



Guillain Barre Syndrome

Why in News

Some patients infected with [Covid-19](#) have been found suffering from **Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS)**.

Key Points

▪ Guillain Barre Syndrome:

- It is a very **rare autoimmune disorder** in which the patient's immune system **attacks nerves**.
- The **exact cause** of Guillain-Barre syndrome is **unknown**, but as per the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#), GBS is often preceded by an infection. This could be a **bacterial or viral infection**. It may also be triggered by **vaccine administration** or **surgery**.
- In the past, patients of [Middle East respiratory syndrome \(MERS\)](#), [Zika virus](#), [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\)](#), Herpes virus and Campylobacter jejuni have shown symptoms of GBS.
- **Link with Covid-19:**

- The immune system, in an attempt to kill the coronavirus, accidentally starts attacking its own **peripheral nervous system**.
- The **peripheral nervous system** is a network of nerves that lead from the brain and spinal cord (i.e. central nervous system) to different parts of the body. Attacking them can **affect limb functions**.
- An interval of **5-10 days** is noticed between **onset of GBS symptoms and Covid-19 infection**, but some doctors say it can also take weeks after Covid-19 infection for a person to develop GBS.

▪ Symptoms:

- Weakness or tingling sensations, which usually start in the legs, and can spread to the arms and face.
- Difficulty with facial movements, including speaking, chewing or swallowing.
- Double vision, rapid heart rate, low or high blood pressure.

▪ Complication:

- There could be **respiratory failure** as the worst outcome, or weakness and effect on walking and limb movement.

▪ Treatment:

- Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG).
- **Plasma therapy**.

Campylobacter jejuni

- Campylobacteriosis is an infection by the **Campylobacter bacteria**. It is more commonly known as C. jejuni. It is among the most common bacterial infections of humans, often a foodborne illness. It produces bloody diarrhea or dysentery syndrome, mostly including cramps, fever and

pain.

Herpes Virus

- Herpes results from infection with the herpes simplex virus (HSV). It causes **sores or blisters** to form in or around the **mouth or genitals**, as well as other symptoms such as fever and fatigue.

[Source:IE](#)

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