

## 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-

Def: Rapidly progressive, neurologic disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that lead to progressive and eventually debilitating muscle weakness

Cause: Upper motor neurons- degenerate and stop communicating, Lower motor neurons- can't produce impulses

s/sx: weakness, atrophy, dysphagia, dysarthria, reflux, constipation

### 2. Huntington's Disease

Def: progressive, degenerative brain disorder that results in the involuntary movements and mental deterioration

Cause: Genetic disorder – autosomal dominant disorder

s/sx: mental cognition/ psych decline, chorea, tics/grimacing, slurred speech, disorganized gait

### 3. Multiple Sclerosis-

Def: Chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers

Cause: Autoimmune response to chronic inflammation

s/sx: fatigue, impaired movement, dysarthria, dysphagia, paresthesia, pain

### 4. Myasthenia Gravis-

Def: Autoimmune disease characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate ach receptors

Cause: Antibodies are produced against ACH receptor sites

s/sx: trunk, shoulder, limb, neck weakness, fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscles

### 5. Parkinson's Disease

Def: Chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by slowness in the initiation and execution of movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest, and disturbances with gait.

Cause: unknown, though to be lack of dopamine in brain

s/sx: tremor, rigidity, akinesia, postural inability

