

MOG Antibody-Associated Disease Fact Sheet for Educators

THE TRANSVERSE MYELITIS ASSOCIATION

advocating for those with adem, afm, MOG-ab disease, nmosd, on and tm

THE MOG PROJECT

supporting and advocating for those impacted by MOG-ab disease

What is MOG Antibody-Associated Disease?

- MOG Antibody-Associated Disease (MOG-Ab disease) is a rare neuro-inflammatory condition that typically causes inflammation in the optic nerve.
- It can also cause inflammation in the spinal cord, brain, and brain stem.
- While its cause is unknown, the disease is not transmittable.
- There is no cure, but treatments are available to prevent inflammatory attacks and to manage symptoms.

Symptoms

- Loss or blurring of vision in one or both eyes
- Loss of color vision
- Paralysis or weakness of a limb or limbs
- Loss of sensation
- Loss of bladder or bowel control
- Fatigue related to the student's diagnosis or medications, unrelated to the amount of sleep the student gets
- Seizures

Treatments

- Short-term treatments to reduce inflammation during an acute inflammatory attack include IV or oral steroids, plasma exchange (PLEX), and intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG).
- Students diagnosed with MOG-Ab disease may be on long-term treatments with medications that suppress the immune system such as mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept), rituximab (Rituxan), azathioprine (Imuran), low-dose steroids, or IVIG.

Classroom Accommodations

- Some treatments carry an increased risk of infection to the student with MOG-Ab disease, so it is important to keep the classroom clean and sanitized.

- Good hygiene and hand washing are important.
- Alert parents/guardians to any illnesses in the classroom (e.g., flu, strep throat, stomach virus).
- Provide accommodations, required by law, for students who use wheelchairs or other mobility and assistive devices.
- An emergency plan should be in place for exiting the building, medical emergencies, and a seizure plan (when appropriate).

Learning Considerations

- Student may need plans in place to assist with learning challenges (e.g. 504, IEP, EHC).
- Be cognizant of potential visual issues and their impact on learning.
- Multiple absences are common due to doctor's appointments, multi-hour infusions, MRIs, etc.
- Inform parents/guardians of any changes in behavior (e.g., anger outbursts, anxiety, crying, student acting withdrawn) or new learning challenges.
- Student may be struggling with their diagnosis and the changes MOG-Ab disease has caused in their life.
- Consult with student's parents/guardians regarding privacy preferences around their condition.

Additional Resources

The Transverse Myelitis Association
myelitis.org

The MOG Project
mogproject.org

For more information on MOG-Ab disease, please visit:
myelitis.org/living-with-myelitis/disease-information