



HDSA Information Sheet

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What is HD?

HD is a genetically caused brain disorder that causes uncontrollable bodily movements and robs people's ability to walk, talk, eat, and think. An estimated 30,000 Americans have it, and at least 300,000 more are at risk. HD affects both sexes, all ages and all ethnic groups. Everybody carries the Huntingtin gene, but in some people it goes awry, leading to an attack on the brain. The final result is a slow, ugly death. Children of a parent with HD have a 50-50 chance of inheriting the condition, and the disease can start as early as childhood. There is no cure or treatment.

Why should you care?

HD causes immense suffering and loss of productivity. In Orange County alone as many as six families per month find out that HD has struck them. Thousands of caregivers across America must help the ill do the simplest tasks. Affected individuals lose jobs and insurance. But there is hope. In 1993 scientists found the HD gene. HD is on the cutting edge of biotechnology. HD research provided a boost to the Human Genome Project, and progress in HD research has generated many new investigative techniques. As scientists move towards a cure, they are increasing our understanding of the brain and having a tremendous impact on the study of cystic fibrosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, certain forms of diabetes, and other maladies. Stopping HD will be a historic breakthrough leading to a better life for all.

About Us

HDSA Mission

The Society is a National, voluntary health organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with Huntington's Disease and their families.

To promote and support research and medical efforts to eradicate Huntington's Disease.

To assist people and families affected by Huntington's Disease to cope with the problems presented by the disease.

To educate the public and health professionals about Huntington's disease.

Orange County Chapter

We are HDSA-Orange County, one of 32 chapters of the Huntington's Disease Society of America dedicated to the care of HD-affected families, support for at-risk individuals and caregivers, and the search for treatments and a cure of this devastating disease. Our area of service includes all of Orange County. We sponsor a monthly support group for affected families, raise money for the care and cure of HD, help support a clinic for Family Services and Patient Care, maintain the www.hdsaOC.org website, and provide a range of other services to the HD community. We are all volunteers.

Through events such as our OC Fashion Show, the Annual Walk for the Cure, our HDSA St. Patrick's Day Golf Tournament, and other education and awareness programs, we are making a HUGE difference here in Orange County!

There are more than 1,000 families in OC who are working to manage living with HD. This is the ONLY local organization designed to help find vital information on care, HD resources, financial planning, legal issues, long-term care facilities, fertility options for HD-free parenting, and other services.

Please go to www.hdsaOC.org for more details!

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