

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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RICHARD B. DEVEREUX, MD
New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center

HAL DIETZ, MD
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New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center

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Boston Children's Hospital

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Stanford University School of Medicine

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Stanford University School of Medicine

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Texas Children's Hospital

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Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

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New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center

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Brown University

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Shriners Hospital and Oregon Health & Science University

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Oregon Health & Science University

PAUL D. SPONSELLER, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

XIAO JING (IRIS) WANG, MD
Mayo Clinic, Rochester

LUCIANA YOUNG, MD
Seattle Children's Hospital

MAYA BROWN-ZIMMERMAN, MPH
PAB Advisor

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