A registered association for patients with rare vasculitides in Finland

Vaskuliittiyhdistys

The Finnish Vasculitis Association is

- for public benefit
- non-profit
- for vasculitis patients nationwide
- a patient organisation for rare diseases

The purposes of the association:

- to organize peer support and meetings
- to offer reliable information about vasculitis
- to support patients and their loved ones
- to share information of the association's activities
- to promote research and treatment

Vasculitis is inflammation of blood vessels

Vasculitis is a rare autoimmune disease in which the body's own immune system attacks the blood vessels, causing inflammation. Depending on the size and type of the inflamed blood vessels, the disease can damage tissues or organs.

SYMPTOMS: Common symptoms are fever, fatigue and malaise/feeling unwell, infections, muscle and joint pain, skin lesions such as rashes or bruises, and loss of weight or appetite.

DIAGNOSIS: Diagnosing vasculitis can take a long time, even years, due to the variety of possible symptoms. In some cases, the disease starts aggressively and requires immediate hospitalization. Diagnosis requires various tests: blood tests (ESR, CRP, ANCA-antibodies), urine tests, and imaging (ultrasound, MRI, PET-CT). In some cases, a biopsy of the inflamed organ or blood vessel is needed.

TREATMENT: Vasculitis is a serious, life-long disease that cannot be completely cured. However, with treatment, a period with no active symptoms, remission, can be achieved. The aim of treatment is to reduce inflammation and prevent further tissue and organ damage. Commonly used treatments include corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, and biologics. Patients are treated in different medical specialties depending on which organs are affected, for example, rheumatology, nephrology or neurology.

LIVING WITH VASCULITIS: Symptom-free periods can be long, and treatment can help control the inflammation. Adjusting to the disease takes time. Most patients are able to continue living normally: working, studying, caring for their families. In some cases, the disease causes inability to work. Peer support, help from loved ones, and a healthy lifestyle can help patients cope and promote their wellbeing.

Diagnosis	Abbreviation	ORPHA	ICD-10	ICD-11
ANCA-associated vasculitis				
eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis	EGPA	183	M30.1	4A44.A2
granulomatosis with polyangiitis	GPA	900	M31.3	4A44.A1
microscopic polyangiitis	MPA	727	M31.7	4A44.A0
Immune complex vasculitis				
hypocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis / syndrome	HUV / HUVS	36412	M31.8	4A44.91
IgA vasculitis*	IgAV	761	D69.0	4A44.9
cryoglobulinemic vasculitis*	CV	91138	D89.1	4A44.90
normocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis	NUV		L50.8	
Cutaneous small vessel vasculitis				
erythema elevatum et diutinum*	EED	90000	L95.1	EF40.2Y
cutaneous polyarteritis nodosa*	cPAN	439729	L95.8	EF40.Z
Leukocytoclastic vasculitis	LCV	889	M31.0	EF40.1
hypersensitivity vasculitis	HSV		M31.8	
Vasculitis of the nervous system				
primary central nervous system vasculitis	PACNS / PCNSV	140989	I67.7	4A44.7
inflammatory cerebral amyloid angiopathy	AAA	85458	I68.0	8B22.3
secondary central nervous system vasculitis		underlying disease	underlying disease*	
CNS	– – –			
isolated vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system				
- manifesting as polyneuropathy		– – –	G61.8	4A44.3*
- manifesting as mononeuritis multiplex		– – –	G58.7	4A44.3*
(affected organ and blood vessel size added to the ICD-11 code of the manifestations)				
secondary vasculitis of the peripheral nervous system		underlying disease	G63.8* underlying disease	8E4A.1
Neuro-Behçet's disease*	NBD			
Other vasculitides				
anti-glomerular basement membrane syndrome	anti-GBM	375	M31.0+,N08.5*	MF85
Behçet's disease	BD	117	M35.2	4A62
Buerger disease*	TAO	36258	I73.1	4A44.8
Cogan syndrome	CS	1467	H16.3	4A44.8Y
giant cell arteritis	GCA	397	M31.6	4A44.2
Kawasaki disease	KD	2331	M30.3	4A44.5
Livedoid vasculopathy	LV	90243	I73.0	4A40.Z
unclassified vasculitis	UCV	251328	I77.6	4A44.Y
drug-induced vasculitis	DIV	251325	M31.8	4A85.03
polyarteritis nodosa*	PAN	767	M30.0	4A44.4
Takayasu's arteritis*	TAK	3287	M31.4	4A44.1

Sources: Chapel Hill 2012. THL / Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare registers.
* Ultra rare vasculitides. Orphanet – – – currently no ORPHA code.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND CONTRIBUTE!

Vaskuliittiyhdistys

Membership benefits:

- Peer support meetings
- Annual Vasculitis Day Event
- Trained peer support persons
- Exclusive members' page on our website
- Newsletters
- The Reuma magazine of Reumaliitto/ Finnish Rheumatism Association
- Other membership benefits of Reumaliitto

CONTACT US and BECOME A MEMBER!

PEER SUPPORT AND VASCULITIS INFORMATION
041 7252 335

www.vaskuliittiyhdistys.fi
vaskuliittiyhdistys@gmail.com
041 364 8499
@Vaskuliittiyhdistys
Vaskuliittiyhdistys
Vaskuliittiyhdistys

Vasculitis International · EURORDIS RARE DISEASES EUROPE · CSL Vifor · Reumaliitto

01-2026