

Alexandra Miller 04/15/21

Ticket to Enter: Degenerative Disorders Fact Sheet

Briefly define it, state the cause if known, name a few classic S/S you may see in a patient:

1. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - rare disorder defined by loss of motor neurons.  
- rapidly progressive, neurologic disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that leads to progressive & eventually debilitating muscle weakness  
- S/SX - depends of loc., spreading to multiple muscles  
  early - muscle weakness & fatigue, progressive atrophy of muscles  
  as advances - muscle involvement, dysphagic, dysarthria, changes in sleep, drooling, depression, constipation, reflux, respiratory difficulties
2. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS = progressive degenerative disorder of CNS characterized by disseminated demyelination of nerve & SC. Onset = 20-50 y/o old, average 30-35  
- S/SX - blurred vision, extremity weakness & coordination, numbness & tingling, speech impairment, tremors, stiffness, dizziness

Cause: chemical imbalances like ↑ glutamine, autoimmune problems, & protein mishandling → builds up, causes nerve cell death & causes this disorder

Cause: unknown viral, immune, or genetic causes

3. HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE = degenerative brain disorder that results in involuntary choreiform movements & mental status changes. Genetically transmitted autosomal dominant ~~form~~ w/ pregnancy an affected parent has 50% passing Huntington's to child. ~~not~~  
S/SX - chorea (jerky, brisk, purposeless movements) & mental decline

Cause: genetic defect inherited from parents

4. Myasthenia Gravis: autoimmune disease shown by muscle fatigue & weakness from inadequate Ach receptor stimulation because the Ach receptor antibodies attack acetylcholine receptors. ~~some~~ Antibodies (MG) are produced against Ach receptors. Decreased number of acetylcholine cholinergic receptor sites enable acetylcholine molecules to attach to these sites which inhibits normal muscle contractions.  
- S/SX - correlate to affect of bulbar & cranial nerve involvement → eyes/eyelids & facial muscle. Exacerbations = present from trauma, pregnancy, temp Des, hypokalemia, beta-blockers & phengolin.

Cause = unknown

5. Parkinson's Disease - chronic progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by slowness in the initiation & execution of movmt, red muscle tone, tremor @ rest, & gait Des  
S/SX remember TRAP T-tremor R-rigidity A-akinesia P-postural instability

Cause = unknown but genetic risk factors should be evaluated

- exposure to well tho, peptides, herbicides, chemicals & wood pulp mills ↑ risk