

Myasthenia Gravis

Myasthenia Gravis (MG) is a neuromuscular autoimmune disease that causes weakness and rapid fatigue of muscles that you control voluntarily.

An autoimmune disease is one where the body's immune system appears to attack healthy tissue and produces antibodies, in the case of MG, they block or destroy communication between the nerves and the muscles.

MG produces symptoms of muscle weakness such as drooping eyelids, double vision, difficulty swallowing, slurred speech, weakness of facial expressions or difficulty holding head up. Difficulty in using arms or hand and even difficulties walking. Muscle weakness will increase with fatigue.

Symptoms may vary in the way it affects people and different people will have difficulties with different muscle groups. MG can affect any age, but is more common in women under 40 and men older than 60.

Severity and course of MG may vary but in most cases the disease is progressive

Dr Pascoe will look at your clinical history and determine if further investigations such as blood test, nerve conduction studies are needed to confirm the diagnosis and cause of MG.

Treatment will depend on the cause of MG and Dr Pascoe will explain the treatment most appropriate for you. With drug treatment, most MG patients live a near normal life.

<http://www.myasthenia.org.au>