

## **DOES INTERFERON THERAPY DELAY OR PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECONDARY PROGRESSIVE DISEASE? – NO**

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The use of interferon in MS has led to its widespread use in relapsing MS patients. Its effect in progressive disease has been disappointing. The short-term randomised controlled studies in relapsing remitting (RR) patients were not designed to measure the effect on subsequent progressive disease and hence good evidence of such efficacy is lacking. Despite this lack of data, it is common practice to use such treatments early in RR disease to reduce subsequent long-term damage. I will present the evidence that treating with interferon does not delay or prevent secondary progression.