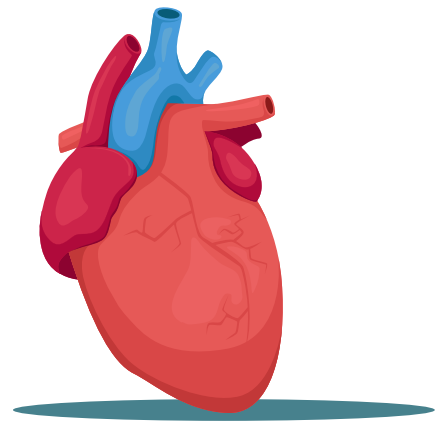


What is Cardiac Amyloidosis?



Amyloidosis

(pronounced am-uh-loy-doh-sis)

is a disease that causes abnormal proteins (called amyloid) to build up in certain places in your body where they shouldn't be, like your liver, nerves, or heart. The two most common types are called light chain cardiac amyloidosis (AL) and transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis (ATTR-CM).



When these abnormal proteins build up, they can cause organs to not work correctly.



Amyloidosis can affect your whole body or just a certain part. It is a disease that cannot be cured and usually gets worse over time.

There are two types of ATTR-CM:



Wild-type (ATTRwt) amyloidosis that can develop as you get older.



Hereditary mutant (hATTR) amyloidosis that is passed down from your parents.

What Are Common Symptoms Of Amyloidosis?



Feeling tired



Feeling dizzy or lightheaded



Trouble breathing, when active or lying down



Pressure or dull pain in the chest when active



Swelling in the legs, ankles or stomach



Tingling and numbness in the hands and feet

How Does Amyloidosis Affect My Heart?

When amyloidosis affects your heart, it is called cardiac amyloidosis. Cardiac amyloidosis causes:



your heart walls to thicken over time. This makes it hard for your heart to squeeze and relax normally. This affects how your heart pumps blood to your body.



your heart rhythms to be abnormal (called arrhythmias).



blocks in your heart's electrical system, which tells your heart to beat. This is called heartblock.

How Do You Know You Have Cardiac Amyloidosis?



Cardiac Amyloidosis used to be thought of as a rare disease. But that might have been because it was missed (underdiagnosed) in patients until recently.



Medical tests can help determine if you have cardiac amyloidosis, and if so, which type.



You may need to take several tests for a diagnosis. **Ask your doctor about which tests are right for you.**

Are There Treatments For Cardiac Amyloidosis?



Yes, but first you need to find out which type of cardiac amyloidosis you have. This will help determine which treatment may work best for you. It will also let you know whether your family members may be at risk for the disease.



Some treatments for cardiac amyloidosis treat the underlying problem. Others help with the symptoms of amyloidosis.



Diagnosing and treating amyloidosis early is important. It can help you live a longer, healthier life. It could help your family members, too.