



# Multiple System Atrophy (MSA)

## What is MSA?

Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a progressive neurological disease that causes nerve cells to shrink in different areas of the brain. This leads to severe problems with movement, speech, balance and autonomic body functions such as bladder and blood pressure control.

It occurs randomly in adult men and women, the average starting age is 50-60, but it can start earlier or later.

MSA is a rare neurological disease that affects around

**5 people** in every  
**100,000**

meaning approximately 3,300 people have it in the UK and Eire.

## How is MSA Diagnosed?

Diagnosis of MSA relies on clinical judgement and depends upon a specialist recognising a combination of symptoms and signs.

It is quite common to be diagnosed with another condition before being diagnosed with MSA, this reflects the progress of the condition and not the skill of the specialist.

## Treatment of MSA

Treatment is geared towards managing symptoms and progression and may involve many different professionals and family carers. As yet there is no cure for MSA.

The MSA Trust is the UK and Eire's leading charity supporting people with MSA. We have over

**6,000**

members including people with MSA, carers, families, friends and health professionals.






**MSA Trust**  
20th ANNIVERSARY

**£1,000,000**  
and counting, to fund  
**vital research**  
to find the  
cause and  
cure for MSA.



## Our vision is a world free of MSA

We work to support all those affected by MSA. We do this by providing:

The MSA Trust supports people with MSA. We have



**4 MSA Nurse Specialists,  
36 Support Groups**

and we fund vital research to find the cause and cure for MSA.



- An MSA Nurse Specialist telephone and email support service
- A network of local Support Groups around the UK and Eire
- Supportive online forums
- Accurate up-to-date information through 'MSA News', our regular magazine, and our website
- Education and support for health and care professionals working with people with MSA.

We **rely entirely** on voluntary donations. So please support us.

**Donate online at [www.msatrust.org.uk](http://www.msatrust.org.uk)**



**To find out more**

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