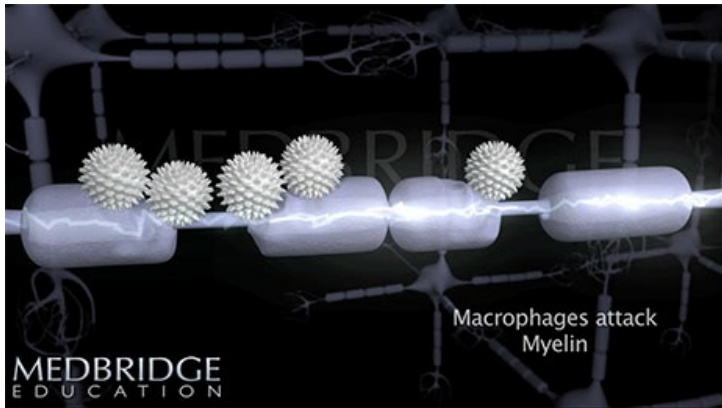
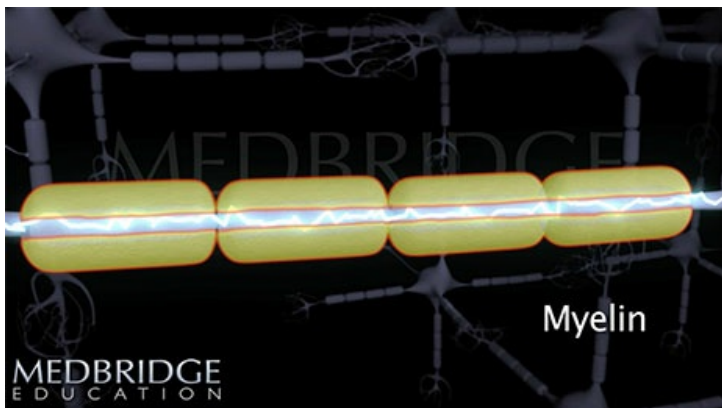


UNDERSTANDING YOUR CONDITION: **Multiple Sclerosis**



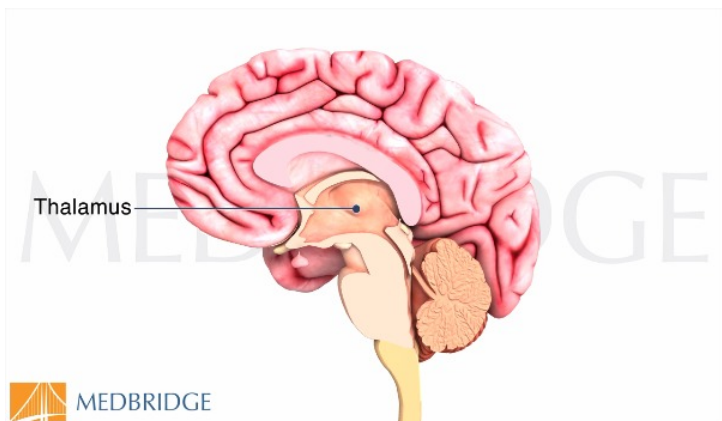
Multiple sclerosis, also known as MS, is a disease that affects nerves in your body. Your body has a central nervous system in the brain and spinal cord. The nervous system communicates through nerve signals that travel throughout the body. Your nerves are covered in a protective substance called myelin. If this protective nerve covering is injured, communication between your brain and your body is affected.



Nerve: Myelin

The exact cause of multiple sclerosis is unknown. It is thought that factors in the environment, such as how much sunlight you are exposed to, can cause MS. Genetic or family history may play a part, and your body's immune function may also be a cause of MS.

Symptoms in people with MS varies widely. Most of the time, the ability to move around becomes difficult. Fatigue, difficulty with vision, changes in bowel and bladder function, and numbness are also common. Feelings of tingling or numbness in different parts of the body often happens with MS.



Inside of Brain: Thalamus

Therapists work with patients who have MS to improve balance and decrease discomfort in muscles and joints. Physical therapists trained in bowel and bladder rehabilitation can also help you learn to manage any change these body functions.