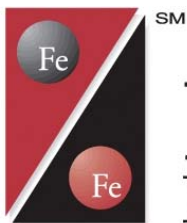




More than 245,077 people in Maryland have the genes for my disease* which does NOT require a drug to treat.

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- We call our disease the **Rusting Disease** medically known as **HEMOCHROMATOSIS (HHC)**.
- Many doctors are unaware of the simple, **inexpensive tests** that detect this disease.
- People with my disease have **too much iron** and we give **blood** for life—this **useable blood** helps hundreds of thousands of Americans needing transfusions.
- If we do not give blood, **our organs rust** and we develop **diabetes, arthritis, liver disease, impotence, infertility or we die of heart attacks** in the prime of life.
- **If we get our diagnosis** and begin giving blood before the age of 30, our risk of developing these diseases **drops to less than 1%**.
- Presently the Congressional budget **provides one nickel per person or doctor** for education and to raise awareness about my disease. This is not enough!
- Help us reach the decision-makers **who can change this gross disparity**.

*Steinberg KK, Cogswell ME, Chang JC, Caudill SP, McQuillan GM, Bowman BA, Grummer-Strawn LM, Sampson EJ, Khoury MJ, Gallagher ML. JAMA. 2001 May 2;285(17):2216-22. **Prevalence of C282Y and H63D mutations in the hemochromatosis (HFE) gene in the United States.**