



SEPTEMBER IS CHIARI AWARENESS MONTH

The Many Unknowns of Chiari Genetics

Genetics is a complex subject, and unfortunately the genetics of Chiari appears to be even more complex. A "genetic" disease can either be familial, meaning it is inherited from parents, or sporadic, meaning the disease is caused by a genetic mutation but not inherited. Chiari most likely has both familial and sporadic cases. However the percentage of each, and the genes involved, are not known. In addition, the type of research to tackle each is different and very expensive. Further complicating the subject is the general lack of knowledge of the true cause of Chiari. We don't really know if people are born with it, are more prone to becoming symptomatic, or what role environmental factors (such as traumas) play. Perhaps most troubling for parents, it is not clear if sporadic cases can then become familial and be passed down.

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