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The challenge of treating neurologic complications in the era of immunotherapy

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We entered in a new era of cancer treatment characterized by the arrival of novel therapies. Immunotherapy has revolutionized the management of various solid tumors and hematological malignancies. On the other hand, the emergence of unpredicted multi-systemic side effects resulting from those agents became challenging for clinicians. Neurological toxicity, while rare, could be life threatening and even lethal. In addition, neurological toxicity is certainly under-diagnosed, considering the paucity of current supporting literature. Novel therapies are linked to unprecedented clinical pictures; physicians need to be vigilant. The next step, establishing a plan in the absence of algorithm, relies on judgment and insight. This presentation aims to raise awareness about the emergence of uncommon neurological events, in the new era of immunotherapy. Short cases scenarios will be presented supported by radiology images and pathology pictures. “Quiz” questions will be prepared to interact with the audience. The goal is to trigger interest about the field of neuro-oncology. The presentation will be adapted for guests of every level of training (students, PhD, physicians, specialists).

Biography

Catherine Maurice completed her residency training in Neurology at the University of Montreal in 2013. She then started a 2-year fellowship in neuro-oncology at the Pencer Brain Tumor Centre of Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, under the supervision of Warren P. Mason. In 2015, University of Toronto Health Network recruited Catherine Maurice to work as an attending physician and clinical teacher. She developed a new neuro-oncology clinic focusing on the to assessment of neurologic complications resulting from systemic cancers and novel therapies. She also manages another clinic focused on primary brain tumors and is enrolled in the multidisciplinary Gamma-Knife Clinic of the Krembil Neuroscience Centre. Maurice is actively involved in teaching, trying to incorporate new technologies and virtual reality into medical education.

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