



## **Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)**

### **What is Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA)?**

SMA is an autosomal recessive condition that causes progressive degeneration of the lower motor neurons, muscle weakness and, in the most common type, respiratory failure by age two. Muscles responsible for crawling, walking, swallowing and head and neck control are the most severely affected. It is variable in severity and age of onset and does not affect intelligence. There is no cure or treatment.

### **What is the carrier frequency?**

The frequency varies by ethnicity and ranges from 1 in 35 to 1 in 117 in the United States. The incidence is 1 in 6,000 to 10,000

### **What is the carrier detection rate?**

Caucasian: 95%, Ashkenazi Jewish: 90%, African American: 71%, Hispanic: 91%, Asian: 93%.