



“Since my diagnosis, I have been seen by assorted medical practitioners and I have been asking questions and grasping for any information that I could get my hands on. You spent more time with me and extended yourself more than many of the specialists I have seen and I am so grateful to you.”

—Pat M.

You Can Make a Difference!

Each year we listen to hundreds of MG patients by phone or support group. We fund MG research in hope of a cure. We send patient packets to scores of individuals and neurologist offices, and reach over 100 people through patient seminars. We advocate and inform.

It is our goal to be the **best resource possible** for every person who reaches out to us. But we need your help to make this happen. Visit www.myastheniagravis.org to donate online, or mail your donation to our office.

Conquer Myasthenia Gravis is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Conquer MG Patient Assistance Program

Our Patient Assistance Program helps cover the cost of medical bills and prescription drugs (up to \$1,000*) for MG patients in financial need who reside in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Call our office for details.

*To the extent funds are available






Our Mission

To facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis through programs of patient services, public awareness, medical research, professional education, advocacy, and patient care.

Conquer Myasthenia Gravis

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“I can’t thank you enough for all you do for the people with MG.”

—Edwin Q.



Serving people diagnosed with myasthenia gravis (MG), and their families and friends—both locally and beyond.

What is Myasthenia Gravis?

Myasthenia gravis is a highly misdiagnosed and often undiagnosed autoimmune disease in which communication between nerve and muscle is impaired, causing muscle weakness. It is a rare disease, which is one reason it can take several years and multiple visits with different doctors before a person receives an accurate diagnosis and can begin effective treatment.

Symptoms can change from day to day—even hour to hour—sometimes making MG difficult to diagnose. MG affects each person so differently, it sometimes is called “the snowflake disease.”

What are the symptoms?

The name myasthenia gravis means “grave muscle weakness.” Its symptoms can be erratic, vary in severity, and occur in any combination. They include:

- Droopy eyelid(s) and/or double or blurred vision
- Difficulty chewing, smiling, swallowing, talking
- Weak arms, hands, neck, face, or legs
- Extreme or undue fatigue
- Difficulty with balance
- Difficult breathing or shallow respiration

Who gets this disease?

MG can strike anyone of any race or age. It is estimated that per 100,000 people, there are 20 with MG. The disease is not inherited, although it is more common in families with other autoimmune diseases. The cause of MG is unknown, and there is no cure. However, remissions are possible and the treatments available for MG can help control the symptoms, allowing many patients to lead healthy, normal lives.

Visit www.myastheniagravis.org, or call us at **800-888-6208** to receive an MG information packet.



Our Organization

Conquer Myasthenia Gravis (short for Conquer MG, formerly known as the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Illinois) was founded in 1972 by a group of caring individuals who wanted to help people with MG achieve the best possible quality of life, while living with and managing their MG. We have always been a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization. In June 2016, we adopted the Conquer MG name and logo to reflect our patient-centered focus and desire to wipe out this challenging disease.

Our Four Goals

- Provide **supportive, cost-effective programs** for people with MG and families that improve quality of life
- **Raise public awareness** about MG and the challenges patients encounter each day
- **Educate and inform** medical professionals to eliminate drawn-out diagnoses, misdiagnoses, and encounters with doctors who are unfamiliar with MG
- **Support research** to find the cause and discover the cure for MG

Medical Advisory Board

Conquer MG is fortunate to have an outstanding Medical Advisory Board, consisting of neurologists and other professionals specializing in multiple aspects of myasthenia gravis. MAB members provide expertise to the organization, guide the selection of research projects for funding, volunteer their time by speaking at educational meetings, and consult with other physicians not familiar with the disease. They are an invaluable asset to our organization—and to people with MG.

Our Services

Conquer Myasthenia Gravis (Conquer MG for short) provides a variety of services to individuals affected by MG.

► Information and Education

- A **toll-free line** with assistance from caring staff for information and referral
- **Newsletters** *Conquer* and the *MG Minute* provide information about MG research, developments, quality of life issues, and organization happenings
- **Educational seminars** feature speakers with expertise in various aspects of MG
- **MG Support Groups** are hosted in multiple Illinois and northwest Indiana sites to offer face-to-face assistance and information

► Online Services

- **Website:** www.myastheniagravis.org
- **Facebook page:** “Conquer Myasthenia Gravis”
- **YouTube channel:** informational videos on “Conquer Myasthenia Gravis”

► Patients’ Physician Services

- **Coordination of consults** between MG patients’ physicians and our Medical Advisory Board
- **MG information packets** provided to physicians to give to new MG patients

► Awareness-Raising Activities

- **Annual Walk** to increase public awareness
- **Periodic articles** in local papers
- **Chicagoland holiday tree** with MG theme

► Research Funding

Medical research that results in a cure for MG is our ultimate goal. With Medical Advisory Board guidance, Conquer MG aims to fund projects annually that present novel and promising ideas.