



IgG4ward! EuroJAM Key Takeaways & Viewing Guide: Accompanying Dr. Emma Culver's "Challenges in the Journey to Diagnosis"

Importance of this talk

For many people living with IgG4-related disease (IgG4-RD), obtaining a diagnosis can be one of the most difficult parts of the journey.

Symptoms may develop gradually, affect different organs, or resemble other conditions, making it challenging to recognize the disease early. As a result, many patients experience uncertainty, multiple specialist referrals, and delays before receiving answers.

In this presentation, Dr. Emma Culver explores why diagnosing IgG4-RD can be so complex, why early recognition matters, and what can be done to improve the diagnostic journey for future patients.

Key takeaways

- IgG4-RD can affect multiple organs and present in many different ways.
- Patients often see several healthcare providers before receiving an accurate diagnosis.
- There is no single test that can definitively diagnose IgG4-RD.
- Physicians must often bring together information from symptoms, imaging, laboratory testing, biopsy findings, and clinical history to identify the disease.
- IgG4-RD can resemble other inflammatory conditions, infections, and cancers, making careful evaluation essential.
- Improving diagnosis requires education, collaboration, patient advocacy, and continued research.

Watch for these moments in the session

- Why many patients experience a long and winding road to diagnosis

- The "blind men and the elephant" analogy and what it teaches us about IgG4-RD
 - Why there is no single diagnostic test for IgG4-RD
 - Why elevated IgG4 levels alone do not confirm the diagnosis
 - The role of biopsies and why they do not always provide clear answers
 - How physicians distinguish IgG4-RD from other diseases
 - Why patient advocacy, education, and collaboration are critical to improving recognition of the disease
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Why this matters

Receiving an accurate diagnosis can help reduce uncertainty, avoid unnecessary procedures, support appropriate treatment decisions, and minimize the risk of long-term organ damage.

Understanding the challenges associated with diagnosis can help patients and caregivers better navigate the healthcare system, advocate for themselves, and recognize the importance of continued awareness and education efforts.

As Dr. Culver highlights throughout the session, improving diagnosis requires collaboration among patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocacy organizations working toward a common goal.

Continue Learning

Whether you are newly diagnosed, supporting a loved one, or seeking to deepen your understanding of IgG4-related disease, the **IgG4ward! Academy** offers educational resources developed specifically for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

Explore disease education modules, expert-led learning content, and updates on research and treatment developments.

Learn more at www.igg4ward.org

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Medical disclaimer - educational purposes only

The information contained in this guide is intended for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

The content reflects key themes discussed during Dr. John Stone's presentation, *History and Evolution of IgG4-Related Disease*, and is provided as a companion educational resource.

Individuals should always consult their physician or qualified healthcare provider regarding any questions about their medical condition, diagnosis, treatment options, or healthcare decisions.

Never disregard professional medical advice or delay seeking medical care because of information contained in this publication.
