MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

Myasthenia gravis is an acquired disease affecting the connection between the nerve and the muscle, also known as the neuromuscular junction. It is an autoimmune condition wherein there is disruption of the normal function of the acetylcholine receptors on the muscle.

People with this disease experience fatigable and fluctuating weakness of the arms and legs, as well as the eyelids and muscles controlling the eyes. Speaking and swallowing can be affected and if the muscles for breathing are severely affected, an individual may need to be hospitalized.

Testing includes an examination of strength, laboratory tests for antibodies, possibly electrical tests. Treatment may include medication to reduce weakness or to suppress the immune system.

There is currently a study looking at treatment with Thymectomy to improve outcome from this disease.