

KNOW THE FACTS

Understanding Leukodystrophy



Leukodystrophy is a group of rare, primarily inherited neurological disorders.

Myelin Sheath: Leukodystrophy disrupts the growth or maintenance of myelin, the protective covering around nerve cells in the central nervous system.

Genetic Cause: Most leukodystrophies result from defects in genes responsible for myelin development or maintenance.

Progression: Leukodystrophies tend to worsen throughout the life of a patient.

Over 50 Types of Leukodystrophies: Scientists have identified more than 50 different types of leukodystrophy, with some still unidentified.

Word Origin: The term “leukodystrophy” is derived from Greek, meaning “ill growth of white matter.”

Symptoms: Symptoms of leukodystrophies vary widely due to differences in genetic causes and affected areas of the central nervous system.

Relevance: Leukodystrophy affects 1 in 7,000 live births, leading to a decline in neurological function in infants, children, and adults.

Impact: Leukodystrophies affect individuals worldwide, regardless of ethnicity or geographical location.

Advocacy: It’s important for those affected by leukodystrophy to advocate by contacting policymakers and supporting legislation that promotes research and access to care.