

Motor Neurone Disease A Family Affair

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here is the first book to provide a comprehensive overview of the clinical pathological and research aspects of motor neuron disease mnd the text contains all essential features of the anatomy physiology pharmacology and toxicology of the motor system a full description of mnd and its variants as well as historical developments and a review of the current concepts and controversies this book comes at a time of increasing interest in neurodegenerative disorders and mnd in particular it will prove a key reference book with an integrated overview of the field and will be indispensable to practicing neurologists researchers and all those with an interest in mnd

building upon the success of the first edition of this popular book the new edition of physical management in neurological rehabilitation has been completely up dated and revised to reflect changes in practice today the authors consider the theoretical basis and scientific evidence of effective treatment taking a multidisciplinary problem solving approach to patient management which involves patients and carers in goal setting and decision making book jacket

written and designed to provide comprehensive easily accessible advice for all healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with this challenging condition this book addresses the entire care pathway from presentation to diagnosis to symptom management and end of life issues

motor neurone disease is one of the most difficult conditions to manage medically and socially a disease which leads to the loss of control of most muscle systems of the body it has no known cause and no cure for this reason clinicians have traditionally been reluctant to reveal the diagnosis to sufferers or their families and the condition has become known as one of the best kept secrets of medical practice however in recent years a number of organizations have set up to support sufferers and their families and consequently the public profile of the condition has changed dramatically motor neurone disease provides an extremely helpful guide to the medical facts relating to the condition and considers the psycho social effects on sufferers and those who care for them it will be essential reading for doctors nurses social workers physio speech and occupational therapists as well as all those suffering from motor neurone disease their families and carers

although new treatments for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis motor neurone disease are being developed these at present offer only the potential to slow the disease process therefore a palliative care approach to the care of the patient and their family is at the center of good clinical practice in als mnd this book aims to provide an evidence based guide to the care of people with als mnd including the control of symptoms the psychosocial care of patients and their families and care in bereavement the palliative care approach to the care of als mnd is outlined and the role of the multidisciplinary team emphasized the international authorship are from many different disciplines and are all closely involved in the care of als patients giving a depth of practical knowledge and experience and allowing a comparison of the differences across cultures social circumstances health care systems and nations all contributors are clinicians involved in the care of people with als mnd and they are able to provide clear guidelines of the care throughout the disease process from telling of the diagnosis to death the experience of patients and families are considered and case studies are provided to show the practical applications of the theoretical knowledge an evidence based approach grounded in day to day care of patients is used different models of care are explored and the interaction of palliative care with other treatment regimes is addressed as the experience from the treatment of cancer has shown that there may easily be areas of conflict and confusion if there is a lack of clarity in the care provided for patients the book aims to provide a reference for all involved in the care of patients with als mnd including neurologists general physicians rehabilitationists paramedical staff general family practitioners and specialist palliative care teams the care of a patient with als mnd and their family is often a challenge but one all should take up so that patients can live life as fully as possible

spells out what the disease is what the doctors will do how to cope with the difficulties what the future holds and the role of carers and support agencies

motor neurone disease mnd is a neurodegenerative condition that affects the brain and spinal cord mnd is characterised by the degeneration of primarily motor neurones leading to muscle weakness the presentation of the disease varies and can be as muscle weakness wasting cramps and stiffness of arms and or legs problems with speech and or swallowing or more rarely with breathing problems whichever area the disease starts as the disease progresses the pattern of signs and symptoms becomes similar with increasing muscle weakness in the person's arms and legs problems swallowing and communicating and weakness of the muscles used for breathing which ultimately leads to death most people die within 2 3 years of developing symptoms but 25 are alive at 5 years and 5 10 at 10 years the most common type of mnd is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

als there are rarer forms of mnd such as progressive muscular atrophy and primary lateral sclerosis which may have a slower rate of progression every person with mnd has an individual progression of the disease about 10 15 of people with mnd will show signs of frontotemporal dementia which causes cognitive dysfunction and issues with decision making a further 35 of people with mnd show signs of mild cognitive change which may affect their ability to make decisions and plan ahead mnd is a disorder which can affect adults of any age however incidence is highest in people aged 55 79 onset below the age of 40 years is uncommon there are approximately 4 000 people living with mnd in england and wales at any one time the cause of mnd is unknown about 5 10 of people with mnd have a family history of the disease and several abnormal genes have been identified as there is no cure for mnd care focuses on maintaining functional ability and enabling people with mnd and their family members to live life as fully as possible early diagnosis without delay after investigation may be helpful as it allows for the provision of medication and aids as well as for communication about the disease and advance care planning to be undertaken appropriately care of people with mnd varies across england and wales with mnd multidisciplinary team clinics and networks providing coordinated multidisciplinary care however some people with mnd are left isolated and their care is less than ideal this guideline aims to consider the clinical and cost effectiveness evidence for the care of people with mnd from the time of diagnosis including communication of the diagnosis it covers monitoring of disease progression management of symptoms in particular muscle weakness excess secretions breathing and nutrition problems ongoing support and services mobility emotional and psychological changes and preparation for end of life particular emphasis is placed on determining the best way to organise the care and management of people with mnd

motor neuron disease is a neurological condition that usually begins in late life it comprises several different disorders that are characterized by degeneration and loss of motor neurons recent advances in this area include new information on the genetic components within mnd current pharmacotherapy and the multidisciplinary approach to care

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