



SIMPLE TEST CAN SAVE A LIFE

While the tests you routinely perform save your patients' sight, there is one test you administer that could save a life. The slit lamp examination is one of the few ways to detect the Marfan syndrome, a potentially deadly genetic disorder that weakens the body's connective tissue. Because 65% of people with Marfan syndrome have a dislocated lens, it is often the first sign that something is wrong. Left untreated, the Marfan syndrome can have serious consequences, including blindness, aortic dissection and even death. While there is no cure, early diagnosis and proper treatment can enable patients to live a normal lifespan.

Indicators of the Marfan syndrome include:

- Tall, thin stature with unusually long arms
- Long, double-jointed fingers
- Scoliosis
- Indented or protruding chest bone
- Nearsightedness

Should you notice any of these characteristics in your patients, use the slit lamp examination with full dilation of the pupil to check for lens dislocation. Based on the outcome, refer your patient to a cardiologist, orthopedist and geneticist to complete a comprehensive evaluation. For more information that can help your patients, contact the National Marfan Foundation today.

NMF

1-800-8-MARFAN • www.marfan.org