

# Carnegie Mellon

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<http://hr.web.cmu.edu/dsrg/index.htm>

## Behçet's Disease Fact Sheet

This sheet is intended to assist you in helping the students. The information is generic in nature and not specific to this student. For information about individualized accommodations for a specific student, please see the instructor letter or request the student share their individualized accommodation plan with you. If at any time you have questions or would like more information please contact Larry Powell in the Equal Opportunity Services office.

### Description:

- A chronic condition that is a rheumatological disorder, causes canker sores or ulcers in the mouth and on the genitals, and inflammation in parts of the eye. Also results in arthritis (swollen, painful, stiff joints), skin problems and extreme fatigue.

### What Causes Behçet's Disease:

- Unknown, perhaps related to an autoimmune reaction, bacterium or virus
- Most symptoms of the disease are caused by inflammation of the blood vessels
- Physicians must observe the lesions caused by the disorder in order to make an accurate diagnosis

### Symptoms: Affects each person differently, symptoms appear, disappear, and then reappear

- **Mouth sores** affect almost all patients with Behçet's disease.
- **Genital sores** affect more than half of all people with Behçet's disease
- **Skin problems** are a common symptom of Behçet's disease.
- **Uveitis** (yoo-vee-EYE-tis) involves inflammation of the middle or back part of the eye. Up to 75% of people with Behçet's disease have eye inflammation
- **Arthritis** which is inflammation of the joints occurs in more than half of all patients with Behçet's disease.
- **Blood clots**
- **Meningoencephalitis** may have fever, headache, stiff neck, and difficulty coordinating movement, about 10% of cases
- **Digestive Tract** (Rarely) diarrhea or constipation, vomiting and stomach pain.

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