



THE MYOSITIS ASSOCIATION

Program Services: Education, Support, Advocacy, Research

**Attention:
Emergency
Medical
Responders**

Patient Primary Diagnosis: _____

Overlap Autoimmune Diseases: _____

What is Myositis?

“Myositis” is a general inflammation or swelling of the muscle. A more specific use of the word is to describe a chronic inflammatory autoimmune muscle disorder, also called myopathy, or disease of the muscle. The forms of Myositis are: Dermatomyositis (DM), Polymyositis (PM), Inclusion-Body Myositis (IBM), and Juvenile Myositis (JM).

Dermatomyositis (DM)

DM is the easiest type of Myositis to recognize because there’s usually a skin rash caused by vasculitis.

- ✚ Patchy reddish or purple rash that can be seen on eyelids, cheeks, upper chest, elbows, knees or knuckles
- ✚ Gradual proximal muscle weakness sometimes accompanied with pain
- ✚ Patients may have dysphagia and interstitial lung disease

Polymyositis (PM)

PM is more difficult to recognize since there is no rash, is mainly associated with muscle weakness, and is mainly found in adult women.

- ✚ Patients experience gradual proximal muscle weakness sometimes accompanied with pain
- ✚ Some patients may have weakness in the hands and fingers
- ✚ Patients may have dysphagia and interstitial lung disease

Inclusion-Body Myositis (IBM)

IBM progresses more slowly than the other types of myositis, affects more men than women, and is rarely seen in people younger than 50 years old.

- ✚ Patients experience gradual muscle weakness, sometimes over a period of many years
- ✚ First signs of IBM are falling, difficulty getting up from a chair, and a weakening grip
- ✚ Many patients notice atrophy in the arms and thighs and often have dysphagia

Challenges that emergency responders may face?

Problem: Steroid dependency

Explanation: At times, many DM and PM patients are taking high doses of corticosteroids. As a result, the adrenal glands do not function properly and caution should be taken to avoid steroid withdrawal or adrenal crisis.

Problem: Immune suppressed

Explanation: Patients that are immunosuppressed cannot fight infections.

Problem: High levels of creatine phosphokinase (CPK)

Explanation: Sometimes high levels of CPK during blood analysis are mistaken for symptoms of a heart attack. In myositis patients, the high CPK levels are generally a result of muscle tissue damage.

Problem: Overlap autoimmune diseases can also cause additional complications

Explanation: For example, patients with a Scleroderma overlap could have hardening of the skin making IV insertion very difficult and a smaller gauge needle should be considered. Another example is patients with Raynauds Phenomenon. These patients have a decreased blood flow to the fingers that may interfere with the pulse oximeter’s ability to read correctly.

Note: Please fill out in pencil so changes can be made as needed

Date when this form was last changed or updated: _____

Name: _____ Phone No.: _____

Phone No.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Birth Date: _____ Social Security No.: _____

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Medical Insurance Co.: Primary Secondary _____

Policy/ID No.: _____ Group: _____

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Policy/ID No.: _____ Group: _____

Medicare No.: _____ Medicaid No.: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone No.: _____ Cell Phone No.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Does the above emergency contact have power of attorney? Yes No

Are they a health care proxy? Yes No Location of document: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone No.: _____ Cell Phone No.: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Does the above emergency contact have power of attorney? Yes No

Are they a health care proxy? Yes No Location of document: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone No.: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone No.: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone No.: _____

Doctor: _____ Phone No.: _____

Hospital Preference: _____

Do you have a signed do-not-resuscitate or do-not-intubate document? Yes No

The Mission of The Myositis Association is to:

- + Provide support to Myositis patients and their families
- + Provide connections between the Medical Advisory Board and the general medical and patient community
- + Increase funding to support Myositis research



THE MYOSITIS ASSOCIATION

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