

Update #1 30 Jan 2025

Guillain-Barre syndrome – India

Occurrence Update

Pune on Monday (January 27, 2025) reported nine more suspected cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), taking the tally in Maharashtra's second-largest city to 110*, officials said.

As per an unconfirmed report on January 29th 2025, GBS is also suspected to be behind the death of a 48-year-old man and a 17-year-old youth in West Bengal. 2 other children diagnosed with GBS in the state are currently on ventilator support.

About Guillain-Barre Syndrome

Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) is a condition in which the body's immune system attacks the nervous system, mainly the peripheral nerves, which results in weakness, numbness, or paralysis of varying degrees. GBS

Symptoms usually begin with weakness and tingling sensations in the hands and feet, which may progress rapidly. Key signs include:

- Muscle weakness that starts in the lower limbs and spreads upwards
- Difficulty walking or maintaining balance
- Loss of reflexes
- Severe pain, especially at night
- Breathing difficulties in severe cases

Some people notice the first symptoms in the arms or face. As the syndrome progresses, muscle weakness can turn into paralysis. The symptoms progress over weeks and usually reach their peak within two weeks of onset. If respiratory muscles are involved, the patients may require ventilatory support during this time.

The cause of GBS may remain inconclusive in most of the cases. In the current episode varying reports indicate isolation of *Campylobacter jejuni* and Norovirus from many cases.

Guillain-Barré syndrome is potentially life-threatening. People with Guillain-Barré syndrome should be treated and monitored as quickly as possible; some may need intensive care.

There is no known cure for Guillain-Barre syndrome. Plasmapheresis and Immunoglobulin therapy are offered to manage GBS. Supportive treatment can ease symptoms and help speed recovery.

*The information presented here is based on publicly available data and resources from the internet, social media, and media reports and health agencies. Please note that the reported cases mentioned herein may not be fully confirmed or verified by relevant health authorities.

References :

1. WHO Factsheet Guillain-Barré syndrome <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/guillain-barr%C3%A9-syndrome#:~:text=Key%20facts,cases%20of%20Guillain%2DBarr%C3%A9%20syndrome.>
2. Centre deputed High-Level multi-disciplinary team to Maharashtra for supporting the State in public health interventions and management of Guillain Barre Syndrome cases in Pune <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2096793>