

Carnegie Mellon

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

Sjogerns Syndrome 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.

Definition:

- Sjögren's syndrome is a chronic disorder that causes insufficient moisture production in certain glands of the body. It occurs when a person's normally protective immune system attacks and destroys moisture-producing glands, including salivary glands and tear glands. The lungs, bowel, and other organs are occasionally affected
- Sjogren's syndrome is an autoimmune disease.
- Sjogren's syndrome involves inflammation of glands and other tissues of the body.
- 90% of Sjogren's syndrome patients are female.
- Sjogren's syndrome can be complicated by infections of the eyes, breathing passages, and mouth.
- Sjogren's syndrome is typically associated with antibodies against a variety of *body tissues (auto-antibodies)*.

Associated Difficulties:

- Extremely dry eyes causing a feeling of grit or sand in the eyes or a burning redness.
- Extremely dry mouth and throat causing difficulty with chewing and swallowing, decreased sense of taste, difficulty speaking, an increase in dental cavities, and dry cough or hoarseness.
- Enlarged parotid glands (located at the angle of jaw) and sometimes infection of these glands.
- Excessive fatigue
- Aches and pains in muscles and joints

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* Taken from Webb MD and Medicine Net.Com

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