

Summary of the 2017 McDonald Criteria for the Diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis

Preamble: Interpretation and integration of the history, physical examination, and results of imaging and laboratory testing by a clinician with expertise in multiple sclerosis (MS) remain fundamental in making a reliable diagnosis of MS or an alternative diagnosis. The clinician must remain vigilant for clinical features or diagnostic test results that suggest the possibility of an alternative diagnosis, so-called red flags.

Diagnosis of MS requires demonstration of dissemination of lesions in the central nervous system in space and time.

Diagnostic criteria for MS in patients who presented with a clinical attack at onset

CLINICAL PRESENTATION	ADDITIONAL CRITERIA TO MAKE MS DIAGNOSIS
2 or more relapses and clinical evidence of 2 or more lesions	None. Dissemination in space and dissemination in time have been met.
2 or more relapses and clinical evidence of 1 lesion with clear historical evidence of a prior attack involving lesion in different location	None. Dissemination in space and dissemination in time have been met.
2 or more relapses and clinical evidence of 1 lesion	Dissemination in space shown by one of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional clinical relapse implicating different CNS site - 1 or more MS-typical T2 lesions in 2 or more areas of CNS: periventricular, cortical, juxtacortical, infratentorial or spinal cord
1 relapse and clinical evidence of 2 or more lesions	Dissemination in time shown by one of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional clinical relapse - Simultaneous presence of both enhancing and non-enhancing MS-typical MRI lesions, or new T2 or enhancing MRI lesion compared to baseline scan (without regard to timing of baseline scan) - CSF oligoclonal bands
1 relapse and clinical evidence of 1 lesion	Dissemination in space shown by one of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional relapse implicating different CNS site - 1 or more MS-typical T2 lesions in 2 or more areas of CNS: periventricular, cortical, juxtacortical, infratentorial or spinal cord AND Dissemination in time shown by one of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - additional clinical relapse - Simultaneous presence of both enhancing and non-enhancing MS-typical MRI lesions, or new T2 or enhancing MRI lesion compared to baseline scan (without regard to timing of baseline scan) - CSF oligoclonal bands

Diagnostic criteria for primary progressive MS

CLINICAL PRESENTATION	ADDITIONAL CRITERIA TO MAKE MS DIAGNOSIS
1 year of disease progression (retrospective or prospective)	Dissemination in space shown by at least two of these criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 or more MS-typical T2 lesions (periventricular, cortical, juxtacortical or infratentorial) - 2 or more T2 spinal cord lesions - CSF oligoclonal bands