

MANAGING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING

A NINE-PART CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES
AIMED AT DEVELOPING SUB-SPECIALIZATION
AND INTENSIFIED RA CARE MANAGEMENT
AT THE PRIMARY CARE LEVEL

*Satellite Broadcast and Online Continuing Medical
Education Enduring Activity for Physicians and Nurses*



ACTIVITY GOAL AND FORMAT

This nine-part educational series uses guidelines (the science) and the art of clinical decision-making to improve knowledge and skills related to the early identification, treatment and ongoing management of Rheumatoid Arthritis at the primary care level. These programs include didactic presentations, patient case studies with panel discussion, and Q&A.

PART 1: NEW ONSET POLYARTHRITIS

Tuesday, November 10, 2009
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 2: THE APPROACH TO EARLY RA PATIENTS

Thursday, December 3, 2009
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 3: RA VS. OTHER FORMS OF CHRONIC POLYARTHRITIS

Wednesday, January 13, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 4: DMARD THERAPIES BY PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 5: DRUG SAFETY I: NSAIDS, STEROIDS, & DMARDS

Thursday, February 11, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 6: WHO SHOULD GET AGGRESSIVE RX?

Thursday, February 25, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 7: DRUG SAFETY II: BIOLOGICS

Thursday, March 11, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 8: PCP ROLE IN MANAGING COMORBIDITIES

Thursday, March 25, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

PART 9: 2008 ACR GUIDELINES FOR RA CARE

Thursday, April 8, 2010
12:00 – 12:30pm ET

NOTE: All segments are available as an Enduring Webcast after original airing

FACULTY

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PURPOSE AND CONTENT

The current framework for rheumatoid arthritis care aims to identify RA at earlier stages, better control complications, and reach the goal of remission in more patients. The problem is the majority of RA care is provided by specialists -- and our country is now realizing a significant shortage of rheumatologists.

As fewer and fewer primary care clinicians felt comfortable managing RA, they routinely deferred to specialists. But the disparity in the number of RA patients and rheumatologists is now affecting clinical outcomes -- with significant delays in diagnosis and treatment, and more patients realizing long term joint damage. In reality, primary care physicians are uniquely qualified to manage chronic disease, as demonstrated with the shift in diabetes management.

The defining features of primary care - continuity, comprehensiveness and coordination - match the needs of chronically ill patients. With fewer specialists, new knowledge about the timeliness of diagnosis, and growing awareness of extra-articular manifestations, PCPs must take on the lion's share of RA care. In fact, it is essential that you understand the barriers to positive results, best practices in RA management, and current guidelines.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This program is intended for family practitioners, general internists, advanced nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other healthcare providers.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of these activities, participants will be able to:

- Review the role of primary care in the management of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and its comorbidities
- Identify the clinical characteristics of RA and the concept of pattern recognition as it applies to chronic inflammatory arthritis
- Identify histologic, anatomic, and physiologic considerations that contribute to the pathogenesis of RA
- Describe treatment goals and/or outcome measures for managing RA
- Devise strategies for implementing RA therapies to maximize their safety and efficacy
- Apply evidence and best practices to manage the complexities of RA in the primary care setting
- Describe the systemic complications of RA and integrate the treatment of comorbidities into patients' overall treatment plan

This activity is supported by educational donations provided by Amgen and Pfizer Inc.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

The nine parts of the series will be available via a live webcast during the air date and will continuously stream for one year after the live airing on www.crmhealthcare.net.

The programs are also available as live satellite broadcasts. A limited copy of the series is available in DVD or VHS format.

For more information call CRM Healthcare - 469.484.9451 or email professionaleducation@crmhealth.com.

ACCREDITATION

PHYSICIAN

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center designates this educational activity for a maximum of 0.5* *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. *0.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™] for each part in this series

NURSING

The Camenae Group, Inc. is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity meets Type I criteria for mandatory continuing education requirements toward relicensure as established by the Board of Nursing.

The Camenae Group, Inc. provides up to 4.5 contact hours for successful completion of this educational activity (0.5 contact hours for each Part).

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

It is UT Southwestern's policy that participants in CME activities should be made aware of any affiliation or financial interest that may affect the speaker's presentations. Each speaker has completed and signed a conflict of interest statement. The faculty members' relationships will be disclosed in the course materials.

DISCUSSION OF OFF-LABEL USE

Because this course is meant to educate physicians with what is currently in use and what may be available in the future, there may be "off-label" use discussed in the presentations. Speakers have been requested to inform the audience when off-label use is being discussed.

REGISTRATION

Participation in this activity is offered at no charge. Participants and satellite site coordinators should register on www.crmhealthcare.net/programs/managingra.