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Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Also called: Acute idiopathic polyneuritis, Acute inflammatory polyneuropathy, Infectious polyneuritis, Landry-Guillain-Barre syndrome

Guillain-Barre syndrome is a rare disorder that causes your immune system to attack your peripheral nervous system (PNS). The PNS nerves connect your brain and spinal cord with the rest of your body. Damage to these nerves makes it hard for them to transmit signals. As a result, your muscles have trouble responding to your brain. No one knows what causes the syndrome. Sometimes it is triggered by an infection, surgery, or a vaccination.

The first symptom is usually weakness or a tingling feeling in your legs. The feeling can spread to your upper body. In severe cases, you become almost paralyzed. This is life-threatening. You might need a respirator to breathe. Symptoms usually worsen over a period of weeks and then stabilize.

Guillain-Barre can be hard to diagnose. Possible tests include nerve tests and a spinal tap. Most people recover. Recovery can take a few weeks to a few years. Treatment can help symptoms, and may include medicines or a procedure called plasma exchange.

NIH: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Start Here

- Guillain-Barre Syndrome [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/guillain-barre-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20362793?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/guillain-barre-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20362793?p=1>]
- Guillain-Barré Syndrome [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/guillain-barre-syndrome>]
 (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Analysis [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/cerebrospinal-fluid-csf-analysis/>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/analisis-del-liquido-cefalorraquideo/>]

Related Issues

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and Vaccines [<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/guillain-barre.html>]

Specifics

- Miller Fisher Syndrome [<https://www.gbs-cidp.org/miller-fisher-syndrome-2/>] (GBS/CIDP Foundation International)

Genetics

- Guillain-Barré syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/guillain-barre-syndrome>]
 (National Library of Medicine)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Guillain-Barre Syndrome [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Guillain-Barre+Syndrome%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: An auxiliary diagnostic strategy for distinguishing Guillain-Barré syndrome and chronic inflammatory... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40739619>]
- Article: Genetic variation of low-to-medium-affinity Fc-gamma receptors in Guillain-Barré syndrome. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40593358>]
- Article: Cerebrospinal Fluid Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor and Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinase 1... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40553062>]
- Guillain-Barre Syndrome -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Guillain-Barre+Syndrome%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- Autoimmune Association [<https://autoimmune.org/>]
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Children with GBS [<https://www.gbs-cidp.org/gbs/children-gbs/>]  (GBS/CIDP Foundation International)

Patient Handouts

- Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) collection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003428.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003428.htm>]
- Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000777.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000777.htm>]
- Guillain-Barre syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000684.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000684.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) collection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003428.htm>]

Chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000777.htm>]

Guillain-Barre syndrome [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000684.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Autoimmune Diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/autoimmunediseases.html>]

Paralysis [<https://medlineplus.gov/paralysis.html>]

Peripheral Nerve Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/peripheralnervedisorders.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Guillain-Barre Syndrome* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>]

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