
Learning Objectives

MedBridge

Advanced Physical Therapy Management of Individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
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Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Differentiate between classical ALS and its variants
- Understand the use of outcome measures based on current evidence for use in clients with ALS
- Justify the use of different physical therapy treatment interventions for clients with ALS based on current evidence
- Select appropriate physical therapy assessments and interventions for a client with ALS presented in a case study based on the client's individual condition and stage of the disease

Chapter 1: Differentiating Classical ALS and Its Variants

Classical ALS involves degeneration of both upper and lower motor neurons, resulting in upper and lower motor neuron signs and symptoms. Variants of ALS include bulbar onset ALS, progressive muscular atrophy, primary lateral sclerosis, and ALS with frontotemporal dementia. This chapter provides the therapist advanced knowledge about the differential characteristics of classical ALS and its variants.

Chapter 2: Evidence-Based Examination and Treatment for the Client with ALS

Appropriate management of the client with ALS is based on application of evidence-based examination tests and measures and treatment interventions. This chapter prepares the therapist to select and use appropriate examination techniques and interventions across all stages of the disease.

Chapter 3: Providing PT Across the Course of the Disease: Case Study

In this chapter, knowledge gained about current best practice for physical therapy management of a client with ALS will be applied to a case study. Rationale for selection of examination outcome measures and interventions across all of the disease stages will be presented.

Reimbursement issues will be briefly discussed.