

## 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: Upper motor neurons degenerate and stop communicating and lower motor neurons can't produce or transport impulses from nerves.

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

### 2. Huntington's Disease

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

Cause: GENETICS, A deficiency in the neurotransmitters GABA and Ach

s/sx: Chorea (jerky, brisk, and purposeless movements, Involuntary abnormal movements), Facial: tics/grimacing, slurred speech, loss of bowel and bladder control, Cognition and personality issues

### 3. Multiple Sclerosis-

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

Cause: unknown (thought to have connection viral, immune, genetic involvement)

s/sx: Fatigue, Impaired Movement, stiffness, visual issues, auditory disturbances, dysarthria, dysphagia, loss of bowel and bladder control, 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 muscles

### 5. Parkinson's Disease

- Definition: 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 caused by imbalance of dopamine and acetylcholine in the brain
- s/sx: gradual: Tremors, Rigidity, Akinesia (loss of control or absence of control), Bradykinesia (slowed movement, difficulty initiating movement, affects automatic movements), Postural Instability- lose balance easily.

