

Table 1: Indicators of impending end-of-life in neurodegenerative conditions.

• Rapid deterioration of independent and safe ambulatory ability (falls, inability to sit up or hold head up unsupported, ataxia, physical rigidity, immobilisation, primitive reflexes)
• Increasing dependence for personal care (dressing, feeding, bathing, shaving)
• Loss of urinary and faecal continence
• Loss of speech (linguistic regression, limited single intelligible words only, loss of speech)
• Difficulties swallowing (choking, recurrent aspiration pneumoniae)
• Increasing fatigue and drowsiness, torpor (diurnal and nocturnal)
• Loss of appetite and weight >10% (anosmia, inability to feed self, inanition, cachexia)
• Pain (agitation, generalised musculoskeletal pains, contractures)