

Could your Asthma or COPD be Hereditary?

Your Asthma or COPD could be a hereditary disease called **alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency**



Common signs and symptoms of alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency

Lung

- family history of lung disease
- rapid deterioration of lung function with or without a background of significant smoking or occupational exposure to lung irritants
- asthma that is not fully responsive to treatment
- shortness of breath or awareness of ones breathing
- decreased exercise tolerance
- recurring respiratory infections
- chronic cough and sputum (phlegm) production

Liver

- family history of liver disease
- unexplained liver problems
- elevated liver enzymes

(Alpha-1) Skin disease

- necrotizing panniculitis

The World Health Organization (WHO), the American Thoracic Society and Alpha-1 Canada recommend that everyone with COPD be tested for alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

Ask your doctor about being tested.

For help, information, support and education contact:

Alpha-1 Canada, 1638 Northway Avenue, Windsor, ON N9B 3L9

Phone: 519-258-1444 • Toll Free: 1-888-669-4583 • Fax: 519-258-1614

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