

CANCER AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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Introduction: Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic demyelinating disease, whose incidence seems to be increasing, as the patients' longevity, which emphasizes the need for updated knowledge about comorbidity in this population. Little is known about the incidence of cancer in these patients, with conflicting results in different studies. However the implications are important, because of the used treatments may affect both the treatment of MS and cancer.

Methods: the authors present two women with remitting-relapse MS who developed cancer.

The first woman is 42 years old with MS, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and submitted to surgery and is doing tamoxifen. At the cancer diagnosis she was changed from the interferon treatment, with whom she had been stable to glatimerate. She had two relapses with more gadolinium enhancing lesions in the MRI and was again switched to interferon. The second woman is 52 years old has MS diagnosis since 1995 and was medicated with interferon until 2004, when cervix cancer was diagnosed. She was submitted to surgery and switched to glutimerate. She has been stable with no cancer recurrence or MS relapses.

Conclusion: These cases demonstrate the difficulties in managing MS patients with cancer, since there are no guidelines. Therefore a multidisciplinary approach between the neurologist and oncologist is essential. It is also important to stress the unknown effects of MS therapies in cancer risk and the possible interactions with cancer treatments. This issue underlines the need of more studies being conducted in this population.