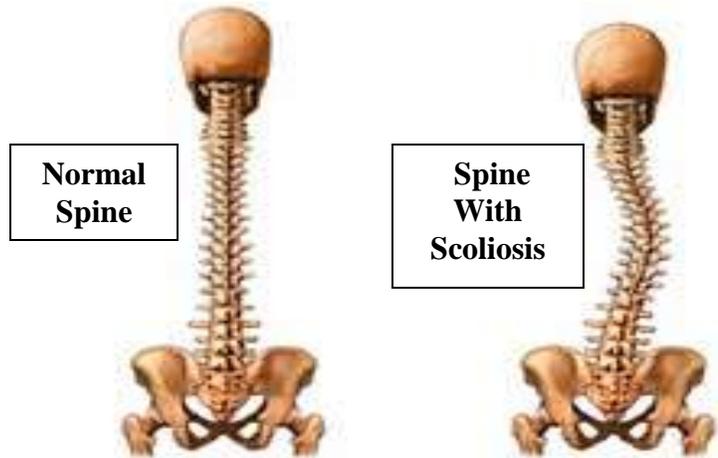


# What is Scoliosis?

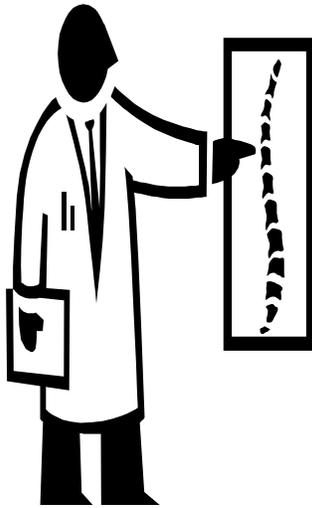
Scoliosis is pronounced:

Skö-lë-ö-sis: Is a lateral curvature of the spine. Normally the spine curves front and back. In scoliosis, the spine also abnormally bends from side to side.

Scoliosis can occur frequently in children. In the general population, one in ten persons has curvature of the spine.



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Children between the ages of 10 and 14 years of age should be screened for scoliosis every year. This disease process is usually detected in the child before or during the beginning of the teenage years. This is a time when growth is very active. Children may grow many inches in a single year. Scoliosis may have been present for several years but in a form so mild, it may not have been recognized.

A common sign of scoliosis is a high shoulder or high hip. The upper back may be more prominent on one side. One leg may appear shorter than the other. These symptoms are not always severe and may be easily hidden by the bad posture habits common to teenagers. Often, the first indication that something is wrong is an awareness that clothing doesn't fit properly. Hemlines may appear uneven or one pant leg may be longer than the other.

There is a tendency for scoliosis to run in families. When a case of scoliosis is diagnosed, it is advisable to also have the backs of brothers and sisters checked.

The **key** to scoliosis treatment is **early detection**. Scoliosis, if detected early, can save the family and patient surgery and its risks. This is why it is important to check our children for scoliosis. We have established hearing and eye screenings, and the scoliosis screening program has also been included. All of these screenings are designed for early detection of abnormalities in children during their active growth.

***Please help US to help YOUR child – Say YES to Scoliosis Screening!***