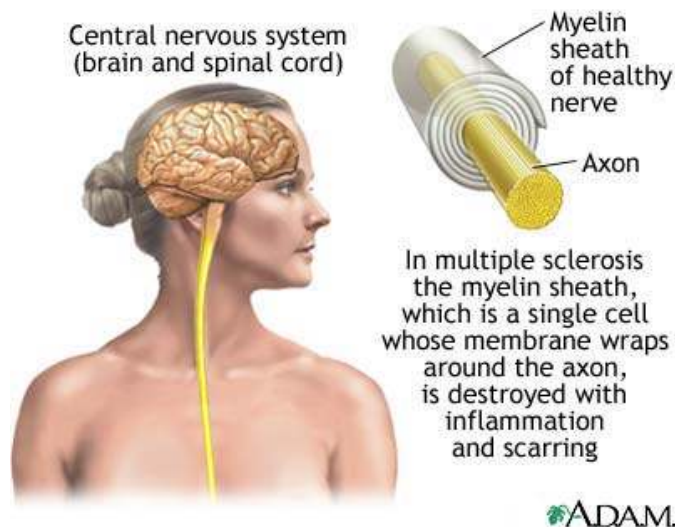


Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Fact Sheet

MS:

- is a chronic, progressive, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system (brain, spinal cord and optic nerves), causing damage to the myelin and nerve fibers themselves, interfering with the transmission of nerve signals between the brain, spinal cord and other body parts
 - is a thought to be an autoimmune disease whose cause is unknown
 - affects more than 2.5 million people worldwide
 - is significantly more common (at least 2-3 times) in women than men
 - is usually diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50
 - is more common in areas that are farther from the equator
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Potential Deficit Areas:

- The progress, severity and specific symptoms are unpredictable and vary from one person to another
 - The deficit areas are often intermittent and can change or fluctuate over time
 - Fatigue
 - Numbness, pain and spasticity
 - Walking, balance and coordination problems
 - Dizziness and vertigo
 - Vision problems
 - Cognitive function changes
 - Emotional changes
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Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Fact Sheet

Impact on Driving/Transportation:

- People with MS are often intolerant of high temperatures and need to conserve their energy
 - Air conditioning important
 - Individuals who are considering transfer seats and lifts to stow their wheelchair or scooter should try this equipment multiple times to ensure that they have the physical ability to use it independently. Remember that very time a person makes a trip, it requires 4 transfers to/from their vehicle.
 - A person in the early stages of the disease should still be able to continue to drive with adaptive driving equipment; however, planning for future decreases in strength and function is necessary.
 - Prior to driving with adaptive equipment, the person will need a driving evaluation (www.aded.net).
 - A modified vehicle, most often a lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift, may be needed for long-term transportation needs.
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Possible Vehicle Equipment Needs:

- Transfer seat
- Wheelchair or scooter transfer lift
- Lowered floor minivan or full size van with a lift
- Adaptive driving equipment specifically recommended for their individual physical abilities and custom fit by a certified technician

ABOUT RIDE-AWAY:

Ride-Away is America's largest provider of modified vehicles and adaptive equipment for people with disabilities. Ride-Away products are used by individuals with minor to profound disabilities requiring additional assistance while traveling and range from hand controls and lifts to raised door and lowered floor vehicle modifications. Founded in 1986, Ride-Away's 11 East Coast locations are committed to offering a broad selection of specialized vehicles and services to meet the needs of every customer. All of Ride-Away's locations are also QAP (Quality Assurance Program) certified through the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA), resulting in Ride-Away being held to the highest standards in the industry. For more information, call (888)-RIDE-AWAY or visit our website at www.Ride-Away.com.