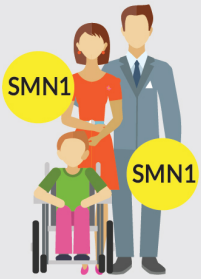
What is SMA?

Quick facts about spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

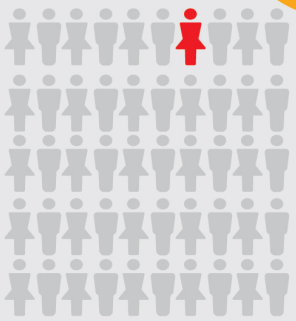
In Malaysia, it is estimated that **one baby** with SMA is born every week.

SMA is an inherited genetic disease.



It occurs when a child inherits **two mutated copies of the survival motor neuron 1 (SMN1) gene** – one from each parent (autosomal recessive inheritance).

If a child only inherits one mutated copy of the SMN1 gene, he or she becomes a **carrier** of the recessive gene.



On average, **one in 50 people** carry the mutated SMN1 gene.

SMA is a neuromuscular disorder, affecting the motor nerves in the body.

It causes the **muscles** in the body to become **progressively weaker**.

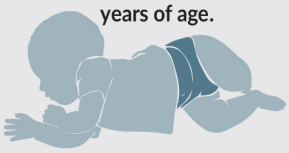
It affects **essential physical activities** like breathing and chewing/swallowing, as well as all movements, including head control and crawling/walking.

SMA does not affect the child's intelligence or senses.

SMA can be categorized into four clinical types:

SMA Type 1

> Most common and severe type.
> Symptoms appear at birth or within first few months of life.
> Patients have difficulty breathing and eating.
> Usually do not live beyond two years of age.

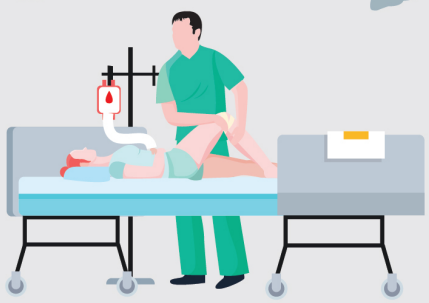


SMA Type 2

> Symptoms appear between six to 24 months of age.
> Patients can sit by themselves, but are unable to stand or walk on their own.
> Life expectancy ranges from childhood to adulthood, depending on the severity of their condition.

SMA Type 3

> Symptoms appear during childhood.
> Patients are initially able to walk, but will eventually need a wheelchair.
> Life expectancy is close to normal.



SMA Type 4

> Symptoms appear during adulthood.
> Patients are initially able to walk, but will experience progressive muscle weakness.
> Life expectancy is normal.

There is **no cure** for SMA, but there are **therapies** to **slow the progression** of the disease and **relieve some of the symptoms**.

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