

# What is ALS?

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that attacks motor neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurons control the movement of voluntary muscles. When the motor neurons can no longer send impulses to the muscles due to ALS, the muscles begin to atrophy causing increased muscle weakness and loss of coordination.

Symptoms of ALS include twitching and cramping of muscles (fasciculation), loss of control in hands and arms, impaired use of the arms and legs, weakness and fatigue, tripping and falling, dropping things, slurred or thick speech, and difficulty breathing and swallowing. The symptoms progress relentlessly, ultimately resulting in death. In most cases ALS patients do not experience impaired intellectual reasoning, vision, or hearing. Eye and bladder muscles, along with sexual function and drive are normally not affected.

Since 1869 the ALS Death Toll is 20,849,596 Fallen

...411 people per day

...17 people per hour

...Survivors...0

