

# VASCULITIS

## WHAT IS VASCULITIS?

This word means swelling (inflammation) of a blood vessel or vessels.

It occurs as a symptom of several diseases. Treatment and results depends largely on the location of the swollen vessel(s). It also depends on the size of the vessel(s) involved. Major types of diseases that may have Vasculitis as a symptom are:

- Polyarteritis nodosa
- Allergic granulomatosis and angiitis
- Wegener's granulomatosis
- Kawasaki disease
- Hypersensitivity vasculitis
- Hench-Schnlein purpura
- Bechet's Syndrome
- Takayasu arteritis
- Giant cell arteritis
- Thromboangiitis obliterans

These diseases are often seen in the young and those over 60 years of age. Some of the diseases may be self-limited.

## DIAGNOSIS

Doctors will conduct a medical exam and take a history of symptoms. Lab tests may be ordered. The result of these tests may be used to help support the diagnosis.



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## TREATMENT

Many forms of vasculitis are treated with high dose corticosteroids. Treatment is always tailored to each person and disease. Successful treatment has many factors:

- quick, accurate diagnosis,
- recognize the prognosis,
- anticipate disease and treatment affects, and
- pre-existing health conditions.

It is important to remain under medical care and treatment even if symptoms go away.

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**For more information contact:  
Missouri Arthritis & Osteoporosis  
Program  
1-800-316-0935  
or  
Arthritis Foundation:  
1-800-283-7800**

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