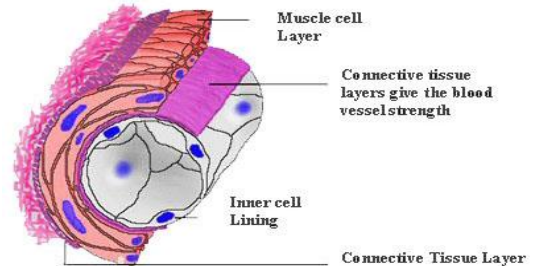
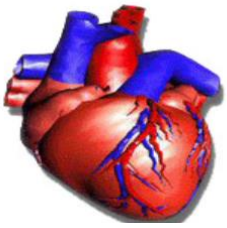


What is Marfan Syndrome

Marfan Syndrome is described as a connective tissue disorder. Connective tissue is the cement that holds the body together and is present in every organ, blood vessel, bone and joint in the body. Connective tissue is made up of specialised cells and fibres that bind parts of an organ, blood vessel or joint together.



In Marfan syndrome, one of the fibres (called Fibrillin) in the connective tissue is defective, leading to weaker connective tissue. This means that people with Marfan Syndrome tend to grow taller; have longer arms, legs, fingers; flat feet; and have lax joints that can bend more than other people. As people with Marfan Syndrome get older the weaker connective tissue can cause medical problems. These medical problems mainly affect the heart, aorta, lungs, joints, eyes and teeth.



90% of people with Marfan Syndrome have heart involvement. Aortic valve leakage: the valve is not closing properly, which puts extra work on your heart. This can slowly develop in Marfan Syndrome as people get older. Mitral valve prolapse / leakage: It can be affected in a similar way to the aortic valve and can cause irregularities in the heart rhythm. In some cases, these problems may need treatment with medications to reduce the strain on the heart, or sometimes surgery to repair or replace the valves.

Why is it called Marfan Syndrome?

It is named after the French Doctor who first described the condition, Dr. Bernard Marfan, in 1896.

The Future?

The defective Fibrillin Gene that causes Marfan Syndrome was discovered in 1990. Since then, there have been huge developments in our understanding of what happens to the body with Marfan Syndrome and how the complications develop. This better understanding through research is suggesting new treatments of the underlying defective Fibrillin Gene.

About the Marfans Research Foundation

Based in Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny, our foundation is committed to funding life-saving research and raising public awareness about Marfan Syndrome, particularly it's serious impact on heart health. Every euro raised brings us closer to better medical understanding and more effective treatments.

