

COVID-19 AND MS: WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE NEXT? APRIL 2021

Case studies



Case study 1

Presented by Klaus Schmierer

DMTs and vaccination timing

36-year-old woman, generally healthy and active

IT consultant, married, 2 children (3- and 1-year old)

BMI 27, BAME (COVID-19 risk categories)

Not been offered SARS-CoV2 vaccination yet

How do you balance this woman's need for rapid, effective MS treatment against the backdrop of her increased risk of COVID-19?

MS history

Newly diagnosed with highly active MS

Double vision, urinary urgency, mild tandem gait ataxia

Keen to start highly effective DMT

Concerned about increased infection risk with immunotherapies

Has read about increased COVID-19 risk with B-cell depleting therapies

BAME, Black, Asian and minority ethnic; BMI, body mass index; DMT, disease-modifying treatment



Case study 2

Presented by Dimitrios Karussis

Prioritizing patients with MS

29-year-old man

Diagnosed in 2017

Interferon β -1a treatment

Significant AEs; new symptoms and two relapses

MRIs 2019 and 2020: new active and inactive lesions

EDSS: 2.0

Objectives

Understand the principles for decisions about COVID-19 vaccination in patients with MS, with particular reference to guidance from Israel

Apply these principles to the treatment decisions about a specific individual

AE, adverse event; EDSS, expanded disability status scale; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging



Case study 3

Presented by Hollie Schmidt

Tackling COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy

40-year-old woman

About to return to workplace; has school-aged children

Worried about possible MS relapse from vaccine . . .

. . . and speed of development

Confused by options and conflicting information

Objectives

Understand the main reasons people with MS may be reluctant to be vaccinated against COVID-19

Recognize how clear information and better understanding can help to overcome their barriers

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