

HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA

Hidradenitis suppurativa, also known as HS, is a chronic skin condition that causes painful nodules or boil-like abscesses to develop near hair follicles. Sores can appear on different parts of the body, often where skin rubs against skin or against clothing.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



HS affects approximately one in every 100 people in the United States.



HS can be managed but not cured.



On average, people with HS go seven to 10 years before being diagnosed.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Recurring sores
- Scarring
- Restricted movement
- Odor from sores that have ruptured

RISK FACTORS

- **FAMILY HISTORY** - 38% of people with HS have a relative with the condition
- **AGE** - Most common in young adults
- **RACE** - Black Americans are three times more likely to have HS
- **GENDER** - 74% of people with HS are women
- **LIFESTYLE FACTORS** - Obesity and smoking are common factors

FINANCIAL BURDEN

- Disease management requires a combination of medications, which can be expensive.
- Patients may need specialized wound care supplies, which insurance may not cover.
- Patients with HS frequently require emergency department or hospital care.
- The chronic pain of HS often leads to increased workplace absenteeism, with patients losing an average of 34 workdays a year.

ACCESS ISSUES

Patients with HS face significant barriers to care:

- Rural or underserved areas often lack dermatologists or health care providers with experience in managing HS.
- Limited awareness among providers may cause patients to visit multiple specialists before finally getting diagnosed.
- HS is often misdiagnosed as acne or an infection of the hair follicle, delaying long-term treatment solutions.
- Limited FDA-approved treatment options coupled with health plans' utilization management tactics restrict access, disproportionately affecting at-risk communities.