Benign symmetric lipomatosis (also known as Madelung's disease or Launois–Bensaude syndrome) is a rare disorder of unknown cause characterized by the growth of fatty tissue symmetrically around the neck, shoulders, upper arms and/or upper trunk. It most often affects men of Mediterranean area between the age of 30 and 70 who have a history of alcohol abuse, although non-alcoholics and women can also be affected. Usually, accumulation of fatty tissue increases progressively and often leads to a loss of neck mobility and pain. The fatty deposition can cause cosmetic deformity and in the majority of cases. The disease is benign; however, there have been cases in which lipomas have become cancerous.

The diagnosis of benign symmetric lipomatosis is made on the basis of the clinical history, physical examination and radiologic imaging. CT or MR imaging reveal diffuse and non-encapsulated fatty deposits in the subcutaneous tissues of the involved body regions, including neck, upper or lower limbs. Treatment may include alcohol abstinence, medications to correct associated metabolic conditions and surgery or liposuction to remove or reduce the lipomatosis.

References