

10 Facts about ALS

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord and causes muscle weakness that leads to paralysis across all parts of the body.

1 100% Fatal

2 Veterans are at a higher risk of developing ALS



3 2-5 Years :
Average life expectancy

4 5,000+ people
diagnosed each year



5 Symptoms: gradual loss of ability to speak, swallow, walk, grasp objects, move, and breathe

6 No known cause or cure for ALS

7 Diagnosis is difficult, made by ruling out other diseases

8 90% of ALS cases are sporadic – no family history

9 10% of ALS cases are familial – inherited genetically



10 \$250,000 – estimated out-of-pocket cost of care for person with ALS

VA provides a lot of support to manage symptoms and adapt to changes over the course of the disease to help maintain independence and quality of life – VA is a unique leader in this area.