

8. Article Title: “Familial Aggregation of Sarcoidosis”

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Sarcoidosis is known to occur in families. In ACCESS, we asked sarcoidosis patients and controls if they had family members with sarcoidosis. From this, we estimated the risk of sarcoidosis in family members. We found that brothers and sisters of sarcoidosis patients have the largest increased risk. They were almost six times more likely to be diagnosed with sarcoidosis than were people who did not have a sibling with sarcoidosis. Other groups of relatives, including parents, grandparents and uncles and aunts were also at an increased risk for sarcoidosis. When the analysis took into account some other factors that might influence sarcoidosis risk, such as age, sex, and shared home or work environments, we found that the most important of these is: you are the parent or sibling of a sarcoidosis patient. In fact, you are more than 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with sarcoidosis if you are the parent or sibling of a sarcoidosis patient than are people who do not have a child or sibling with sarcoidosis. In summary, the ACCESS study has shown that close relatives of sarcoidosis patients are at an increased risk for being diagnosed with sarcoidosis.