

***Pathology of the Nervous System with
Considerations for the Physical Therapist:
Degenerative Diseases of the Central Nervous System***

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Alzheimer's Disease, Dystonia,
Huntington's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and Parkinson's Disease

Course Description:

Medical management of degenerative neurological diseases includes a broad base of practitioners. The prognosis for these diseases is one of steady decline in function. Prevention of secondary complications becomes the goal of medical management until medications are found that will change the course of disease or provide a cure. This course provides an overview, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, medical management and treatment for diseases of the central nervous system. Because clients with these disorders are so commonly seen in the clinic, implications for the therapist in relation to the PT Preferred Practice Pattern are included for each subject area.

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Course Objectives:

Course Participants will demonstrate and understanding of the following disease processes as follows:

A. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

1. Define ALS
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with ALS
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with ALS
4. Describe clinical manifestations of ALS
5. Describe medical management of person with ALS including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
6. Describe abnormal diagnostic findings in ALS
7. Describe implications for the therapist treating the person with ALS as per PT Preferred Practice Patterns.
8. Describe 3 phases of exercise and rehabilitation for clients with ALS

B. Alzheimer's Disease

1. Define Alzheimer's Disease
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with Alzheimer's Disease
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with Alzheimer's Disease
4. Describe clinical manifestations of Alzheimer's Disease
5. Describe stages of decline associated with Alzheimer's Disease
6. Describe medical management of person with Alzheimer's Disease including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
7. Describe implications for the therapist treating the person with Alzheimer's Disease as per PT Preferred Practice Pattern.

C. Dystonia

1. Define Dystonia
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with Dystonia including causes of secondary or symptomatic Dystonia
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with Dystonia
4. Describe clinical manifestations of Dystonia
5. Describe medical management of person with Dystonia including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
6. Describe implications for the therapist treating the person with Dystonia as per PT Preferred Practice Pattern.

D. Huntington's Disease

1. Define Huntington's Disease
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with Huntington's Disease
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with Huntington's Disease
4. Describe clinical manifestations of Huntington's Disease
5. Describe medical management of person with Huntington's Disease including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
6. Describe Implications for the therapist treating the person with Huntington's Disease as per PT Preferred Practice Pattern.

E. Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

1. Define MS
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with MS
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with MS
4. Describe clinical manifestations of MS and differentiate between syndromes corresponding to lesion location
5. Describe medical management of person with MS including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
6. Describe implications for the therapist treating the person with MS as per PT Preferred Practice Patterns.
7. Describe Kurtzke's Expanded Disability Status Scale for MS

F. Parkinson's Disease (PD)

1. Define PD
2. Describe incidence and risk factors associated with PD
3. Describe pathogenesis associated with PD
4. Describe clinical manifestations of PD
5. Describe the Hoehn and Yahr Classification of Disability for PD
6. Identify Parkinsonism versus Parkinson's Disease
7. Describe medical management of person with PD including diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
8. Describe implications for the therapist treating the person with PD as per PT Preferred Practice Patterns.

CEU Approvals:

For information on specific state approval of this course, refer to PT On-Line Courses "About State Approvals" page.