

A SHORT GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING

Are you living with or caring for someone who's been diagnosed with short bowel syndrome (SBS), or curious to understand more about this rare condition?¹

Check out the information and real-life perspectives below to learn more about SBS.

What is SBS? SBS is a serious and chronic malabsorption



disorder, that most often occurs when parts of the intestine are removed surgically and the remaining intestine may not be able to absorb enough nutrients from food and drink. This results in malabsorption. **SBS** affects about

10K - 20K people in the U.S.^{1,2,3,4}

I share that my daughter was born missing most of her small bowel and half of her colon, so she doesn't receive nutrition as well as she should." - Ashley K., Mother of a child with SBS

"When describing SBS to others,

"My son doesn't look sick,

"short bowel"

People sometimes

- talk about having:
- "a short gut"
- "short gut syndrome"
- but the medically accurate term is **short bowel syndrome**, or SBS for short.

and malabsorption risk for:2,5 Malnutrition Electrolyte

SBS can vary from

person to person,

- disturbances
- Dehydration 🤼 Diarrhea/
- increased outputs

how easily his condition can turn on a dime. It can be hard for people to recognize how much this impacts his whole life." - Gabriela L., Mother of a child with SBS

so people may not understand

Short Bowel There are many diseases and conditions that could require surgical removal

The Long Road to

of intestines, which may increase the risk for SBS. Examples may include:2,6,7 **Crohn's Disease** Chronic disease causing inflammation



for severe cases of Crohn's disease can include surgery **Bariatric OR Gastric Bypass Surgery Complications**

and injury to the intestines. Treatment



Trauma

Gastric bypass and bariatric surgery are designed to help

people lose weight^{7,8}

A traumatic injury to the intestine may require a bowel resection



Injury to Blood Vessels

When blood vessels in the intestines can't deliver enough blood (and consequently oxygen and nutrients) to the organ to allow it to function

properly (also referred to as



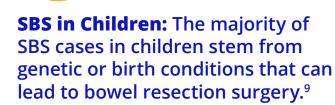
intestinal ischemia) **Cancer Surgery** During certain cancer treatments, it may be necessary to have tumors in the intestine removed or undergo



A twisting of the intestine that can cause a blockage and cut off blood flow

Volvulus

radiation therapy



lead to bowel resection surgery.9 "My son was born with a birth defect known as gastroschisis,

which I was told rarely leads to SBS. However, when he was born, he had lost most of his small and large intestines. I wasn't prepared for him to lose so much of his intestine, and also didn't know how important the intestines were or how rare SBS was." - Gabriela L., Mother of a child with SBS

"I arrived at my diagnosis after my

driver who had crossed the middle

family car was hit head on by a

line of a two-lane highway. The

trauma caused me to lose blood

flow to my intestines, which then had to be removed." - Matt B., Living with SBS

"I want to encourage

become independent

in every aspect of

her life and to be

curious about her

SBS management.

She already likes to

gather her own TPN

supplies!"

- Ashley K.,

my daughter to

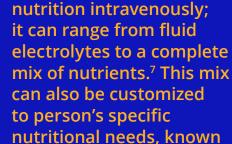
⊘ Improving daily life with SBS

Managing **SBS**

support (PS)

Though every individual may manage SBS differently,

some primary SBS management goals include:



nutrition (TPN).10 "Ask lots of questions. The better informed you are, the better you can manage your health." - Monica W., **Living with SBS**

Parenteral support (PS)

delivers fluids and/or

as total parenteral

Mother of a child with SBS **Never Short on Support**

"We can't control

what happens to us,

but we can choose how we respond. I

chose to focus on

what I can control.

changed everything

management for me."

and that mindset

about my SBS

Living with SBS

- Matt B.,

SBS care is not just about managing physical symptoms. Strong relationships and connections with family, friends and members of the SBS community can make a big difference.

"When I talk to other parents in the community about our

experiences, they get it! I can ask, 'Do you experience this?' and they

"My family is incredibly healthy, so it was a struggle at first for them to understand my condition. However, they never made me feel bad about my SBS and have kept me motivated." - Monica W., Living with SBS

here for discussing SBS with your healthcare team and join the short bowel syndrome community for more support.

every day. Thankfully, support is never far to help find the answers. Find resources

People living with or caring for others with SBS can find themselves asking new questions

Learn More

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say, 'Yes!' So, I feel less crazy and less alone."