

## **Spinal Muscular Atrophy: Natural History and Clinical Presentation**

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### **SMA Type 1: Symptoms and Presentation**

#### SMA type 1 can be divided into 3 groups<sup>1,2</sup>

- **Type 1A/0:** presentation at birth with joint contractures, respiratory compromise; typically fatal within 6 months
- Type 1B: symptom onset before age 3 months
- **Type 1C:** symptom onset after age 3 months

#### "Never-sitters"

- Muscle hypotrophy and weakness in bulbar, truncal, and proximal limb muscles more than distal<sup>3</sup>
- Limbs more affected than face<sup>3</sup>
- Chest wall more affected than diaphragm<sup>3</sup>
- Poor motor function and significant electrophysiological motor unit loss<sup>4</sup>
- Mild joint contractures<sup>5</sup>
- Difficulties in sucking and swallowing<sup>5</sup>



### Other affected organ systems

- Respiratory<sup>6</sup>
  - Intercostal muscle weakness and thoracic cage deformation
  - Paradoxical breathing
  - Airway obstruction complications and lung damage
- Metabolism<sup>7</sup>
  - Dyslipidemia reported in 37% of patients with SMA
- Cardiovascular<sup>6</sup>
  - Congenital heart malformation defects, primarily in patients with one copy of SMN2
- Autonomic nervous system<sup>6</sup>
  - Severe bradycardia in long-term ventilated patients
  - Abnormal blood pressure and temperature regulation







3. Ramos DM et al. *J Clin Invest.* 2019;129(11):4817-4831. 4. Kolb SJ et al. *Ann Neurol.* 2017;82(6):883-891. 5. Prior TW et al. Spinal muscular atrophy. In: Adam MP et al, eds. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2020. Accessed May 10, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/; 6. Shababi M et al. *J Anat.* 2014;224(1):15-28. 7. Deguise M-O et al. *Ann Clin Transl Neurol.* 2019;6(8):1519-1532.

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SMA, spinal muscular atrophy; SMN2, survival motor neuron 2 gene.

<sup>1.</sup> Finkel RS et al. Neurology. 2014;83(9):810-817. 2. Wijngaarde CA et al. Neurology. 2020;94(15):e1634-e1644.

SMA Type 2

### **Natural History of SMA Type 1**

- Most patients with SMA type 1 will not survive or will need permanent ventilatory support by age 2 years<sup>1,2</sup>
- Nutritional and respiratory support reduces mortality to ~30% at age 2 years, with approximately half of the survivors fully reliant on noninvasive ventilation<sup>3</sup>



PNCR, pediatric neuromuscular clinical research; SMA, spinal muscular atrophy; SMN, survival motor neuron. <sup>a</sup>Survival for Finkel et al<sup>2</sup> = no death, or no need for ≥16 hours/day ventilation continuously for ≥2 weeks, in absence of an acute reversible illness; n = 23 (two copies of *SMN2*). <sup>b</sup>SMA types 1B and 1C combined.<sup>2</sup>

1. Zerres K et al. Arch Neurol. 1995;52(5):518-523. 2. Finkel RS et al. Neurology. 2014;83(9):810-817. 3. Kolb SJ, Kissel JT. Neurol Clin. 2015;33(4):831-846. 4. Finkel RS. Neuromuscul Disord. 2013;23(2):112-115. 5. Swoboda KJ et al. Ann Neurol. 2005;57(5):704-712. 6. Ramos DM et al. J Clin Invest. 2019;129(11):4817-4831.

#### SMA Type 2



### **SMA Type 2: Symptoms and Presentation**

#### SMA type 2 presents at 6 to 18 months<sup>1</sup>

- Poor muscle tone may be observed at birth or within the first few months of life
- Patients slowly gain motor milestones through age ~5 years

### "Sitters"

- Developmental delay with loss of motor skills<sup>1</sup>
- Diminished/absent deep tendon reflexes<sup>1</sup>
- Proximal muscle weakness<sup>1</sup>
- Postural finger tremor<sup>1</sup>
- Will sit but will never walk<sup>2</sup>
- With supportive care only, motor function declines and ability to sit independently is lost by mid-teens<sup>1</sup>



#### Other affected organ systems

- Respiratory<sup>2</sup>
  - Respiratory muscle weakness
- Metabolism<sup>3</sup>
  - Abnormal fatty acid metabolism, with dyslipidemia reported in 37% of patients with SMA<sup>4</sup>
  - Mild to moderate dicarboxylic aciduria
  - Occasional diabetes and glucose metabolism abnormalities
- Skeletal<sup>1</sup>
  - Most patients with SMA type 2 develop scoliosis







SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

1. Prior TW et al. Spinal muscular atrophy. In: Adam MP et al, eds. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2020. Accessed May 10, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/; 2. Bowerman M et al. *Dis Model Mech.* 2017;10(8):943-954. 3. Shababi M et al. *J Anat.* 2014;224(1):15-28. 4. Deguise M-O et al. *Ann Clin Transl Neurol.* 2019;6(8):1519-1532.

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### **Natural History of SMA Type 2**

The majority of patients with SMA type 2 survive into adulthood. More recent studies demonstrate increased survival, presumably due to improved treatment<sup>1,2</sup>



SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

Zerres K, Rudnik-Schöneborn S. Arch Neurol. 1995;52(5):518-523.
Chung BHY et al. Pediatrics. 2004;114(5):e548-e553.
Prior TW et al. Spinal muscular atrophy. In: Adam MP et al, eds. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2020. Accessed May 10, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/

#### SMA Type 2



### **SMA Type 3: Symptoms and Presentation**

#### SMA type 3 presents at age >18 months<sup>1</sup>

- Typically causes less severe motor disability compared with SMA type 1 and 2<sup>2</sup>
- Patients typically have three to five copies of SMN2<sup>3</sup>

#### "Walkers"

- Proximal muscle weakness<sup>1</sup>
- Ability to walk but difficulty with stairs and running<sup>1</sup>
- With supportive care only, walking ability lost over time<sup>1</sup>
- Postural finger tremor<sup>1</sup>
- Fatigue<sup>1</sup>
- With supportive care only, gains in motor function lost after childhood<sup>1</sup>

## Metabolism Occasional diabetes and glucose metabolism abnormalities<sup>4</sup>

 Nonambulatory individuals at risk of developing obesity<sup>1</sup>

Other affected organ systems

- Skeletal<sup>1</sup>
  - Approximately half of the patients with SMA type 3 develop scoliosis<sup>1</sup>

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1. Prior TW et al. Spinal muscular atrophy. In: Adam MP et al, eds. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2020. Accessed May 10, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/; 2. Kaufman P et al. *Neurology*. 2012;79(18):1889-1897. 3. Bowerman M et al. *Dis Model Mech*. 2017;10(8):943-954. 4. Shababi M et al. *J Anat*. 2014;224(1):15-28.

SMA, spinal muscular atrophy; SMN2, survival motor neuron 2 gene



### **Natural History of SMA Type 3**

 The life expectancy of individuals with SMA type 3 is no different than that of the general population<sup>1</sup>

With supportive care only, patients may walk independently but stumble

frequently or have difficulty with stairs<sup>1</sup>

Symptom onset (age >18 months)<sup>1</sup>

Motor milestones are reached (through age ~6 years)<sup>1</sup>

> Slow decline in motor function through puberty (age ~20 years), at which point a more rapid decline in function **may** occur<sup>1</sup>

> > Adulthood brings a slower decline in motor function, likely leading to a loss of ambulation by age 30 to 40 years<sup>1</sup> and a decline in independent living<sup>2</sup>

SMA, spinal muscular atrophy.

1. Prior TW et al. Spinal muscular atrophy. In: Adam MP et al, eds. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2020. Accessed May 10, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1352/; 2. Klug C et al. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2016;11:58.