URL of this page: https://medlineplus.gov/degenerativenervediseases.html

Degenerative Nerve Diseases

Also called: Neurodegenerative diseases

Degenerative nerve diseases affect many of your body's activities, such as balance, movement, talking, breathing, and heart function. Many of these diseases are genetic. Sometimes the cause is a medical condition such as alcoholism, a tumor, or a stroke. Other causes may include toxins, chemicals, and viruses. Sometimes the cause is unknown.

Degenerative nerve diseases include:

- Alzheimer's disease [https://medlineplus.gov/alzheimersdisease.html]
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [https://medlineplus.gov/amyotrophiclateralsclerosis.html]
- Friedreich ataxia [https://medlineplus.gov/friedreichataxia.html]
- Huntington's disease [https://medlineplus.gov/huntingtonsdisease.html]
- Lewy body disease [https://medlineplus.gov/lewybodydementia.html]
- Parkinson's disease [https://medlineplus.gov/parkinsonsdisease.html]
- Spinal muscular atrophy [https://medlineplus.gov/spinalmuscularatrophy.html]

Degenerative nerve diseases can be serious or life-threatening. It depends on the type. Most of them have no cure. Treatments may help improve symptoms, relieve pain, and increase mobility.

Start Here

- Motor Neuron Diseases [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/motor-neuron-diseases] (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Electromyography (EMG) and Nerve Conduction Studies [https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/electromyography-emg-and-nerve-conduction-studies/] (National Library of Medicine)
  Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/electromiografia-y-estudios-de-conduccion-nerviosa/]
- Specialized Nerve Tests: EMG, NCV and SSEP [https://www.spine.org/KnowYourBack/Treatments/Assessment-Tools/Specialized-Nerve-Tests] (North American Spine Society)

Specifics

- Cerebro-Oculo-Fascio-Skeletal (COFS) Syndrome [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/cerebro-oculo-fascio-skeletal-cofs-syndrome] (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Corticobasal Degeneration [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/corticobasal-degeneration] (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Infantile Neuroaxonal Dystrophy [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/infantile-neuroaxonal-dystrophy] (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Mitochondrial Disorders [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/mitochondrial-disorders] (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Also in Spanish [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/es/health-information/disorders/trastornos-mitocondriales]

- Monomelic Amyotrophy [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/monomelic-amyotrophy] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Multiple System Atrophy [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/multiple-system-atrophy] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
  Also in Spanish [https://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/es/trastornos/atrofia-multisistemica]
- Myoclonus [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/myoclonus] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
  Also in Spanish [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/es/health-information/disorders/mioclono]
- Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/neurodegeneration-brain-iron-accumulation] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (Batten Disease) [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/neuronal-ceroid-lipofuscinosis-batten-disease] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- Prion Diseases [https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/prion-diseases] NIH (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/progressive-multifocal-leukoencephalopathy] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
  Also in Spanish [https://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/es/trastornos/leucoencefalopatia-multifocal-progresiva]
- Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Prion Diseases) [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/health-information/disorders/transmissible-spongiform-encephalopathies] NIH (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke)

Genetics

- Alpers-Huttenlocher syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/alpers-huttenlocher-syndrome] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- Alpha-methylacyl-CoA racemase deficiency: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/alpha-methylacyl-coa-racemase-deficiency] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- Andermann syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/andermann-syndrome] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- Ataxia neuropathy spectrum: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/ataxia-neuropathy-spectrum] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- Autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxia, deafness, and narcolepsy: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/autosomal-dominant-cerebellar-ataxia-deafness-and-narcolepsy] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN1 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln1-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN10 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln10-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN2 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln2-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN3 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln3-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN5 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln5-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN6 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln6-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)
- CLN7 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln7-disease] NIH (National Library of Medicine)

- CLN8 disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/cln8-disease] (National Library of Medicine)
- Congenital insensitivity to pain with anhidrosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/congenital-insensitivity-to-pain-with-anhidrosis] (National Library of Medicine)
- Familial encephalopathy with neuroserpin inclusion bodies: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/familial-encephalopathy-with-neuroserpin-inclusion-bodies] (National Library of Medicine)
- Fatty acid hydroxylase-associated neurodegeneration: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/fatty-acid-hydroxylase-associated-neurodegeneration] (National Library of Medicine)
- GM2-gangliosidosis, AB variant: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/gm2-activator-deficiency] (National Library of Medicine)
- Hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy type IE: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hereditary-sensory-and-autonomic-neuropathy-type-ie] (National Library of Medicine)
- Hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy type II: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hereditary-sensory-and-autonomic-neuropathy-type-ii] (National Library of Medicine)
- Hereditary sensory and autonomic neuropathy type V: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/hereditary-sensory-and-autonomic-neuropathy-type-v] (National Library of Medicine)
- Infantile-onset ascending hereditary spastic paralysis: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/infantile-onset-ascending-hereditary-spastic-paralysis] (National Library of Medicine)
- Juvenile primary lateral sclerosis: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/juvenile-primary-lateral-sclerosis] (National Library of Medicine)
- Marinesco-Sjögren syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/marinesco-sjogren-syndrome] (National Library of Medicine)
- Mitochondrial membrane protein-associated neurodegeneration: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/mitochondrial-membrane-protein-associated-neurodegeneration] (National Library of Medicine)
- Multiple system atrophy: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/multiple-system-atrophy] (National Library of Medicine)
- Neuromyelitis optica: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/neuromyelitis-optica/] (National Library of Medicine)
- Pantothenate kinase-associated neurodegeneration: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/pantothenate-kinase-associated-neurodegeneration] (National Library of Medicine)
- Polycystic lipomembranous osteodysplasia with sclerosing leukoencephalopathy: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/polycystic-lipomembranous-osteodysplasia-with-sclerosing-leukoencephalopathy] (National Library of Medicine)
- Progressive external ophthalmoplegia: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/progressive-external-ophthalmoplegia] (National Library of Medicine)
- Riboflavin transporter deficiency neuronopathy: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/riboflavin-transporter-deficiency-neuronopathy] (National Library of Medicine)
- Sandhoff disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/sandhoff-disease] (National Library of Medicine)

- Spastic paraplegia type 49: MedlinePlus Genetics [https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/spastic-paraplegia-type-49] (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- Nerve conduction [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000089.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
  Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000089.htm]

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Ataxia [https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Ataxia%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec] (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Neurodegenerative Diseases [https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Neurodegenerative+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec] (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Prion Diseases [https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Prion+Diseases%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec] (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Elevated ubiquitin phosphorylation by PINK1 contributes to proteasomal impairment and promotes... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40742280]
- Article: The intersection between circulatory microRNAs and biomarkers of neurodegeneration. [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40739583]
- Article: Evaluating the inhibitory efficacy of Oxalis phytocompounds on monoamine oxidase B:... [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40737296]
- Degenerative Nerve Diseases -- see more articles [https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Neurodegenerative+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+]

Find an Expert

- Find a Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Physician [https://members.aapmr.org/AAPMR/AAPMR_FINDER.aspx] (American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/]

Children

- EMG (Electromyogram) (For Parents) [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/emg.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Patient Handouts

- Multiple system atrophy - parkinsonian type [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000757.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
  Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000757.htm]
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000674.htm] (Medical Encyclopedia)
  Also in Spanish [https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000674.htm]

MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Familial dysautonomia [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001387.htm]
- Kuru [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001379.htm]
- Multiple system atrophy - parkinsonian type [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000757.htm]
- Nerve conduction [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000089.htm]
- Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses (NCL) [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001613.htm]
- Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000674.htm]
- Secondary parkinsonism [https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000759.htm]

Related Health Topics

- Alzheimer's Disease [https://medlineplus.gov/alzheimersdisease.html]
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis [https://medlineplus.gov/amyotrophiclateralsclerosis.html]
- Brain Diseases [https://medlineplus.gov/braindiseases.html]
- Cerebellar Disorders [https://medlineplus.gov/cerebellardisorders.html]
- Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease [https://medlineplus.gov/creutzfeldtjakobdisease.html]
- Friedreich Ataxia [https://medlineplus.gov/friedreichataxia.html]
- Genetic Brain Disorders [https://medlineplus.gov/geneticbraindisorders.html]
- Multiple Sclerosis [https://medlineplus.gov/multiplesclerosis.html]
- Parkinson's Disease [https://medlineplus.gov/parkinsonsdisease.html]
- Peripheral Nerve Disorders [https://medlineplus.gov/peripheralnervedisorders.html]
- Polio and Post-Polio Syndrome [https://medlineplus.gov/polioandpostpoliosyndrome.html]
- Rett Syndrome [https://medlineplus.gov/rettsyndrome.html]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Degenerative Nerve Diseases* is the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/]

4 Discoveries Beyond the Brain [https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/4-discoveries-beyond-the-brain]