

## 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- This disease is rare with an onset of 40-70 years of age. It is a neuromuscular disorder that affects the upper and lower motor neurons. Sign and symptoms are fatigue atrophy and weakness which occur early. After progression dysphagia and difficulty breathing.
2. Huntington's Disease- Brain disorder is degenerative and progressive. It can lead to movement cognitive function and emotion after nerve damage. The known cause is excessive dopamine and can be a rare inherited disease. Signs and symptoms- can be slurred speech, chewing and difficulty swallowing, bladder and bowel control loss. It is caused by an unknown reason but there are numerous theories as to why it is caused.
3. Multiple Sclerosis- It is caused by an autoimmune response. Signs and symptoms- fatigue, bowel/bladder dysfunction, pain. Impaired movement. It is a chronic, progressive disease that is a result from autoimmune response. The onset is 20-50 years of age. It can affect the brain and/or spinal cord.
4. Myasthenia Gravis- This is an autoimmune disorder that causes muscle weakness, it occurs more in women in the younger population. Causes are unknown. Signs and symptoms muscle weakness- stronger in AM and weakness in the PM. Fatigue.
5. Parkinson's Disease- Unknown cause signs and symptoms are tremors, muscles tighten, and a difficulty maintaining balance. It is a slowly progressive disease that occurs more frequently in men, and risk increases with age. Also occurs with loss of nerves or neurons in the brain.