



I want to let you know about some important health information I recently learned that may also affect you as one of my relatives.

I've been diagnosed with a **heart condition called Brugada Syndrome (BrS)**. This puts me at an increased risk of developing a dangerous heart rhythm that could lead to sudden death if left untreated. **Fortunately, BrS is treatable.**

BrS is genetic and runs in families. This means that all my first-degree relatives (parents, siblings, children) have a 50% chance of also having BrS. Other family members (aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, grandchildren, etc.) may also have inherited this genetic condition. This means there's a chance that you're also affected.

Symptoms can include sudden fainting or sudden cardiac arrest, especially associated with fever. Other symptoms include seizures, unexplained nighttime urination, or strange breathing during sleep. The arrhythmia, as well as sudden death, commonly occurs during sleep.

My doctor has recommended that you be screened by an expert doctor, called an electrophysiologist. This will probably include having an EKG, stress test, and genetic testing. If you need help finding a heart rhythm specialist, please go to fiacardiac.org.

Even if you have never had a symptom, you can still have BrS and still need to be screened.

The good news is that BrS is totally treatable – sometimes with daily medicines or a device called an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD). If this condition is diagnosed and treated, individuals can live a normal life.

Genetic testing should be done as part of the screening for BrS. The cost of genetic testing is usually minimal now, or even free in some cases. Insurance providers generally cover most of the cost.

I am writing because I care about you and I want everyone in our family to know if they have BrS or not, and, if they do, to get the best treatment available.

The Foundation for Inherited Arrhythmias (FIA) is a patient advocacy and research organization. I have found the website very helpful and the community I have met through FIA to be very supportive. **Please call the FIA Support Line at (801) 948-0654** with any questions or to learn more about BrS.

I hope this information has helped, and please feel free to contact FIA with any questions.