

**American Academy of Neurology  
Multiple Sclerosis Section  
Resident Core Curriculum**

5/15/01

It is anticipated that experience in managing persons with MS will occur throughout the three years of residency training, in both in-patient and out patient settings. Clinical exposure should be supplemented by didactic lectures/seminars by faculty, and relevant correlations with other related areas. ( neuroradiology, neuropathology, etc.)

Learning objectives

The first year resident should be able to:

1. Recognize common presentations of MS, order appropriate diagnostic evaluations, and provide a differential for other conditions that may mimic MS.
2. Describe the basic immunopathology of MS.
3. Describe epidemiologic patterns seen in MS (e.g., geography, ethnicity, gender).
4. Describe the several clinical courses of MS ( e.g., R/R, SP, PP)
5. Treat an acute exacerbation of MS, in both in-patient and out patient conditions, and recognize and treat pseudoexacerbations.
6. Understand and provide symptomatic treatment for common primary and secondary symptoms of MS.
7. Know when to prescribe basic rehabilitation modalities used in treating persons with MS
8. Know how to prescribe and monitor “ first -line” disease modifying agents used for prophylactic treatment of MS (in 2001, these are the “ABC” drugs).

The second year resident should be able to:

1. Recognize unusual manifestations of MS, be familiar with MS “variants” (e.g., Devic’s), and name diagnostic “red flags” that suggest alternative diagnoses.
2. Discuss sensitivities, specificities and indications for particular diagnostic modalities.
3. Discuss use of MRI and other imaging modalities in monitoring persons with MS.
4. Know indications for use of “second-line” disease modifying agents, e.g. chemotherapy.
5. Be familiar with commonly used scales for rating impairment and disability in persons with MS. Be able to interpret an EDSS score.
6. Discuss non-pharmacologic treatment modalities such as environmental modifications, orthotics, etc.
7. Discuss prognosis for an individual patient ( based on history, exam, MRI)

The third year resident should be able to:

1. Discuss psychosocial issues, e.g. vocational, family role changes, long-term planning, etc. Discuss impact of pregnancy on MS.
2. Critically review literature regarding pathogenesis and therapeutic trials in MS.

### Teaching Resources

1. Web site links
  - a. National Multiple Sclerosis Society; <http://www.nmss.org>
  - b. National Library of Medicine; <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>
  - c. Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers: <http://www.msca.org>
  - d. Multiple Sclerosis Association of America; <http://www.msaa.com>
2. Other resources
  - a. CONTINUUM, October 1999.
  - b. Payty DW, Ebers GC. Multiple Sclerosis. Philadelphia: FA Davis, 1998.