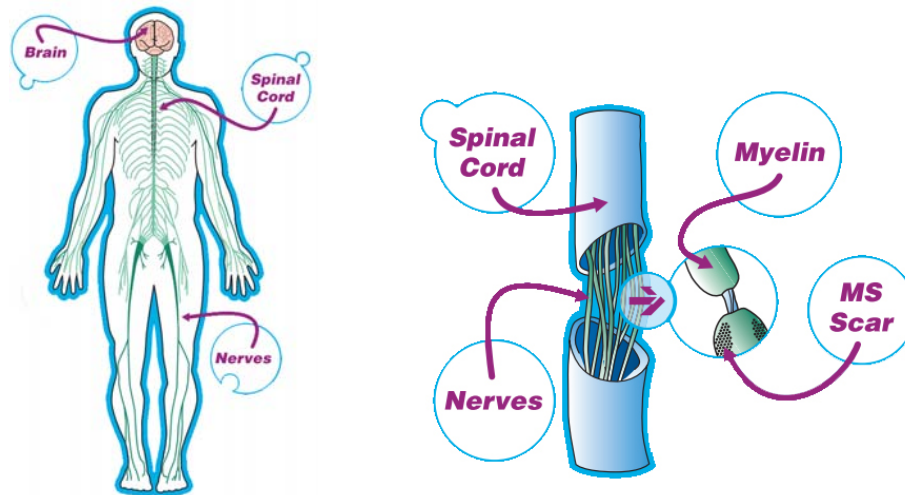


Multiple sclerosis (MS) affects the brain and spinal cord, which is called the Central Nervous System. Your brain sends messages to your body telling it what to do, just like a computer. Messages travel from the brain down the spinal cord and nerves to all the different parts of your body. In people who have MS, the messages get interrupted by small scars on the myelin, which coats the nerve fibres.



This means that the messages don't get through properly or may even go to the wrong area. This means that normal, everyday things like putting on your shoes, making a sandwich, or even reading the newspaper, can be much harder for people who have MS.

Fast Facts on MS

- 3 times as many women as men get MS
- The average age of diagnosis is just 30
- There are an estimated 18,000 people living with MS in Australia
- Symptoms can include: losing balance, feeling pins and needles, feeling very tired, having weak arms and legs, and having trouble seeing.
- Symptoms are different for each person and can come and go.
- You cannot catch MS
- We do not know what causes MS and there is no known cure
- Australians living with MS spend about 20% of their income on their health care costs
- Doctors and scientists are investigating the causes and treatments for MS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 1800 CURE MS (1800 287 367)
or visit www.msaustralia.org.au**