

# Charity Information

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## **GAIN (Guillain-Barré & Associated Inflammatory Neuropathies)**

Registered charity 1154843 & SCO39900



Guillain-Barré syndrome is an acute condition affecting the peripheral nerves, in which the body's immune system attacks the myelin sheath (insulating coating of the nerves). This leads to the short-circuiting of the nerve signals which causes sudden weakness resulting in paralysis and a loss of sensation, often but not always with severe pain. The worst degree of weakness is usually reached within 4 weeks and always within 6 weeks. Recovery can take a few weeks or many months.

Some patients develop a similar but longer-lasting condition called CIDP (chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy). CIDP, once known as 'chronic GBS', is now usually regarded as a related condition, as are a number of other variants, both acute and chronic. It is possible to recover from CIDP, but many will be affected for the rest of their lives and will require ongoing treatment. GBS/CIDP is neither hereditary nor contagious, nor is it age or gender-related.

Around 1,200 people are affected by GBS annually in the UK with a further 500 being diagnosed with CIDP. About 80% of those with GBS will make a good recovery, but unfortunately between 5-10% of people will not survive and a further 10-15% may experience long term residual effects ranging from limited mobility or dexterity, to life-long dependency on a wheelchair.

What we do:

- Help people understand and manage GBS, CIDP and the associated variants
- Promote and facilitate both clinical and non-clinical research
- Raise awareness of the charity and conditions

GAIN receives no government funding, relying on the generosity of the public to support our work. Further information can be found at [www.gaincharity.org.uk](http://www.gaincharity.org.uk)

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