



What are the different types of multiple sclerosis?

Relapsing-remitting

This is the most common type of MS—approximately 85% of people are initially diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS. Symptoms flare up for a period of time then go away. Most people make a full or partial recovery at the end of symptom flares. During symptom-free times, any related disability does not worsen.

Secondary-progressive

After experiencing relatively stable levels of disability between symptom flares, many people with relapsing-remitting MS may develop secondary-progressive MS and start to see their symptoms and in-between periods worsen. Individuals with this type of MS may experience more debilitating symptom flares. They may not recover from these flares, or their disability may get worse even when they're not flaring.

Primary-progressive

A small percentage of people with MS—approximately 10-15%—have primary-progressive MS. They feel their symptoms worsen over time from the very beginning, usually in the absence of flares.

SOURCE: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
