

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: a neurodegenerative disorder poised for successful therapeutic translation

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SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1: Currently available symptomatic and neuroprotective treatments for ALS

Grade A therapies where the evidence is based from systematic review or a randomised controlled trial with narrow confidence intervals are highlighted. Relevant references are appended.

SYMPTOMATIC THERAPIES	
Respiratory failure	Non-invasive ventilation (NIV) (Grade A) ¹ ; Cough assist device ² ; tracheostomy-ventilation used in some countries ³ .
Dysphagia	Attention to food consistency and swallow technique; nutritional supplements; gastrostomy placement using one of several potential methods ⁴ .
Dysarthria	Advice from Speech Therapist; voice banking ⁵ ; a variety of communication aids including computer programmes controlled by eye gaze.
Oro-pharyngeal secretion management	<p>For excessive thick oro-pharyngeal secretions: carbocisteine as a mucolytic agent; nebulised saline; humidification of NIV system; cough assist device; suction device; pineapple juice.</p> <p>For excessive oral saliva (thin secretions)⁶: hyoscine transdermal patches; amitriptyline; atropine orally or as sublingual drops; glycopyrrolate; intra-salivary gland botulinum toxin; suction device.</p>
Dry mouth	Artificial saliva spray or gel; humidification of NIV.
Muscle cramps	Quinine sulphate ⁷ ; levetiracetam ⁸ ; mexiletine ⁹ ; physical therapy.
Pain	WHO Analgesic ladder; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs); amitriptyline; opioids; steroid injection for frozen shoulder.

Spasticity	Baclofen, tizanidine, dantrolene, benzodiazepines; prescribed exercises ¹⁰ .
Emotional lability	Serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) ¹¹ ; amitriptyline ¹² ; combined dextromethorphan-quinidine (Grade A) ¹³ .
Fatigue	Modafinil ¹⁴ .
Mood alterations	Benzodiazepines for anxiety; SSRIs or tricyclic anti-depressants (TCADs) for depression; psychological therapy/counselling.
End of life care	Palliative care team involvement. Opiate or anxiolytic medications may be required to alleviate discomfort or distress.
DISEASE MODIFYING THERAPIES	
Riluzole	Riluzole (Grade A) inhibits glutamate release from pre-synaptic terminals, by inactivating voltage-dependent sodium channels and is considered to reduce motor neuron excitotoxicity. The original trial results indicated a modest improvement in survival by approximately 3 months ¹⁵ , but a more recent assessment suggests that there may be a more substantial effect on life expectancy ¹⁶ .
Edaravone	Edaravone (Grade A) is a free radical scavenger anti-oxidant administered IV for 14 successive days per month. It has been reported to delay the progression of disability over a 6 month time frame in a highly selected sub-group of ALS patients ¹⁷ . It has been approved for ALS treatment in Japan and the USA but not in Europe.

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Supplementary Table 2

Genes identified as causative or increasing the risk of ALS

ALS – amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; FTD – frontotemporal dementia. AD= autosomal dominant; AR= autosomal recessive. ALS-new represent newly described potential ALS genes that require further validation; ALS-putative represent potential genetic risk factors; FTD-ALS are genes known to be associated with both ALS and FTD. Relevant references are appended.

ALS Locus Number	Gene	Encoded protein	Chromosomal location	Inheritance	Phenotypic features	Protein function: Disease mechanisms	Original references
ALS1	<i>SOD1</i>	Cu-Zn superoxide dismutase	21q22.11	AD (AR)	Adult-onset, usually limb-onset. Not associated with dementia. Not a TDP-43 proteinopathy.	Dismutates superoxide free radicals: Oxidative stress; protein aggregation; mitochondrial dysfunction; axonal transport defects; proteasome impairment; glial dysfunction	Rosen et al, 1993 ¹
ALS2	<i>ALS2</i>	Alsin	2q33.1	AR	Infantile and juvenile-onset, slowly progressive ALS mainly affecting upper motor neurons.	Intracellular trafficking.	Hadano et al., 2001 ² ; Yang et al., 2001 ³
ALS4	<i>SETX</i>	Senataxin	9q34.13	AD	Juvenile-onset, slowly progressive ALS.	RNA processing.	Chen et al., 2004 ⁴
ALS5	<i>SPG11</i>	Spatacsin	15q21.1	AR	Juvenile-onset, slowly progressive ALS	Vesicle trafficking; axonal defects.	Orlacchio et al., 2010 ⁵ ;

					mainly affecting upper motor neurons.		Chia et al.,2018 ⁶
ALS6	<i>FUS</i>	Fused in sarcoma RNA binding protein (component of the hnRNP complex)	16p11.2	AD (AR)	Large variation in the age of disease onset, but with a median younger than for sporadic ALS. Typical or atypical ALS and FTD ⁶ .	RNA processing; DNA damage repair defects; nucleocytoplasmic transport defects; stress granule function; protein aggregation.	Kwiatkowski et al., 2009 ⁷ ; Vance et al., 2009 ⁸
ALS8	<i>VAPB</i>	Vesicle-associated membrane protein	20q13. 32	AD	Adult-onset, typical or atypical ALS.	Proteasome impairment; intracellular trafficking.	Nishimura et al., 2004 ⁹
ALS9	<i>ANG</i>	Angiogenin	14q11.2	AD	Adult-onset, typical ALS and FTD.	RNA processing.	Greenway et al., 2006 ¹⁰
ALS10	<i>TARDBP</i>	TAR DNA binding protein 34 (TDP-43)	1p36.22	AD	Adult-onset, typical ALS not associated with overt cognitive dysfunction. Limb or bulbar onset, considerable variation in age of onset and rapidity of disease course.	RNA processing; nucleocytoplasmic transport defects; stress granule function; protein aggregation.	Sreedharan et al., 2008 ¹¹ ; Rutherford et al., 2008 ¹²
ALS11	<i>FIG4</i>	Polyphosphoinositide phosphatase	6q21	AD	Adult-onset, clinical variability with incomplete penetrance.	Intracellular trafficking.	Chow et al., 2009 ¹³

ALS12	<i>OPTN</i>	Optineurin	10p13	AD (AR)	Adult-onset. Slowly progressive atypical amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ⁶ .	Autophagy; protein aggregation; inflammation; NF-κB regulation, membrane trafficking, exocytosis, vesicle transport, reorganization of actin and microtubules, cell cycle control.	Maruyama et al., 2010 ¹⁴
ALS13	<i>ATXN2</i>	Ataxin 2	12q24.12	AD	Adult-onset, typical ALS.	RNA processing.	Elden et al., 2010 ¹⁵
ALS14	<i>VCP</i>	Valosin-containing protein / Transitional endoplasmic reticulum ATPase	9p13.3	AD / de novo	Adult-onset, typical ALS and FTD.	Autophagy; proteasome impairment; defects in stress granules; protein aggregation; mitochondrial dysfunction; endoplasmic reticulum dysfunction.	Johnson et al., 2010 ¹⁶
ALS15	<i>UBQLN2</i>	Ubiquilin-2	Xp11.21	X-linked AD	Adult or juvenile onset ⁶ .	Proteasome impairment; autophagy; protein aggregation; oxidative stress; axonal defects.	Deng et al., 2011 ¹⁷
ALS16	<i>SIGMAR1</i>	Sigma non-opioid intracellular receptor 1	9p13.3	AD and AR	Juvenile-onset ALS associated with FTD.	Proteasome impairment; intracellular trafficking	Luty et al., 2010 ¹⁸ ; Al-Saif et al., 2011 ¹⁹
ALS17	<i>CHMP2B</i>	Charged multivesicular body protein 2b	3p11.2	AD	Adult-onset, typical ALS.	Autophagy; protein aggregation.	Parkinson et al., 2006 ²⁰
ALS18	<i>PFN1</i>	Profilin-1	17p13.2k	AD	Adult-onset typical ALS.	Axonal defects.	Wu et al., 2012 ²¹

ALS19	<i>ERBB4</i>	Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-4	2q34	AD	Adult-onset, typical ALS.	Neuronal development.	Takahashi et al., 2013 ²²
ALS20	<i>hnRNPA1</i>	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A1	12q13.13	AD / de novo risk factor	Adult-onset typical ALS; myopathy; cognitive impairment.	RNA processing.	Kim et al., 2013 ²³
ALS21	<i>MATR3</i>	Matrin-3	5q31.2	AD	Adult-onset. Upper and lower motor neurons are affected. Survival duration ranges from 2–12 years ²⁴ .	RNA processing.	Marangi et al., 2017 ²⁴ ; Johnson et al., 2014 ²⁵
ALS22	<i>TUBA4A</i>	Tubulin alpha-4A chain	2q35	AD	Adult-onset. Frequent typical ALS presentation with some FTD associated cases ²⁶ .	Cytoskeleton.	Perrone et al., 2017 ²⁶ ; Smith et al., 2014 ²⁷
ALS23	<i>ANXA11</i>	Annexin A11	10q22.2	AD	Adult-late onset, classical ALS, bulbar or limb onset.	Intracellular trafficking.	Smith et al., 2017 ²⁸
ALS24	<i>NEK1</i>	Serine/threonine-protein kinase Nek1	4q33	AD	Adult-onset, although clinical descriptions are scarce, typical ALS without dementia is described ⁶ .	Intracellular trafficking; DNA-damage response; microtubule stability.	Kenna et al., 2016 ²⁹
ALS25	<i>KIF5A</i>	Kinesin heavy chain isoform 5A	12q13.3	AD	Adult-onset. Classical ALS.	Axonal defects; intracellular trafficking.	Nicolas et al., 2018 ³⁰

ALS -new	<i>GLT8D1</i>	Glycosyltransferase 8 domain-containing protein 1	3p21.1	AD	Adult-onset, both limb onset and bulbar onset ALS in a limited number of clinically described cases.	Ganglioside synthesis.	Cooper-Knock et al., 2019 ³¹
ALS-new	<i>TIA1</i>	Cytotoxic Granule Associated RNA Binding Protein	2p13.3	AD	Adult-onset. Associated with both ALS and FTD.	Delayed stress granule disassembly; stress granule accumulation.	Mackenzie et al., 2017 ³²
ALS-new	<i>C21orf2</i>	Cilia And Flagella Associated Protein 410	21q22.3	AD	Adult-onset typical ALS and FTD ⁶ .	Microtubule assembly; DNA damage response and repair; mitochondrial function; interacts with NEK1.	van Rheenen et al., 2016 ³³
ALS-new	<i>DNAJC7</i>	DnaJ Heat Shock Protein Family (Hsp40) Member C7	17q21.2	Unknown	Adult-onset ³⁴ .	Protein homeostasis; protein folding and clearance of degraded proteins; protein aggregation.	Wang et al., 2020 ³⁴ ; Farhan et al., 2019 ³⁵
ALS-new	<i>LGALS1</i>	Galectin-related protein	2p14	Unknown	Adult-onset.	Protein function is largely unknown.	Gelfman et al., 2019 ³⁶
ALS-new	<i>KANK1</i>	KN motif and ankyrin repeat domain-containing protein 1	9p24.3	Unknown	Adult-onset.	Cytoskeleton; axonopathy.	Zhang et al., 2022 ³⁷
ALS-new	<i>CAV1</i>	Caveolin 1	7q31.2	Unknown	Adult-onset.	Intracellular and neurotrophic signalling.	Cooper-Knock et al., 2020 ³⁸

ALS-new	<i>SPTLC1</i>	Serine palmitoyltransferase, long chain base subunit 1	9q22.31	AD	Juvenile-onset, variable presentation including growth retardation and cognitive dysfunction.	Excess sphingolipid biosynthesis.	Johnson et al., 2021 ³⁹ ; Mohassel et al., 2021 ⁴⁰
ALS-new	<i>ACSL5</i>	Long-chain Fatty Acid Coenzyme A Ligase 5	10q25.2	Unknown	Adult-onset, rapid weight-loss.	Long-chain fatty acid metabolism.	Iacoangeli et al., 2020 ⁴¹ ; Nakamura et al., 2020 ⁴²
ALS-putative	<i>ELP3</i>	Elongator protein 3	8p21	Unknown	Adult-onset, typical ALS without dementia.	Ribostasis; cytoskeletal integrity.	Simpson et al., 2009 ⁴³
ALS-putative	<i>DCTN1</i>	Dynactin	2p13	AD	Juvenile-onset, slow progressive ALS.	Axonal transport.	Puls et al., 2003 ⁴⁴
ALS-putative	<i>PARK9</i>	Probable Cation-Transporting ATPase 13A2	1p36.13	AR	Juvenile-onset.	Lysosome function.	Spataro et al., 2019 ⁴⁵
FTD-ALS1	<i>C9orf72</i>	Guanine nucleotide exchange C9orf72	9p21.2	AD	Adult-onset, variable penetrance and clinical features.	RNA processing; nucleocytoplasmic transport defects; proteasome impairment; autophagy; inflammation; protein aggregation (DPRs).	DeJesus-Hernandez et al., 2011 ⁴⁶ ; Renton et al., 2011 ⁴⁷
FTD-ALS2	<i>CHCHD10</i>	Coiled-coil-helix-coiled-coil-helix domain-containing protein 10	22q11.23	AD	Adult-onset, complex phenotype including ALS, FTD, ataxia, mitochondrial	Mitochondrial function, synaptic dysfunction	Bannwarth et al., 2014 ⁴⁸ ; Johnson et al., 2014 ⁴⁹

					myopathy, parkinsonism, and sensorineural hearing loss.		
FTD-ALS3	<i>SQSTM1</i>	Sequestosome-1	5q35.3	AD	Adult-onset, limb onset ALS and FTD.	Proteasome impairment; autophagy; protein aggregation; axonal defects; oxidative stress.	Fecto et al., 2011 ⁵⁰
FTD-ALS4	<i>TBK1</i>	Serine/threonine-protein kinase	12q14.2	AD	Adult-onset. Can present either as a pure motor syndrome or with cognitive/behavioral dysfunction either mild or severe enough for FTD-ALS diagnosis.	Autophagy; inflammation; mitochondrial dysfunction.	Cirulli et al., 2015 ⁵¹ ; Freischmidt et al., 2015 ⁵²
FTD-ALS5	<i>CCNF</i>	Cyclin F	16p13.3	AD	Adult-onset.	Autophagy, axonal defects, protein aggregation.	Williams et al., 2016 ⁵³

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