



## What is Late-Onset MS?

MS doesn't discriminate when it comes to age. According to the National MS Society, most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, however it can present outside of this age bracket. In rare cases, MS is diagnosed in childhood or later in life. When the onset of disease occurs at 50 years or older, it is called **late onset MS (LOMS)**.

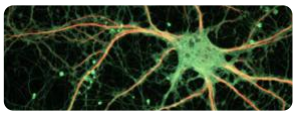


### SYMPTOMS



#### Symptoms and Prevalence

- According to a [recent review](#), LOMS occurs in approximately 5% of people with MS.
- Its first symptom is usually motor dysfunction and it occurs more often in women than men.



#### Progression

- There is [evidence](#) that MS progresses faster when it develops later in life.
- An aggressive disease course is more likely in males and those with spinal cord lesions.



#### Outcome

- According to a [2006 study](#), LOMS isn't necessarily associated with a worse outcome.
- Results suggest disease course affects one's prognosis much more than a later age of onset.



#### Causes

- LOMS and regular MS likely share the same causes. More research is needed to pinpoint them.
- There is [no significant difference](#) in the hereditary risk for early-onset MS and LOMS.



#### The Influence of Normal Aging

- There is [evidence](#) that increased age makes it more difficult to recover from MS relapses.
- Other illnesses are more likely as one ages. Their treatments may interact with MS treatments.



#### Treatment

- Treatment of LOMS includes the same approaches as adult-onset MS.
- More research is needed into the effectiveness of MS treatments in older people with MS.

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