**Types of Paralysis**

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Paralysis is when you can’t move certain parts of your body after something goes wrong with their connection to [your brain](https://www.webmd.com/brain/picture-of-the-brain). It comes in many different forms and can be temporary or permanent or even come and go.

Someone who is paralyzed because of a birth defect or sudden injury often can’t feel or move anything at all in their affected body parts. Someone paralyzed by a medical condition, like [multiple sclerosis](https://www.webmd.com/multiple-sclerosis/default.htm) (MS), might feel tingling or muscle weakness.

Paralysis can cause problems with [blood](https://www.webmd.com/heart/anatomy-picture-of-blood) flow, [breathing](https://www.webmd.com/lung/how-we-breathe), how well your organs work, speaking or swallowing, sexual responses, or controlling the urge to go to the bathroom, depending on where you’re paralyzed and how bad it is.

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**Complete paralysis**is when you can’t move or control your paralyzed muscles at all. You also may not be able to feel anything in those muscles.

**Partial or incomplete paralysis**is when you still have some feeling in, and possibly control over, your paralyzed muscles. This is sometimes called **paresis**.

**Localized paralysis** affects just one specific area, like your face, hands, [feet](https://www.webmd.com/pain-management/picture-of-the-feet), or vocal cords.

**Generalized paralysis**is more widespread in your body and is grouped by how much of your body is affected. The type usually depends on where your brain or spinal cord is injured.

* **Monoplegia** is a kind of generalized paralysis that affects just one limb.
* **Diplegia**affects the same area on both sides, like both arms, both legs, or both sides of your face.
* **Hemiplegia**affects just one side of your body and is usually caused by a [stroke](https://www.webmd.com/stroke/default.htm), which damages one side of your brain.
* **Quadriplegia** (or **tetraplegia**) is when all four limbs are paralyzed, sometimes along with certain organs.
* **Paraplegia**is paralysis from the waist down.
* **Locked-in syndrome**is the rarest and most severe form of paralysis, where a person loses control of all their muscles except the ones that control their [eye](https://www.webmd.com/eye-health/picture-of-the-eyes) movements.