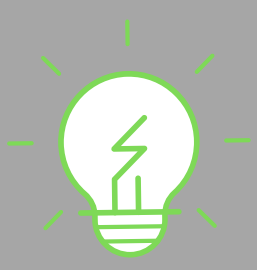
HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE

NPTE STUDYCAST

WHAT IS IT?

- Inherited, autosomal dominant trait
- Causes degeneration to specific brain regions
- Huntington's disease gene is on chromosome 4 and it produces the Huntington protein that's found throughout the body



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Symptoms can present at any age
- Symptoms can include physical, cognitive, and psychiatric signs & symptoms
- Disease is divided into 5 stages: preclinical, early, middle, late, end of life

ANATOMY/PRESENTATION

- Mechanism unclear
- Hallmark sign: atrophy of striatum that later involves cerebral cortex and subcortical structures
  - Leads to severe loss of neurons in caudate and putamen
  - Also affects basal ganglia pathways, indirect pathway is affected before direct pathway (important)

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

- Lupus, chorea, ataxia, generalized neurodegenerative disorder
- R/O with genetic testing

TREATMENT EXAMPLES

- PT will see patients in middle/later stages (95% of pts)
- Check medications→ should have meds for abnormal movements and psychiatric disorders
- Specific to individual
- Family training
- Management of falls and decreased mobility

ON THE NPTE

- Medications will be important (drastically changes function)
  - Know meds they may be on
  - Antipsychotics
  - Antidepressants disorder. Side effects may include nausea, diarrhea, drowsiness and low blood pressure.
  - Mood stabilizing drugs
- Know the PT management of disease progression (family education, etc.)

https://www.aureusmedical.com/nptestudycast

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