

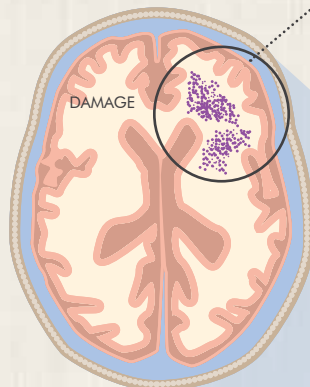
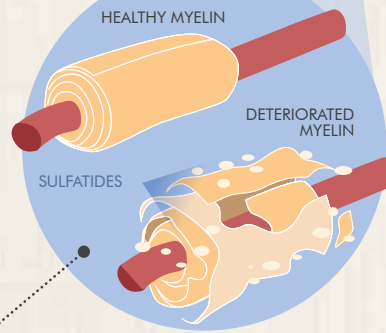
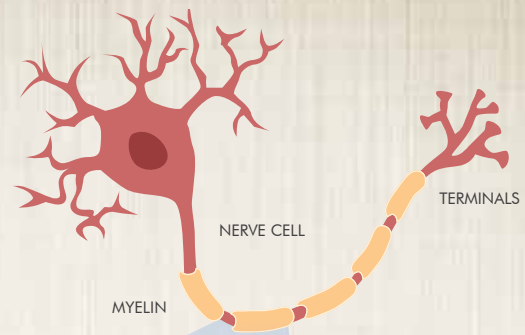
What is MLD?

Metachromatic Leukodystrophy, or MLD, is a rare genetic disease that causes part of a person's nerves to degenerate, eventually causing the body to shut down.

How does it affect the body?

Due to the genetic defect, patients with MLD are unable to produce an enzyme that normally breaks down fatty substances called sulfatides.

The sulfatides accumulate in various tissues but the damage is to the brain and the nerves outside the brain.



The excess sulfatides cause the myelin sheaths that insulate the body's nerves to break down. The loss of functional myelin damages the nerves that control major body functions and keeps the brain from connecting with the rest of the body.

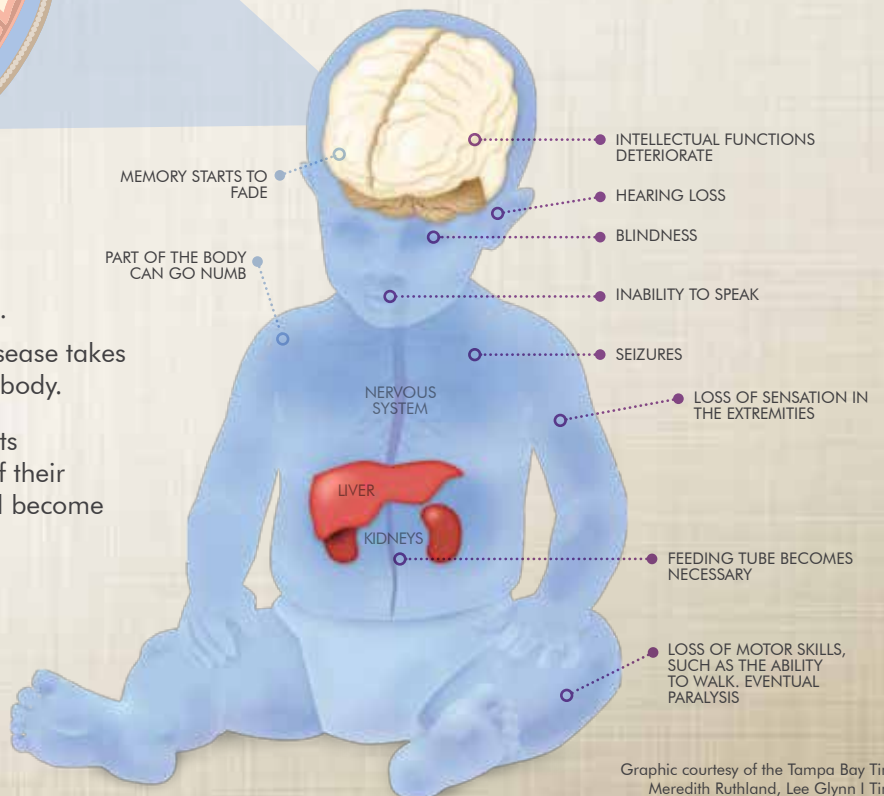
What are the symptoms?

- STAGE 1 Usually, the first symptoms are subtle.
- STAGE 2 Gradually, the disease takes over more of the body.
- STAGE 3 Eventually, patients lose awareness of their surroundings and become unresponsive.



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Research Leukodystrophy. Live for the Cure.



Graphic courtesy of the Tampa Bay Times, Meredith Ruthland, Lee Glynn I Times. Research assistance: Natalie Watson. Sources: mldfoundation.org, nih.gov, ulf.org, rarediseases.org, All Children's Hospital staff and doctors, mayoclinic.org.