UNDERSTANDING WILSON DISEASE: The disease causes excessive copper accumulation in the liver and/or brain, beginning at birth.

GENETIC

- Dad: Carrier
- Mom: Carrier
- All children of a WD patient are automatically carriers.
- 1 in 90 people are carriers of the disease.
- 1 in 4 children* will have Wilson Disease, when both parents are carriers.
- Any or all of the other 3 children could be carriers. What happens when they have a child with another carrier?
- Statistical, there is a chance that 1 in 4 children* will have Wilson Disease, when both parents are carriers.

MULTI-SYSTEM DISORDER

- A FEW OF THE MANY PRESENTING SYMPTOMS*
  - Liver: Abdominal pain, Abdominal swelling, Vomiting blood, Fatigue, Jaundice
  - Nervous system: Trouble: Walking, Swallowing, Talking, Drooling, Stiff muscles, Tremors
  - Psychiatric: Anger, Anxiety, Depression, Irritability, Mental illness, Suicidal behavior

- 50-60%+
- 40-45%
- 10-20%

- The majority of patients with Wilson disease present symptomatically between the ages of 5 and 35, but patients may present at any age.
- Patients may become progressively sicker from day to day, so early diagnosis and treatment can be critical. Treatment delays may cause irreversible damage. About 5 - 10% of patients will need a liver transplant.

- Treatment is aimed at removing excess accumulated copper and preventing its reaccumulation. With proper therapy, disease progress can be halted and often times symptoms can be improved or new symptoms prevented.

- Treatment is a very treatable condition, however, treatment for Wilson disease is a lifelong process.

- No matter how the disease begins, it is always fatal if not properly diagnosed and treated.

- The disease doesn't stop with one diagnosis. Family screening is important.

TREATABLE

- Cost of medication per year*
  - $2,500
  - $75,000
  - $300,000

- Patients may become progressively sicker from day to day, so early diagnosis and treatment can be critical. Treatment delays may cause irreversible damage. About 5 - 10% of patients will need a liver transplant.

- Genetic testing equips families with knowledge of the disease's presence, allowing those with Wilson Disease to be treated from day one.

- Statistically, there is a chance that 1 in 4 children* will have Wilson Disease, when both parents are carriers.

*Statistical averages can vary

*Percentages are approximate and vary in scientific literature

+Approximately 5% present with acute liver failure

*Cost depends on what medication and daily dose a patient takes.
EDUCATION
Provide educational programs, conferences and materials, and answer phone and email inquiries to help patients, caregivers and medical professionals identify and manage the disease.

SUPPORT
Provide referrals to physicians, other health care providers, and other assistive resources; facilitate consultation with Wilson Disease expert physicians. Provide money to needy patients for travel, equipment, and medication when necessary.

ADVOCACY
Advocate for patients with Centers of Excellence, treating physicians, governmental bodies and international organizations to promote the interests of Wilson disease patients.

RESEARCH
Work with investigators and clinicians to advance medical knowledge on the disease, and develop more accurate diagnostic methods, life-improving therapies, and ultimately a cure.

About Our Association
The Wilson Disease Association (WDA) is a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer organization striving to promote the well being of patients with Wilson Disease and their families and friends. We rely on donations to achieve our mission.

Our Mission
The Wilson Disease Association funds research and facilitates and promotes the identification, education, treatment, and support of patients and other individuals affected by Wilson Disease.

Support & Empower People
Affected by Wilson Disease