WHAT IS ALS?

A progressive, neurodegenerative disease that is 100% fatal.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. ALS usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and approximately 20,000 Americans can have the disease at any given time.

Although there is not yet a cure or treatment that that halts or reverses ALS, scientists have made significant progress in learning more about this disease.

FACTS ABOUT ALS

- 5,000+ people are diagnosed per year
- 2-5 Years is the average life expectancy
- Every 90 Minutes someone is diagnosed and someone passes away
- Only 2 Drugs are currently approved by the U.S. FDA for ALS (Riluzole extends survival by only several months)
- 10% of cases are familial (inherited through mutated gene)
- 90% of cases are sporadic (occur without family history)
- $250,000 is the estimated out-of-pocket cost for caring for a person with ALS
- $2 Billion is the estimated cost to develop a drug to slow or stop the progression of ALS
- There are ZERO effective treatments for ALS

SYMPTOMS

Progressive loss of muscle control

ALS gradually prohibits the ability to:
- Speak
- Swallow
- Walk
- Grasp objects
- Move
- Breathe

DIAGNOSIS

Difficult to diagnose

- ALS is often diagnosed by ruling out other diseases, which may take months or years.

MILITARY

Veterans are 2x as likely to get ALS

- ALS affects veterans who served in peace time and war
- The Department of Defense is one of the largest funders of ALS research

You can help change the facts by donating to The ALS Association.

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