

Nervous System Disorders

There are hundreds of disorders linked to the nervous system. Some of the most common include:

- 1) Alzheimer's
- 2) Epilepsy
- 3) Headaches / Migraines
- 4) Multiple sclerosis
- 5) Parkinson's
- 6) Stroke



Epilepsy

Symptoms: -Seizures (occur when the brain receives a burst of abnormal electrical signals that temporarily interrupts normal electrical brain function.)

In epilepsy, seizures are long and without special cause.

Causes: - Although usually genetically-based, epilepsy can be a sign of an underlying brain problem.

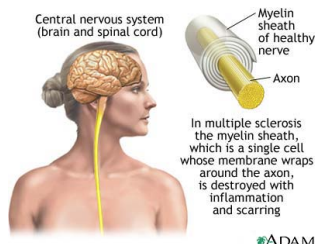


Multiple Sclerosis

Symptoms: - inflammation of the white matter in the central nervous system; destruction of myelin which slows or blocks transmission on neuron impulses.

- the result is mild to severe loss of bodily function

Causes: - genetic factors, viruses, auto-immune diseases...

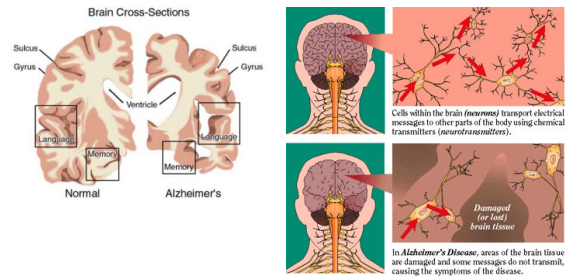


Alzheimer's

Symptoms: - impaired memory and thinking; personality and behaviour changes; language deterioration

Causes: - microscopic changes in the brain result in reduced production of certain brain chemicals necessary for communication between neurons.

- Studies show Alzheimer's is genetically based, but can also be due to other risk and environmental factors.

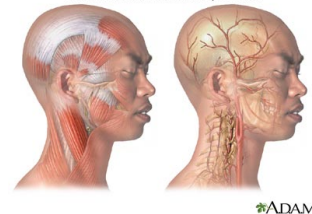


Headaches / Migraines

Symptoms: - Network of nerves in the scalp and muscles of the head are painful.

Causes: - Nerves are stimulated by stress, tension, and dilated blood vessels (among other things).
 - People who have chronic headaches may have lower levels of endorphins (natural pain killers) than others.
 - The causes of migraines is unknown, though it has been related to brain dysfunction, blood vessel problems and hypothyroidism.

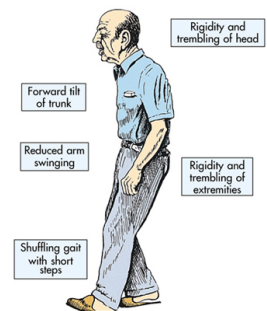
Most headaches are caused by muscle contraction or blood flow problems



Parkinson's

Symptoms: - Tremors; stiffness or rigidity in limbs; slowness of movement; impaired balance.

Causes: - exact causes unknown, though it has been linked to chemical imbalances in the brain cause by brain cell death.



Parkinson's typically isn't inheritable, never contagious and can strike at any age.

Strokes

Symptoms: - Brain cells die because of inadequate blood flow (also considered a cardiovascular disease).
- May result in paralysis, speech and memory problems, coma or even death.

Causes: - blockage of an artery in the neck or brain. Without proper oxygen supply, neurons die within minutes.

