
Ehlers-Danlos syndromes

When were Ehlers-Danlos syndromes discovered?

- Dermatologist, Dr. Edvard Ehlers recognized the condition as a distinct entity in 1901. In 1908, Dr. Henri-Alexandre Danlos recommended that skin extensibility and fragility be recognized as the most prominent features of this syndrome. The term “Ehlers-Danlos syndrome” started being used in 1936.

Who treats Ehlers-Danlos syndromes?

- There is not one specific type of doctor that treats Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS). Treatments vary greatly depending on symptoms and no two patients are identical. While there are no FDA-approved treatments for EDS or hypermobility spectrum disorders (HSD), a comprehensive treatment plan can improve quality of life. Your comprehensive treatment plan may include physical therapy, prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, occupational therapy, and supplements. Physicians experienced in treating these conditions prescribe treatment plans to improve physical functioning and quality of life.

Does EDS or HSD have an impact on lifespan?

- Some types of EDS directly affect lifespan like vascular EDS (vEDS). Complications of EDS and HSD can impact lifespan as well. EDS and HSD commonly have a huge impact on “healthspan” (healthy years of life).

Can EDS cause pain?

- Absolutely, in certain studies¹, it is estimated that 90% of those diagnosed with EDS suffer from chronic pain. The pain associated with EDS can be widespread and affect different parts of the body, such as the joints, muscles, and bones.

Source¹:<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0885392497000079>