

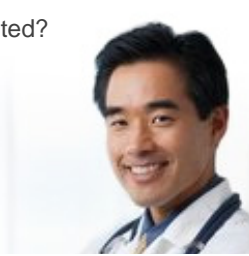
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 2005
Spherocytosis

RSS



What is spherocytosis? Is it inherited?
Jim/ Virginia



A. Spherocytosis is an inherited disorder of red blood cells. Hereditary spherocytosis results from an abnormality in one or more of the proteins in the membranes of red blood cells. Red cells normally look like slightly indented, flattened discs. In spherocytosis, the red cells are smaller, rounder and more fragile than normal. These rotund red cells tend to get trapped in the spleen, where they break down.

Some people with this disorder have no signs or symptoms — other than mildly abnormal blood tests. Others may have:

- Hemolytic anemia
- Jaundice
- Gallstones

Hereditary spherocytosis is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, which means that a child has to inherit only one copy of the affected gene to develop the disease. There is no cure for spherocytosis. Treatment may include:

- Folic acid supplements
- Removal of the gallbladder (cholecystectomy)
- Removal of the spleen (splenectomy)

By Mayo Clinic Staff

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