

# THE VEDS MOVEMENT

*Charging forward. Saving lives.*

## VEDS Emergency Information for the Emergency Department

VEDS is a genetic connective tissue condition that results in inadequate collagen III in an affected individual. Collagen III provides structural support to the arteries, hollow organs, skin, lungs, and other tissues in the body. Because of this inadequate collagen III, individuals with VEDS are prone to life-threatening spontaneous perforations and ruptures of these tissues.

**In an emergency, it is imperative that the following emergencies are considered:**

- ▶ Aortic dissection or rupture
- ▶ Arterial dissection or rupture of any artery in the body
- ▶ Bowel perforation
- ▶ Uterine rupture during pregnancy
- ▶ Other hollow organ rupture
- ▶ Pneumothorax/hemothorax
- ▶ Carotid cavernous sinus fistula

**Because of the fragile tissue, invasive investigational procedures, such as endoscopy, colonoscopy, and catheter arteriography, should be avoided unless it is unavoidable due to a life-threatening emergency.**

**Consider non-invasive procedures for an individual with VEDS, such as CTA, MRA/MRI, or ultrasound. An x-ray is not sufficient to eliminate the possibility of aortic or arterial dissection.**

This information is provided by The VEDS Movement, a division of The Marfan Foundation. The following physicians are members of the Professional Advisory Board of the Foundation:

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For further medical education on VEDS, a CME is available for medical professionals online. This course is provided by The Sullivan Group and was developed in collaboration with The VEDS Movement and The Marfan Foundation.

**THE CME CAN BE ACCESSED HERE**

To contact The VEDS Movement, visit [TheVEDSMovement.org/resources-and-answers/ask-a-question](https://TheVEDSMovement.org/resources-and-answers/ask-a-question)