

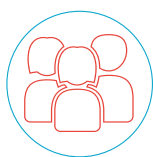
Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)

UK Factsheet

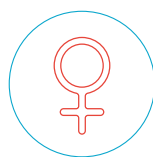


Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS, is a **devastating disease** that causes dysfunction of the neurological, immune, endocrine and energy metabolism systems.

DID YOU KNOW



According to current estimates, over **250,000** people in the UK have ME.



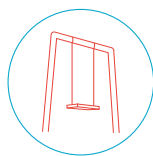
75 percent of patients are **women**.



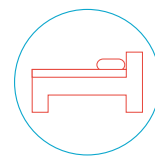
There is no single test that can diagnose ME, no cure for ME and **no universally effective treatment**.



ME is the largest cause of long-term **school absence**.



Seen in **children** as young as five.



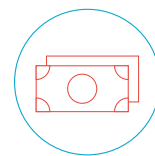
At least 25 percent of ME patients are home or **bed bound**.



People with ME have **lower quality of life** measurements than any other disease tested.



Symptoms typically persist for years; **recovery is rare**.



The economic cost of ME is at least **£3.3 billion** per year.

AND YET

- + Research into ME represents less than 1% of all active grants given by UK mainstream funding agencies.
- + ME receives a tiny percentage of the research funding awarded to other chronic illnesses. For example, ME has been shown to be more disabling than MS and yet receives at least 20 times less research funding per patient in the UK.

