

**THE ROLE OF ULTRASOUND IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS:
A UK-DUTCH PRACTICAL VIRTUAL COURSE**

Host: Professor Bhaskar Dasgupta/Dr Edgar Colin, Netherlands

Date: 17 March 2021

Sonography, in the past two decades, has revolutionised the perspective in the field of rheumatology. This is especially true in the diagnosis and management of GCA where not only Ultrasound but several new clinical trends have been introduced. These everchanging trends call for ongoing professional development and training. This virtual course is a little effort to share our skills and research with everyone in a world affected with pandemic.

Faculty:

- Bhaskar Dasgupta, Southend, UK
- Edgar Colin, Almelo, Netherlands
- Christian Dejaco, Italy
- Cees Haagsma, Almelo, Netherlands
- Celina Alves, Almelo, Netherlands
- Alwin Sebastian, Southend, UK
- Niels Van der Geest, Groningen, Netherlands

Brief description.

This course is designed to deliver clinical aids for the diagnosis and management of GCA, particularly focusing on the role of ultrasound and additional tests within a probability based diagnostic algorithm. It will feature:

Live demonstration of US scanning and settings of temporal and axillary arteries in GCA patients

The role of quantitative ultrasound in assessment and monitoring, particularly in patients on biologics/DMARD therapy

The complementarity of PET CT and large vessel ultrasound scanning in GCA

Q&A sessions providing discussion and practical advice on setting up and running a ultrasound driven
Fast track GCA clinic

Further GCA training (including BSR e-learning LVV ultrasound module) and networking
opportunities

Learning objectives.

1. Attendees will learn how to make a secure early diagnosis of GCA in a Fast-Track setting with discussion of various manifestations of cranial, large vessel and ischemic disease
2. The Fast-Track Pathway will be detailed, along with a GCA probability score to categorise referrals into low, intermediate, and high probability categories
3. Role of Vascular Ultrasound in this setting will be demonstrated and a Probability Based Diagnostic Algorithm will be described
4. The novel Quantitative Ultrasonographic Halo Score will be presented and its application to disease monitoring with tocilizumab/DMARDs and HAS GCA study will be discussed
5. Role of PET scanning in GCA and its complementarity with Large vessel ultrasound scanning will be discussed

The Practical Session will include advice on equipment settings and live demonstrations of temporal and axillary artery ultrasound scanning

Schedule.

Time (GMT+1)	Presentations	Speaker
10:00	Welcome & Introduction	Bhaskar Dasgupta
10:10	Fast-Track Clinics for GCA: UK experience Fast-Track Clinics for GCA: Netherlands Experience	Bhaskar Dasgupta Edgar Colin
	Q&A	
10:50	GCA pre-test probability score to aid the diagnosis of suspected GCA	Bhaskar Dasgupta Celina Alves
	Q&A	
11:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11:45	Southend probability-based algorithm for suspected GCA in a Fast-Track Clinic	Alwin Sebastian
12:10	FDG PET-CT as a complementary test in GCA and LVV	Tariq Mohammad Alwin Sebastian
	Q&A	
12:45	Lunch	
13:30	Southend Halo Score for diagnosis, stratification of GCA	Niels Van der Geest
13:50	Ultrasound image acquisition for Halo Score OMERACT Consensus	Christian Dejaco
14:10	Halo Score application in GCA assessment & monitoring <i>HAS GCA study, TCZ in GCA</i>	Alwin Sebastian
	Q&A	
14:45	Procedures for temporal & axillary artery Ultrasound	Bhaskar Dasgupta Cees Haagsma
	Q&A	
15:30	Tea/Coffee Break	
15:45	Temporal & axillary artery ultrasound in GCA: live demonstration	
	Q&A	
16:45	Closing remarks	Bhaskar Dasgupta

Registration cost is £50.00

Please contact for registration.

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