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, a neurologic disorder with degeneration of the upper and lower motor neurons that leads to progressive and eventually debilitating muscle weakness. Muscle stiffness, flaccidity, and atrophy. S/SX- weakness spreading to multiple muscles, constipation, reflux, respiratory difficulties.

2.   Huntington's Disease

Progressive, degenerative brain disorder that results in involuntary movements and mental deterioration. Cause- genetic disorder, autosomal dominant disorder. S/SX- chorea (involuntary abnormal movements) and mental cognitive/psych decline, facial tics, slurred speech, disorganized gait, lost of control of bladder and bowel.

3.   Multiple Sclerosis-

Chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers. Cause- is unknown, but research states a viral, immune, genetic involvement. S/SX- fatigue, impaired movement, visual disturbances, auditory disturbances (tinnitus or loss of hearing), paresthesia, pain, cognitive problems.

4.   Myasthenia Gravis-

Autoimmune disease by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate ach receptor stimulation due to ach receptor antibodies that attack acetylcholine receptors. Cause- is unknown. S/SX- fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscles, trunk, shoulder, limb, and neck weakness.

5.   <u>Parkinson's Disease</u>

Chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by slowness in the initiation and execution of movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest, and gait disturbance. Cause-unknown but thought to be due to lack of dopamine in the brain due to degeneration of dopamine producing neurons causing an imbalance of dopamine and acetylcholine. S/SX-tremors (tongue, lips, jaw, diaphragm), rigidity (increased tone of the limbs and resistance to passive motion), akinesia (loss of control or absence of control), postural instability (loss balance easily).