The RP Foundation's purpose is to facilitate awareness, education, and research to improve the quality of life for patients with relapsing polychondritis (RP) and advance a cure for this disease.

For more information visit:

Polychondritis.org

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What is Relapsing Polychondritis?
Relapsing polychondritis (RP) is a systemic inflammatory disease of unknown etiology that can be fatal. The disease affects multiple organs, particularly cartilaginous structures such as the ears, nose, larynx and joints as well as eyes, skin, vasculature, heart valves, and brain.

Diagnosing Relapsing Polychondritis
- Relapsing polychondritis (RP) is extremely difficult to diagnose.¹
- There are no available blood tests to make the diagnosis.
- The diagnosis is based on clinical symptoms and signs that suggest RP.
- If RP is not diagnosed early and treated effectively, there can be irreversible damage and long-term complications.²,³

Symptoms of RP are Variable and May Include:
- General malaise, low grade fever, loss of appetite
- Redness and pain on the eyes
- Inflammation, redness, swelling, and/or pain in outer (cartilaginous) portions of the ear.
- Sore throat, anterior neck pain, hoarseness
- Shortness of breath, wheezing, dry cough
- Hearing loss, tinnitus, dizziness
- Pain and redness on the nose
- Skin lesions
- Joint pain and swelling
- Rib pain, sternum pain

Possible Complications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>Tracheomalacia and bronchomalacia</th>
<th>Subglottic stenosis</th>
<th>Hearing loss</th>
<th>Blindness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ear and nose deformities</td>
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RP Study at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
The RP Foundation supports the multidisciplinary clinical research study at the NIH focusing the development of classification criteria for relapsing polychondritis led by Drs. Peter Gaynor and Marcela Ferreira, of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS).

If you would like to participate in a relapsing polychondritis study at the NIH and be considered for financial assistance (for patient-related travel) from the Friends of Patients at the NIH, please contact:

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