

Cognitive dysfunction is improved by disease modifying drugs

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Cognitive dysfunction is a highly frequent symptom in people with multiple sclerosis (MS), prevalence rates of up to 70% are reported. Cognitive dysfunction may occur at disease onset but tends to increase in frequency as the disease advances. As current disease-modifying drugs (DMD) were aimed at reducing relapse rates and eventually disability progression when investigated in clinical trials, evidence that these medications may beneficially influence cognitive function or may prevent cognitive decline over the course of the disease is meagre. Insights into effects of DMD on cognitive function mainly stem from open label studies or post hoc analyses of exploratory endpoints in pivotal trials. This session will touch upon the controversial debate as to whether cognitive function can be influenced by DMDs and whether cognitive deterioration should trigger switch or escalation of immunotherapy.