Diagnosing MS, Mimics, and Myelopathies: Clinical Pearls and Pitfalls

Program Director
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Program Description
The diagnosis of MS remains rooted in the principle of dissemination in time and space. However, as our understanding of the heterogeneity of MS evolves, a greater appreciation of the spectrum of idiopathic inflammatory CNS demyelinating disorders, as well as acute/subacute myelopathies is needed in order to reliably distinguish MS from other CNS demyelinating disorders or non-demyelinating disease mimics. This case-based course will define the clinical forms, temporal course, and natural history of MS; discuss the clinical, radiographic and pathologic spectrum of CNS inflammatory demyelinating diseases; describe clinical, laboratory and radiographic red flags that may suggest an alternative diagnosis, and present an approach in the evaluation of acute/subacute myelopathies.

Learning Objectives
Upon completion, participants should be able to define the clinical forms, temporal course, and natural history of MS; discuss the impact of treatments on the natural history of MS; appreciate the spectrum of the CNS idiopathic inflammatory demyelinating disorders; recognize the red flags that suggest an MS disease mimic; define an approach in the evaluation of acute/subacute myelopathies; and recognize distinct clinical-MRI patterns that may aid in accurate diagnosis in patients presenting with an acute/subacute myelopathy.

Recommended Audience
Trainee; General Neurologist; Specialist Neurologist; Non-neurologist; Advanced Practice Provider

Core Competencies
Medical Knowledge; Patient Care; Practice-based Learning and Improvement; Systems-based Practice

Schedule
8:00 a.m.–8:55 a.m. MS: Clinical Forms, Diagnosis, and Natural History
Brian G. Weinshenker, MD, FAAN, Rochester, MN

8:55 a.m.–9:50 a.m. The Spectrum of MS and Its Mimickers
Claudia F. Lucchinetti, MD, FAAN, Rochester, MN

9:50 a.m.–10:05 a.m. Break

10:05 a.m.–11:00 a.m. An Approach to the Diagnosis of Myelopathies
Dean M. Wingerchuk, MD, FAAN, Scottsdale, AZ

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Remyelination and Repair in Multiple Sclerosis