

Short-Chain Acyl-CoA Dehydrogenase Deficiency SCAD

(short-chain ay-sill-co-A dee-hi-drodge-in-ace de-fish-in-sea)

What is a positive newborn screen?

Newborn screening is done on tiny samples of blood taken from your baby's heel 24 to 48 hours after birth. Newborn screening tests for rare, hidden disorders that may affect your baby's health and development. The newborn screen suggests your baby might have a disorder called SCAD (ess-cad). There is another form of SCAD that can also cause a similar positive result on newborn screening. This form is very rare and is called isobutyryl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (IBD).

A positive newborn screen does not mean your baby has SCAD or IBD, but it does mean your baby needs more testing to know for sure.

Your baby's doctor will help arrange for more testing by specialists in disorders like SCAD.

What is SCAD?

SCAD affects an enzyme needed to break down fats in the food we eat, so they can be used for energy and growth. In SCAD, an enzyme used to break down fats is missing or not working properly.

A person with SCAD doesn't have enough enzyme to break down fat into energy. Using stored fat for energy is especially important between meals.

SCAD is a disorder that is passed on, or inherited, from a child's mother and father. Because SCAD is a genetic disease, family members are at risk of having SCAD too, even if no one in the family has had it before.

What problems can SCAD cause?

SCAD is different for each child. Some children with SCAD have fewer health problems, while other children may have very serious complications.

If SCAD is not treated, a child might develop:

- Low blood sugar
- Sleepiness
- Vomiting
- Muscle weakness
- Poor growth and weight gain
- Seizures

It is very important to follow the doctor's instructions for testing and treatment.

What is the treatment for SCAD?

SCAD can be treated. The treatment is life-long. Treatment for children with SCAD can include:

- Frequent meals/snacks and a low fat, high carb diet - a dietician helps families learn what foods can be eaten
- Medications to help the body make energy and get rid of harmful toxins
- Careful treatment of routine illness

Children with SCAD should see their regular doctor, a doctor who specializes in SCAD, and a dietician.

Children with SCAD and IBD can benefit from prompt and careful treatment.

Resources for Parents

Genetics Home Reference

<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov>

Fatty Acid Oxidation Support

www.fodsupport.org

MN Children & Youth with Special Health Needs

(651) 201-3650 or (800) 728-5420

MN Newborn Screening Program

www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening