

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- A rapidly progressive, neurological disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that leads to progressive and eventually debilitating muscle weakness. Early symptoms include progressive muscle weakness and atrophy, and as the disorder advances, dysphagia, dysarthria, pain, and sleep disorders may occur.
2. Huntington's Disease: Progressive, degenerative brain disorder resulting in involuntary movements and mental deterioration. Its cause is due to an autosomal dominant disorder. The most prominent s/sx that may be seen are chorea and mental cognitive/psych decline, as well as tics and slurred speech.
3. Multiple Sclerosis- A chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers. The cause is unknown. Common s/sx include fatigue, limb weakness, visual and auditory disturbances, and sensory disturbances
4. Myasthenia Gravis- An autoimmune disease characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate Ach receptor stimulation due to Ach receptor antibodies that attack acetylcholine receptors. The primary feature for this is fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscles. The affected muscles include those that move the eyes, eyelids, chew, and speak. The trunk, shoulders, limb, and neck may also be weak.
5. Parkinson's Disease: A chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by slowness in the initiation and execution of movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest, and gait disturbances. The exact cause is unknown but is thought to be due to the lack of dopamine in the brain. The cardinal s/sx are tremors, rigidity, akinesia, and postural instability