

# MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

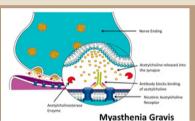
MYASTHENIA GRAVIS IS AN AUTOIMMUNE, CHRONIC NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE THAT CAUSES WEAKNESS IN CERTAIN MUSCLES IN THE BODY, DOCTORS DETECT MYASTHENIA GRAVIS THROUGH BLOOD TESTS, IMAGING TESTS (CT, MRI, ETC.), AND ELECTRICAL TESTS OF NERVES AND MUSCLES. MOST INDIVIDUALS WITH MYASTHENIA GRAVIS HAVE CHANGES IN THE THYMUS GLAND, SUCH AS A TUMOR, BUT SOME MAY HAVE MYASTHENIA GRAVIS BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT CONDITIONS.

# SYMPTOMS

THE MAIN SYMPTOM ASSOCIATED WITH MYASTHENIA GRAVIS IS MUSCLE WEAKNESS, WHICH CAN BE PERIODIC DURING THE DAY AND WORSEN AS THE DAY PROGRESSES. THIS CAN LEAD TO ADDITIONAL SYMPTOMS LIKE:

- DROOPY EYELIDS (DIPLOPIA)
- . DOUBLE OF BLURRY VISION
- DIFFICULTY CHEWING FOODS
- · DIFFICULTY SWALLOWING(DYSPHAGIA)
- · DIFFICULTY TALKING
- LACK OF FACIAL EXPRESSION HEAVY OR DROOPY HEAD
- DIFFICULTY BREATHING





### CAUSE

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS OCCURS WHEN THE USUAL ANTIBODIES PRODUCED BY THE BODY BECOME SPECIFICALLY ENCODED TO ATTACK THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE NERVES AND MUSCLES AT THE NERUROMUSCULAR JUNCTION

## TYPES

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF MYASTHENIA GRAVIS:

- GENERALIZED SYMPTOMS OFTEN BEGIN AT THE EYE, AND SPREAD TO OTHER MUSCLES
- OCULAR WEAKNESS IN AND AROUND THE EYELIDS AND EYES





# TREATMENT

- PYRIDOSTIGMINE TREATS MUSCLE WEAKNESS PREDNISONE & AZATHIOPRINE- TREATS IMMUNE SYSTEM OVER TIME
- PLASMAPHERESIS (PLASMA EXCHANGE) PUMPS BLOOD FROM THE BODY AND REMOVES SUBSTANCES FROM THE BLOOD THAT ARE ATTACKING THE NERVES AND MUSCLES
- INTRAVENOUS IMMUNE GLOBULIN (IVIG) AFFECTS THE FUNCTION OR THE PRODUCTION OF ANTIBODIES IN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM.
- THYMUS GLAND REMOVAL HELPS TO IMPROVE WEAKNESS CAUSED BY MYASTHENIA GRAVIS AND REMOVE ANY TUMORS.