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copy excerpt

Psychiatric Comorbidity in Multiple Sclerosis

If you've been diagnosed with the mysterious Multiple Sclerosis (MS), you're likely confused and not sure what you're going to do next. MS is a degenerative autoimmune disease in which the body damages the brain and spinal cord, and may leave you with some annoying or even disabling symptoms. You may have some symptoms, like:

- Muscular/motor symptoms
- Blurred vision and other ocular issues (including double vision and sudden loss of vision)
- Tingling or "needles-and-pins" sensations, tightness or electrical sensations

As MS progresses, your symptoms may include:

- Stiffness, muscle pain and shaking
- Pain
- Bladder issues, including incontinence
- Constipation
- Sexual dysfunction
- Cognitive/emotional problems
- Fatigue

A diagnosis of MS can be emotionally overwhelming, but we can help you work through it.

Most healthcare systems are designed to handle and manage a single condition. But if you have MS and other conditions like depression or anxiety, you may find that proper care is fragmented. Medical education and research frequently do not take additional conditions into consideration, adding to the burden of finding and receiving proper care for conditions accompanying MS.

You are three times more likely to develop anxiety and depression. Depression may occur because of the process itself, when the myelin sheath wears off the spinal nerves and brain, or from the diagnosis and symptoms itself. MS patients have a high rate of missed diagnoses, and their depression tends to be under-diagnosed and under-treated.

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