



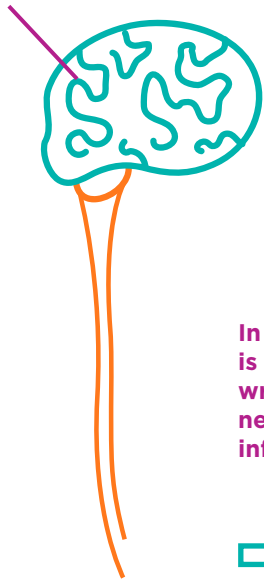
WHAT IS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease. This condition arises because of a response of the immune system against the central nervous system.

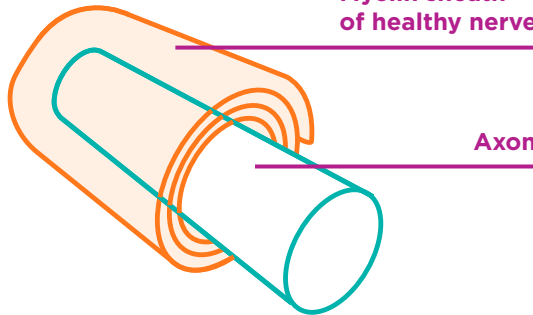
What Causes Multiple Sclerosis?

Currently, the cause of multiple sclerosis is unknown, though it is believed to be a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

Central nervous system
(brain and spinal cord)

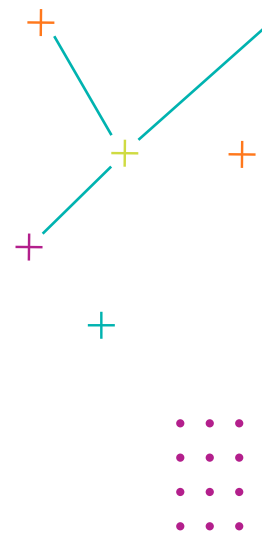


Myelin sheath
of healthy nerve



Axon

In MS, the myelin sheath, which is a protective membrane that wraps around the axon of a nerve cell, is destroyed with inflammation and scarring.



*Source: Medline Plus

Our body is controlled by the central nervous system. This system controls everything we do, such as breathing, walking or feeling. It is made up of the nerves, the brain, and the spinal cord. The nerves are responsible for transmitting the messages from the brain to other parts of the body.

According to the [US National Library of Medicine](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000737.htm), MS affects women more than men. The disorder is most often diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, but can be seen at any age. The nerves are covered by a substance called myelin. When a person has multiple sclerosis, their defense system attacks and destroys the myelin. If the nerves lose myelin, the message from the brain does not reach the rest of the body's organs. In turn, the organs also do not communicate with the brain.