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Clinical diagnosis of lambert-eaton myasthenic syndrome: The power of taking time with patients

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Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome (LEMS) is an uncommon disorder of neuromuscular junction transmission. The predominant clinical manifestation is slowly progressive muscle weakness particularly involving the legs, depressed or absent deep tendon reflexes, and ocular symptoms. The incidence of LEMS is classified as rare, the prevalence unknown.

This case focuses on a young female presenting with vague symptoms given the presumptive diagnoses of more common causes. Anamnesis revealed she is following the clinical trajectory of several family members of different generations who died in their midlives.

By taking the time to document a thorough sequence of clinical events and family history, proper confirmatory tests can prompt further work-up to ascertain underlying malignancies that can be treated early, gaining the patient years of quality life and a sense of peace by knowing what is happening with their health.

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