



## WHAT IS THE TREATMENT?

Currently, the only treatment for celiac disease is lifelong adherence to a gluten-free diet. People living gluten-free must avoid foods containing wheat, rye, barley, triticale, and oats not labeled gluten-free. Ingesting even small amounts of gluten, such as crumbs from a cutting board or toaster, can trigger intestinal damage.

## WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF UNTREATED CELIAC DISEASE?

Celiac disease can develop at any age after people start eating foods or taking medications that contain gluten. Left untreated, celiac disease can lead to additional serious health problems. Long-term health conditions can include:

- Iron deficiency anemia
- Early onset osteoporosis or osteopenia
- Infertility and miscarriage
- Central and peripheral nervous system disorders
- Pancreatic insufficiency
- Gall bladder malfunction
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (intestinal and extra-intestinal, T- and B-cell types)
- Esophageal carcinoma
- Papillary thyroid cancer
- Melanoma
- Additional autoimmune diseases

## ABOUT THE CELIAC DISEASE FOUNDATION

The Celiac Disease Foundation is the nation's leading patient advocacy organization for celiac disease. We drive diagnosis, treatment, and a cure for celiac disease through research, education and advocacy to improve the quality of life for all those affected. Through iCureCeliac®, our national patient registry, we collaborate with researchers and clinicians to better understand and ultimately cure celiac disease.

Since our founding in 1990, the Celiac Disease Foundation continues to champion many battles: federal recognition of celiac disease and labeling standards for gluten-free foods, improved diagnostic tools, widespread patient and provider education, access to mainstream gluten-free products, and the need for better treatments and a cure.



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20350 VENTURA BOULEVARD, SUITE 240 • WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364  
PHONE : 818.716.1513 • FAX : 818.267.5577

HOW MUCH  
DO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
CELIAC DISEASE?

PROBABLY LESS  
THAN YOU THINK.

## WHAT IS CELIAC DISEASE?

Celiac disease is a genetic autoimmune disorder in which the ingestion of gluten leads to serious damage in the small intestine. Gluten is a combination of proteins found in wheat, barley, rye, and triticale. Celiac disease is estimated to affect 1 in 100 people worldwide. The majority of Americans are undiagnosed and at risk for long-term health complications.



Celiac disease is hereditary, meaning that it runs in families. People with a first-degree relative with celiac disease (parent, child, sibling) have a 1 in 10 risk of developing celiac disease themselves.

**1 in 100** 1 IN 100 WORLDWIDE  
HAVE CELIAC DISEASE

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Celiac disease can be difficult to diagnose because it affects people differently. There are more than 200 known signs and symptoms which can affect the digestive system and every other organ in the body.

A significant percentage of people with celiac disease appear to have no symptoms at all. However, all people with celiac disease are at risk for serious long-term complications if they continue to consume gluten, whether or not they display any symptoms.

## DO YOU HAVE CELIAC DISEASE?

Adults are less likely to have digestive symptoms, with only one third experiencing diarrhea. Adults are more likely to have:

- Unexplained anemia
- Fatigue
- Bone or joint pain/arthritis
- Osteoporosis or osteopenia
- Liver and biliary tract disorders
- Depression and/or anxiety
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Migraines or seizures
- Infertility or recurrent miscarriage
- Dermatitis Herpetiformis
- Mouth ulcers/canker sores

**1 in 10** 1 IN 10 FAMILY MEMBER RISK  
OF DEVELOPING CELIAC DISEASE

## HOW DO I GET DIAGNOSED?

### There are two steps to finding out if you have celiac disease:

**Screening and diagnosis.** Prior to beginning a gluten-free diet, you should always consult with a physician experienced with celiac disease to ensure proper diagnosis.

**Screening:** There are several blood tests available that screen for celiac disease antibodies, but the most commonly used is called the tTG-IgA test. For this test to work, you must be consuming gluten. If blood test results suggest celiac disease, your physician will recommend a biopsy of your small intestine to confirm the diagnosis.

**Diagnosis:** A diagnosis can be reached by undergoing an endoscopic biopsy. This procedure is performed by a gastroenterologist and is an outpatient procedure. A biopsy is taken of the small intestine, which is then analyzed to see if there is any damage consistent with celiac disease.

## DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE CELIAC DISEASE?

Digestive symptoms are more common in infants and children. Here are the most common symptoms found in children:

- Abdominal bloating and pain
- Chronic diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Constipation
- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Irritability and behavioral issues
- Short stature/failure to thrive
- Delayed growth and puberty
- Dental enamel defects of the permanent teeth
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

**50%** UP TO 50% OF DIAGNOSED PATIENTS  
STILL REPORT SYMPTOMS WHILE  
ON THE GLUTEN-FREE DIET

*If you think you or  
your child might have  
celiac disease, complete  
the Symptoms Assessment Tool  
to bring to your doctor at  
[celiac.org/symptoms](https://celiac.org/symptoms)*