Caree Resources

Serious Illneses Resources

Brain and Neurological Disorders

The brain and neurons provide a powerful way for our body to communicate. Malfunctions to the neurological system and result in concerns associated with mobility, memory, and/or speech. Challenging and testing the brain as often as possible will increase the chances of memory retention. No matter the challenge, there are ways to help your caree improve following an injury such as a stroke or neurological injury.

Dementia – Alzheimer's and LBD (Alzheimer's Association)

Alzheimer's disease is a reversible brain disorder that develops over a period of years. It is a progressive disorder that causes brain cells to waste away (degenerate) and die. It eventually destroys memory and other important mental functions.

Resources
American Brain Foundation
Mayo Clinic
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, a group of disorders characterized by cognitive and behavioral problems. Other types include frontotemporal dementia, Lewy body dementia, and vascular dementia.
Symptoms include amnesia, dementia, memory loss, and confusion
Risk factors: Age, Genetics/family history, smoking and alcohol use, Cholesterol, Diabetes, and Mild cognitive impairment.

MS and Autoimmune Disease (National MS Society)

In autoimmune diseases, the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. It disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body. It can attach the immune system cells, the optic nerves, and the spinal cord.
Symptoms include vision loss, pain, fatigue, and impaired coordination. Symptoms vary from person to person.
Risk factors: Age, (onset usually occurs around 20 and 40 years of age), sex, family history, race, climate, and certain autoimmune diseases.

ALS and Neuromuscular Diseases (The ALS Association)

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a rapidly progressive, ultimately fatal neurological disease that attacks the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscles. Individuals with ALS lose their strength, their ability to move their arms, legs, and body, and, ultimately, their ability to breathe without ventilator support.
Symptoms include muscle weakness, problems with coordination, stiff muscles, loss of muscle, muscle spasms, fatigue, difficulty speaking or vocal cord spasm, and difficulty swallowing, Risk factors: Heredity/ Genetics (5 to 10 percent inherit ALS), age (ALS risk increases with age; most common between ages of 40 and the mid-60s), and sex (slightly more men than women develop ALS).

Neuro-infectious Diseases

Neuroinfectious diseases affect the nervous system, from the brain and spinal cord to muscles and nerves.