About the Alpha-1 Foundation

The Alpha-1 Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1995 by Alphas. Its mission is to provide the leadership and resources that will result in increased research, improved health, worldwide detection and a cure for Alpha-1.

Most members of the Board of Directors either have Alpha-1 or have a family member with Alpha-1. The Foundation has had continuous growth since its inception. From the beginning, the Foundation has made the detection of Alpha-1 a priority. The Foundation has also developed a solid infrastructure to promote research and the development of new therapies for improving the quality of life for those with Alpha-1.

The Alpha-1 Foundation is available to help you better understand how to care for your Alpha-1 patients.

Please call 877-228-7321 or visit www.alpha1.org

3300 Ponce de Leon Blvd,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Is Your Patient Short of Breath?

An estimated 100,000 persons in the U.S. have Alpha-1, but 90% are undetected. A simple blood test can rule it out.
**Who Should Be Tested?**

- All patients diagnosed with emphysema or COPD (up to 3% of patients with COPD may have Alpha-1)
- Patients with asthma that cannot be completely reversed with aggressive treatment
- Patients with unexplained liver disease
- Patients with a family history of COPD or liver disease
- Patients with a family history of Alpha-1
- Asymptomatic individuals with persistent obstruction on pulmonary function tests with identifiable risk factors (cigarette smoking, occupational exposure, etc.)

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**Why Test?**

- The results can help you give your patients better care.
- The diagnosis may affect decisions on career choices, personal health (such as avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol use) and family planning.
- Genetic counseling is available.

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**Testing**

Testing for Alpha-1 is simple, quick and highly accurate. A blood draw or finger stick in your office or a lab can provide a quick diagnosis. For more information on testing, visit: [www.alpha-1foundation.org/testing-for-alpha-1](http://www.alpha-1foundation.org/testing-for-alpha-1)

**Testing results will give you one of these three important facts:**

- You have successfully Ruled Out Alpha-1 in your patient!
- Your patient is an Alpha-1 carrier – may be slightly more susceptible to lung or liver disease, and carries an altered gene that can be passed on to children.
- Your patient has Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and is vulnerable to lung and/or liver disease. With a specific diagnosis, you can give better, more focused treatment to your patients.

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**Next Steps**

- Better health management (nutrition, exercise)
- Interventional strategies (smoking prevention or cessation)
- Augmentation therapy (potential treatment should be discussed with patient) visit: [www.alpha-1foundation.org/augmentation-therapy](http://www.alpha-1foundation.org/augmentation-therapy)
- Family testing for Alpha-1
- Free educational material is available for you and your patient

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*Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is a genetic disorder characterized by low levels of or absent alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) protein in the blood.*

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*Standards of the American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society, 2003*