

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- Rapidly progressive, neurologic disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that leads to progressive and eventually debilitating muscle weakness,

Manifestation progression can include weakness spreading to multiple muscles.

Early symptoms: progressive muscle weakness and atrophy

As amyotrophic lateral sclerosis advances some signs and symptoms are dysphagia, dysarthria, pain, sleep disorders, spasticity, drooling, constipation, reflux, respiratory difficulties (many will die due to resp complications)

2. Huntington's Disease= Progressive, degenerative brain disorder that results in involuntary movements and mental deterioration.

HD abnormal gene causes:

A deficiency in the neurotransmitters GABA and Ach

Excess dopamine availability in HD- Leads to symptoms that are opposite of Parkinson's

Most prominent clinical features are: chorea and mental cognitive/psych

Chorea: Jerky, brisk, and purposeless movements, Involuntary abnormal movements

Facial Movements: tics/grimacing

Speech: slurred, hesitant, explosive

3. Multiple Sclerosis- Chronic, progressive, degenerative, disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers

Cause is unknown- research for viral, immune, genetic involvement

Signs and Symptoms: Fatigue-common, severe, disabling

Impaired Movement

Patho: Autoimmune response leads to chronic inflammation, myelin sheath damage by demyelination, and gliosis (scar formation) which disrupts nerve transmission in the CNS. Brain and/or Spinal Cord can be affected.

4. Myasthenia Gravis- Autoimmune disease characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate Ach receptor stimulation due to ACh receptor antibodies that attack acetylcholine receptors.

Signs and symptoms: Primary feature-fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscles

Muscles affected: Those used to move the eyes, eyelids, chew, swallow, speak, breathe

Can also have trunk, shoulder, limb, neck weakness

Exacerbations- stress, trauma, pregnancy, menses temp changes, illness

5. Parkinson's Disease- slowness in the initiation and execution of movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest, and gait disturbance. Cause is unknown but it may be due to lack of dopamine in the brain which is a degeneration of dopamine producing neurons causing an imbalance of dopamine and acetylcholine.

Signs/Symptoms: tremor, rigidity, akinesia, and postural instability= TRAP
depression, anxiety, apathy, pain, fatigue, short term memory loss, sweating, flushing, orthostatic hypotension, urinary retention, constipation, sleep disorders