

The **Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)** provides valuable resources for individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) or disease (SCI/D). Here are some key points.

1. **SCI/D Overview:** Every year, over 12000 people in the United States sustain a spinal cord injury. The spinal cord is the major channel for motor and sensory information between the brain and body. SCI/D can result from trauma or neurologic diseases like multiple sclerosis (MS) or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Tetraplegia affects the arms, trunk, legs, and pelvic organs, while paraplegia primarily impairs the trunk, legs, and pelvic organs.
2. **Life expectancy & Symptoms:** Improved infection management has increased life expectancy for those with SCI/D. However, respiratory diseases and septicemia remain the leading causes of death. Caregivers and clinicians should recognize atypical signs of infection, such as fever, spasms, and fatigue.
3. **Autonomic Dysreflexia (AD):** AD is a serious condition that can be fatal if not promptly treated. Individuals with SCI at the sixth nerve or above are most at risk. Recognizing warning signs is crucial.

You can explore the resources on the www.PVA.org for more detailed information. It's a valuable center for Veterans, Americans with SCI/D, their families, and professionals who serve them.