



LECTURE

Workshop: neurological emergencies

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Abstract

Neurologists are probably the most required non-surgical specialists in the Portuguese adult Emergency Departments. Whenever neurologists are not available, the internal medicine specialists or the general practitioners face the challenge of correctly evaluating neurological patients, struggling to go through confusing, yet invaluable, clinical history taking, neurological examination and clinical reasoning. This workshop will address the most common neurological complaints in the Emergency Department.

Acute stroke will be extensively reviewed, focusing on practical issues of management and on the updates of the stroke “fast track” in the era of thrombectomy.

Acute vestibular syndromes and the not always straightforward differentiation between central and peripheral etiologies will also be addressed.

The span of pathologies that may present as headache in the Emergency Department is vast and the emergency physician must soon learn to identify those patients that need a thorough investigation, without neglecting symptomatic relief. We will address the particularities of clinical history taking and red flags in the history and neurological examination, pointing towards the most worrisome not-to-miss diagnoses.

We will then review the clinical approach to the patient with seizures, both new-onset and as a part of previously diagnosed epilepsies, and the management of convulsive and non-convulsive status epilepticus. Other causes of altered mental status and delirium will also be presented.

To conclude, the topic of the patient presenting with acute neurological deficit not caused by stroke, with a focus on spinal cord lesions and Guillain-Barré syndrome, will be briefly discussed.

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