

# Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

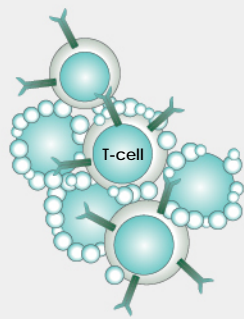
## WHAT IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?

- Multiple Sclerosis is thought to be an autoimmune disease of the central nervous system (CNS)
- The CNS is made up of the brain, spinal cord and the optic nerves
- According to research, MS occurs when certain types of lymphocytes, white blood cells, get confused and attack the protective sheath (called myelin) that surrounds the nerve fibers in the brain

When the myelin is attacked it causes disruptions in transmissions from the brain to the body, which can result in many different problems, including blurred or loss of vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness and tingling, extreme fatigue, diminished mobility of the arms or legs, problems with memory and concentration, and bladder and bowel dysfunction.



In **MS**, **T** and **B lymphocytes**, types of immune cells, become **over stimulated** and attack the **myelin** found in the central nervous system.



### There are four different types of MS:

- Relapsing-remitting
- Primary-progressive
- Secondary-progressive
- Progressive-relapsing

# 85%

Approximately 85 percent of people living with MS have an initial diagnosis of relapsing-remitting MS

## WHAT IS THE PREVALENCE OF MS?

EVERY HOUR



someone is newly diagnosed with MS

NEARLY



# 400,000

Americans have MS

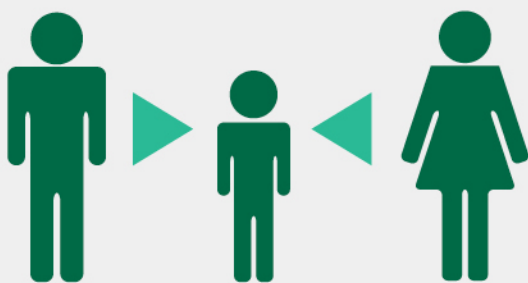
APPROXIMATELY

# 2.1 million

People **worldwide** live with MS

## WHO IS AT RISK FOR MS?

The risk of developing MS rises to **1/40** in anyone who has a **close relative** (parent, sibling, child) with the disease.



Most people are diagnosed with relapsing MS in their 20s & 30s.

MS is more common in Caucasians, but may also occur in **all ethnic groups**.

MS is more common at **northern latitudes** that are farther from the equator.



## CAUSES



While the exact cause of MS is still unknown, some experts believe MS is the result of a genetic abnormality in combination with either a virus or environmental factor a person was exposed to.

## IS MS TREATABLE?



While there is currently no cure for MS, there are treatments available to modify the disease by reducing the frequency of MS exacerbations and in some cases slowing the progression of physical disability. Continued research in the field of MS seeks to develop safe and effective treatments that are accessible to everyone living with MS.