

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- rapid and progressive neurologic disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that lead to progressive and debilitating muscle weakness. Cause unknown. No cure.

S/Sx: muscles stiff or weak and flaccid, dysphagia, pain, sleep disturbances, spasticity, drooling, aspiration, respiratory difficulty.

2. Huntington's Disease: progressive, degenerative brain disorder results in involuntary movements and mental deterioration. Genetic link to autosomal disorder.

S/Sx: chorea, mental and cognitive decline, tics and grimacing, slurred speech, may become incontinent, personality or memory changes, No cure.

3. Multiple Sclerosis- Chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers. Causes chronic inflammation and gliosis which disrupts the transmission in CNS. Cause unknown.

S/Sx: Onset is vague, intermittent symptoms and depend on where plaques are located. Severe, disabling fatigue, visual disturbances, tinnitus, dysphagia, pain, incontinence, gait problems and poor balance

4. Myasthenia Gravis- Autoimmune characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate Ach receptor stimulation because antibodies attack Ach receptors.

S/Sx: slow, chronic, with periods of exacerbation and remission, may present with muscle weakness in shoulders, limbs or neck.

5. Parkinson's Disease- Neurodegenerative disorder that is known for slowness in the initiation and execution of movements. Cause is unknown.

S/Sx: tremors, rigidity, instability, gait disturbances, trouble with automatic movements