



WHAT IS ALS?

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS)

A progressive, neurodegenerative disease


It is a terminal disease


Nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control muscle movement die. ALS robs you of your ability to walk, talk, swallow and eventually breathe.

FAST FACTS ABOUT ALS

 **2,500-3,000**
people are living with ALS in Canada

 **2-5 YEARS**
average life expectancy after diagnosis

 **5-10%**
of cases are familial (inherited through mutated gene)

 **90% +**
sporadic cases (unknown cause)

 **150,000 - 250,000**
cost to average family over the course of the disease



In Canada 2-3 people are diagnosed with ALS everyday



there is no cure



SYMPTOMS

PROGRESSIVE PARALYSIS, LOSS OF ABILITY TO TALK, SWALLOW, WALK, MOVE AND BREATHE

E.g. Difficulty clenching fist or grasping objects, slurred or slow speech, unexplained falls, choking or difficulty swallowing, shortness of breath or difficulty standing for periods of time



DIAGNOSIS

DIFFICULT TO DIAGNOSE

ALS is often diagnosed by ruling out other diseases