STING-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy

STING-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy (SAVI) is a disorder involving abnormal inflammation throughout the body, especially in the skin, blood vessels, and lungs. Inflammation normally occurs when the immune system sends signaling molecules and white blood cells to a site of injury or disease to fight microbial invaders and help with tissue repair. Excessive inflammation damages the body's own cells and tissues. Disorders such as SAVI that result from abnormally increased inflammation are known as autoinflammatory diseases.

The signs and symptoms of SAVI begin in the first few months of life, and most are related to problems with blood vessels (vasculopathy) and damage to the tissues that rely on these vessels for their blood supply. Affected infants develop areas of severely damaged skin (lesions), particularly on the face, ears, nose, fingers, and toes. These lesions begin as rashes and can progress to become wounds (ulcers) and dead tissue (necrosis). The skin problems, which worsen in cold weather, can lead to complications such as scarred ears, a hole in the tissue that separates the two nostrils (nasal septum perforation), or fingers or toes that require amputation. Individuals with SAVI also have a purplish skin discoloration (livedo reticularis) caused by abnormalities in the tiny blood vessels of the skin. Affected individuals may also experience episodes of Raynaud phenomenon, in which the fingers and toes turn white or blue in response to cold temperature or other stresses. This effect occurs because of problems with the small vessels that carry blood to the extremities.

In addition to problems affecting the skin, people with SAVI have recurrent low-grade fevers and swollen lymph nodes. They may also develop widespread lung damage (interstitial lung disease) that can lead to the formation of scar tissue in the lungs (pulmonary fibrosis) and difficulty breathing; these respiratory complications can become life-threatening. Rarely, muscle inflammation (myositis) and joint stiffness also occur.

Frequency

The prevalence of this condition is unknown. Only a few affected individuals have been described in the medical literature.

Causes

SAVI is caused by mutations in the STING1 gene. This gene provides instructions for making a protein called STING, which is involved in immune system function. STING helps produce beta-interferon, a member of a class of proteins called cytokines that promote inflammation.
The *STING1* gene mutations that cause SAVI are described as "gain-of-function" mutations because they enhance the activity of the STING protein, leading to overproduction of beta-interferon. Abnormally high beta-interferon levels cause excessive inflammation that results in tissue damage, leading to the signs and symptoms of SAVI.

**Inheritance Pattern**

This condition is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, which means one copy of the altered gene in each cell is sufficient to cause the disorder. In most cases, this condition likely results from new (de novo) mutations in the gene that occur during the formation of reproductive cells (eggs or sperm) or in early embryonic development. These cases occur in people with no history of the disorder in their family.

**Other Names for This Condition**

- SAVI
- STING-associated vasculopathy, infantile onset

**Diagnosis & Management**

**Genetic Testing Information**

- What is genetic testing? [primer/testing/genetictesting]
- Genetic Testing Registry: Sting-associated vasculopathy, infantile-onset
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gtr/conditions/C4014722/

**Research Studies from ClinicalTrials.gov**

- ClinicalTrials.gov
  https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=%22STING-associated+vasculopathy+with+onset+in+infancy%22+OR+%22SAVI%22+OR+%22STING-associated+vasculopathy%22+infantile+onset%22

**Other Diagnosis and Management Resources**

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center: Autoinflammatory Disease Center
  https://www.bidmc.org/centers-and-departments/rheumatology/autoinflammatory-disease-center
- Eurofever Project
  https://www.printo.it/eurofever/eurofever_registry.asp
- University College London: Vasculitis and Autoinflammation Research Group
  https://www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/research/infection-immunity-inflammation/infection-inflammation-and-rheumatology/research-groups-4
Additional Information & Resources

Health Information from MedlinePlus

• Health Topic: Autoimmune Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/autoimmunediseases.html

• Health Topic: Fever
  https://medlineplus.gov/fever.html

• Health Topic: Interstitial Lung Diseases
  https://medlineplus.gov/interstitiallungdiseases.html

Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center

• STING-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy
  https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/12357/sting-associated-vasculopathy-with-onset-in-infancy

Additional NIH Resources

• National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases: Autoinflammatory Diseases
  https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/autoinflammatory-diseases

• National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases: Raynaud's Phenomenon
  https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/raynauds-phenomenon

• NIH News: NIH Scientists Identify Gene Linked to Fatal Inflammatory Disease in Children
  https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-scientists-identify-gene-linked-fatal-inflammatory-disease-children

Educational Resources

• International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies: Autoimmunity and Autoinflammation
  http://ipopi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IPOPI_Autoimmunity.pdf

• MalaCards: sting-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy
  https://www.malacards.org/card/sting_associated_vasculopathy_with_onset_in_infancy

• Orphanet: STING-associated vasculopathy with onset in infancy
  https://www.orpha.net/consor/cgi-bin/OC_Exp.php?Lng=EN&Expert=425120

Patient Support and Advocacy Resources

• Autoinflammatory Alliance
  http://autoinflammatory.org/index.php
Scientific Articles on PubMed

- PubMed
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=%28%28STING-associated +vasculopathy+with+onset+in+infancy%29+OR+%28TMEM173%29%29+AND +english%5Bla%5D+AND+human%5Bmh%5D

Catalog of Genes and Diseases from OMIM

- STING-ASSOCIATED VASCULOPATHY, INFANTILE-ONSET
  http://omim.org/entry/615934

Medical Genetics Database from MedGen

- Sting-associated vasculopathy, infantile-onset
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/medgen/863159

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