

HLA-B27

Although the cause of [ankylosing spondylitis](#) is unknown, it is believed to involve a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

More than 90% of those affected have a specific [human leukocyte antigen](#) known as the [HLA-B27](#) antigen. The underlying mechanism is believed to be autoimmune or autoinflammatory.

but only 2% of people with HLA-B27 develop clinical AS.

[Reiter syndrome](#) (after Hans Reiter, a German bacteriologist): a reactive arthritis (usually 1–3 weeks following certain bacterial infections) with involvement of at least one other non-joint area (urethritis, uveitis/conjunctivitis, skin lesions, mucosal ulcerations...). 75% are [HLA-B27](#) positive

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