

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-

Definition: Degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that causes progressive and debilitating muscle weakness

Cause: no cause

S/sx: progressive weakness, atrophy, dysphagia, pain, sleep disorders respiratory complications

2. Huntington's Disease

Definition: degenerative brain disorder that causes involuntary movements and mental degeneration

Cause: gene disorder

S/sx: chorea (uncontrollable jerky movements) and mental/psych decline

3. Multiple Sclerosis-

Definition: disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers

Cause: unknown

S/sx: fatigue, impaired movement, visual disturbances, tinnitus, dysphagia, sensory disturbances

4. Myasthenia Gravis-

Definition: characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from adequate Ach receptor stimulation due to ACh receptor antibodies that attack acetylcholine receptors.

Cause: when nerve signal to muscle are impaired

S/sx: fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscle

5. Parkinson's Disease

Definition: chronic progressive neurodegenerative disease that causes slowness in starting to perform movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest and gait disturbances

Cause: unknown but may be due to the lack of dopamine

S/sx: its gradual, course-chronic, prolonged course: Tremors, rigidity, akinesia (loos of control), and postural instability (loos of balance), apathy, short term memory loss