

BACKGROUNDER

ABOUT CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Cystic fibrosis (CF), is the most common, fatal, genetic disease affecting Canadian children and young adults.

It affects the lungs and the digestive system. In the digestive tract, CF blocks the absorption of adequate nutrients from food. In the lungs, the effects of the disease are most devastating; and with time, respiratory problems become increasingly severe. Ultimately, most CF deaths are due to lung disease.

It is estimated that one in every 3,600 children born in Canada has CF. Approximately 3,500 children, adolescents, and adults with cystic fibrosis attend specialized CF clinics.

As of 2002, the median age of survival of Canadians with cystic fibrosis is 37 years of age. The median age of survival is the age beyond which half of the CF population can be expected to live.

As yet, there is no known cure for CF. Since 1989 when Canadian researchers discovered the gene responsible for CF, global research to find a cure for the disease has brought us closer and closer to a solution.

Background information provided by the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

For more information please visit the website at: <http://www.cysticfibrosis.ca>