I096 MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM MANIFESTATIONS OF RHEUMATIC DISEASES

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Central nervous system manifestations of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases are often very challenging to diagnose and manage, especially when the presentation is acute and time is of the essence. Diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), systemic vasculitis and antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) may all have neurological manifestations. In a patient with both SLE and APS, it is often very difficult to identify the primary driver for the patient's presenting clinical features. Even more confusingly, complications from medical conditions such as severe hypertension may cause symptoms such as seizures, which may be mistaken, for example, for cerebral lupus. Identifying demyelinating disorders in rheumatic disorders such as SLE, APS and Sjögren's syndrome at the bedside can be intimidating. This lecture will give a brief overview with clinical examples, of an approach to the diagnosis and management of neurological manifestations of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases.

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