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Class Preparation: 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 progressing
degenerative disease
upper + lower motor neurons
debilitating muscle weakness

Cause:
unknown
may be related to
too much glutamate
amino acid in the
brain

S/Sx
early - muscle fatigue,
atrophy, weakness
progress -
dysphagia, dysarthria
difficult breathing.

2. Huntington's Disease

Definition:
excessive involuntary
choreiform movements +
mental deterioration

Cause:
excess
dopamine

S/Sx
chorea
facial movement - grimace
slurred speech
chewing/swallowing difficult

3. Multiple Sclerosis-

Definition:
Chronic, progressive
degenerative, myelin
sheath damage
Autoimmune leads to T cells
entering the circulation + attacking
body, causes inflammation +
demyelination of the nerves.

Cause:
Autoimmune
leads to...
Chronic inflammation
myelin sheath damage
scar formation

S/Sx
fatigue
weak limbs
blurry vision
tinnitus
paresthesia

4. Myasthenia Gravis-

Definition:
Autoimmune,
fluctuating muscle weakness
ACh receptor antibodies
Antibodies are produced
against ACh receptors, causes not
enough ACh reaching the receptors

Cause:
unknown

S/Sx
motor effects only
muscle fatigue
strongest muscles = AM
improvement after rest

5. Parkinson's Disease

Definition:
Slowly, progressive
neurologic problem that
cause movement to slow,
increased muscle tone,
tremors at rest and
gait disturbances

Cause:
unknown
- lack of dopamine
- degeneration of cells
in midbrain that
produce dopamine

S/Sx:
tremor
rigidity
akinesia
postural instability
pain, fatigue, memory loss