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Demyelination

Kathleen L. Fuchs

Department of Neurology, University of Virginia
Health System, Charlottesville, VA, USA

thought to produce some of the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, especially in myelin-rich fibers such as the optic nerve.

Definition

Demyelination is the process in which myelin, the protective protein and lipid sheath around a nerve fiber, is broken down. This impacts the efficiency of nerve conduction and leaves the axon vulnerable to damage and degeneration. In multiple sclerosis, demyelination in the central nervous system is presumed to result from immune system activation of inflammatory processes that “attack” myelin and inhibit repair (remyelination) by oligodendrocytes. Axonal damage and loss are

Cross-References

- [Multiple Sclerosis](#)
- [Myelin](#)
- [Neuron](#)

References and Reading

- Compston, A., Lassmann, H., & Smith, K. (2006). The neurobiology of multiple sclerosis. In A. Compston et al. (Eds.), *McAlpine's multiple sclerosis* (4th ed., pp. 449–490). Philadelphia: Elsevier.