BRINGING TOGETHER GROUNDBREAKING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES WITH EXPERT CLINICAL CARE TO MANAGE COMPLEX NEUROINFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS

The UCSF Center for Encephalitis and Meningitis provides comprehensive services to diagnose and treat patients with challenging neuroinflammatory disorders. Clinical care is provided in an environment of robust, cutting-edge translational research, providing our patients with access to the most up-to-date diagnostics and therapies, some of them available only at UCSF.

We offer state-of-the-art assays such as metagenomic next-generation sequencing of cerebrospinal fluid to diagnose neurologic infections, and research-based studies that investigate novel autoimmune causes of encephalitis.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Multidisciplinary team that includes leading researchers and clinicians who are experts in determining the etiology of encephalitis and meningitis, including infectious, autoimmune, autoinflammatory, paraneoplastic, cancer immunotherapy-related and other causes
- One of the only programs in the world to link bench science to bedside care for patients with encephalitis and meningitis
- Novel diagnostics developed at UCSF to identify causes and improve care for patients with brain inflammation
- Neurodiagnostic and neuropsychological (cognitive) testing available
- Collaboration with colleagues in epilepsy, neurorecovery, neurorehabilitation, urology and other subspecialties

INFORMATION / REFERRALS

- PHONE (415) 353-2069
- FAX (415) 353-2633
CONDITIONS TREATED

- Autoimmune encephalitis
- Chronic meningitis
- Infectious encephalitis and meningitis
- Pachymeningitis
- Paraneoplastic neurological conditions

WHY REFER TO UCSF?

- Experts in using antibody testing to diagnose rare autoimmune causes of encephalitis and meningitis
- Deep experience in immunosuppressive and/or antimicrobials for rare neurological conditions
- Rapid access to care, often within seven days of initial call
- Close collaboration with the UCSF Center for Next-Gen Precision Diagnostics (NGDx), which offers CLIA-certified metagenomic next-generation sequencing of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
- Neuromotivation programs that focus on strategies to promote and accelerate healing and rehabilitation
- Cutting-edge basic and clinical research to understand mechanisms of injury and repair in encephalitis and meningitis, such as:
  - Work to develop a “designer” T-cell therapy for progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML)
  - A unique autoantibody discovery pipeline that leverages multiple techniques, including phage display, immunohistochemistry and cell-based assays, to identify novel auto-antibodies in seronegative autoimmune encephalitis patients

CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL

Strong suspicion of a central nervous system inflammatory disorder based on cerebrospinal fluid abnormalities and/or neuroimaging suggesting a potential inflammatory process

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