

# February 2021 Newsletter



## Could this be caused by MS, too?

People with MS commonly experience symptoms such as fatigue, numbness and tingling, muscle spasms, walking difficulties, bladder and bowel difficulties, vision problems and cognitive changes. There are a number of other MS symptoms that don't occur as often.



**1. Could you repeat that?** - Approximately 25 to 40 percent of people with MS have problems with their speech, particularly later in the disease course or when they are fatigued.

**2. Go down the “wrong pipe?”** Dysphagia, or difficulty swallowing, is sometimes observed in individuals with MS. While more frequent in advanced disease, it can occur at any time.



**3. Feeling shaky?** - Tremor may happen in different parts of the body due to nerve damage along the pathways that are responsible for coordination of movement.

**4. Seizures** are possible, but rare, in MS. They are the result of abnormal electrical discharges in an injured or scarred area of the brain.



**5. Can't Catch Your Breath?** Just as a person can experience muscle weakness in the arms or legs, weakness can occur in the muscles of the chest and abdomen that are involved in breathing, resulting in an individual having to work harder to inhale and exhale.

**6. Scratching a lot?** Itching in MS is neurologically based and does not typically respond to topical treatments like those used in allergic reactions.



**7. Headaches** can occur due to MS. Treatments include medications, physical therapy and lifestyle changes.

**8. Pardon me?** Approximately 6 percent of people with MS experience hearing loss due to damage to the related nerve pathways in the brain and the brainstem.



**9. Taste Like Cardboard?** Nerve damage anywhere along the pathway from the mouth to the brain can affect one's ability to taste.