

Box 30-10**Clinical Manifestations of Guillain-Barré Syndrome****Initial Symptoms**

Muscle tenderness

Paresthesia and cramps (sometimes)

Proximal symmetric muscle weakness

Ascending paralysis from lower extremities

Frequently involves muscles of trunk and upper extremities and those supplied by cranial nerves (especially facial)

Flaccid paralysis with loss of reflexes

May involve facial, extraocular, labial, lingual, pharyngeal, and laryngeal muscles

Intercostal and phrenic nerve involvement:

- Breathlessness in vocalizations
- Shallow, irregular respirations

Other Manifestations

Tendon reflexes depressed or absent

Variable degrees of sensory impairment

Muscle tenderness or sensitivity to slight pressure

Urinary incontinence or retention and constipation

Therapeutic Management