

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-

Definition: rapidly progressive, neurologic disorder with degeneration of upper and lower motor neurons that leads to progressive and eventually debilitating muscle weakness

Cause: none

s/sx: weakness spreading to multiple muscles, early weakness and atrophy, dysphagia, pain, dysarthria, sleep disorders, drooling, constipation, reflux, respiratory difficulties

2. Huntington's Disease

Definition: progressive, degenerative brain disorder that results in involuntary movements and mental deterioration.

Cause: genetics- deficiency in neurotransmitters GABA and Ach, excess dopamine

s/sx: chorea (jerky, brisk, purposeless movements) and mental cognitive/psych decline (slurred speech, tics, grimacing, etc)

3. Multiple Sclerosis-

Definition: chronic, progressive, degenerative disorder of the CNS with demyelination of nerve fibers

Cause: unknown

s/sx: fatigue, visual disturbances, tinnitus, dysarthria, dysphagia, pain, paresthesia

4. Myasthenia Gravis-

Definition: autoimmune disease characterized by muscle fatigue and weakness from inadequate Ach receptor stimulation due to Ach receptor antibodies that attack acetylcholine receptors

Cause: unknown

s/sx: fluctuating weakness of skeletal muscle, muscles that close eyes, chew, swallow, speak, and breath, trunk, shoulder, limb, neck weakness

5. Parkinson's Disease

Definition: chronic, progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by slowness in the initiation and execution of movement, increased muscle tone, tremor at rest, and gait disturbances

Cause: unknown but thought to be due to lack of dopamine in the brain

s/sx: TRAP- tremor, rigidity, akinesia, postural instability