MRI of the Spine: Essentials for the Spine Specialist – Online Course

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This course includes videotaped podium presentations in conjunction with audio and slides. A post-course evaluation will be given to help reinforce your knowledge.

Although the ability to evaluate MRI studies is critical to the delivery of effective spine care, most spine specialists learn this skill in an informal fashion during training and in clinical practice. As a result, we may not have an understanding of the science and physics behind MR imaging and the various pulse sequences that are available for obtaining the scans. Many of us prefer to read our patients’ MR imaging studies ourselves rather than rely solely on the “official” radiologist’s report. We learn to make preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative decisions based on those readings. However, unlike radiologists who are trained to evaluate MRI studies in a systematic fashion, we may be more likely to evaluate the images in a less organized manner and to rely on our anatomic expertise and experience, which may not be the most effective method.

This online course will help teach spine specialists how to systematically evaluate and interpret MR imaging studies of the spine. Although there are many courses that focus on MR imaging of the spine, this one is distinctive in that it is given by spine surgeons and radiologists specifically for spine specialists. As such, it is more clinically oriented than other courses. It also provides an excellent reference for radiologists and others such as physical medicine and rehabilitation clinicians, rheumatology physicians, and nonoperative musculoskeletal care specialists who evaluate MR images of the spine and who would like to gain a better appreciation of the associated clinical aspects.

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Define and recognize the normal MRI anatomy of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.
- Recognize and understand the rationale for use of the most common MRI pulse sequences used in the spine.
- Describe the most commonly seen pathologic findings in the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine.
- Utilize a systematic approach to evaluate MR imaging studies of the spine.
- Correlate the imaging findings on spine MRI with those on other imaging modalities.

Agenda:

- Introduction (Khanna)
- Essentials of MRI Physics, Pulse Sequences and MRI Safety (Carrino)
- Systematic Review of MR Imaging Studies (Khanna)
- MRI Anatomy of the Spine and Normal Variants (Carrino)
- MRI of the Cervical Spine (Khanna)
- Occipitocervical Imaging and Pathology (Sciubba)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Lumbar Spine (Khanna)
- Tumors of the Spine (Sciubba)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Pediatric Spine (Khanna)
- Correlation of MRI with Other Imaging Modalities (Carrino)
- Advanced Techniques in Spine MRI (Carrino)

**Appropriate Audience**
Spine specialists who want to learn how to evaluate and interpret MR imaging studies of the spine. Radiologists, physical medicine and rehabilitation clinicians, rheumatology physicians, and nonoperative musculoskeletal care specialists who evaluate MR images of the spine and who would like to gain a better appreciation of the associated clinical aspect are also welcome. Target audience includes: spine surgeons, nonoperative spine care specialists, radiologists with an interest in spine pathology, residents and fellows, Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.

**Continuing Medical Education (CME) Information**
This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Standards of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The North American Spine Society is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians and takes responsibility for the content, quality and scientific integrity of this CME activity.

NASS designates this enduring material for a maximum of 9.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The American Medical Association has determined that physicians not licensed in the US to participate in this CME activity are eligible for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.