

Seizures starting in infancy
Multiple seizure types
Developmental delays emerging in early childhood
Motor and behavioural disorders increasing with age



What are the Comorbidities?

Autonomic dysfunction
Autistic traits
Attention deficit and hyperactivity
Ataxia (unsteadiness)
Orthopedic conditions
Sleep disturbances

How common is it?

1:30,000
people
worldwide
are born with
Dravet Syndrome

About
1000
in **Canada** will have
Dravet Syndrome
but many will be
undiagnosed.

Who does it affect?



It affects males and females equally.



It is present in all nationalities, races and ethnic groups.

Why did it happen?

Genetic disorders occur at the **point of conception** and nothing the mother or father did could have caused it or prevented it from happening.

80% of people with Dravet Syndrome have an SCN1A mutation. Of these, **95%** have de novo mutations and **5%** have inherited mutations. Mutations of SCN9A, SCN2B, PCDH19 and GABRG2 genes are also seen in Dravet Syndrome.

5% cases are inherited
95% cases are completely random



Scientists are researching new medications and treatments, and gaining greater understanding of the genetics of **Dravet syndrome.**

Can it be treated?

Dravet syndrome is a lifelong disorder. Anti-epilepsy medications and special diets can reduce the seizures. Speech therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy can alleviate some of the other symptoms.

