



Advancing Research.

Supporting Families.

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The Disease

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two, is a group of inherited and often fatal diseases that destroy the nerves controlling voluntary muscle movement, which affects crawling, walking, head and neck control and even swallowing.

- **SMA is the number one genetic killer of children under the age of two.**
- **1 in 40 people carry the gene that causes SMA**
- **SMA effects all ages, races and genders**

The Types

SMA Patients are classified into four types based on milestones achieved at onset of SMA. Type I and II are most prevalent.

- **Type I** is the most severe form of SMA. Type I SMA strikes infants between birth and six months old. Children affected with Type I cannot sit without support. Fifty percent of Type I babies will die before their 2nd birthday.
- **Type II** affects infants between seven and 18 months old. Type II patients may be able to sit unaided or even stand with support. They are at increased risk for complications from respiratory infections.
- **Type III** is the least deadly form of childhood-onset SMA. It strikes children as early as the age of 18 months, but can surface as late as adolescence. Type III patients are able to walk, but weakness is prevalent. Most patients eventually need to use a wheelchair.
- **Type IV** is the adult form of the disease. Symptoms tend to begin after age 35.

For more information contact:

Families of SMA

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