ARE YOU AWARE?

SMA is the **#1 genetic killer** of infants under the age of 2

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is often referred to as **SMA**

SMA is a physical disease only. Children with SMA have reduced movement. Their intelligence is unaffected.

1 in 35 people are carriers of the gene in Australia

SMA is the childhood version of motor neurone disease

60-70% of all SMA patients have the most severe form (Type 1). 90% of newly diagnosed families have never heard of SMA before.

A person is born when BOTH parents are carriers of this gene, neither parent is to blame. There is a 1 in 4 chance of this couple having future babies with SMA.

1 in 10,000 are affected by SMA

SMA to be added to the newborn screening list for earlier intervention

#beSMAaware

AN SMA KEY MESSAGE

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY

1. Displaying signs of hypertonia or floppiness
2. Muscle weakness and decreased muscle tone
3. Delayed gross motor skills and poor head control
4. Trouble eating and swallowing
5. Weak cry and cough
6. Breathing problems

There is no known cure for Spinal Muscular Atrophy but with recent drug advancements there is some new treatment options for SMA.

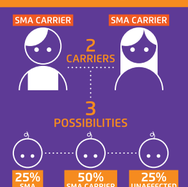
A new treatment became available in 2018 for Types 1, 2 and 3a under the age of 18 (in Australia).

It is the first treatment worldwide for SMA.

Early diagnosis is the key to better treatment outcomes.

A national pilot genetic screening program is underway to test 10,000 couples.

1 in 35 Australians unknowingly carry the SMA gene



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