ALPHA-1 CANADA

ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY CANADA INC.

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) is a genetic condition that affects approximately **1 in 5,000 Canadians** & predisposes patients to liver disease & early onset emphysema

Alpha-1 can lead to lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), even in non-smokers. It increases the risk of liver cirrhosis & a skin condition called panniculitis

Common signs and symptoms of Alpha-1 include:

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Chronic cough and sputum (phlegm) production (chronic bronchitis)
- Recurring chest colds
- Decreased exercise tolerance
- Non-responsive asthma or year-round allergies
- Bronchiectasis
- Unexplained liver disease or elevated liver enzymes
- Eyes and skin turning yellow (jaundice)
- Swelling of the abdomen (ascites)

Alpha-1 is a laboratory diagnosis, not a clinical diagnosis

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD) occurs when there is a severe lack of a **protein** in the blood called **alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT)** which is produced by the liver

Augmentation therapy is the only specific treatment for severely deficient alpha-1 patients

Alpha-1 Canada is a non-profit patient advocacy organization, providing education to patients & the healthcare community to increase awareness & testing for this genetic disease

www.alpha1canada.ca