

What is vasculitis?

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In news– Vasculitis, the auto-immune inflammation of blood vessels has recently affected Actor Ashton Kutcher and made him unable to see, hear.

About Vasculitis-

- **Vasculitis is simply an inflammation of blood vessels.** Inflammation is the **natural response of the body's immune system to any injury or infection**, which in normal course can help the body fight invading germs.
- However, **in vasculitis, the body's immune system turns on healthy blood vessels**, causing them to swell up and narrow down.
- **The trigger for vasculitis may be an infection or a drug**, although the precise reason is often uncertain or unknown.
- Vasculitis can be only a minor problem affecting the skin, or it can, like in the case of Kutcher, be a serious condition that impacts the heart, kidneys or other vital organs.
- **There are around 20 different disorders** that are **classified as vasculitis.**
- **Angiitis and Arteritis are used as synonyms for vasculitis**, literally meaning **"inflammation within blood vessels"** or **"inflammation in arteries."**
- **There are many different types of diseases that belong to this category.**
- **Some of the diseases associated with vasculitis are Behcet's Disease**, which is characterised by **oral and genital ulcers and eye inflammation**; Buerger's Disease, which mainly affects smokers and leads to decreased flow of blood to the hands and feet; and Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA), which is associated with asthma, sinusitis, and tends to involve

the lungs, kidneys, and heart as well.

- Steroids are frequently prescribed, as are some other medicines that reduce the activity of the immune system.