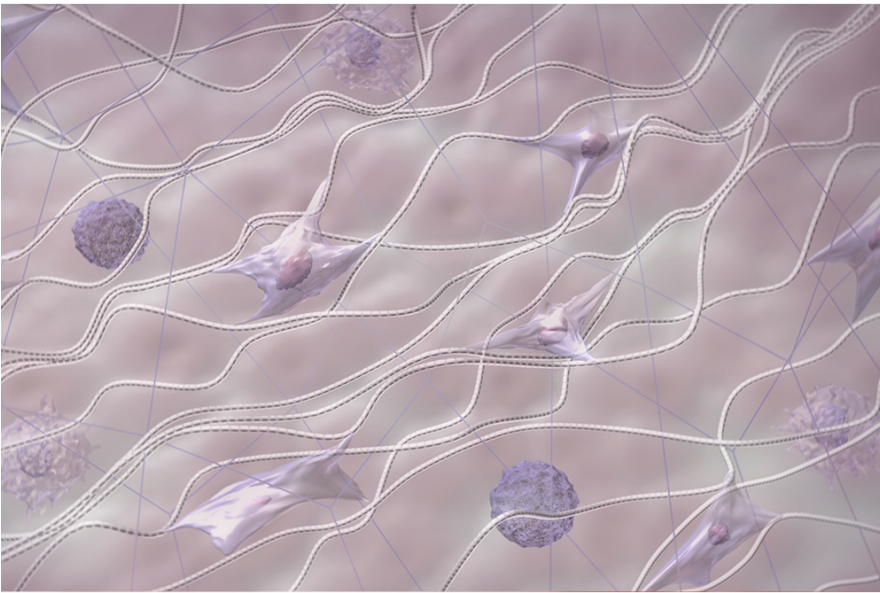




Scleroderma



Overview

This is a group of autoimmune diseases. They cause your body to make too much collagen. Collagen is a fibrous tissue found in your skin and other parts of your body. Scleroderma affects systems throughout your body. And for some people, it can lead to serious problems.

Causes

Why do people develop scleroderma? We don't fully understand this group of diseases. They may be caused by a problem with your genetics. They may be linked to an immune system issue. They may be triggered by something in the environment. And, there could be many factors involved.

Symptoms

What are the symptoms? There are several forms of scleroderma, and they can affect you differently. Scleroderma can cause shiny, hard, tight patches of skin. The skin may become so tight that it limits movement. You can have red spots and ulcers, too. Scleroderma that involves other body systems can lead to many other problems. It can affect your digestive system. It can affect your heart, lungs or kidneys. It can cause fatigue, hair loss and many other issues. Ask your doctor for a full list of symptoms.

Treatment

How do we treat scleroderma? Well, there is no cure. But we can manage many of the symptoms. Treatment options depend on the specific type you have, and the severity of your symptoms. Your doctor will create a plan that's right for you.