

Causes of muscle weakness by mode of onset (acute and subacute / chronic).

	Acute	Subacute / Chronic
Cerebral cortex	Intracranial haemorrhage Stroke Brain tumour Seizure Hemiplegic migraine	Tumour Cerebral palsy Neurodegenerative disorders e.g amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
Spinal Cord	Paraspinal infection or inflammation Tumour / stroke / Trauma Transverse myelitis	Myelomeningocele Tethered cord
Anterior horn cell	Poliomyelitis Other enteroviruses	Spinal muscular atrophy
Peripheral nerve	Guillain-Barre syndrome Peripheral nerve toxins– shellfish, heavy metals <i>Acute intermittent porphyria</i>	Congenital neuropathies e.g. Hereditary motor-sensory neuropathies Heavy metal poisoning
Neuromuscular junction	<i>Myasthenia gravis</i> Botulinism Organophosphate or carbamate poisoning Neurotoxic snake bite Tick paralysis	<i>Myasthenia gravis</i>
Muscle	Rhabdomyolysis Infectious / Post-infectious Myositis – viral, bacterial, other <i>Familial periodic paralysis</i>	Congenital myopathies Muscular dystrophies Myotonic disorders *Juvenile idiopathic inflammatory myopathies **Systemic inflammatory diseases (e.g. JDM) Metabolic myopathies Mitochondrial myopathies Lipid myopathies Endocrinopathies e.g.Cushing syndrome, hypothyroidism
Other	<i>Electrolyte disturbance (e.g potassium, calcium, sodium, phosphate)</i> Medication related Idiopathic pain syndromes	Steroid myopathy