Nervous System Disorders

◆ Medical terms describing the clinical disorders of the nervous system.

Medical Term	Definition	Memory Tool
	Sudden &	Bells Pausing.
Bell's Palsy	unilateral facial paralysis.	
Cerebral Palsy	Brain damage to motor control center that occurs during childbirth.	Cerebrum Pausing.
Huntington's Chorea	hereditary disorder marked by jerky, involuntary movements.	Hunt for the Choreographer. Choreographer
Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) (GHEE-yan / bah-RAY)	autoimmune disorder involving destruction of myelin sheath.	Growing weakness. Breathing problems. Sensory disturbances.
Multiple Sclerosis	, autoimmune disorder involving destruction of myelin sheath.	My Sheaths are Scrambled.

Medical Term	Definition	Memory Tool
Parkinson's Disease	Progressive, neurological disorder marked by destruction of dopamine producing cells.	No Dope in the PARK.
Alzheimer's Disease	Chronic, degenerative disorder with death of neurons leading to dementia.	Forgetful Old Timer.
Reye Syndrome (Rī)	Triggered by combination of child viral infection & use.	All Sick Pediatrics Invite Risk If Not careful.
Sciatica	Pain, numbness and tingling that moves down the sciatic nerve of the leg.	Sci-fi Attack
Spina Bifida	Birth defect where the spinal column doesn't close completely and has a	Spine Bulge.
Akathisia (a-kuh-thee-zee-uh)	Disorder characterized by an inability to moving.	Antsy Kat can't sit still.

EXAMPLE

A 32-year-old woman develops a progressive lapse in memory and concentration, vertigo, some hearing loss, muscle spasms and walking difficulties. An MRI scan of her brain reveals some demyelination. Which of the following is her possible diagnose?

- a) Spina Bifida
- b) Akathisia
- c) Huntington's Chorea
- d) Multiple Sclerosis
- e) Guillain-Barré Syndrome

PRACTICE

A lumbar puncture was done on a patient suffering from bradykinesia, tremors, long bouts of depression and fatigue.

The cerebrospinal fluid collected shows a decrease in white blood cell count and a significantly reduced dopamine level.

Based on their analysis the patient suffers from which of the following disorders?

- a) MS
- b) Cerebral Palsy
- c) Parkinson's Disease
- d) Bipolar Disorder
- e) Bell's Palsy

Medical Procedures

- ◆ Terms that relate to _____ and procedures involving nervous system disorders.
 - They are categorized as History/Physical, Surgical/Diagnostic, and Radiological.

Medical Term	Definition	Memory Tool
Babinski's Sign	Stroking the side of foot with an object; moving big toe	BabinSKI: Big Toe Skiing up.
Deep Tendon Reflex	Muscle contraction from a hammer hitting a knee.	Knee-Deep Reflex.
Romberg Test	Measures a person's physical balance.	Rom-balance.
Spasticity	Unusually tightness and muscle tone.	Surge of Tone.
Tremor	Involuntary, repetitive, oscillating movement.	Trembling

Medical Term	Definition	Memory Tool
Aura	Visual and olfactory sensations that occur prior to seizures or migraines.	An Unusual Reaction Activates Senses.
Syncope	characterized by low cranial blood pressure.	SINK on me.
Burr Holes	Small openings drilled into the skull to relieve through drainage.	Bring Urgent Relief Rapidly.
Hydrocephalus Shunt	Flexible tube placed in the brain to drain excess	hydro- = water cephal/o = head shunt =
Positron Emission Tomography (PET Scan)	Technique that uses radioactive for imaging of cell activity.	Pets Eat Tons of Sugar.

EXAMPLE

Which of the following is a true statement?

- a) Spasticity is a type of hypertonia that can lead to muscle fatigue and weakness.
- b) A deep tendon reflex is an involuntary action that involves only the central nervous system.
- c) A hydrocephalus shunt is a solution that can never be replaced because of body integration.
- d) Syncope is permanent loss of consciousness caused by a decrease in cranial blood flow.

PRACTICE

Which of the following would not be a reasonable use for burr holes?

- a) Taking a biopsy of brain matter.
- b) Implementation of a medical device such as a shunt.
- c) Removal of a solid clot.
- d) Treatment of hydrocephalus.

Physiology & Pharmacology

◆ Terms that deal with the study of neurotransmitters and _____ with their effect on the nervous system.

Medical Term	Definition	Memory Tool
Acetylcholine (ACH)	Neurotransmitter used to communicate between cells & neurons.	ACHing Muscles and Memory.
Endorphins	Neurotransmitters that reduce and produce feelings of well-being.	EndorPhins: End Pain.
Dopamine	Neurotransmitter that is integral to movement, & motivation.	It's Dope feeling good.
Anticonvulsants	Prevent or control seizures.	Anti-commotion
Levodopa	Treats dopamine in the brain.	LEVO-tating DOPe levels.

EXAMPLE

Which of the following is a true statement?

- a) Levodopa improves mood by affecting only the peripheral nervous system.
- b) Acetylcholine is used to promote muscle contraction and inhibit muscle relaxation.
- c) A person with high levels of endorphins would be immune to the sensation of pain.
- d) Dopamine's main role is in the thermoregulation of the human body.

PRACTICE

What is the primary role of endorphins in the human body?

- a) Regulate the circadian rhythm when it comes to our sleep-wake cycles.
- b) Stimulate muscle contraction in voluntary movements.
- c) Act as the body's natural pain relievers and to enhance feelings of pleasure.
- d) Regulate our fight-or-flight response to an external stressor.