What is Multiple Sclerosis (MS)?

An autoimmune, chronic and inflammatory condition that affects the central nervous system (CNS).

The most common type of MS is relapsing (RMS) which affects 85% of all patients.¹

There is currently no cure for MS, but it is possible to manage the symptoms with medications and other treatments.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of MS include:²³

- Fatigue
- Difficulty walking
- Incontinence
- Vision problems, such as blurred vision
- Muscle spasms
- Numbness or tingling in different parts of the body
- Problems with balance and coordination
- Difficulty swallowing
- Problems with thinking, learning and planning

Cause

B and T lymphocytes and cytokines have a central role in normal immune function and in the pathophysiology of MS.

The body’s immune system attacks myelin, disrupting the information flow along the nerves, and scarring the myelin sheath.

A combination of genetic and environmental factors may trigger the condition.²
About RRMS

Relapsing MS (RMS)

A relapse is defined by the appearance of new symptoms, or the return of old symptoms, for a period of 24 hours or more.

Relapses (symptom attacks) are followed by remissions (period of recovery) in RRMS.\(^6\)\(^7\)

How common is MS?

\(2.3\) million people suffer from MS WORLDWIDE\(^8\)

Incidence of MS is more than twice as high in women compared with men.

Most people are diagnosed in the prime of their life, between the ages of 20 & 40. Often meaning women of child-bearing age are affected.\(^4\)

How many people are diagnosed with MS? About 15% of those with MS also have a relative with MS.

Treatment

- Managing specific MS symptoms
- Treating acute relapses of MS symptoms with steroid medication
- Disease modifying drugs (DMDs) which reduce the number of relapses as well as reducing their severity

Although many treatments exist there is a need for an effective therapy without the risks associated with continuous immunosuppression and which reduces the need for frequent treatment switches.

Many current high-efficacy treatment options involve continuous suppression of the immune system, which can lead to side effects such as increased risk of infections and malignancy.\(^9\)\(^,\)\(^10\)

These can also involve a substantial treatment administration and monitoring burden (e.g. regular blood tests to check immune cell changes).

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