

Neuroscience and Behavioral Disorders (NBD) Seminar Series

Bench to Bed side Seminar

Speaker: Dr Kevin Tan
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Title: Encephalitis: from the known to the unknown

Abstract

Encephalitis has many causes and is associated with high morbidity and mortality worldwide. It also has significant public health and economic costs. Central nervous system (CNS) infections and their treatments are varied depending on the underlying aetiologies. New pathogens are constantly emerging. The threat of these infections to quickly become a pandemic is greater today than ever before. Recent advancements in the use of a variety of immunomodulatory drugs also put patients at risk of CNS infections. Effective interventions exist for some causes of encephalitis. Timely and appropriate treatment is crucial for improving acute encephalitis outcome; hence, rapid identification of the cause is key. However, the vast majority of infections remain without an identified aetiology. There is increasing evidence that a significant proportion of these patients have immune-mediated encephalitis. Most studies of encephalitis have not distinguished infectious from non-infectious causes of acute encephalitides. However, identification of such patients is important as treatment strategies involve immunomodulation. Plans are currently being made to study the epidemiology of CNS infections in Singapore and systematically evaluate the clinical, neuroradiological and laboratory features. This allows detection of outbreaks. Tissue banking will allow further evaluation for novel pathogens using current and future techniques. Future research may focus on the development of therapeutics and vaccines.

Seminar Details:

Date: 24 August 2012, Friday

Time: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Venue: Conference Room 4D (Level 4)

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School Host: Dr Tan Eng King

Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Neuroscience & Behavioral Disorders Program

