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Review Articles

## Classification, nosology and diagnostics of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome

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### Abstract

Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS) comprises a group of heritable connective tissue disorders which has as cardinal features varying degrees of skin hyperextensibility, joint hypermobility, easy bruising and skin fragility. The 2017 New York nosology distinguishes 13 types of EDS, which all, except hypermobile EDS, have a known molecular basis. Hypermobile EDS is recognized as a common and often disabling disorder, incorporating benign joint hypermobility syndrome. EDS needs to be differentiated from other connective tissue disorders, in particular Marfan syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome and cutis laxa. The frequent types of EDS can be diagnosed after careful history taking and clinical examination, but for definite diagnosis, molecular confirmation is needed in all types. Management for EDS patients preferably is provided by multidisciplinary teams in expertise centres. After diagnosing EDS, genetic counselling is an essential part of the management of patients and their family.

**Keywords :** Ehlers-Danlos syndrome; classification; diagnosis

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### INTRODUCTION

EDS comprises a clinically and genetically heterogeneous group of heritable connective tissue disorders (HCTD), mainly characterized by a variable degree of generalized joint hypermobility, skin hyperextensibility, easy bruising and skin fragility. In his classical monograph on EDS, published in 1970, Beighton described 5 EDS types: I = gravis (severe), II = mitis (mild), III = hypermobility, IV = ecchymotic, and V = X-linked.<sup>1</sup> The Berlin classification listed 11 EDS types.<sup>2</sup> Revision became necessary because of new biochemical, molecular and clinical data, leading to the Villefranche nosology of 1997, in which 6 EDS types were recognized.<sup>3</sup> New clinical and molecular data required another revision, which was initiated during the Ehlers-Danlos Society International Symposium in New York, May 2016, the results of which have been published in the March 2017 issue of the American Journal of Medical Genetics Part C, Seminars in Medical Genetics.

The most striking changes were:

- incorporating EDS types which were published since the Villefranche nosology, leading to a total number of 13 types.<sup>4</sup>
- deciding - not unexpectedly though - that EDS hypermobility type and benign joint hypermobility syndrome (BJHS; also called joint hypermobility syndrome or hypermobility syndrome) are in fact part of one and the same clinical spectrum ranging from apparently symptomatic generalized joint hypermobility to the more disabled individuals fitting the new diagnostic criteria. These new criteria are more strict than the Villefranche criteria and the Brighton criteria for BJHS in order to define a homogeneous phenotype for management and scientific purposes. Its name is hypermobile EDS.

It always has been, and still is, a challenge to classify individual patients in one of the existing EDS types. Often this is not possible and therefore there is still room for new types. This is, among other things, due to:

- the clinical overlap between many of these EDS types

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- absence of a pathogenic variant in any of the known EDS associated genes in an important proportion of EDS patients.
- the presence of associated features which do not fit into one of the existing types.
- the absence of a laboratory test for hypermobile EDS.

EDS is not a rare disorder; the prevalence is estimated to be about 1:5000. The hypermobile type - by far the most common - and the classical type comprise more than 90% of all cases.<sup>5</sup>

### CLASSIFICATION AND NOSOLOGY

The New York classification is based on clinical, biochemical and molecular data.<sup>4</sup> Table 1 shows the New York nosology alongside the previous nosologies with inheritance patterns, genetic bases and proteins, while in table 2, EDS types are grouped according to underlying genetic and pathogenetic mechanisms; OMIM numbers are added.

*Skin hyperextensibility* should be tested at specific sites, e.g. the volar side of the non-dominant forearm or the dorsum of the hand by pulling up the skin until resistance is felt. In contrast to cutis laxa, a group of clinically and genetically heterogeneous disorders characterised by redundant, sagging and inelastic skin, with or without joint hypermobility, in EDS the skin snaps back after release.<sup>6</sup> The upper limit of normal for the forearm and dorsum of the hand is about 1 ½ cm.<sup>7</sup> In young children, it is difficult to assess hyperextensibility due to the abundance of subcutaneous fat. Skin hyperextensibility can also be assessed at the dorsal aspect of the elbow in 90° flexion, where the upper limit of normal is 3 cm.

*Joint hypermobility* is scored using the Beighton mobility scale (table 3). In the New York nosology, a score of 5/9 or more defines generalized hypermobility in both sexes, though it is known that joint mobility depends, apart from age, family and ethnic background, also on gender. Since laxity decreases with age, patients with a Beighton score <5/9 may be considered positive

**Table 1** Classification of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (adapted from<sup>4</sup>)

Berlin classification (1988) 11 types	Villefranche classification (1997) 6 types	International classification (2017) 13 types	IP	Genetic basis	Protein
Type I (gravis) and type II (mitis)	Classical type	Classical EDS cEDS	AD	Major: <i>COL5A1</i> , <i>COL5A1</i> Rare*: <i>COL1A1</i> c.934C>T, p.(Arg312)	Type V collagen Type I collagen
		Classical-like EDS clEDS	AR	<i>TNXB</i>	Tenascin XB
		Cardiac-valvular EDS cvEDS	AR	<i>COL1A2</i> (biallelic mutations that lead to <i>COL1A2</i> NMD and absence of pro α2(I) collagen chains)	Type I collagen
Type IVA,B,C,D	Vascular type	Vascular EDS vEDS	AD	Major: <i>COL3A1</i> Rare: <i>COL1A1</i> c.934C>T, p.(Arg312Cys) c.1720C>T, p.(Arg574Cys) c.3227C>T, p.(Arg1093Cys)	Type III collagen Type I collagen
Type III	Hypermobility type	Hypermobility EDS hEDS	AD	Unknown	Unknown
Type VIIA and B	Arthrochalasia type	Arthrochalasia EDS aEDS	AD	<i>COL1A1</i> , <i>COL1A2</i>	Type I collagen
Type VIIC	Dermatosparaxis type	Dermatosparaxis EDS cEDS	AR	<i>ADAMTS2</i>	ADAMTS-2
Type VIA	Kyphoscoliotic type	Kyphoscoliotic EDS kEDS	AR	<i>PLOD1</i> <i>FKBP14</i>	LH1 FKBP22
Type VIB		Brittle cornea syndrome BCS	AR	<i>ZNF469</i> <i>PRDM5</i>	ZNF469 PRDM5
		Spondylodysplastic EDS spEDS	AR	<i>B4GALT7</i> <i>B3GALT6</i> <i>SLC39A13</i>	b4GalT7 b3GalT6 ZIP13
Type VIB		Musculocontractural EDS mcEDS	AR	<i>CHST14</i> <i>DSE</i>	D4ST1 DSE
		Myopathic EDS mEDS	AD/ AR	<i>COL12A1</i>	Type XII collagen
EDS VIII		Periodontal EDS pEDS	AD	<i>C1R</i> <i>C1S</i>	C1r C1s

IP: inheritance pattern

NMD: nonsense mediated decay

\* EDS classical type with (propensity to) arterial rupture.<sup>12</sup>

In clinical practice, the clinical manifestations guide the choice for further investigations. The major clinical manifestations of EDS need some clarification, however.

based on their historical observations (five-point questionnaire = 5PQ; see footnote with table 4). For the diagnosis of hypermobile EDS different age and sex specific cut-off points were proposed (see table 4). In

**Table 2** EDS grouping according to underlying genetic and pathogenetic mechanisms (adapted from<sup>4</sup>)

Berlin or earlier name	Villefranche name	New York name	OMIM	Gene
<b>GROUP A: Disorders of collagen primary structure and collagen processing</b>				
EDS I	Classical type	Classical EDS (cEDS)	130000	<i>COL5A1</i>
EDS II				<i>COL5A2</i>
EDS IV	Vascular type	Vascular EDS (vEDS)	130010	<i>COL3A1</i>
EDS VIIA	Arthrochalasia type	Arthrochalasia EDS (aEDS)	130060	<i>Type I collagen</i>
EDS VIIB			130080	
EDS VIIC	Dermatosparaxis type	Dermatosparaxis EDS (dEDS)	225410	<i>ADAMTS2</i>
Cardiac-valvular EDS	----	Cardiac-valvular EDS (cvEDS)	225320	<i>Type I collagen</i>
<b>GROUP B: Disorders of collagen folding and collagen cross-linking</b>				
Ocular-scoliotic EDS	Kyphoscoliotic type	Kyphoscoliotic EDS (kEDS- <i>PLOD1</i> )	225400	<i>PLOD1</i>
EDS VI/VIA			614557	
----	----	Kyphoscoliotic EDS (kEDS- <i>FKBP14</i> )	614557	<i>FKBP14</i>
<b>GROUP C: Disorders of structure and function of myomatrix, the interface between muscle and ExtraCellular Matrix</b>				
----	----	Classical-like EDS (clEDS)	606408	<i>TNXB</i>
----	----	Myopathic EDS (mEDS)	616471	<i>COL12A1</i>
<b>GROUP D: Disorders of glycosaminoglycan biosynthesis</b>				
EDS progeroid type 1	----	Spondylodysplastic EDS (spEDS- <i>B4GALT7</i> )	130070	<i>B4GALT7</i>
EDS progeroid type 2	----	Spondylodysplastic EDS (spEDS- <i>B3GALT6</i> )	615349	<i>B3GALT6</i>
Adducted thumb-clubfoot syndrome	----	Musculocontractural EDS (mcEDS- <i>CHST14</i> )	601776	<i>CHST14</i>
Musculocontractural type				
EDS Kosho type				
D4ST1 deficient EDS	----	Musculocontractural EDS (mcEDS- <i>DSE</i> )	615539	<i>DSE</i>
<b>GROUP E: Disorders of complement pathway</b>				
EDS VIII	Periodontitis type	Periodontal EDS (pEDS)	130080	<i>C1R, C1S</i>
<b>GROUP F: Disorders of intracellular processes (provisional)</b>				
Spondylocheirodysplastic EDS	----	Spondylodysplastic EDS (spEDS- <i>SLC39A13</i> )	612350	<i>SLC39A13</i>
Brittle cornea syndrome	----	Brittle cornea syndrome (BCS)	229200 614170	<i>ZNF469</i> <i>PRDM5</i>
<b>Unresolved form of EDS</b>				
EDS III	Hypermobility type	Hypermobility EDS (hEDS)	130020	??

**Table 3** Beighton mobility scoring scale\*

Joint	Negative	Unilateral	Bilateral
Passive dorsiflexion of the 5 <sup>th</sup> finger > 90°	0	1	2
Passive flexion of thumbs to the forearm	0	1	2
Hyperextension of the elbows > 10°	0	1	2
Hyperextension of the knees > 10°	0	1	2
Forward flexion of the trunk with knees fully extended and palms resting on the floor	0	1	
<b>Maximum total score</b>		<b>9</b>	

\* a score of 5/9 or more defines generalized joint hypermobility for both sexes (for hypermobile EDS age and sex related cut-off points are used; see table 4)

children under the age of about 5 years, the Beighton scale is less useful.

Generalised hypermobility is not rare: 5-10% of – mainly female – secondary school age Caucasian children is hypermobile and this percentage is higher in Asian populations.<sup>7,8</sup>

*Easy bruising* is seen as spontaneous ecchymoses, frequently recurring in the same bodily regions, of which

long-term signs are often visible as brownish discoloration (haemosiderin), in particular on knees and shins. If it is the predominant presenting sign, child abuse and bleeding disorders need to be considered first.

*Tissue fragility* is manifested in the skin as easy bruising and impaired wound healing with dystrophic scars, which are usually found over pressure points like forehead, chin, elbow, knee and shin and which may have a wide

and papyraceous appearance. Internal organs like arteries, lungs, intestines, liver, spleen and uterus may also show fragility, predominantly in the vascular type.

Some features are regularly observed, but are not criteria of generalised hypermobility syndromes. One example is the ineffectiveness of local anaesthetics in hypermobile EDS.<sup>9</sup>

Table 4 shows the major and minor diagnostic criteria, minimal criteria for diagnosis and how to verify the diagnosis.

A major diagnostic criterion has high diagnostic specificity, which means that it is present in the vast majority of the affected individuals and/or it is characteristic for the disorder and allows differentiation from other EDS types and/or other HCTD. A minor criterion is a sign of lesser diagnostic specificity, but its presence supports the diagnosis. However, in the absence of major criteria, minor criteria are not sufficient for a given diagnosis. Because of the vast genetic heterogeneity and phenotypic variability of the EDS types and the clinical overlap between many of these, the definite diagnosis relies for all types, except the hypermobile type, on molecular confirmation.

In older publications, features like facial dysmorphisms and mental retardation/intellectual disability were attributed to EDS, whereas nowadays these features are not any longer considered characteristics of EDS, except for facial dysmorphisms in vascular, dermatosparaxis, spondylodysplastic and musculocontractural EDS and intellectual disability in spondylodysplastic EDS (see table 4). Explanation for this could be that other syndromes associated with these features were erroneously diagnosed as EDS because of overlapping features with EDS. Another explanation is that these other features are not rare and consequently are found associated with EDS in a low percentage of cases.

The *classical EDS* has all the skin and joint characteristics of EDS, though in variable range of severity. Minimal diagnostic criteria are the presence of skin hyperextensibility and atrophic scars, plus either generalized joint hypermobility and/or 3 minor criteria (for details see table 4).<sup>10</sup> A recent paper reviewed 62 molecularly confirmed cases from Italy.<sup>11</sup> It is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion. However, sporadic cases (i.e. without an affected parent) do occur due to a spontaneous mutation. Genetically, it is heterogeneous since in over 90% of patients, who fulfil all major criteria, a defect can be found in (products of) one of the two genes that are up to now known to be involved, *COL5A1* and *COL5A2*. An EDS type resembling the classical type but clinically characterized by a propensity to arterial rupture and molecularly by a specific mutation in *COL1A1* (c.934C>T; p.Arg312Cys) is regarded as a variant type of classical EDS.<sup>12,13</sup> The major differential diagnosis of the classical type, at least in a sporadic case, is the classical-like EDS. Also, in mild cases of the classical type (partial expression), differentiation from the hypermobile type might be difficult, if not impossible.

*Classical-like EDS* resembles the classical type, however with normal wound healing and scar formation.<sup>13,14</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are the presence of all 3 major criteria, i.e. skin

hyperextensibility, generalized joint hypermobility and easy bruisability and a family history compatible with autosomal recessive inheritance. It is characterised by generalized hypermobility, with a remarkable laxity of finger joints. In contrast with the classical type, its inheritance is autosomal recessive, so most cases are sporadic and some occur in sibships. It is due to tenascin-X deficiency. In serum, tenascin-X is completely absent and mutation analysis of the *TNX-B* gene reveals bi-allelic mutations.

The *cardiac valvular EDS* is rare.<sup>13,15</sup> Apart from typical EDS features, it is associated with severe aortic and/or mitral valve insufficiency, necessitating valve replacement at relatively young age. Minimal diagnostic criteria are the presence of severe progressive cardiac-valvular problems, family history compatible with AR inheritance **plus** either one other major criterion and/or at least 2 minor (for details see table 4). The inheritance is autosomal recessive. It is due to homozygous or compound heterozygous *COL1A2* null mutations.

The *vascular EDS* is the most severe form of EDS.<sup>16</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are the presence of a family history of vascular EDS, arterial rupture/dissection <40 years, unexplained sigmoid colon rupture or spontaneous pneumothorax in the presence of other features consistent with vascular EDS. These and a combination of minor criteria warrant verifying diagnostic tests, i.e. DNA analysis (for details see table 4). Diagnosis in children is difficult, particularly in the absence of a family history. The vascular type is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion. Arterial rupture is the most common cause of sudden death and has its peak incidence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> decade. Acute abdominal and flank pain is a common presentation of an arterial or intestinal rupture and needs urgent investigation and treatment. Frank et al. showed that the type of *COL3A1* mutation is associated with the phenotype and severity: patients with glycine substitutions, splice-site mutations and in-frame insertions-deletions have a more severe phenotype, including digestive events, compared to e.g. mutations leading to non-glycine missense variants or haplo-insufficiency, due to a null allele. The latter may delay onset of complications by almost 2 decades.<sup>16,17</sup> A recent study showed that vEDS is characterized by a high frequency of de novo pathogenic variants, while parental mosaicism was rare.<sup>18</sup>

For women with the vascular type, pregnancy and delivery pose specific risks, which warrant pre-conceptual counselling with an experienced obstetrician and clinical geneticist.<sup>19</sup>

There is considerable clinical overlap between the vascular type and Loeys-Dietz syndrome type 1 and 2 (OMIM 609192 and 610168 respectively), which are due to *TGFBR1* (type 1) and *TGFBR2* (type 2) mutations.<sup>20</sup> Also other aortic aneurysm syndromes, such as Marfan syndrome, Thoracic Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection (TAAD), annulo-aortic ectasia should be included in the differential diagnosis.<sup>21</sup>

The *hypermobile EDS*, incorporating BJHS, is dominated by generalized joint hypermobility and its possible sequelae, in particular chronic pain, which can be severe and invalidating, and possibly early osteoarthritis.<sup>22</sup> As said before, the new diagnostic criteria are more strict than the Villefranche criteria and

the Brighton criteria.<sup>4</sup> The clinical diagnosis of hypermobile EDS needs the simultaneous presence of 3 criteria: criterion 1 = generalized joint hypermobility, criterion 2 = 2 or more of the features A, B and C (A = systemic manifestations of a more generalized connective tissue disorder; B = positive family history; C = musculoskeletal complications) and criterion 3 = absence of unusual skin fragility and exclusion of alternative diagnosis (for details see table 4). Recently, also cardiovascular dysautonomia (mainly postural tachycardia syndrome = POTS), functional gastrointestinal manifestations, sleep disturbance, fatigue, depression and anxiety disorders have been attributed to hypermobile EDS, but these are at the moment not sufficiently sensitive nor specific. Basically, there is no confirmative laboratory test for the hypermobility type, meaning that it is a purely clinical diagnosis. In 2015, Syx et al. reported linkage to chromosome 8p22-8p21.1 in a 3 generation Belgian family with EDS hypermobility type, whereby whole exome sequencing revealed a possibly involved gene.<sup>23</sup> Up to recently, BJHS was considered a separate entity with its own diagnostic criteria.<sup>24</sup> It was already argued earlier that the hypermobility type and BJHS are in fact one and the same disorder with variable expression. Arguments put forward for this were among others the fact that haploinsufficiency of *TNX-B*, assessed as about half of the normal activity of tenascin-X in blood, and/or heterozygosity for a pathogenic *TNX-B* mutation, is found both in cases with EDS hypermobility type and cases in whom BJHS is the more likely diagnosis.<sup>25</sup> Also, a changing phenotype from one diagnosis into the other in one individual and in some pedigrees the occurrence of both diagnoses argued for this statement.<sup>26</sup>

Castori et al. proposed a framework for the classification of joint hypermobility and related syndromes.<sup>27</sup>

The *arthrochalasia EDS* is also rare, but diagnosable at birth.<sup>13</sup> Minimal criteria suggestive for arthrochalasia EDS are congenital bilateral hip dislocation plus either skin hyperextensibility or severe generalized joint hypermobility with multiple dislocations/subluxations and at least 2 other minor criteria (for details see table 4). It is inherited in an autosomal dominant fashion. It is due to specific mutations in *COL1A1* or *COL1A2*. Larsen syndrome, which also features congenital luxations, should be in the differential diagnosis.

The *dermatosparaxis EDS* derives its name from a similar phenotype and biochemical defect in cattle, sheep, and other animals.<sup>13</sup> It is the EDS type which has the closest resemblance to cutis laxa. However, in cutis laxa there is neither fragility nor bruising. Its mode of inheritance is autosomal recessive. It is one of the rarest of all types and since only very few cases have been described, possibly this type is characterised by other - as yet unrecognised - features. Recently, Van Damme et al. expanded the phenotype and suggested new diagnostic criteria.<sup>28</sup> The New York nosology requires for its diagnosis extreme skin fragility with congenital or postnatal skin tears AND characteristic craniofacial features **plus** either 1 other major and/or 3 minor criteria (for details see table 4). It is due to bi-allelic mutations in *ADAMTS2*. The mode of inheritance is autosomal recessive.

The *kyphoscoliotic EDS* is a rare but severe form of EDS, manifesting itself often at or shortly after birth.<sup>13,29</sup> The presence of congenital muscle hypotonia AND congenital or early onset kyphoscoliosis **plus** either generalized joint hypermobility and/or 3 minor criteria (either general or *PLOD1* and *FKBP14* gene-specific) warrants laboratory testing. Kyphoscoliotic EDS is genetically heterogeneous and can be caused by mutations in *PLOD1* and *FKBP14*. Laboratory tests should start with measurement of the urinary lysyl and hydroxy-lysyl pyridinoline ratio. An increased ratio has a very high degree of sensitivity and specificity for *PLOD1* mutations, but not for *FKBP14* mutations (for details and molecular tests: see table 4). The mode of inheritance is autosomal recessive. Because of severe hypotonia, patients very often undergo a full scale neuromuscular work-up, including a muscle biopsy before the diagnosis is established. The differential diagnosis comprises all other causes of severe hypotonia, including neonatal Marfan syndrome.

The even rarer *brittle cornea syndrome* resembles the kyphoscoliotic type, but is generally milder.<sup>13,30</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are thin cornea with or without rupture **plus** either at least one other major criterion and/or 3 minor criteria (for details see table 4). It shows a normal urinary lysyl and hydroxy-lysyl pyridinoline ratio, and is characterised by mutations in the genes *ZNF469* or *PRDM5*.

*Spondylodysplastic EDS* is genetically heterogeneous and is due to bi-allelic mutations in either *B4GALT7* (former name progeroid type 1<sup>31</sup>), *B3GALT6* (former name progeroid type 2<sup>32</sup>) or *SLC39A13* (former name spondylocheirodysplastic type<sup>33</sup>).<sup>13</sup> There is considerable overlap with kyphoscoliotic EDS. Minimal diagnostic criteria are short stature AND muscle hypotonia **plus** characteristic radiographic abnormalities and at least 3 other minor criteria (general or gene-specific; see table 4).

The urinary lysyl and hydroxylysyl pyridinoline ratio is moderately increased (to approximately 1 compared to normal values of ~ 0.2) with HLPC for *SLC39A13* mutations. Van Damme et al. described recently 12 patients with bi-allelic *B3GALT6* mutations.<sup>34</sup>

The *musculocontractural EDS* is due to bi-allelic mutations in either *CHST14* gene (type 1) or more rarely *DSE* gene (type 2) and has also considerable clinical overlap with the kyphoscoliotic type.<sup>13,35</sup> Uehara et al. described spinal involvement in 12 patients with *CHST14* related mcEDS.<sup>36</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are at birth or in early childhood congenital multiple contractures AND characteristic craniofacial features, while in adolescence and adulthood these are congenital multiple contractures AND characteristic cutaneous features (for details see table 4).

*Myopathic EDS* is caused by heterozygous or bi-allelic mutations in *COL12A1*.<sup>13,37</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are congenital muscle hypotonia and/or muscle atrophy that improves with age plus either one other major criterion and/or three minor criteria (for details see table 4). The phenotype highly overlaps with collagen VI type related myopathies, i.e. Bethlem myopathy and Ullrich Congenital Muscular Dystrophy.

The *periodontal EDS* has some overlap with the classical type, but has progressive and aggressive

periodontitis as a distinguishing feature.<sup>13</sup> Minimal diagnostic criteria are severe, intractable periodontitis of early onset (childhood or adolescence) OR lack of attached gingiva plus at least 2 other major criteria and one minor criterion (for details see table 4). In 2016, it was found that gain-of-function mutations in the *CIR* gene or the *CIS* gene, encoding serine proteinases, cause periodontal EDS.<sup>38</sup> Recently, leukoencephalopathy and peri-implant disease were described as additional features of pEDS.<sup>39,40</sup>

In 2016, bi-allelic *AEBPI* mutations were described in an autosomal recessive EDS variant, featuring joint hypermobility with joint dislocations, hyperextensible, translucent and redundant skin, poor wound healing with abnormal scarring, easy bruising and gastrointestinal, urogenital, cardiovascular and skeletal abnormalities. Its features overlap with several EDS types, particularly cEDS, mcEDS and spEDS. So far, 8 patients with bi-allelic *AEBPI* mutations have been described. *AEBPI* encodes ACLP, that associates with collagens in the extracellular matrix (ECM) and is highly expressed in collagen rich tissues like skin, vasculature and connective tissues.<sup>41,42,43,44</sup> In OMIM it can be found under 618000, named EDS classic-like, 2. This new EDS variant is not added in any of the tables 1, 2, and 4.

The former EDS type V (X-linked) has been described in only 2 families and is not any longer accepted as belonging to the EDS spectrum; the same holds true for the former fibronectin deficient type X, familial articular hypermobility EDS XI and *Filamin A* related EDS with heterotopia. The former type IX is an X-linked cutis laxa disorder and is renamed occipital horn syndrome; it is due to mutations in the gene *ATP7A*, the same gene as is mutated in Menkes syndrome (disorder of copper metabolism).

For further reading, the excellent reviews by Malfait et al. and Byers and Murray are highly recommended.<sup>4,45</sup> The whole March 2017 issue of the American Journal of Medical Genetics Part C, Seminars in Medical Genetics provided a very good update not only about EDS nosology and diagnostic criteria, but also about management aspects of the various types of EDS. Management for EDS patients preferably is provided by multidisciplinary teams in expertise centres. However, in a recent literature study concerning clinical practice guidelines specifically addressed to EDS the total absence of such guidelines was noted and many clinician and patient unmet needs were identified.<sup>46</sup>

Joint hypermobility is a symptom of large variety of syndromes. Among these, one finds - not surprisingly - other heritable connective tissue disorders like cutis laxa, osteogenesis imperfecta, Stickler syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome and Marfan syndrome, but also skeletal dysplasias, inborn errors of metabolism, neuromuscular disorders, chromosomal abnormalities and syndromes like Larsen syndrome, Fragile X syndrome and Langer-Giedion syndrome.

#### HOW TO REACH THE DIAGNOSIS EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME, INCLUDING CORRECT TYPING?

Like always in clinical practice, the results of history taking, including a family history, and physical examination are the basis for planning additional

investigations and finally reaching a diagnosis. Additional investigations are often biochemical as a first screen, followed by targeted DNA analysis. However, with the introduction of new DNA technologies, like next generation sequencing (NGS), rapid search for the disease causing mutation by molecular analysis of all known EDS genes ("the EDS panel") at once has become possible. This is already standard routine diagnostic practice in many laboratories and will become routine in all in the near future. Copy number variation analysis for large deletions and duplications has also a place in the molecular analysis in cases where NGS did not reveal a mutation in AD types and only one mutation in AR types, while whole exome sequencing and whole genome sequencing will be indicated in the search for new types when all tests are negative.

As history taking and physical examination in relation to EDS are very important, these will be discussed below.

Good history taking starts with identifying the exact symptoms and complaints, which compelled the patient to see a physician: when and how did they start and evolve, how were they treated (what were the results, what was advised/prescribed and by whom?). Specific questions should elucidate the presence or absence of:

- Hypermobility and/or (sub)luxations. If (sub)luxation occurred: which joint(s) was/were involved, how often did it occur, was it spontaneous (also the first time) and painful? Was it seen/treated by doctors? If necessary also the Five-Point Questionnaire (5PQ; see footnote in table 4). Contractures? Congenital hip dislocation?<sup>47,48</sup>
- Painful joints.<sup>49</sup> If so: which ones, when, under which circumstances, exercise related, warm and swollen, if so, for how long? Use of analgesics? Sprains? What are the major limitations in daily life?
- Temporomandibular joint problems.<sup>50</sup>
- Problems with bursae/tendons.
- (Spontaneous) fractures.
- Skin fragility and abnormal wound healing with wide atrophic scars.
- Surgery, e.g. for inguinal hernia. If so: complications?
- Easy bruising and/or abnormal menstrual bleeding.
- Abnormal exercise tolerance and/or fatigue.<sup>51</sup> Sports performed? Type of work: blue or white collar?
- Pneumothorax?
- Cardiac problems? Cardiovascular autonomic dysfunction?<sup>52</sup>
- Genito-urinary tract problems, e.g. uterine prolapse, voiding dysfunction.
- Gastro-intestinal tract problems, e.g. constipation, diverticula, rectal prolapse.<sup>53</sup>
- For female patients with children: pregnancy and delivery problems.<sup>19</sup>
- Rupture of internal organs (arteries, lungs, intestines, spleen, uterus).
- Psychiatric problems, like anxiety, depression, ADHD?<sup>54</sup>
- Neurological problems?<sup>55,56</sup> Headache? Migraine?
- Eye problems, e.g. refractive errors, abnormal vision.
- Hearing?

- Growth?
- Motor and cognitive development?
- Dental problems?
- Miscellaneous: Gingivitis? Varicose veins? Abnormal effect of local anaesthesia?

The family history includes drawing a three generation pedigree with specific enquiry regarding hypermobility, easy bruising, abnormal scarring, arterial dissections and organ ruptures.

The physical examination is focused on signs relevant for connective tissue disorders:

- Build and biometry: height, weight, span and others when indicated. Marfanoid?
- Facial features: among others, Gorlin sign (ability to touch the tip of the nose with the tip of tongue)? High palate? Absence of subcutaneous fat? Prominent eyes? Thin, "pinched" nose? Normal earlobes? Epicanthic folds? Low-set ears? Midfacial hypoplasia? Micrognathia? Down-slanting palpebral fissures? Gingival recession?
- Teeth: dental crowding? Discoloured? Dysplastic? Periodontitis?
- Thorax: deformity?
- Back: (kypho)scoliosis?
- Extremities: Beighton score; arachnodactyly (wrist and thumb sign)? (Sub)luxations? Brachydactyly? Contractures? Flat feet? Joints? Muscle strength? Hallux valgus?
- Skin: extensibility? Texture? Thickness and venous pattern? Striae distensae? Varicose veins? Piezogenic papules? Molluscoid pseudotumors? Spheroids? Scars? Herniae?
- Eyes: blue sclerae? Microcornea? Strabismus? Clouded cornea? Glaucoma? Scleral/ocular fragility? Keratoconus?
- Neurological examination: muscle weakness? Reduction in vibration sense? Reduction of tendon reflexes?

After history taking, a differential diagnosis will be established, on which basis additional investigations, such as biochemical and/or DNA analysis in blood and/or cultured fibroblasts, derived from a skin biopsy, are planned, if clinically relevant and available for the suspected type(s). Morphological examination of a skin biopsy is of limited value, except in some types, particularly in dermatosparaxis EDS. On indication, the patient will be referred to an ophthalmologist, cardiologist, orthopaedic surgeon, neurologist and/or others.

DNA analyses are available as diagnostic services in most of the high and middle income countries. As already indicated, there is no DNA test available for hypermobile EDS. If there is any reason to believe the phenotype could be the classical-like, tenascin-X deficient type, then there is an indication to perform tenascin-X analysis in serum. If there is suspicion of vascular EDS, the threshold to do DNA analysis should be very low, because of the consequences of that diagnosis in terms of management and genetic counselling. For some of the other EDS types the same holds true, because of their severity, rareness, overlapping features with other EDS types and/or

different modes of inheritance. In fact, for definite diagnosis molecular confirmation is needed for all types, except the hypermobile type.

## GENETIC COUNSELLING

Since all the disorders which have been discussed have a genetic background, genetic counselling is an indispensable part of the management of patients and their families. During genetic counselling, information will be given about the mode of inheritance, recurrence risk, variability and penetrance of the disorder, the possibilities of prenatal diagnosis and diagnosis in relatives at risk and management. Prenatal diagnosis and diagnosis in relatives at risk is only possible if the causative DNA defect is known. A social worker should be available to assist whenever a need is perceived or requested. When there is a patient/parent support group, patients/parents should be informed. In case of a proband of non-EDS parents, it is essential to differentiate between an autosomal dominant (e.g. classical type) and an autosomal recessive type (e.g. classical-like, tenascin-deficient type): in the classical type the recurrence risk for a next child of these non-EDS parents is low (less than 1%) and for a child of the affected patient high (50%), while in the tenascin-deficient type the recurrence risk for a next child is high (25%) and for a child of the affected patient generally low (1% or less). It is important to be aware of the possibility of parental mosaicism in cases which are apparently *de novo*.<sup>18</sup>

## CONCLUSION

EDS is a fairly common, clinically and genetically heterogeneous disorder, belonging to the heritable disorders of connective tissue. The latest official classification of 2017 recognized 13 types. Since then another variant has been described and there is still room for the identification of other types. In individual patients it is a challenge to correctly type EDS, even after careful history taking and physical examination. Often a molecular diagnosis is needed for correct typing and NGS is thereby of great help. Management is preferably provided by a multidisciplinary team in expert centres. Genetic counselling is an integral part of its management.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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**Table 4** Diagnostic criteria, minimal criteria and verification of Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (data extracted from<sup>4</sup>)

Types of EDS	Major diagnostic criteria	Minor diagnostic criteria	Suggestive minimal criteria for diagnosis	Verification of clinical diagnosis
Classical EDS	Skin hyperextensibility and atrophic scars Generalized joint hypermobility	Easy bruising Smooth, velvety skin Skin fragility (or traumatic splitting) Molluscoid pseudotumors Subcutaneous spheroids Hernia (or history thereof) Epicanthic folds Complications of joint hypermobility e.g. sprains, (sub)luxations, pain, pes planus First degree relative fulfilling clinical criteria	Skin hyperextensibility and atrophic scars, <b>plus</b> either generalized joint hypermobility and/or 3 minor criteria	Molecular screening of a targeted EDS gene panel, including at least <i>COL5A1</i> , <i>COL5A2</i> , <i>COL1A1</i> and <i>COL1A2</i> . When not available transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of skin biopsy (collagen flowers) might be supportive
Classical-like EDS	Skin hyperextensibility with velvety skin texture and absence of atrophic scarring Generalized joint hypermobility with or without recurrent dislocations Easy bruisable skin/spontaneous ecchymoses	Foot deformities: broad/plump forefoot, brachydactyly, pes planus, hallux valgus, piezogenic papules Edema of legs Mild proximal and distal muscle weakness Axonal polyneuropathy Atrophy of hand and foot muscles Acrogeric hands, mallet finger(s), clinodactyly, brachydactyly Vaginal/uterus/rectal prolapse	All 3 major criteria and a family history compatible with autosomal recessive inheritance	Molecular analysis of <i>TNXB</i> gene. If necessary CNV analysis for deletions. Complete absence of TNX in serum.
Cardiac-valvular EDS	Severe progressive cardiac-valvular problems Skin hyperextensibility, atrophic scars, thin skin, easy bruising Generalized or small joints hypermobility	Inguinal hernia Pectus deformity (mostly excavatum) Joint dislocations Foot deformities: pes (plano)valgus, hallux valgus	Severe progressive cardiac-valvular problems AND family history compatible with AR inheritance <b>plus</b> either one other major criterion and/or at least 2 minor	Molecular screening by Sanger sequencing of <i>COL1A2</i> or targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel. If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications. Total absence of (pro) $\alpha$ 2(I) with SDS PAGE
Vascular EDS	Family history of vEDS with molecular confirmation Arterial rupture at young age Spontaneous sigmoid colon perforation 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester uterine rupture Carotid-cavernous sinus fistula (Last 3: in the absence of other explanations)	Bruising without trauma and/or in unusual sites (cheeks, back) Thin, translucent skin with increased venous visibility Characteristic facial appearance Spontaneous pneumothorax Acrogeria Talipes equinovarus Congenital hip dislocation Hypermobility of small joints Tendon and muscle rupture Keratoconus Gingival recession and fragility Early onset varicose veins (<30 years and nulliparous if female)	A family history of vEDS, rupture/dissection <40 years, unexplained sigmoid colon rupture or spontaneous pneumothorax in the presence of other features consistent with vEDS, a combination of other minor criteria should all lead to verifying diagnostic tests.	Molecular screening by Sanger sequencing of <i>COL3A1</i> or targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>COL3A1</i> and <i>COL1A1</i> . If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.
Hypermobile EDS	Generalized joint hypermobility (GHJ) assessed by Beighton score $\geq 6$ for prepubertal children and adolescents $\geq 5$ for pubertal men and women up to the age of 50 $\geq 4$ for those > 50 years of age If the Beighton score is 1 point below the age- and sex-specific	<u>A: systemic manifestations of a more generalized connective tissue disorder</u> 1. unusually soft or velvety skin 2. mild skin hyperextensibility 3. unexplained striae distensae 4. bilateral piezogenic papules (heel) 5. recurrent or multiple abdominal hernias 6. atrophic scarring at 2 or more sites without truly papyraceous and/or hemosideric scars 7. pelvic floor, rectal and/or uterine prolapse in children,	1. Generalized joint hypermobility AND 2. Two or more among features A-C (A+B, A+C, B+C, A+B+C) must be present A: total of 5 must be present B: must be present C: 1 or more must be present AND 3. absence of unusual skin fragility AND	Not possible; hEDS is a clinical diagnosis. Sleep disturbance, fatigue, postural orthostatic tachycardia, functional gastro-intestinal disorders, dysautonomia, anxiety and depression are not part of the diagnostic criteria, but its presence may prompt consideration of hEDS in the differential diagnosis.



	cut-off AND the 5-point questionnaire (5PQ)* is positive then a diagnosis of GJH can be made	men or nulliparous women without obesity or other explanation 8. dental crowding and high/narrow palate 9. arachnodactyly (bilateral positive wrist or thumb sign) 10. arm span-to-height $\geq 1.05$ 11. mitral valve prolapse (strict echocardiographic criteria) 12. aortic root dilatation with Z-score $> +2$ <u>B: one or more first degree relatives independently meeting the criteria for hEDS</u> <u>C: musculoskeletal complications</u> 1. pain in 2 or more limbs, recurring daily for at least 3 months 2. chronic widespread pain for $\geq 3$ months 3. recurrent joint dislocations or frank joint instability <b>in the absence of trauma</b> (a or b) a. 3 or more dislocations in the same joint or 2 or more dislocations in 2 different joints occurring at different times b. medical confirmation of joint instability at 2 or more sites	exclusion of other heritable and acquired connective tissue disorders, including autoimmune rheumatologic disorders# AND exclusion of alternative diagnoses e.g. neuromuscular disorders, other Heritable Connective Tissue Disorders, and skeletal dysplasias	
Arthrochlasia EDS	Congenital bilateral hip dislocation Severe generalized joint hypermobility with multiple dislocations/subluxations Skin hyperextensibility	Muscle hypotonia Kyphoscoliosis Mild osteopenia (X-ray) Tissue fragility, including atrophic scars Easy bruisable skin	Congenital bilateral hip dislocation <b>plus</b> either skin hyperextensibility or severe generalized joint hypermobility with multiple dislocations/subluxations and at least 2 other minor criteria	Molecular screening by Sanger sequencing of <i>COL1A1/A2</i> or targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>COL1A1/A2</i> . If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications. Supportive might be SDS PAGE analysis of cultured skin fibroblasts and TEM of skin biopsies
Dermatoparaxis EDS	Extreme skin fragility with congenital or postnatal skin tears Characteristic craniofacial features Redundant, almost lax skin, Increased palmar wrinkling Severe bruisability Umbilical hernia Postnatal growth retardation Short limbs, hands and feet Perinatal complications due to connective tissue fragility	Soft and doughy skin texture Skin hyperextensibility Atrophic scars Generalized joint hypermobility Complications of visceral fragility (bladder/diaphragmatic rupture, rectal prolapse) Delayed motor development Osteopenia Hirsutism Tooth abnormalities Refractive errors (myopia, astigmatism) Strabismus	Extreme skin fragility with congenital or postnatal skin tears AND characteristic craniofacial features <b>plus</b> either 1 other major and/or 3 minor criteria	Molecular screening by Sanger sequencing of <i>ADAMTS2</i> or targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>ADAMTS2</i> . If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications. Supportive might be SDS PAGE analysis of cultured skin fibroblasts and TEM of skin biopsies
Kyphoscoliotic EDS	Congenital muscle hypotonia Congenital or early onset kyphoscoliosis Generalized joint hypermobility with multiple dislocations/subluxations	Skin hyperextensibility Easy bruisable skin Rupture/aneurysm of a medium-sized artery Osteopenia/osteoporosis Blue sclerae Hernia (umbilical or inguinal) Pectus deformity Marfanoid habitus Talipes equinovarus	Congenital muscle hypotonia AND congenital or early onset kyphoscoliosis <b>plus</b> either generalized joint hypermobility and/or 3 minor criteria (general or gene-specific)	Increased Dpyr/pyr (= LP/HP) ratio in urine by HPLC is highly sensitive for <i>PLOD1</i> kEDS. Molecular analysis: MLPA of <i>PLOD1</i> (duplication); if negative MLPA, targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>PLOD1</i> and <i>FKBP14</i> , but also <i>ZNF469</i> ,

		<p>Refractive errors (myopia, hypermetropia)</p> <p><b>PLOD1 specific minor criteria</b></p> <p>Skin fragility (e.g. atrophic scarring, friable skin)</p> <p>Scleral/ocular fragility/rupture</p> <p>Microcornea</p> <p>Facial dysmorphology (e.g. low-set ears, epicanthal folds, down-slanting fissures, synophrys, high palate)</p> <p><b>FKBP14 specific minor criteria</b></p> <p>Congenital sensorineural, conductive or mixed hearing impairment</p> <p>Follicular hyperkeratosis</p> <p>Muscle atrophy</p> <p>Bladder diverticula</p>		<p><i>PRDM5, B4GALT7, B3GALT6, SLC39A13, CHST14</i> and <i>DSE</i>, because of overlapping phenotypes.</p> <p>If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.</p> <p>Supportive might be TEM of skin biopsies</p>
Brittle Cornea syndrome	<p>Thin cornea with or without rupture</p> <p>Early onset progressive keratoconus</p> <p>Early onset progressive keratoglobus</p> <p>Blue sclerae</p>	<p>Enucleation or corneal scarring</p> <p>Progressive loss of corneal stroma depth</p> <p>High myopia</p> <p>Retinal detachment</p> <p>Progressive high frequency often mixed deafness</p> <p>Hypercompliant tympanic membranes</p> <p>Developmental hip dysplasia</p> <p>Mild hypotonia in infancy</p> <p>Scoliosis</p> <p>Arachnodactyly</p> <p>Hypermobility of distal joints</p> <p>Pes planus, hallux valgus</p> <p>Mild finger contractures (esp. 5<sup>th</sup>)</p>	Thin cornea with or without rupture <b>plus</b> either at least one other major criterion and/or 3 minor criteria	<p>Molecular screening by targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>ZNF469</i> and <i>PRDM5</i>, but also <i>PLOD1, FKBP14, B4GALT7, B3GALT6, SLC39A13, CHST14</i> and <i>DSE</i>, because of overlapping phenotypes.</p> <p>If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.</p>
Spondylo dysplastic EDS	<p>Progressive short stature</p> <p>Muscle hypotonia (ranging severe congenital to mild later-onset)</p> <p>Bowing of limbs</p>	<p>Skin hyperextensibility, soft doughy, thin translucent skin</p> <p>Pes planus</p> <p>Delayed motor development</p> <p>Osteopenia</p> <p>Delayed cognitive development</p> <p><b>B4GALT7 specific minor criteria</b></p> <p>Radioulnar synostosis</p> <p>Bilateral elbow contractures or limited elbow movement</p> <p>Generalized joint hypermobility</p> <p>Single transverse palmar crease</p> <p>Characteristic facial features</p> <p>Characteristic radiographic findings</p> <p>Severe hypermetropia</p> <p>Clouded cornea</p> <p><b>B3GALT6 specific minor criteria</b></p> <p>Kyphoscoliosis</p> <p>Joint hypermobility, generalized or restricted to distal joints</p> <p>Joint contractures (esp. hands)</p> <p>Peculiar fingers (e.g. slender, tapered, spatulate, broad distal phalanges)</p> <p>Talipes equinovarus</p> <p>Characteristic facial features</p> <p>Tooth discoloration, dysplastic teeth</p> <p>Characteristic radiographic findings</p> <p>Osteoporosis (spontaneous fractures)</p>	Short stature AND muscle hypotonia <b>plus</b> characteristic radiographic abnormalities and at least 3 other minor criteria (general or gene-specific)	<p>Molecular screening by targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>B4GALT7, B3GALT6</i> and <i>SLC39A13</i> but also <i>PLOD1, FKBP14, ZNF469, PRDM5, CHST14</i> and <i>DSE</i>, because of overlapping phenotypes.</p> <p>If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.</p> <p>GAG deficiency with <i>B4GALT7</i> and <i>B3GALT6</i> mutations in cultured fibroblasts.</p> <p>Moderately increased LP/HP ratio (to approximately 1 compared to normal values of ~ 0.2) with HLPC for <i>SLC39A13</i> mutations.</p>

		Ascending aortic aneurysm Lung hypoplasia, restrictive lung disease <b>SLC39A13 specific minor criteria</b> Protuberant eyes with bluish sclerae Hands with finely wrinkled palms Atrophy of thenar muscles, tapering fingers Hypermobility of distal joints Characteristic radiographic findings		
Musculoskeletal EDS	Congenital multiple contractures (adduction-flexion and/or clubfoot) Characteristic craniofacial features Characteristic cutaneous features (hyperextensibility, bruising, fragility, atrophic scars, increased palmar wrinkling)	Recurrent/chronic dislocations Pectus deformities (flat, excavatum) (Kypho)scoliosis Tapering, slender, cylindrical fingers Progressive talipes deformities (valgus, planus, cavum) Large subcutaneous hematomas Chronic constipation Colonic diverticula Pneumo(hemo)thorax Nephro/cystolithiasis Hydronephrosis Cryptorchidism Strabismus Refractive errors (myopia, astigmatism) Glaucoma/elevated intraocular pressure	<u>At birth or in early childhood</u> Congenital multiple contractures AND characteristic craniofacial features <u>In adolescence and adulthood</u> Congenital multiple contractures AND characteristic cutaneous features	Molecular screening by targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>CHST14</i> and <i>DSE</i> but also <i>PLOD1</i> , <i>FKBP14</i> , <i>ZNF469</i> , <i>PRDM5</i> , <i>B4GALT7</i> , <i>B3GALT6</i> and <i>SLC39A13</i> , because of overlapping phenotypes. If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.
Myopathic EDS	Congenital muscle hypotonia and/or muscle atrophy that improves with age Proximal joint contractures (knee, hip, elbow) Hypermobility of distal joints	Soft, doughy skin Atrophic scarring Delayed motor developmental Myopathy on muscle biopsy	Congenital muscle hypotonia and/or muscle atrophy that improves with age <b>plus</b> either one other major criterion and/or three minor criteria	Molecular screening by targeted resequencing of a EDS gene panel, including <i>COL12A1</i> , and <i>COL6A1/A2/A3</i> , because of overlapping phenotypes (Bethlem and Ullrich). If necessary CNV analysis for deletions and duplications.
Periodontal EDS	Severe, intractable periodontitis of early onset (childhood or adolescence) Lack of attached gingiva Pretibial plaques First degree relative who meets clinical criteria	Easy bruising Joint hypermobility, mostly distal Skin hyperextensibility and fragility, wide or atrophic scarring Increased rate of infection Hernias Marfanoid facial features Acrogeria Prominent vasculature	Severe, intractable periodontitis of early onset (childhood or adolescence) OR lack of attached gingiva <b>Plus</b> at least 2 other major criteria and one minor criterion	Identification of known or compatible gain-of-function mutations by sequence analysis of <i>C1R</i> and <i>C1S</i>

\* The Five-Point Questionnaire (5PQ):

1. Can you now (or could you ever) place your hands flat on the floor without bending your knees?
2. Can you now (or could you ever) bend your thumb to touch your forearm?
3. As a child, did you amuse your friends by contorting your body into strange shapes or could you do the splits?
4. As a child or teenager, did your shoulder or kneecap dislocate on more than one occasion?
5. Do you consider yourself "double-jointed"?

A "yes" answer to two or more questions (= positive 5PQ) suggests joint hypermobility with 80–85% sensitivity and 80–90% specificity.

Adapted from Hakim AJ, Grahame R. A simple questionnaire to detect hypermobility: an adjunct to the assessment of patients with diffuse musculoskeletal pain. *Int J Clin Pract* 57:163-166, 2003.

# In patients with an acquired connective tissue disorder (e.g. lupus, rheumatoid arthritis) additional diagnosis of hEDS requires meeting both features A and B of criterion 2. Feature C of criterion 2 (chronic pain and/or instability) cannot be counted towards a diagnosis of hEDS in this situation.

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