

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation's publications is to empower those affected by MS with the information necessary to make the most complete and educated decisions concerning their healthcare. We do not advocate nor endorse any specific treatments, healing modalities or practitioners. The material presented in this publication is for informational purposes only. For specific advice, consult a healthcare professional. MSF does believe that each person has the right to choose the treatments that are best for themselves, and therefore acts as a source of information, referrals to local resources, and as partners in problem solving.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation is to provide programs and support services to those persons affected by MS that help them maintain their health, safety, self-sufficiency, and personal well-being; and to heighten public awareness of multiple sclerosis in order to elicit financial support for the MSF's programs and services and promote understanding for those diagnosed with the illness.

Multiple Sclerosis Foundation

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The Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Inc. (MSF) offers information and/or referrals compiled from various authoritative sources, including professional opinion, published record and expert recommendation. MSF does not endorse any specific treatment regime. All information and/or referrals are offered solely for the purpose of helping those affected by MS make informed decisions about their healthcare options and does not represent therapeutic recommendation or prescription. Decisions regarding specific medications or treatments should involve consultation with your professional healthcare provider. © 2004



MS AT A GLANCE

An estimated 2,500,000 people around the world have MS.

There are four types of MS: relapsing-remitting, secondary progressive, primary progressive and progressive relapsing.

MS is not contagious.

MS does not significantly affect life span.

Diagnosis of MS is usually between 20 and 40 years of age.

Among young adults, MS is the most common disease of the central nervous system.

About 45 percent of people with MS are not severely affected by the disease.

About 40 percent of those diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS will become progressive after several years.

About 15 percent of those diagnosed with MS will become severely disabled.

The course of the disease is unpredictable and no two people will experience the same symptoms.

MS affects more women than men, with a ratio of 2 men to 3 women.

Fatigue is one of the most common symptoms of MS.

MS is not inherited or genetically transmitted, although there does seem to be some genetic susceptibility to the disease.

In countries further from the equator, the incidence of MS increases.

MS is a progressive disease for which there is not yet a cure.

Increased understanding of MS has led to the development of many new treatments that target both the disease process and its many symptoms.