MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (ME)
ALSO KNOWN AS CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME (CFS)

Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) is a chronic, complex, neuroimmune disease that profoundly limits the health and productivity of patients and, like Long Covid, is often triggered by an infection.

The hallmark symptom is post-exertional malaise, accompanied by cognitive dysfunction, unrestorative sleep, difficulty maintaining upright posture, profound chronic fatigue or widespread chronic pain all made worse by exertion of any sort.

At this time, the cause of ME/CFS is not fully understood. There is no diagnostic test, cure, nor FDA-approved treatments or drugs for ME/CFS, and patients often suffer for life.

As of February 2022:

ESTIMATED PREVALENCE
of ME/CFS in the U.S.:
5-9 MILLION
adults and children

ESTIMATED COST
of ME/CFS in the U.S.:
$149 to $362 BILLION
in medical expenses and lost income

ALL OF US
ME/CFS affects children and adults of all races, income levels, and geographic areas.

RECOVERY IS RARE
Recovery is estimated at under 5%, leaving patients sick for years, even decades.

LOW QUALITY OF LIFE
For moderate to severe patients with ME/CFS, quality of life scores are consistently lower than any other major disease.

25% BED-BOUND
75% of patients are unable to work.

“ME/CFS IS TO FATIGUE WHAT A NUCLEAR BOMB IS TO A MATCH. IT IS AN ABSURD MISCHARACTERIZATION.”
–Laura Hillenbrand, author of Seabiscuit: An American Legend

Michael Falk Hvidberg, Louise Schouborg Brinth, Anne V. Olesen, Karin D. Petersen, Lars Ehlers. The Health-Related Quality of Life for Patients with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), PLOS ONE, 2015, DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0132421


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