More than 400,000 people in the United States have MS.
An estimated 2,500,000 around the world have MS.
In the UK, approx 70,000 people have the disease.
Approx 50,000 people in Canada have Multiple Sclerosis.
Scotland has the highest incidence of Multiple Sclerosis per head of population in the world.
In Scotland, over 10,500 people have Multiple Sclerosis.
About 45 percent of the people with MS are not severely affected by the disease.
Diagnosis of MS is usually between 20 and 40 years of age.
MS affects more women than men, with a ratio of 2:1.
About 85 percent of those who are newly diagnosed have the relapsing-remitting form of MS.
Without disease-modifying therapy, about 50 percent of those diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS will become progressive at 10 years.
Without disease-modifying therapy, about one-third of those diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS will be using a wheelchair at 20 years.
Average age of clinical onset is 30 – 33 years of age.
The average age of diagnosis is 37 years of age.
The average time between clinical onset of MS and diagnosis by physicians is 4 - 5 years.
10% of cases are diagnosed after the age of fifty.
In 1936, only 8% of patients were reported to survive beyond 20 years after onset of illness.
In 1961, over 80% of Multiple Sclerosis patients were reported surviving to 20 years after onset of illness.
2002 – A patient with Multiple Sclerosis can expect to live to average population life-expectancy minus seven years (mean life expectancy - 7 years) - Funding research and treatment has resulted in much progress to the quality and length of life for those with MS.
The course of the disease is unpredictable and no two people will experience the same set of symptoms.
There are four types of MS: relapsing-remitting, secondary-progressive, primary progressive and progressive relapsing.
Among young adults, MS is the most common disease of the central nervous system.
Fatigue is one of the most common symptoms of MS.
MS is not contagious.
MS is a progressive disease for which there is not yet a cure.
Increased understanding of MS has led to the development of many new treatments that target both the disease process and its many symptoms.
In countries further from the equator, the incidence of MS increases.
Sclerosis is a Greek word meaning hardening of tissue or scars. MS is not inherited or genetically transmitted, although there does seem to be some genetic susceptibility to the disease. Although multiple sclerosis is considered an "adult disease" there are approximately 8,000-10,000 children who have MS, and another 10,000-15,000 who have experienced what may be symptoms of MS. $2 million per person: the average lifetime cost of having MS. Every hour in the United States, another person is diagnosed with MS. First Diagnosed in 1849 The earliest known description of a person with possible Multiple Sclerosis dates from 14th century Holland. Multiple Sclerosis is the most common progressive and disabling neurological condition in young adults. No virus has ever been isolated as the cause of Multiple Sclerosis. Multiple Sclerosis is five times more prevalent in temperate climates than in tropical climates. Multiple Sclerosis affects women much more frequently than men. Approx. 1.7 – 2:1 in the US and approx 3:2 in the UK. The ratio of white to non-white is approx 2:1. Gypsies and Inuit's do get Multiple Sclerosis although the incidence rate is much lower than other populations at approx 19 per 100,000. Native Indians of North and South America, the Japanese and other Asian peoples have a very low incidence rate of Multiple Sclerosis. In identical twins where one twin develops the disease, the likelihood of the second twin developing Multiple Sclerosis is approximately 30%. The incidence rate for non-identical twins, where one contracts Multiple Sclerosis, is approx 4%. The risk of contracting Multiple Sclerosis if a first-degree relative (father, mother, sibling) has the disease, is approx 1% - 3% overall. The risk of contracting Multiple Sclerosis if your father has the disease is approx 1 in 100. The risk of contracting Multiple Sclerosis if your mother has the disease is approx 1 in 50. The risk among the general population of contracting Multiple Sclerosis is approx 1 in 800.