

Serious pathology course - Red flags in clinical practice

This course will consider those pathologies that can masquerade as musculoskeletal conditions which make it challenging for clinicians to know whether the cause of a patient's symptoms is from a musculoskeletal disorder or serious pathology.

The course will cover serious pathology of the spine and will include

- Cauda equina syndrome
- Fracture
- Malignancy
- Spinal Infection
- Inflammatory disorders

Other pathologies such as primary cancers and visceral presentations will also be considered.

Practical sessions will include neurological testing and abdominal palpation. It will be supported by a series of case studies which will challenge the participant in recognising possible signs and symptoms of serious pathology using the knowledge gained on the course.

Learning objectives

- To develop a better understanding of which serious pathologies are most likely to mimic musculoskeletal disorders.
- Understand when patients might be at more risk of developing serious pathology.
- Know when further investigation is appropriate and the speed at which this is necessary.
- Review of the evidence associated with red flags.
- To develop a comprehensive subjective strategy for patients that you may suspect have serious pathology including in depth questioning beyond red flag questioning.
- To develop a comprehensive strategy for patients that you may suspect have serious pathology including safety netting.
- Consider aspects of the physical examination that may help to

Day 1

Red flags; the evidence and application to clinical practice.

Cauda Equina Syndrome

Spinal fracture -differential diagnosis

Visceral pathologies

Day 2

Spinal Infection

Primary cancers

Inflammatory disorders of the spine

Other unusual pathologies