



Need to talk? Call us **0845 2412173** Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm



Supporting those affected by  
Inherited Metabolic Disorders

# Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency

Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency is a complex condition that is caused by a defect in the ADA gene. This gene codes for an enzyme that is found mostly in the cells that are vital for protecting the body from viruses and harmful bacteria (lymphocytes). The enzyme's role is to break down a toxic molecule into a harmless one. However, due to the enzyme deficiency there is an accumulation of the harmful molecule which is toxic to the lymphocytes. It attacks the premature lymphocytes resulting in the effects of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). This damage to the immune system means that those affected are highly susceptible to repeated infections that can be extremely severe. In most cases, Adenosine Deaminase Deficiency is diagnosed in the first few months of life and early treatment and management are vital. There are a smaller number who are diagnosed with later onset forms of the condition.

## Synonyms

Alternative names for this condition are:

- ADA deficiency
- ADA-SCID
- Adenosine Deaminase Deficient Severe Combined Immunodeficiency
- SCID due to ADA deficiency
- severe combined immunodeficiency due to ADA deficiency
- severe combined immunodeficiency, autosomal recessive, T cell-negative, B cell-negative, NK cell-negative, due to adenosine deaminase deficiency

Further information about this condition is available from Climb.



## Disclaimer

[Please read our disclaimer and information on data protection.](#)

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