

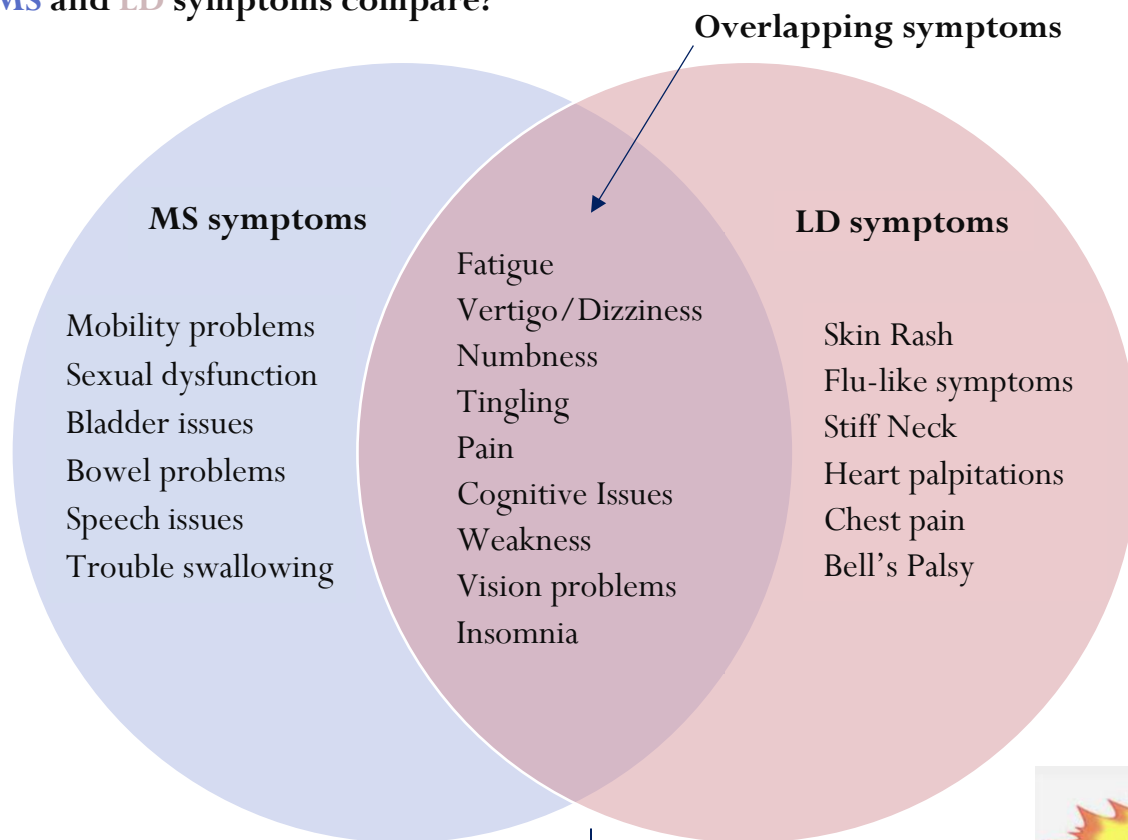


MS and Lyme Disease – What's the difference?

Lyme disease (LD) is a tick-borne illness that may present itself like MS, but there are distinct differences between the two conditions. LD is an infection and MS is an autoimmune disease. LD symptoms can come and go and it occasionally produces abnormalities on brain scans and other diagnostic tests that are similar to those seen in MS. A [recent study](#) shows individuals with LD are often misdiagnosed with MS.



How do MS and LD symptoms compare?



LD is diagnosed with a [blood test](#). Distinguishing between MS and LD is very important because LD usually responds to antibiotic therapy, whereas MS does not. Anyone experiencing Lyme symptoms should seek medical advice right away. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to achieving the best outcomes.



Are you curious how MRI works? Wondering if these scans always explain a person's symptoms? [Part 2](#) of our series on diagnostic tools in MS covers the basics of magnetic resonance imaging. It sheds light on these and many other interesting questions!