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Multiple Sclerosis and Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders in Malaysia: A comparison in different ethnic groups.

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Highlights

1. Important epidemiological data about the disease in Malaysia ie Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) are the two commonest demyelinating diseases seen with ratios of 1.3 to 1.0
2. Important Inter-ethnic differences; NMOSD is commoner in the Chinese ethnic group while MS is commoner amongst the Indians and Malays. Seropositive NMOSD is significantly associated with Chinese NMOSD patients.
3. Inter-ethnic differences in terms of clinical presentation, laboratory findings and neuroimaging are described.
4. The importance of recognition of these differences so management of the disease can be optimized in resource limited settings.

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