

Differential Diseases

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Disease Type	Common Diseases	Brief Description
Infectious Diseases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza: Respiratory virus causing fever, cough, body aches. Tuberculosis: Bacterial infection in lungs, leads to chronic cough, weight loss. Malaria: Parasitic infection with fever, chills, anemia. HIV/AIDS: Virus impacting immune system, leads to immune deficiency. 	Infectious diseases are caused by pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. They often spread from person to person or through the environment but often include fever, fatigue, and localized infections.
Genetic Disorders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cystic Fibrosis: Thick mucus build-up in lungs, digestive issues. Sickle Cell Anemia: Red blood cell deformation, causing pain, anemia. Down Syndrome: Intellectual disability, distinct facial features, often associated with other health issues. Huntington's Disease: Nerve cell damage, leads to motor dysfunction, cognitive decline. 	Genetic disorders result from mutations or inherited genes. They often manifest from birth or develop later.
Chronic Diseases	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes: Impaired insulin production, high blood sugar levels. Hypertension: High blood pressure, can lead to heart disease. Asthma: Airways inflamed, causing wheezing, shortness of breath. Arthritis: Joint inflammation, causing pain and stiffness. 	Chronic diseases are often long-lasting and develop due to genetics, lifestyle, or environmental factors. They persist or worsen over time.
Autoimmune Disorders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lupus: Immune system attacks tissues, leads to joint pain, rash. Rheumatoid Arthritis: Immune system attacks joints, causing pain and swelling. Multiple Sclerosis: Immune response against nerve coating, causing muscle weakness. Type 1 Diabetes: Immune destruction of insulin-producing cells in pancreas. 	Autoimmune disorders occur when the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own tissues, leading to inflammation, pain, and fatigue.
Neurological Disorders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alzheimer's Disease: Memory loss, confusion, cognitive decline. Parkinson's Disease: Tremors, stiffness, coordination issues. Epilepsy: Seizure disorder due to abnormal brain activity. ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease): Motor neuron degeneration, causing muscle weakness. 	Neurological disorders affect the brain and nervous system, leading to symptoms like memory loss, tremors, seizures, and loss of coordination.

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Cardiovascular	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) - Narrowing of heart arteries leading to reduced blood flow. Hypertension - Chronic high blood pressure putting strain on the heart. Heart Attack (Myocardial Infarction) - Blockage in a coronary artery causing heart muscle damage. Stroke - Interruption of blood supply to the brain, leading to tissue damage. 	Cardiovascular diseases are among the leading causes of death. Atherosclerosis, where plaque buildup restricts blood flow, is a common factor. "Silent killer," can damage the heart, kidneys, and blood vessels. A blockage in a coronary artery stops blood flow to part of the heart, causing a heart attack. Strokes are caused by reduced blood flow to the brain, leading to brain cell death (ischemic stroke) or bleeding (hemorrhagic stroke). Prevention involves lifestyle changes and medical or surgical intervention.
Respiratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Asthma - Chronic inflammation of airways causing wheezing and difficulty breathing. COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) - A group of lung diseases that obstruct airflow. Pneumonia - Infection causing inflammation of the air sacs in one or both lungs. Pulmonary Fibrosis - Scarring of lung tissue leading to breathing difficulties. 	Respiratory diseases impact the lungs and airways, making it difficult to breathe. Asthma is often triggered by allergens or exercise, causing airway inflammation and narrowing. COPD, commonly caused by smoking, includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema, leading to permanent airflow obstruction. Pneumonia is a serious lung infection caused by bacteria or viruses. Pulmonary fibrosis involves the thickening and scarring of lung tissue, reducing breathing capacity. Early management and treatment are crucial for improving quality of life.
Endocrine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes Mellitus - Impaired regulation of blood sugar, leading to high glucose levels. Hypothyroidism - Underactive thyroid gland causing slow metabolism. Hyperthyroidism - Overactive thyroid gland leading to increased metabolism. PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome) - Hormonal imbalance affecting ovarian function in women. 	Endocrine diseases involve the glands that produce hormones. Diabetes is one of the most common, resulting from high blood sugar levels. Hypothyroidism causes fatigue, weight gain, and cold intolerance, while hyperthyroidism leads to weight loss, rapid heartbeat, and anxiety. PCOS is a complex condition involving hormonal imbalances, leading to symptoms like irregular periods, acne, and infertility. Management often involves medication and lifestyle changes.
Gastrointestinal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Crohn's Disease - Chronic inflammation of the digestive tract. Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) - A functional disorder causing abdominal pain and altered bowel habits. Ulcers - Open sores in the stomach lining caused by infection or medication. GERD (Acid Reflux) - Acidic contents of the stomach flow back into the esophagus, causing discomfort. 	Gastrointestinal diseases can range from mild to severe. Crohn's disease causes inflammation and ulcers throughout the digestive tract, leading to pain, diarrhea, and weight loss. IBS is a common condition without structural damage to the gut, characterized by abdominal pain and changes in bowel habits. Ulcers are open sores on the lining of the stomach or small intestine, often caused by H. pylori infection or NSAID use. GERD involves chronic acid reflux, which can lead to esophagitis and complications if not managed.
Musculoskeletal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Osteoporosis - Weakening of bones, increasing fracture risk. Rheumatoid Arthritis - Autoimmune disease causing joint inflammation and deformity. Fibromyalgia - Chronic pain disorder affecting muscles and soft tissues. Gout - A form of arthritis caused by uric acid crystal accumulation in joints. 	Diseases affecting the musculoskeletal system can cause pain and disability. Osteoporosis primarily affects older adults, leading to fragile bones. Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic autoimmune disease that attacks joints, causing swelling and deformity. Fibromyalgia is characterized by widespread pain and tender points. Gout is a form of arthritis caused by uric acid crystal accumulation in joints, leading to severe pain and inflammation. Management often requires long-term care, lifestyle changes, and medication.

Skin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psoriasis - Chronic autoimmune condition causing red, scaly patches on the skin. 2. Eczema (Atopic Dermatitis) - A condition causing itchy, inflamed skin, often linked to allergies. 3. Acne - A common skin disorder due to clogged pores, affecting teens and adults. 4. Melanoma - A serious type of skin cancer that develops in pigment-producing cells. 	Skin diseases can significantly impact quality of life. Psoriasis results from an overactive immune system. Acne, caused by clogged pores, is a common skin condition. Melanoma is a dangerous form of skin cancer, often requiring prompt treatment. Management ranges from topical treatments to severe conditions.
Cancer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Breast Cancer - Uncontrolled growth of cells in breast tissue. 2. Lung Cancer - Malignant tumors in the lungs, often linked to smoking. 3. Colorectal Cancer - Cancer in the colon or rectum, associated with dietary habits or genetics. 4. Prostate Cancer - Affects the prostate gland in men, often detected in older age. 	Cancer refers to a group of diseases caused by uncontrolled cell growth. It can invade nearby tissues and spread to other parts of the body. Risk factors and symptoms vary by type. Treatment options may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, and targeted therapy. Early diagnosis significantly improves outcomes.