

# Is There a Genetic Predisposition for Rotator Cuff Tears?

*A multi-site, national Research Study led by UT Southwestern Medical Center*

*Rotator cuff disorders are the underlying cause for 65-70% of patients who have shoulder pain. This is an extremely prevalent issue for adults in the US today, but little is known about the genetic components that could be involved.*

## Would you like to help improve understanding of rotator cuff tears?

We are doing a case-control study to find out if there are certain genes associated with rotator cuff tears. To determine this, we will compare the genes of patients without tears (controls) to those with tears (cases).

## Who can be in this research study?

People with or without rotator cuff tears ages 40-84 can participate in this study. You may be eligible if you have had a shoulder MRI that confirms the presence or absence of a tear.

## How will the study help?

The study will help us determine if rotator cuff tears have a genetic component. It may allow us to identify the specific genes that could be associated with the development of rotator cuff tears.

## How does the study work?

Study participants will provide a saliva sample. We will analyze the DNA sequence of the samples and compare the gene patterns of those with rotator cuff tears to those without tears in order to detect any relevant differences between the two groups. We will also ask that you complete surveys, and review your medical records.

## Are there any risks of participating in this study?

There are no known physical risks associated with providing a saliva sample. However, you may experience uneasiness about providing the sample or temporary dry mouth after giving the sample.

Your privacy and personal information will be protected, but cannot be absolutely guaranteed. Your name will not be attached to the sample you provide or the genetic information from it. There could be fatigue from answering the questions.

## Will participating in this study affect my current shoulder treatment?

No, your shoulder treatment will not be altered or disrupted in any way. This study does not involve any sort of medical treatment. We will follow certain patients throughout their treatment and will ask for treatment information

## If I decide to participate, what will I do?

If you take part in the study, you will

- Learn about study and sign a consent form
- Fill out initial questionnaire
- Provide a saliva sample

In addition, some study participants **who have a rotator cuff tear**, will also be asked to:

- Complete follow up questionnaires at 3, 6, 12 months and yearly thereafter
- Return to clinic once for a follow-up MRI (between 2-10 years after your treatment)

## Will I be compensated for participating in the study?

All study participants will be compensated up to \$50 for their time and inconvenience in filling out the questionnaire and providing a saliva sample. Study participants with tears who are asked to complete additional questionnaires and return for an MRI will be paid up to \$25 for each follow up study questionnaire you complete, and \$50 for the follow-up MRI.

## What will happen to my saliva sample and DNA data after testing?

All of your saliva will be used to extract and sequence your DNA. Any leftover saliva will be destroyed. Your genetic information taken from the sample will be de-identified prior to being stored to protect your privacy.



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**FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Study  
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