

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-

Rare progressive neuromuscular disorder in upper and lower motor neurons. Cause is unknown. S/S include muscle fatigue, atrophy, weakness, dysphagia.

2. Huntington's Disease

Excessive involuntary choreiform movements and mental deterioration. Progressive degenerative brain disorder. Caused by abnormal HTT gene. S/S include writhing/twisting of limbs, body, impaired speech, disorganized gait.

3. Multiple Sclerosis-

Autoimmune disorder where cells attack myelin sheath of neurons. Cause is autoimmune. S/S include ataxia, fatigue, muscle spasticity, weak limbs.

4. Myasthenia Gravis-

Autoimmune disorder where antibodies are produced against ACH receptors, ACH unable to reach these receptors causing inability to stimulate muscle contraction. Cause unknown. S/S include motor functions only. Muscle fatigue, strong in AM, weak in PM.

5. Parkinson's Disease

Slowly progressive neurological movement disorder. Unknown cause. S/S include tremors, rigidity, memory loss, akinesia.