



The Facts About Fatigue

by NEWLIFEOUTLOOK TEAM

Understanding the Fatigue MS Brings

There are a few types of fatigue associated with MS. If your MS symptoms are disrupting your sleep at night, or if your daily activities require a lot of effort due to your reduced mobility, you may be fatigued because of these things.

However, there is also another kind of fatigue that affects MS patients, which is not related to the amount of sleep you get or your level of activity or stress.

Not all treatments for regular fatigue will work for this type of fatigue, which can strike even after a good night's sleep. But there are steps you can take to mitigate it, including keeping cool, resting regularly and dealing with stress.

Read our MS fatigue infographic below for more tips on coping with fatigue.

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THE FACTS ABOUT FATIGUE



Some Conditions with fatigue as a symptom

Medications	Fibromyalgia
Pain	Lupus
Sleep Disorders	Multiple Sclerosis
Substance Abuse	Anemia
Anorexia	Asthma
Arthritis	Depression
Cancer	Parkinson's Disease
Diabetes	COPD
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	



With Fatigue You May Feel

Tired Weak Exhausted Weary	Worn-Out Heavy Slow Lethargic
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What is Fatigue?

Fatigue is:
Lack of Motivation
Lack of Energy
Wearing Out Easily
Real

Fatigue isn't:[®]
Lack of Passion
Laziness
Just Being Tired
Fake or Imagined

Fatigue Can Affect:

• Your mood	• Cognitive performance
• Physical function	• School work
• Work performance	• Community activities
• Social interaction	• Sense of self
• Family care	• Your appetite




Measuring Fatigue

The **Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS)** is a self-reported questionnaire used to measure your fatigue. It consists of ...

NINE Questions, each rated on a scale of 1-7

To score the **Fatigue Severity Scale** either add all items together (this will range from 9-63) or find the mean by adding your items together and dividing by 9 (this will range from 1-9).

In either case, the **higher the number** you calculate is, the **more fatigued** you are.

Tips for Reducing Fatigue

- Quantity & Quality of Sleep**
 - ✓ Have a regular bed time and wake up time
 - ✓ Use your bed just for sleeping
 - ✓ Do quiet activities if you're not sleepy
 - ✓ Room should be dark and quiet
- Proper Nutrition**
 - ✓ Get daily value of vitamin and minerals
 - ✓ Find out about proper nutrition at choosemyplate.gov
 - ✓ Contact your doctor or a nutritionist/dietitian so you can get the most out of what you eat
- Regular Exercise**
 - ✓ Choose an enjoyable exercise
 - ✓ Do what you can and then try doing a little bit more each day
 - ✓ Try tai chi and yoga to combine stretching, breathing, and calming exercises
- Relaxation**
 - ✓ Avoid stress or stressful situations
 - ✓ Do what you find relaxing: read a book, do yoga, sit outside, listen to music, etc.
- Balance Work and Personal Life**
 - ✓ Spend your time off work with family, friends, or doing preferred activities
 - ✓ Limit the amount of work you bring home with you
- Avoid Drug Use**
 - ✓ Avoid stimulants including: coffee, nicotine, methamphetamines, cocaine
 - ✓ Avoid sedatives

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http://www.cancer.gov/publications/specialists/2009/09/09_fatigue_patient_guidance.pdf
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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2599974/pdf/>

Resources:

1. Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety
<http://www.ccohs.ca/>
2. National Cancer Institute
<http://www.nccih.nih.gov/>
3. National Library of Medicine
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>
4. National Parkinson Foundation
<http://www.parkinson.org/>
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