

## Ankylosing Spondylitis



Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) can affect different people in different ways. Some people have mild symptoms and little fusion of the spine, and some have severe symptoms. We don't understand why these differences exist, but we believe a person's genetic make-up may be responsible. You may have heard about the HLA-B27 gene, however, this is only one of a number of genes that may affect the disease.

Psychosocial factors such as coping, helplessness and mood disturbances may also have a relationship with the progression of the disease.

## What is the goal of the study?

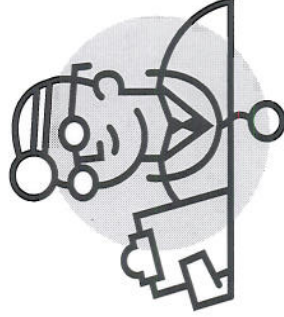
The goal is to better understand the outcomes of patients with AS by studying not only genetics but also psychosocial factors in a model of disease outcome.

## What is involved?

The study involves a physical examination, completion of questionnaires, collection of blood samples for genetic testing and x-rays of the spine.

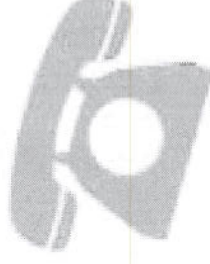
## Who is supporting the study?

The National Institutes of Health.



## Where is the study being performed?

The General Clinical Research Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Other researchers at the National Institutes of Health and the University of Texas at Houston are also involved with this project.



## How can I find out more?

Please contact a study coordinator at CSMC for more information:

Stephanie Brown, (310) 423-2422, [brownsax@cshs.org](mailto:brownsax@cshs.org) or Felice Lin, (310) 423-2422, [linf@cshs.org](mailto:linf@cshs.org).

Toll-Free: 1-888-582-2226.