



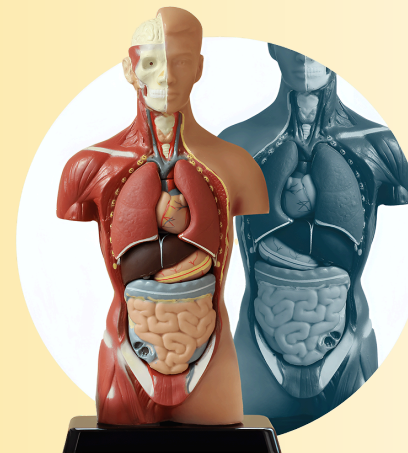
Situs Inversus: New Diagnosis Guide

What is Situs Inversus?

Situs Inversus (SI) is a rare congenital condition in which a person's internal organs are mirrored from their normal positions.

Key Facts:

- It occurs approximately in 1 in 10,000 people.
- Some individuals live without symptoms, while others may have complications related to their heart, lungs, digestive system, and spine.
- SI can be associated with Kartagener Syndrome or Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia, affecting respiratory function and fertility.



For example, in *situs inversus totalis*, the organs in the chest and abdomen are reversed.



Situs Foundation Inc.

SitusFoundation.org

✉ Situsfoundation@gmail.com



What causes Situs Inversus?

- Situs inversus is typically inherited as an autosomal recessive trait. This means that a changed gene from both of your biological parents were passed down to you. This occurs early during pregnancy. However, SI may also be pathological.

What does this mean for you?

- Most patients with SI lead normal, healthy lives. You may not experience any symptoms; however, it is beneficial for you to be aware of your condition, and notify any healthcare provider who treats you.

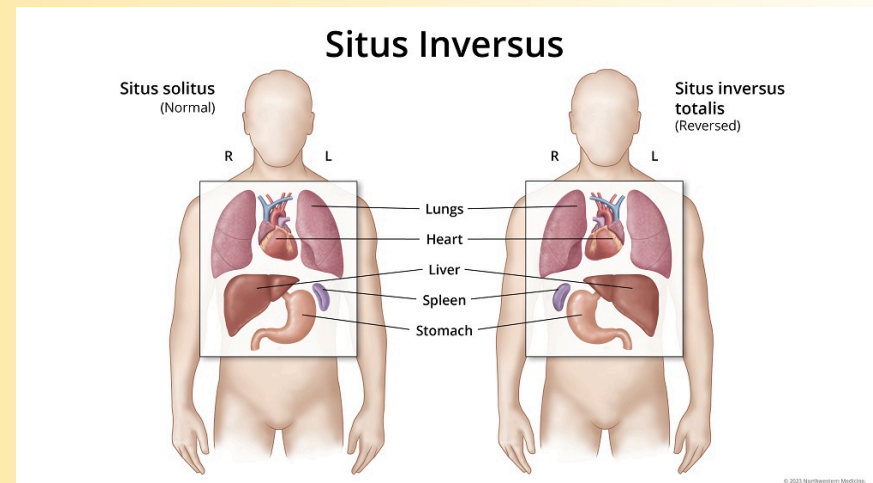
Are there complications?

- SI *can* cause complications with your heart (congenital heart defects), lungs, digestive system, and structural abnormalities with your spine.
- Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) with SI is known as Kartagener Syndrome, which is a rare genetic disorder. PCD affects the function of cilia (microscopic, hair-like structures on cells). Abnormalities with the cilia can cause patients with PCD to have issues removing fluid and particles, like mucus, from their respiratory tract. There can also be problem with ear infections and fertility. It is important to check with your healthcare provider if you have recurrent sinus infections, ear infections, chronic coughs with sputum, and infertility.

It is very important to inform all of your healthcare providers of your Situs Inversus diagnosis. This is the best way for your care team to help treat you.

Different types:

- Situs **inversus** (situs inversus totalis): the organs in your chest and abdomen are reversed.
- Situs **ambiguus**: some organs may be reversed, some are not.
- SI with **dextrocardia**: the tip of your heart (apex) is pointed to the right of your chest (instead of the left).
- SI with **levocardia**: your heart apex points to the left, but your other organs are mirrored.



How is Situs Inversus diagnosed?

- Chest X-ray, CT scan, MRI scan, abdominal ultrasound
- Some patients do not have symptoms, and SI can be discovered while assessing you for another reason.
- For example, a patient may see their healthcare provider for stomach discomfort, and diagnostic imaging will show that the organs are mirrored.



Things to consider:

- Diagnostic assessments will need to be flipped, or mirrored, depending on your condition.



For example, when having an EKG (a quick, non-invasive test that records the rate and rhythm of your heartbeat), your chest leads and all limb leads will be reversed.

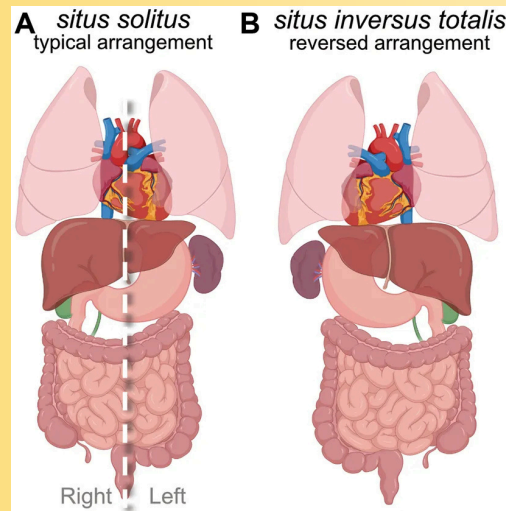
Situs Solitus: normal positioning of organs

- Organs on the **left** side: heart, left lung, stomach, spleen
- Organs on the **right** side: liver, right lung, gallbladder, appendix

Situs Inversus:

- Organs on the **left** side*: liver, right lung, gallbladder, appendix
- Organs on the **right** side*: heart, left lung, stomach, spleen

**This may differ, unique to your condition.*



What to ask your doctor?

- What organs are affected? Take note of your unique diagnosis, and keep that in mind if ever symptoms arise.



Questions I want to ask my doctor:

My Healthcare Team

Name	Specialty	Contact Info