

## SYMPTOMS

The symptoms may start on the hands and feet before spreading to the arms, legs and face.

- Weakness or tingling sensations.
- Numbness.
- Pain.
- Coordination and balance problems.

Later symptoms:

- Severe or persistent pain.
- Inability to move the legs, arms, or face. (Paralysis).
- Difficulty walking without assistance.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Difficulty speaking, chewing, and swallowing.
- Double or blurred vision
- Constipation.

Guillain-Barré syndrome often starts a few days or weeks, after an infection such as flu or other bacterial or virus infections.



*Image source: <https://www.paho.org/es/temas/sepsis>*

## CAUSES

The exact cause of Guillain-Barré syndrome is unknown but two-thirds of people with Guillain-Barré syndrome have had respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, several days or weeks before. One of the most common risk factors for Guillain-Barré syndrome is the infection with the bacterium *Campylobacter* Jejuni. Viruses like Cytomegalovirus and Epstein Barr virus may also produce Guillain-Barré syndrome. In countries where Zika virus infection is common, unexpected increase in cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome has been described. On very rare occasions people can get Guillain-Barré syndrome, several weeks after getting a vaccination or after a surgery.

## TREATMENT

There is no treatment against Guillain-Barré syndrome. Patients with Guillain-Barré syndrome should be hospitalized. Supportive care includes monitoring of blood pressure, heartbeat and breathing. In some cases, it is required rehabilitation services. Most of the people with Guillain-Barré syndrome recover fully, even in the most severe cases.