**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.

**What are the features?**

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

**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.

**Why did it happen?**

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

**What are the Comorbidities?**

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

**Who does it affect?**

- It affects males and females equally.
- It is present in all nationalities, races and ethnic groups.

**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.

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

**1978**

Severe Myoclonic Epilepsy of Infancy first described by Dr Charlotte Dravet

**1982**

42 cases of SMEI were presented at the XIIIth Epilepsy International Symposium

**1987**

SMEB Borderline forms described

**1989**

SMEI classified by ILAE

**2000**

Stiripentol tested for treatment of SMEI

**2001**

SCN1A mutations discovered in Belgian patients with SMEI and SMEI formally renamed as Dravet Syndrome

**2006**

Micro deletions in SCN1A discovered, accounting for 2-3% of Dravet cases and Mosaic SCN1A mutations identified in parents having more than one child with Dravet Syndrome

**2008**

Screening test identified for early diagnosis of Dravet Syndrome

**2009**

The SCN9a gene is identified as a possible modifier of SCN1a gene in Dravet Syndrome

**2013**

Mutations in other genes discovered in rare cases of Dravet Syndrome

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

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