

# MOG Antibody Disease Fact Sheet for Educators

## Definition

- MOG Antibody-Associated Disease (MOG-Ab) is a rare neuro-inflammatory condition that typically causes inflammation in the optic nerve.
- It can also cause inflammation in the spinal cord, brain and brain stem.
- While its cause is unknown, the disease is not transmittable. There is no cure but treatments are available to prevent inflammatory attacks and to manage symptoms.

## Symptoms

- Loss or blurring of vision in one or both eyes
- Loss of color vision
- Paralysis or weakness of a limb or limbs
- Loss of sensation
- Loss of bladder or bowel control
- Fatigue related to the student's diagnosis or medications, unrelated to the amount of sleep the student gets.
- Seizures

## Treatments

- Short-term treatments to reduce inflammation during an acute attack include IV or oral steroids, plasma exchange (PLEX), and intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG).
- Students diagnosed with MOGAD may be on long-term treatment with medications that suppress the immune system such as mycophenolate mofetil (CellCept), rituximab (Rituxan), azathioprine (Imuran), low-dose steroids or IVIG..

## Classroom Accommodations

- Some treatments carry an increased risk of infection to the student with MOG-AD, so it is important to keep the classroom clean and sanitized.
- Good hygiene and hand washing are important.
- Alert parents/guardians to any illnesses in the classroom (e.g. flu, strep throat, stomach virus).
- Provide accommodations, required by law, for students who use wheelchairs or other mobility or assistive devices.
- An emergency plan should be in place for exiting the building, medical emergencies, and a seizure plan (when appropriate).

## Learning Considerations

- Student may need plans in place to assist with learning challenges (e.g. 504, IEP, EHC).
- Be cognizant of potential vision issues and their impact on learning.
- Multiple absences are common due to doctor appointments, multi-hour infusions, MRIs, etc.
- Inform parents/guardians of any changes in behavior (e.g. anger outbursts, anxiety, crying, student acting withdrawn) or new learning challenges.
- Student may be struggling with their diagnosis and the changes MOG-AD has caused in their life.
- Consult with student's parents/guardians regarding privacy preferences around their condition.

For more information on MOG Antibody Disease, please visit:

<https://wearesrna.org/living-with-myelitis/disease-information/mog-antibody-disease/>