

This patient has the Marfan syndrome or a related disorder, which places him/her at 250 times greater risk for aortic dissection than the general population.

Symptoms of aortic dissection can be variable, relatively minor, and nonspecific. **Chest pain is the most common symptom, but pain can also occur in the back and/or abdomen.** The pain may be described as **severe or vague, constant or intermittent, migratory, tearing, tightness or fullness.**

Other signs and symptoms can include **cardiovascular instability, pulselessness, parasthesia, paralysis, syncope or a sense that "something is terribly wrong".**

The most definitive tests for Aortic Dissection are:

CT scan • Transesophageal echocardiogram • MRI

Choose the one that is most readily available, and expertly performed and interpreted.

Keep in mind that a normal X-ray does **NOT** rule out the possibility of aortic dissection.

50% of patients with undiagnosed aortic dissections die within 48 hours.

PLEASE do not discount aortic dissection until it has been definitively ruled out.

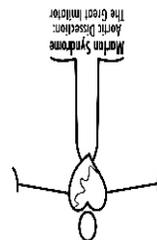
Individuals with the Marfan syndrome and related disorders are at **increased risk for rapid progression and poor outcome** from acute ascending or descending aortic dissection. Specialized and aggressive medical and surgical practices that are tailored to this patient population may be needed. If diagnosed with AD, this patient **must be transferred to a tertiary care center** with the capability of definitive surgical management immediately upon stabilization for transport. This is the consensus opinion of the Professional Advisory Board of the National Marfan Foundation, and is in keeping with evidence-based guidelines established by the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans.

H. Dietz

Hal Dietz, MD, Johns Hopkins Hospital,
Chair NMF Professional Advisory Board

Name _____
Emergency Contact _____
Phone _____
Physician _____
Phone _____
Medications, Notes _____
 Marfan syndrome Related disorder, specify _____

This life-saving tool was made possible by a generous grant from the Dr. Scholl Foundation



See important information for medical professionals at:
www.marfan.org
22 Manhasset Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050
800-8-MARFAN



DO NOT send this person home until the possibility of aortic dissection is ruled out.

EMERGENCY ALERT CARD