

# Genetics

## Type 2 diabetes

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Several gene variants have been associated with an increased susceptibility to type 2 diabetes. Variants within the TCF7L2 (transcription factor 7-like 2) gene show some of the largest effects to date. It is likely that additional gene variants for susceptibility to diabetes will be discovered.

**Bottom line.** Currently, genetic testing for type 2 diabetes susceptibility is not clinically available in Canada. Furthermore, it is not clear whether such test results would provide health benefits for patients with or without type 2 diabetes. In contrast, it is important to recognize rare, monogenic forms of diabetes, such as maturity-onset diabetes of the young; for those, genetic testing is clinically available and results can influence treatment and prognosis.

The complete *Gene Messenger—Type 2 Diabetes* by the GenetiKit research team is available on **CFPlus**.<sup>\*</sup> Past Gene Messenger articles can be accessed on-line at [www.cfp.ca](http://www.cfp.ca). On the home page, click on **Collections** in the left-hand menu, then click on **Genetics**.

#### Competing interests

None declared

The GenetiKit research team, a group of family physicians, genetic counselors and geneticists, designed the Gene Messenger series to provide practical information to help family physicians and their patients make informed choices about rapidly emerging genetic discoveries. The series is a collection of up-to-date, definitive, short reviews on genetics topics that have made headlines, and offers recommendations regarding referral for genetic services or testing.

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### GENE MESSENGER

For more information on genetics topics,  
 see [www.mtsinai.on.ca/FamMedGen/](http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/FamMedGen/)



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<sup>\*</sup>The Gene Messenger on type 2 diabetes is available at [www.cfp.ca](http://www.cfp.ca). Go to the full text of this article on-line, then click on CFPlus in the menu at the top right-hand side of the page.

# Dermacase



## Can you identify this condition?

C. Nicole Hawkins MD  
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A 21-year-old Brazilian woman presents with a 2-year history of nonpruritic, atrophic, violaceous-brown patches on her abdomen. She is otherwise healthy.

### The most likely diagnosis is

1. Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini
2. Bruising with underlying hematologic abnormality
3. Lichen sclerosus et atrophicus
4. Postinflammatory hyperpigmentation

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