Group of 13 genetic disorders that produce complex problems across multiple systems of the body. Can result in:

- Spontaneous arterial/intestinal/uterine rupture, including aortic dissection and other cardiac abnormalities;
- Hypermobile joints that can dislocate easily;
- Fragile and/or stretchable skin and tissue that may readily bruise and tear;
- Musculoskeletal pain and fatigue;
- Delayed healing;
- Dysautonomia, particularly orthostatic intolerance;
- Possible neurological and/or spinal involvement.

**Emergency Information**

- Joints may be lax and dislocate easily.
- Skin tearing, splitting, and bruising are common.
- Arterial or intestinal rupture commonly presents as acute abdominal or flank pain that can be diffuse or localized.
- Cerebral arterial rupture may present with altered mental status and be mistaken for drug overdose.

- Emergency procedures (especially for Vascular EDS) may require trauma, vascular surgery, ICU. Elective surgery and procedures should be carefully considered. Non-invasive testing is highly preferred.
- Healing may be delayed, with irregular scarring. Use alternatives to sutures whenever possible. Retain sutures/staples for twice the normal period; watch for wound reopening and dehiscence.
- For general anesthesia, use caution when intubating as jaw dislocation is common and GI tissue fragile.
- Local anesthetics are most often inadequate or short-lasting.
- Potential spinal and/or cerebellar involvement may increase general anesthetic and surgical risks.

**The Ehlers-Danlos Society**

P.O. Box 8363
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
P: 410-670-7577
Office 7 • 35-37 Ludgate Hill
London, EC4M 7JN • UK
P: +44 203 887 6132

**EHLERS-DANLOS.COM**