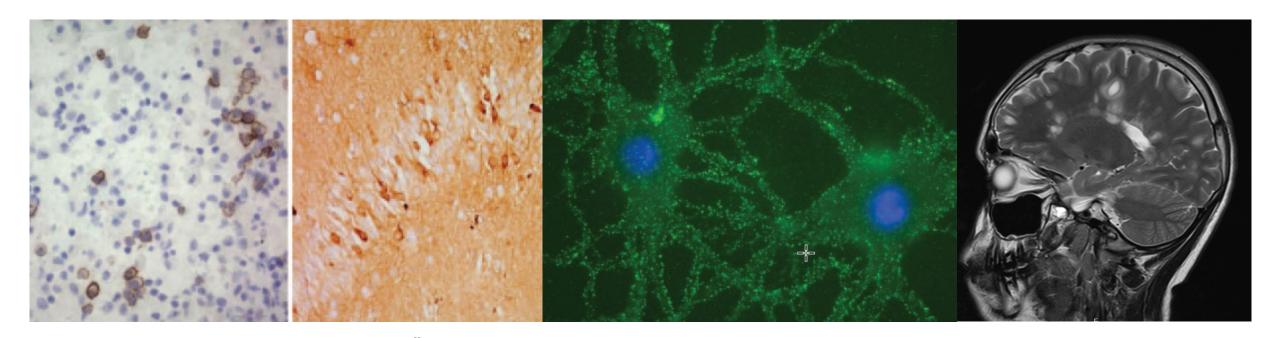


Neuropädiatrie Kinderspital Luzern

Institut für Sozial- und Präventivmedizin, Universität Bern

Pediatric Inflammatory Brain Diseases

Current Management



PD Dr. med. Sandra Bigi, MSc, Leitende Ärztin und Abteilungsleitung Neuropädiatrie 23.10.2023

Disclosures

Research support from:

- Swiss MS Society
- Novartis
- Sanofi Genzyme
- Roche
- Biogen

Member of the SC of the Medico-scientific advisory Board of the Swiss MS Society EPNS Board Member

Outline



Setting the scene

Considerations in treating pediatric inflammatroy brain diseases



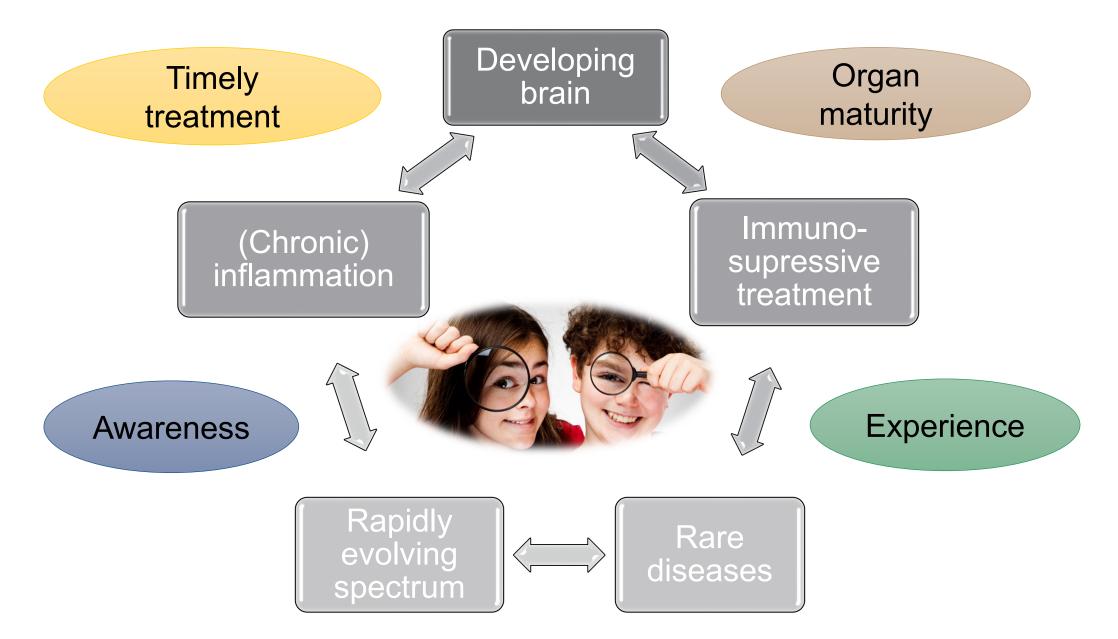
Managing selected entities

Autoimmune encephalitis
Pediatric onset multiple sclerosis
MOG-AD



Summary

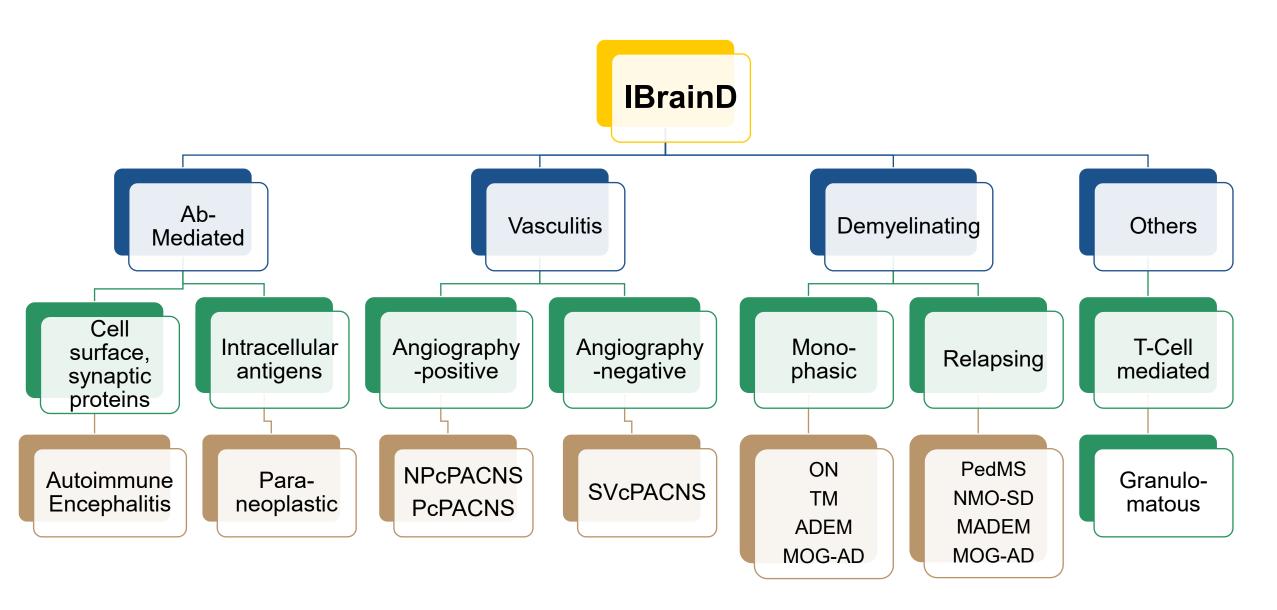
Where to go from here





Goals in managing pediatric IBrainD

- Hetergeneous pot of phenotypically overlapping rare, sometimes very aggressive diseases
- Individually tailored treatment plan depending on underlying pathomechanisms
- Protect developing brain from ongoing chronic inflammation



SVcPACNS: Small vessel childhood primary angiitis of the CNS NPcPACNS: Non-progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS PcPACNS: Progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS.

Antibody-mediated IBrainD

Classical paraneoplastic disorders with antibodies against intracellular antigens

Autoimmune encephalitis with antibodies against cell-surface or synaptic proteins

Rare

Associated with malignancies

Older people

Antibody:

Cytotoxic T-cell-response

Monophasic

Treatment effect: limited

«more frequent»

Variable association with malingnancy

All age groups affected

Antibody:

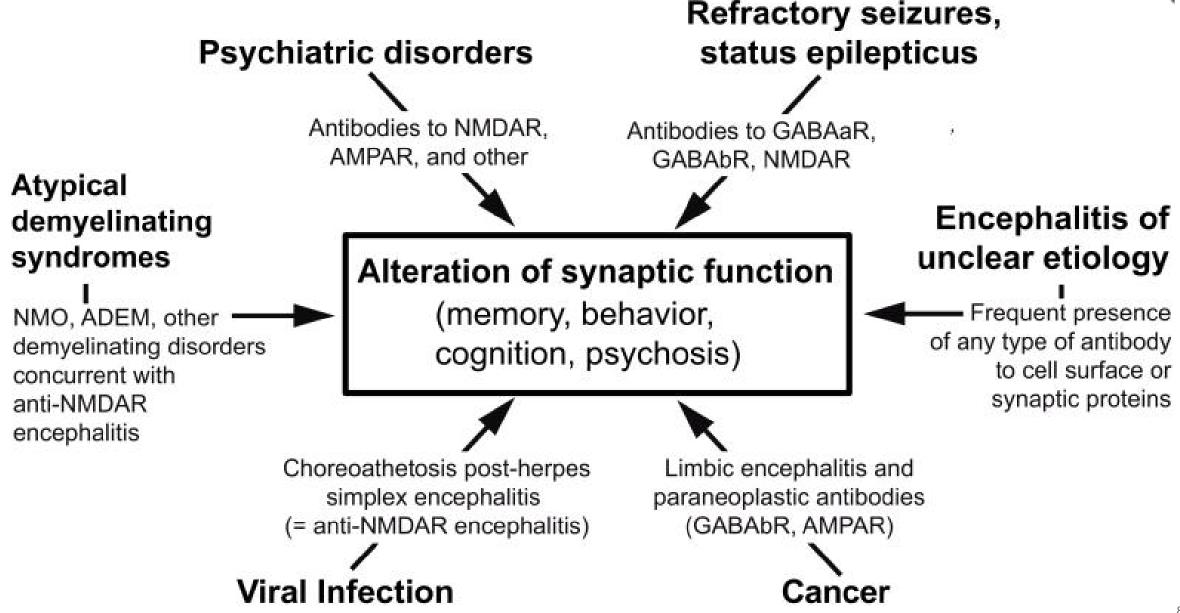
Direct interaction with target antigen

Relapsing (20%)

Treatment effect: good

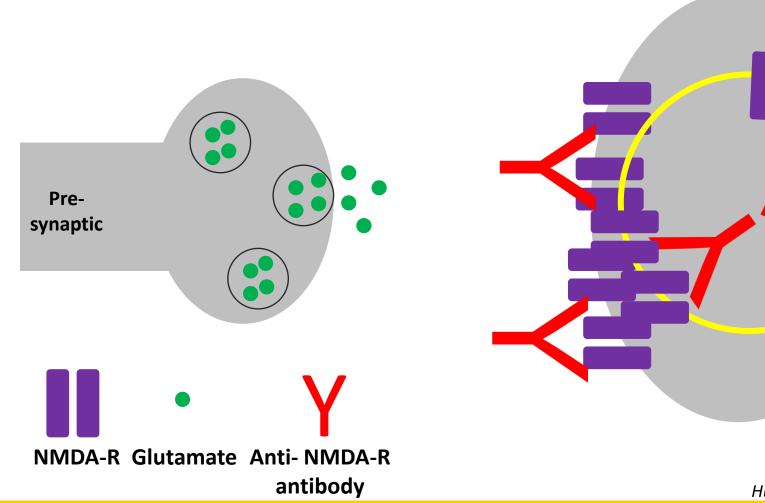
Adapted from Lancaster E. et al.; Neurology; 2011





Antibody Cross-Link

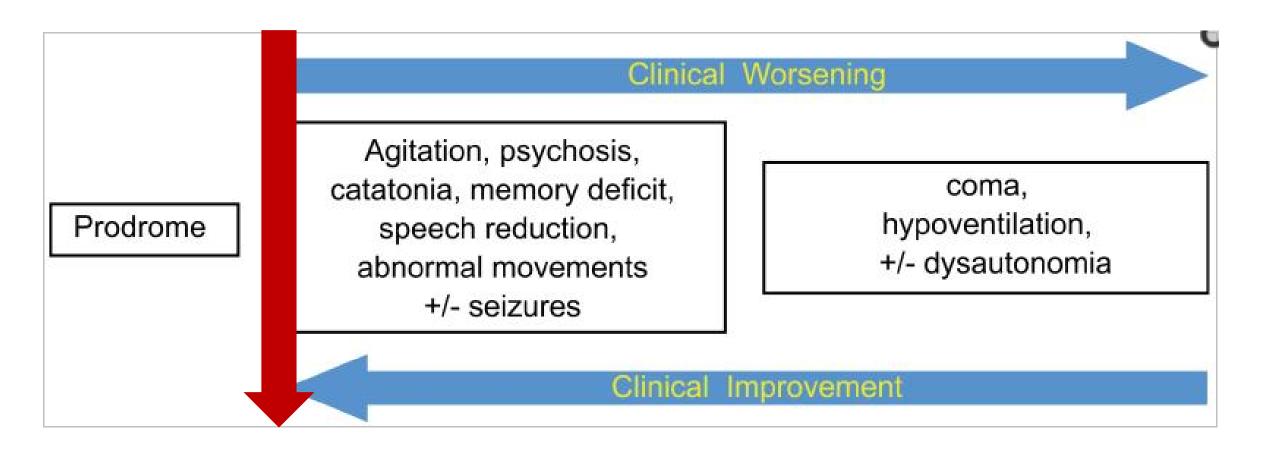
- → NMDA-Receptor internalisation
- ↓ NMDA-Receptor-density between synapses



Post-

synaptic

Awareness – Faster diagnosis



Awareness – Recognizing phenotypes

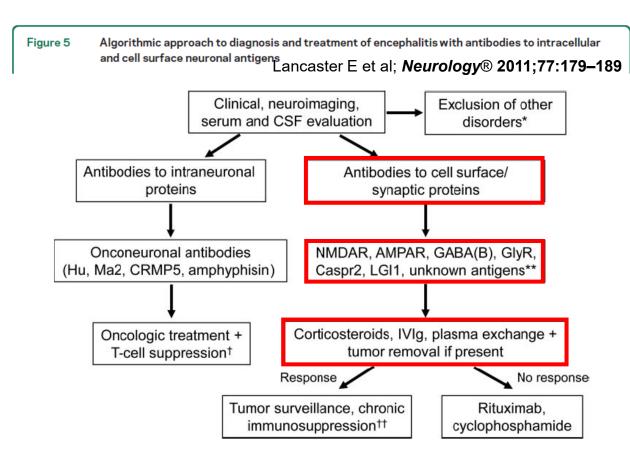
TABLE 1.
Proposed Classification of Phenotypes of Anti—N-Methyl-D-Aspartate Receptor Antibody Encephalitis According to Symptom Severity*

| | Classification | Seizures | Movement Disorder | Catatonia | Agitation/Aggression | Bizarre Behaviors |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ľ | Type 1: "classie" (Patients 1 and 2) | Moderate | Moderate | Slight-moderate | Moderate | Slight-moderate |
| < | Type 2: "psychiatric" (Patients 3-5) | light | Slight-moderate | Slight or not present | "Severe" | "Severe" |
| | Type 3: "catatonic" (Patients 6-8) | Slight-moderate | "Severe" | "Severe and/or prolonged" | Slight-moderate | Slight or not present |

^{*} Slight symptom severity defined as minimally present. Moderate symptom severity defined as present either some of the time and/or approximately 50% of the time. Severe symptom severity defined as present for most of the time. Prolonged symptom severity as referring to catatonia is defined as lasting >60 days.

Time point of treatment initiation

- Definitive antibody testing should not prevent the initiation of immunotherapy:
 - High index of suspicion for AE
 - Early treatment leads to better outcomes and a reduction in relapse rate



Management of pediatric Ab-mediated IBrainD

Adapted from: Lancaster E; Neurology; 2011

Evaluation of clinical pres, cMRI, serum and CSF

Exclusion of other diseases

Antibodies to cell surface/ synaptic proteins*

1. Solumedrol 20-30mg/kg for 5d

2. PLEX (5 (-7) cylces)

3. IVIG (0.4g/kg for 5d)

4. Tumor removal if present

***CAVE! Neuropsychology

No response: Rituximab**

Response:

Close monitoring***

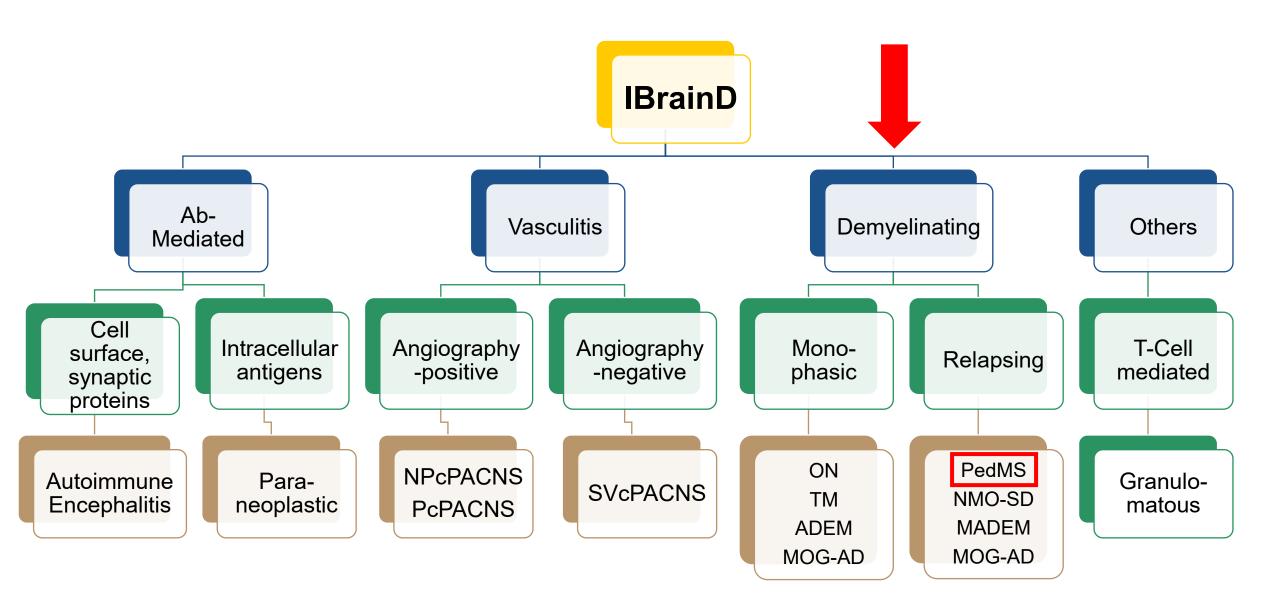
*NMDAR, GABA, AMPAR, Caspr2, LGI1, GlyR

**375mg/m² day 0 and 14, followed by 6monthly infusions



Cave Rituximab (CD20 depleting agent)

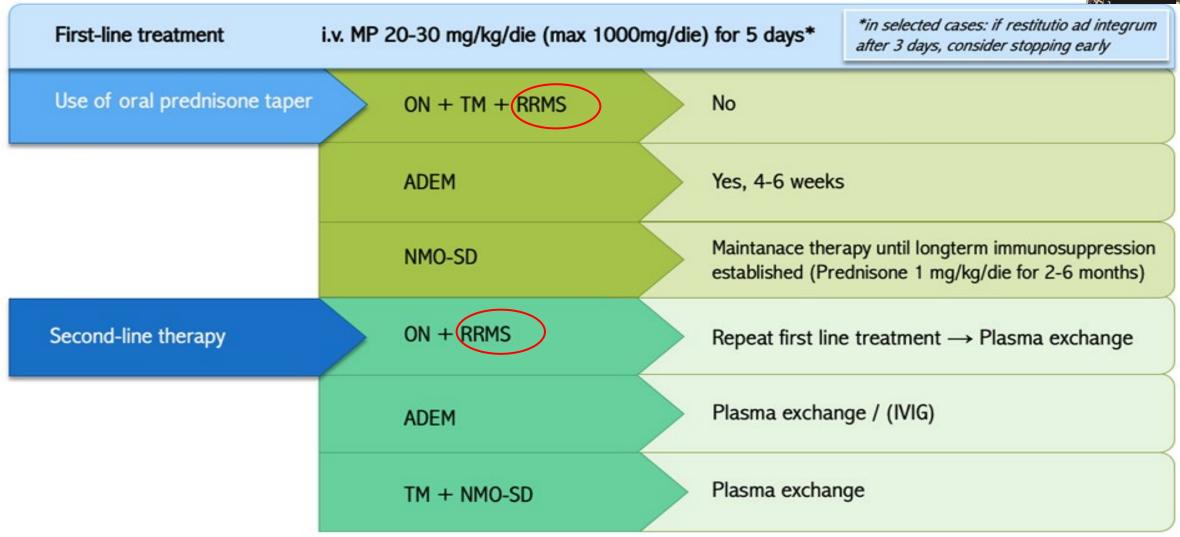
- Administration only in centers with experience and with standardized infusion plans
- Can lead to severe allergic reactions, particularly during the first application
- Requires regular laboratory follow-up every 3 months*
- Secondary immunoglobulin deficiency
- Increased risk of infections and poor response to vaccinations (no live vaccines)



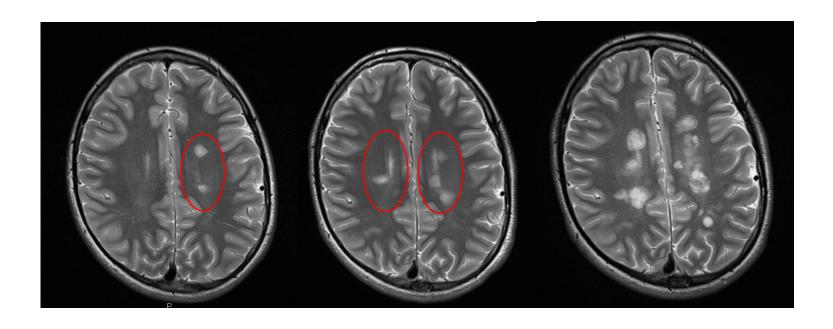
SVcPACNS: Small vessel childhood primary angiitis of the CNS NPcPACNS: Non-progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS PcPACNS: Progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS.

Management of acute demyelinating attacks in the pediatric population: A Swiss consensus statement

Hofer S et al.; CTN 2021, 5, 17



Clinical vignette – «natural history»



Axial T2 ttm start (IFN) EDSS 1.0 Axial T2
>6m after ttm start
EDSS 1.0
ttm escalation refused

Axial T2

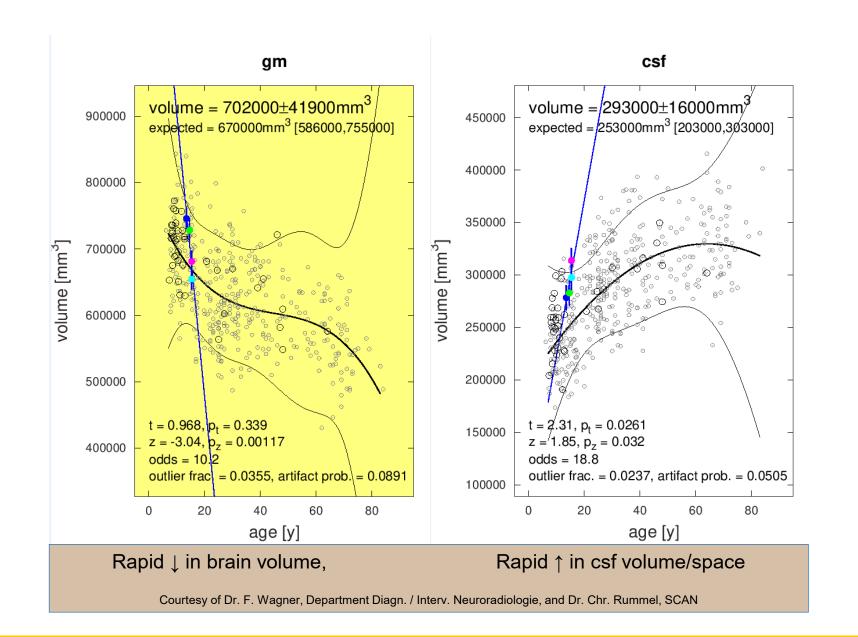
1y after ttm stop
EDSS 4.5

«natural course»

Neuropsychology:

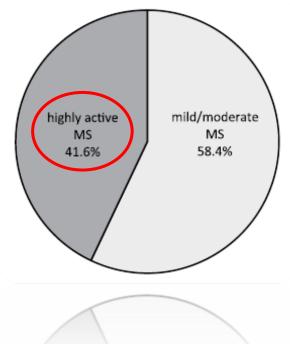
working memory IW 130 IW 106

Natural course is not benign



Clinical characteristics – At the beginning

- Disease course and disease activity:
 - Relapsing remitting disease course in 95-100%
 - High relapse rate in early course (1.12-2.76 vs 0.3-1.78)
 - Shorter interval between first attacks
 - Rapid accrual of (infratentorial) brain lesions
 - Excellent recovery from first attacks
 - Plasticity and repair mechanisms of the developing brain



^{1.} Renoux C et al, N Engl J Med 2007

^{2.} O'Mahony J et al, Pediatrics 2015

^{3.} Waldman A et al, Lancet Neurol 2014

^{4.} Banwell B et al. Lancet Neurol 2007

^{5.} Chitnis T et al, Mult Scler 2009

^{6.} Yan K et al, Mult Scler Rel Dis 2020

^{7.} Huppke P et al, Mult Scler 2017

Clinical characteristics – In the future

| | EDSS 4 | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--|
| Time from onset to EDSS | 20 y | 10 years younger compared | |
| Age at EDSS | 34.6 y | to adult onset MS | |

Brainstem attacks, poor recovery from a first attack and high frequency of relapses

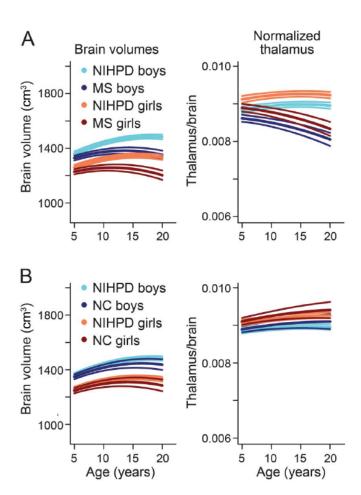
→ increased risk of disability/secondary progressive disease course

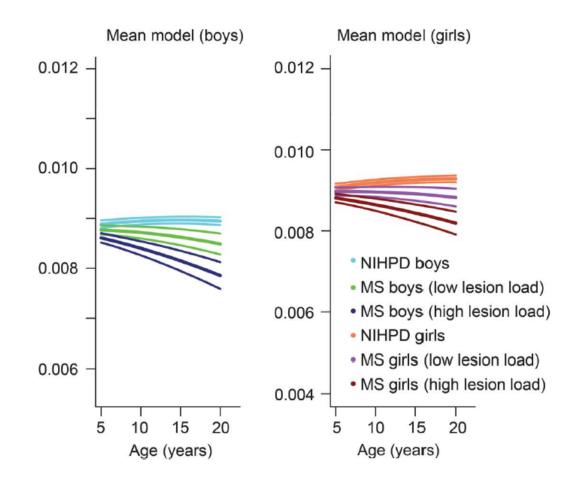
^{1.} Renoux C et al, N Engl J Med 2007;356:2603-13.

^{2.} Simone et al, Neurology 59 (12), 1922-1928 (2002)

^{3.} Waldman A et al; Neurology, 2016

Clinical characteristics – Impact on brain volume





Clinical characteristics – Understand implications for therapy

- High relapse rate in early course
- Rapid accrual of inflammatory brain lesions
- Permanent disability (EDSS 4): 35 years

No reason to delay treatment in children with MS

- Excellent recovery from first attack
 - → no obvious disability no disease activity/harm
 - → delayed treatment start, treatment interruption

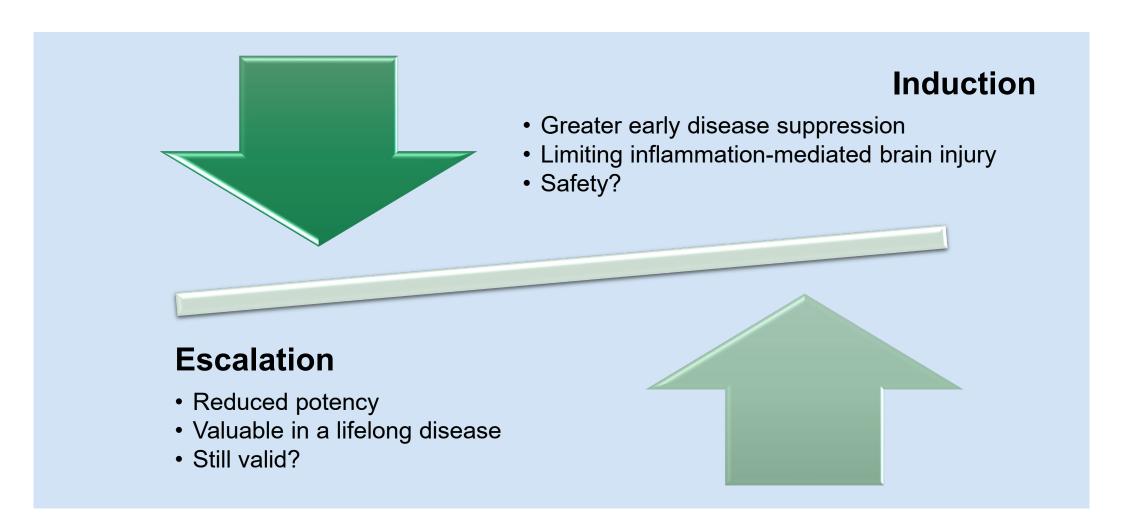
4. O'Mahony J et al. Pediatrics 2015

^{1.} Venkateswaran S et al. Neurologist 2010

^{2.} Gorman M et al. Arch Neurol 2009

^{3.} Renoux C et al. Clin Neurol Neurosurg 2008

Treatment – Strategies and paradigm shift



^{1.} Giovannoni G et al, Curr Opin Neurol 2018

^{2.} Thompson AJ et al, Lancet 2018

Treatment – The role of high-efficacy treatment

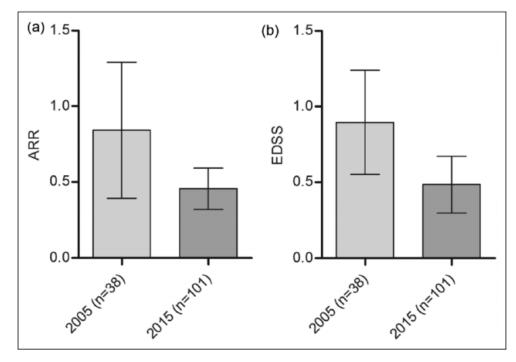
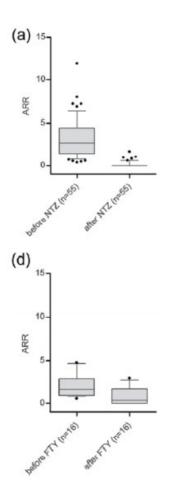
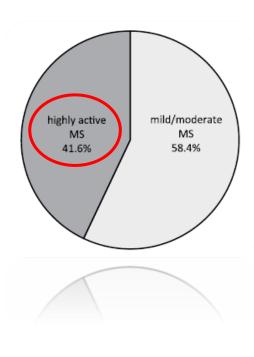


Figure 3. Effect of current treatment modalities on the clinical course of pediatric MS. (a) Relapse rate and (b) EDSS in the cohorts from 2005, all treated with first-line therapy and 2015 with 43% of patients on therapy with either NTZ or FTY. Mean with 95% CI.





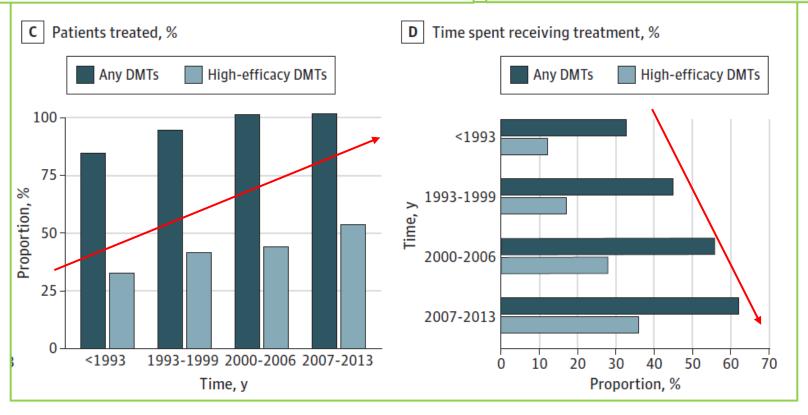
JAMA Neurology | Original Investigation

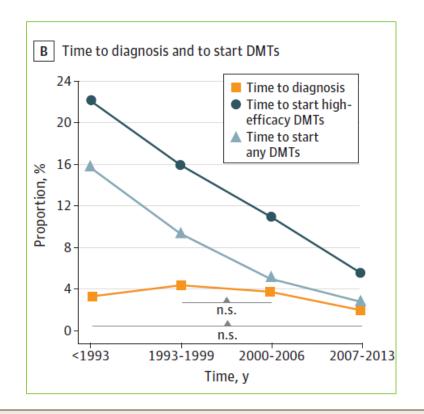
Risk of Persistent Disability in Patients With Pediatric-Onset Multiple Sclerosis

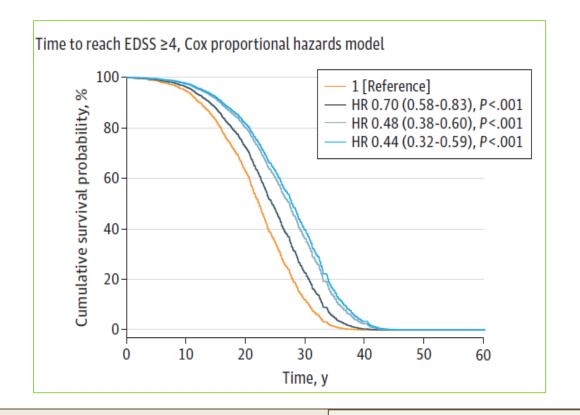
JAMA Neurol. 2021;78(6):726-735. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2021.1008 Published online May 3, 2021

Damiano Baroncini, MD; Marta Simone, MD; Pietro Iaffaldano, MD; Vincenzo Brescia Morra, MD; Roberta Lanzillo, MD, PhD; Massimo Filippi, MD; Marzia Romeo, MD; Francesco Patti, MD; Clara Grazia Chisari, MD; Eleonora Cocco, MD; Giuseppe Fenu, MD; Giuseppe Salemi, MD; Paolo Ragonese, MD; Matilde Inglese, MD, PhD; Maria Cellerino, MD; Lucia Margari, MD; Giancarlo Comi, MD; Mauro Zaffaroni, MD; Angelo Ghezzi, MD; for the Italian MS registry

- Retrospective, multicenter
- More than 3000 ped onset MS patients
- Time to EDSS 4 and 6 by epoch of MS diagnosis







Findings:

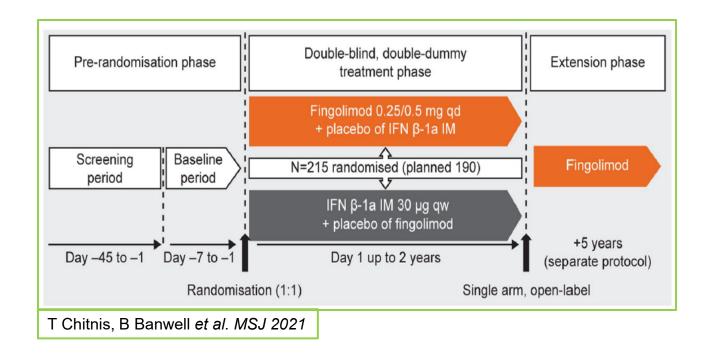
JAMA Neurol. 2021;78(6):726-735. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2021.1008 Published online May 3, 2021.

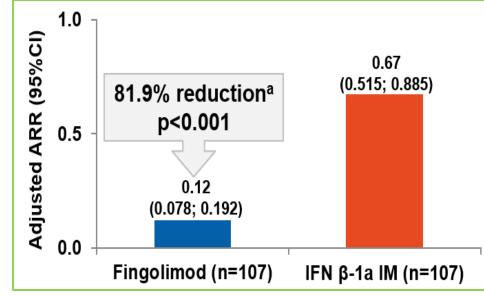
- 1. Use of DMT particularly high-efficacy drugs earlier and longer
- 2. Risk of persistent disability reduced by 50-70% in recent diagnosis epochs
- 3. Demographics & clinical disease activity at onset did not change significantly over time

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Trial of Fingolimod versus Interferon Beta-1a in Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis C

Chitnis T et al, N Engl J Med 2018



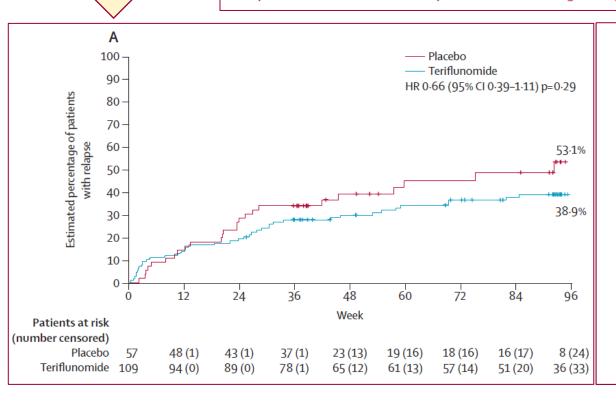


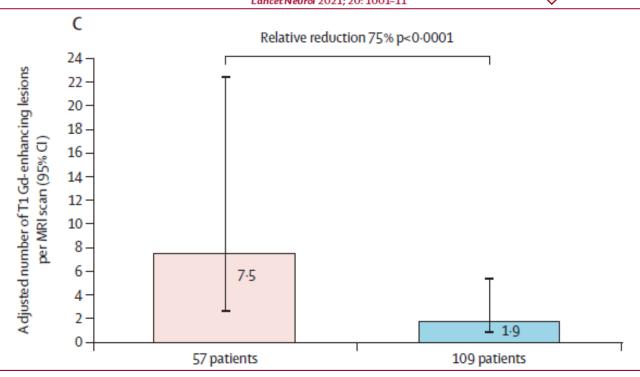
Safety and efficacy of teriflunomide in paediatric multiple sclerosis (TERIKIDS): a multicentre, double-blind, phase 3, randomised, placebo-controlled trial

Relapse

Tanuja Chitnis, Brenda Banwell, Ludwiq Kappos, Douglas L Arnold, Kivilcim Gücüyener, Kumaran Deiva, Natalia Skripchenko, Li-Yinq Cui, Stephane Saubadu, Wenruo Hu, Myriam Benamor, Annaiq Le-Halpere, Philippe Truffinet, Marc Tardieu, on behalf of the TERIKIDS Investigators

Lancet Neurol 2021; 20: 1001-11





MRI

Paediatric multiple sclerosis: a lesson from TERIKIDS

*Maria Pia Sormani, Emmanuelle Waubant

Adult results (1 phase 2, 2 phase 3 studies):

In summary, 50% reduction of new MRI lesions and 30% reduction of ARR

TERIKIDS observed the same effect:

- Reduction of adjusted number of new/enlarged T2 lesions by 55% (p=0.00061)
- Reduction of adjusted number of new T1 Gd+ lesions by 75% (p<0.0001)
- Reduction of hazard of relapse by 34% (p=0.29)
- Approximately 600 needed for the observed effect to be significant

| Substanzklasse | Medikament | Anwendung | Frequenz | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Dimenthylfumarat* | Tecfidera™ | Kapsel | 2x Täglich | |
| Fingolimod* | Gilenya® | Tablette | Täglich | |
| Glatirameracetat* | Copaxone® | Spritze | Täglich | |
| Interferone* | Avonex® Betaferon® Rebif® | Spritze | 1-3x pro Woche | |
| Teriflunamid* | Aubagio® | Tablette | Täglich | |
| Ocrelizumab** | Ocrevus [®] | Infusion | Halbjährlich | |
| Natalizumab** | Tysabri™ | Infusion | Monatlich | |
| Rituximab** | Mabthera® | Infusion | Halbjährlich | |

^{*} zugelassene MS-Therapien

^{**} Off-label MS-Therapien, die bei Kindern und Jugendlichen am häufigsten verwendet werden

Treatment – Towards an individually tailored treatment plan

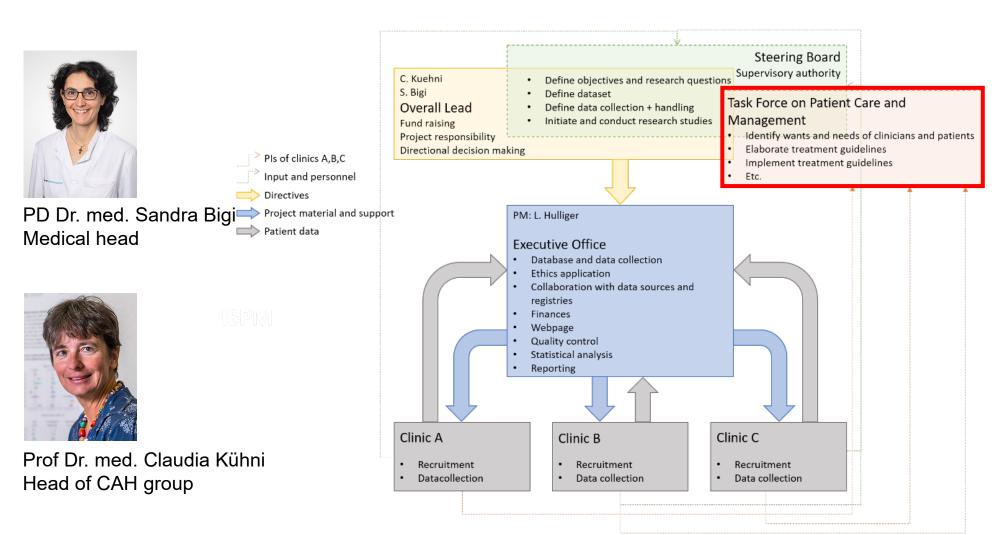
- Factors influencing treatment decisions:
 - Age of the patient → patients <10y can be challenging
 - Factors affecting compliance
 - Route and mechanism of action
 - Activity of disease
 - Lesion load:
 - CAVE! infratentorial/spinal lesions
 - Recovery from first relapse

- Daily practice "family package":
 - Back to normality as soon as possible (patient)
 - Risk for side effects (parents)
 - Mood, fatigue and cognition require specific evaluation
 - Depressive episode in adolescents delayed
 - Loss in "body-trust" after first episode
 - Autonomy in disclosure of diagnosis

Swiss-Ped-IBrainD

Schweizer Register für entzündliche Gehirnerkrankungen im Kindesalter



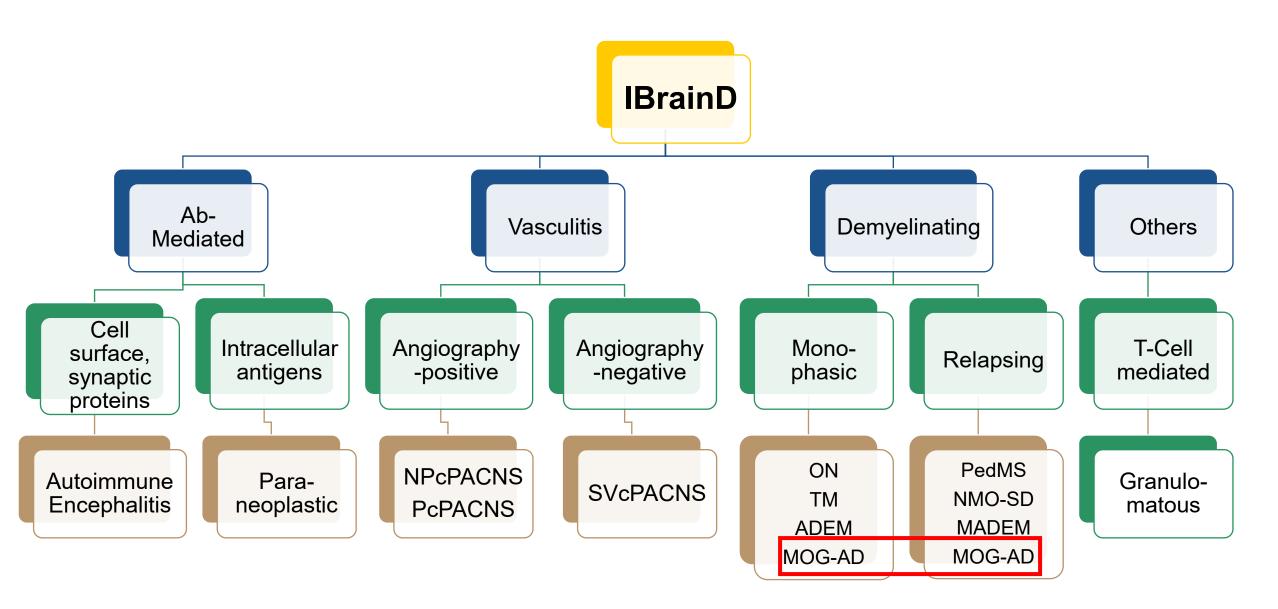




MSc Lorena Hulliger Project manager



MSc Susanne Hofer Data manager



SVcPACNS: Small vessel childhood primary angiitis of the CNS NPcPACNS: Non-progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS PcPACNS: Progressive childhood primary angiitis of the CNS.

MOG-AD – age dependent phenotypes

- Brain involvement in the young child
- ON/NMOSD-like in the older child (>9y)

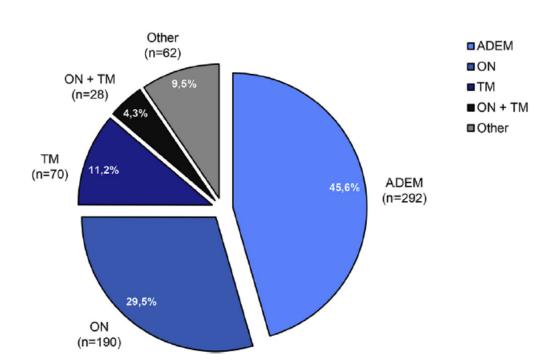


Fig. 2. Presenting clinical phenotypes within the paediatric MOGAD [11–13,17,20–27]. ADEM = acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, MOGAD = MOG-antibody-associated disorders, ON = optic neuritis, TM = transverse myelitis.

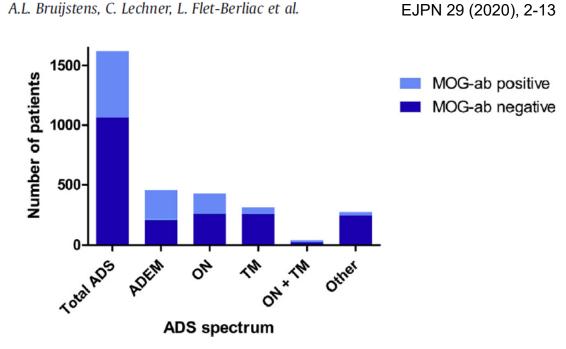
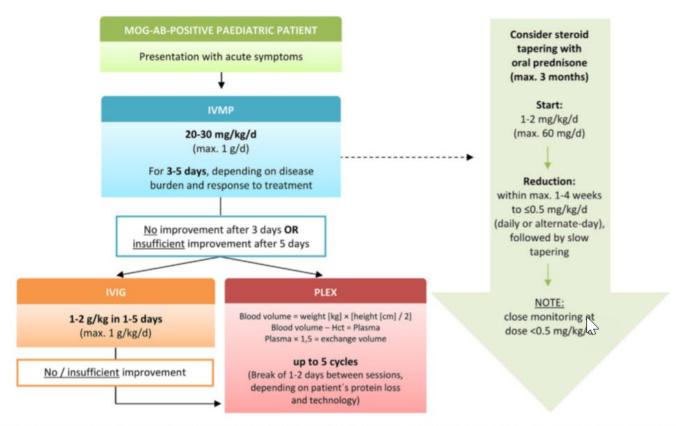


Fig. 1. ADS presenting phenotype, d vided for MOG-ab-positive and negative patients [11-14,17-23].

ADEM = acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, ADS = acquired demyelinating syndrome, MOG-ab = myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody, ON = optic neuritis, TM = transverse myelitis.

MOG-AD – Management of acute episode



High dose i.v. Steroids - 3-5 days

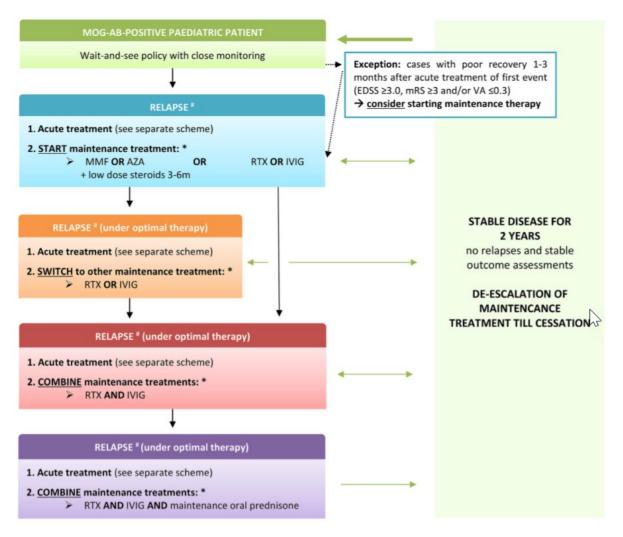


Consider IVIG/PLEX

- Depending on ttm response

Fig. 1. Paediatric European Collaborative Expert Consensus recommendation for acute treatment in paediatric MOGAD. d = day, g = gram, IVIG = intravenous immunoglobulins, IVMP = intravenous methylprednisolone, kg = kilogram, mg = milligram, MOG-ab = myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody, PLEX = plasma exchange, TM = transverse myelitis.

MOG-AD – Maintenance therapy



Maintenance only after relapse

- Escalation of maintenance if needed



Continue for 2 years (stable)

- De-escalation until cessation

1. Bruijstens et al; EJPN 29 (2020), 41-53



Summary I

- Autoimmune encephalitis in children:
 - Rare, potentially life-threatenting
 - Anti-NMDA-receptor encephalitis most frequent
- «Antibody-receptor-language»:
 - Clinical clues in particular types of autoimmune encephalitis
- Good outcome in classical autoimmunce encephalitis:
 - Early treatment initiation and rapid escalation important
 - Time is brain, also in autoimmune encephalitis



Summary II

- Pediatric MS:
 - Disease occurring in the developing brain:
 - → Early cognitive impairment and brain atrophy
 - Offer disease modifying therapy to all pediatric MS patients
 - → Specialised centres with high level expertise
 - → Identify patients who benefit from early aggressive treatment
 - Design pediatric trials according to the needs of ped MS patients



Summary III

- MOG-AD:
 - Age-dependent phenotypes
 - Mostly monophasic
 - Maintenance therapy only for selected cases
- Standardized and structured approach in diagnosis and treatment:
 - Pediatric neuroinflammatory task force
 - Swiss Pediatric Inflammatory Brain Disease Registry



Vielen Dank für die Aufmerksamkeit







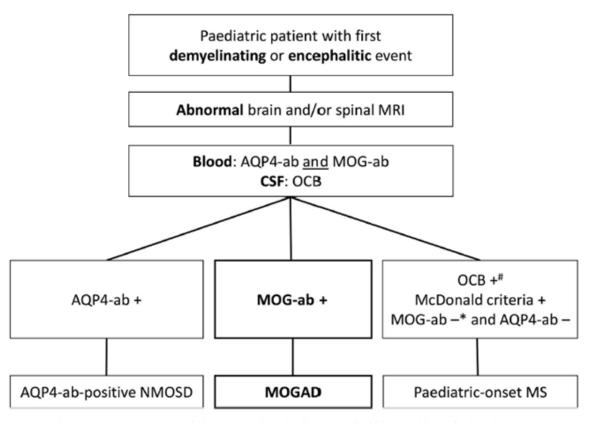
Sandra.Bigi@luks.ch



MOG-AD – titer and clinical severity

- Initial titer does not influence outcome or clincial severity
- Test within 3 months of acute episode:
 - Mostly monophasic (70-80%), become negative over time
- Conversion into seronegativity (median 12 months):
 - ↓ risk for relapse
 - → important time window for treatment decisions!
- Persistance of MOG-Ab:
 - ↑ risk for relapsing disease (multiphasic ADEM, NMOSD-like, recurrent autoimmune encephalitis)

MOG-AD – Influence on work-up and outcome



ropean Collaborative Consensus recommendation on MOG-ab testing (in an accredited laboratory) in paediatric patients, latric-onset MS patients have OCB specific to the CSF [122].

n of paediatric-onset MS patients have MOG-abs (mostly low titre/weak positive CBA test result which rapidly declines during follow-up). Full in patient referral to a centre of expertise for further management.

in-4 antibody, CBA = cell-based assay, CSF = cerebrospinal fluid, NMOSD = neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders, MOG-ab = myo ly, MOGAD = MOG-ab-associated disorders, MRI = magnetic resonance imaging, MS = multiple sclerosis, OCB = oligoclonal bands, + = px

- Overall good outcomes:
 - Full recovery 68-96%
 - Presenting phenotype might influence outcome, particularly TM
- Adverse outcomes:
 - †susceptibility of the myelinating brain to MOG-Ab disease
 - → damage to the not fully matured myelin
 → irreversible axonal loss

5

- 1. Bruijstens AL et al; EJPN 29 (2020), 2-13
- 2. Bruijstens AL et al.; EJPN 20 (2020) 32-40

MOG-AD – CAVE NMOSD-like phenotypes

Table 1Differences between paediatric AQP4-ab-positive NMOSD and MOG-ab-associated NMOSD-like phenotypes.

| | NMOSD-like phenotypes | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| | MOG-ab+ | AQP4-ab+ |
| Demographics | More often in paediatric patients Equal distribution boys/girls No association with other AID | Rare in paediatric patients Predominance in girls Association with other AID |
| Clinical phenotypes *ON | * Bilateral, longitudinally extensive with anterior involvement (disc oedema ^a) | * Longitudinally extensive with chiasma/optic |
| *TM | * LETM with conus involvement | tract involvement * LETM with cervico-thoracic spinal cord involvement |
| *NMOSD(-like) | * Often simultaneous ON and TM, area postrema syndrome is rare | * Area postrema syndrome, isolated brainstem syndrome |
| Severity at onset | Severe | Severe |
| Recovery | Promptly after steroids and often completely, except for axonal damage on OCT (ON) and bowel/bladder problems (TM) | High risk for poor recovery |
| Disease course | More often monophasic, but relapses are possible | Relapsing |

AID = autoimmune disease, AQP4-ab = aquaporin-4 antibody, LETM = longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis, MOG-ab = myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody, NMOSD = neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders, OCT = optical coherence tomography, ON = optic neuritis, TM = transverse myelitis, + = positive, - = negative.

^a Discriminative feature for MOG-abs and AQP4-abs in mixed paediatric and adult studies, but not in paediatric studies exclusively.

Clinical characteristics – Early signs of impairment

- Marked cognitive impairment in 1/3 at diagnosis & rapid worsening:
 - CAVE! Reassessment with newer therapeutic approaches required
- Lower brain volume at time point of diagnosis:
 - Neurodegenerative component preceding 1st attack
 - Active myelination & maturation of neural networks
 - → reduced integrity in hemispheric NAWM*
- Explanation for increased susceptibility:
 - Vulnerability of developing brain
 - Impairment of subsequent maturation of white matter pathways
 - Neurodegenerative component preceding first attack
 - → Loss of neuronal networks

*Normal appearing white matter

No evidence of disease activity including cognition (NEDA-3 plus) in naïve pediatric multiple sclerosis patients treated with natalizumab

Journal of Neurology (2020) 267:100–105 https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-019-09554-z

Monica Margoni^{1,2} • Francesca Rinaldi¹ · Alice Riccardi¹ · Silvia Franciotta¹ · Paola Perini¹ · Paolo Gallo^{1,3}

Table 1 Baseline demographic and clinical features of the 20 pediatric-onset multiple sclerosis patients included in the study

| | Mean (SD) |
|--|------------|
| Age at MS onset (years) | 13.8 (2.7) |
| Pre-NTZ disease duration (months) | 6.0 (4.0) |
| Age ad NTZ initiation (years) | 14.2 (2.5) |
| Number of relapses prior NTZ initiation | 2.1 (0.3) |
| Number of Gd+ MRI lesions prior NTZ initiation | 1.2 (0.4) |
| EDSS at NTZ initiation | 2.6 (0.7) |

NTZ natalizumab, EDSS Expanded Disability Status Scale, Gd gadolinium, MRI magnetic resonance imaging

NEDA-3 plus:

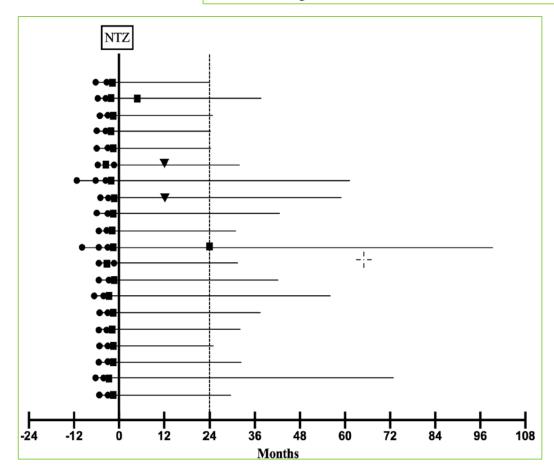
- no clinical relapses
- no increase in disability
- no MRI activity and
- no cognitivedecline

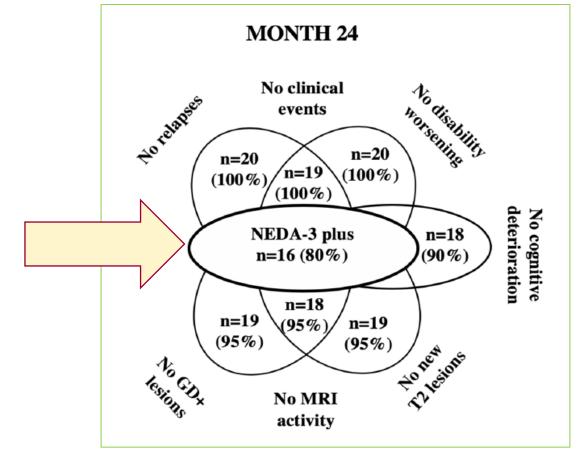
Giovannoni G et al; Mult Scler Relat Disord; 2015, 4(4):329-333

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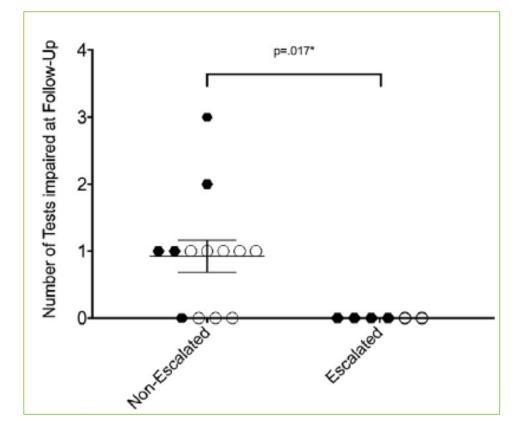
Original article

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY 23 (2019) 783-791

Early effective treatment may protect from cognitive decline in paediatric multiple sclerosis

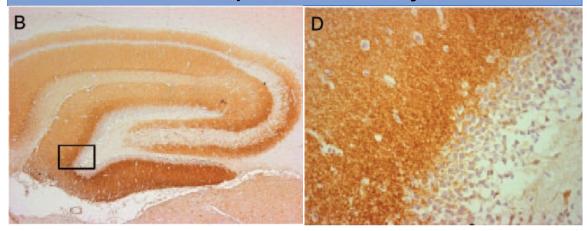
A. Johnen ^{a,*,1}, C. Elpers ^{b,1}, E. Riepl ^a, N.C. Landmeyer ^a, J. Krämer ^a, P. Polzer ^c, H. Lohmann ^d, H. Omran ^b, H. Wiendl ^a, K. Göbel ^{a,2}, S.G. Meuth ^{a,2}

| Demographics | Mean (SD) | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Age (years) | 15.05 (2.01) | |
| Sex (f/m) | 14/5 | |
| Education (years) | 9.73 (1.52) | |
| Clinical and Paraclinical Measures | Mean (SD) | Median (IQF |
| Disease Duration (months) | 12.95 (23.52) | 4.00 (9.00) |
| EDSS | 0.50 (0.61) | 0.00 (1.00) |
| Total Number of Relapses | 2.68 (1.88) | 2.00 (1.00) |
| Number of Lesions on MRI | 21.44 (17.52) | 15.50 (27.75) |
| Treatment | | |
| Naïve, n | 3 | |
| Interferon beta-1a, n | 16 | |



Cell-surface protein

NMDA-Receptor-Antibody



Intracellular antigen Hu-Antibody

Clinical characteristics – Impact on brain volume

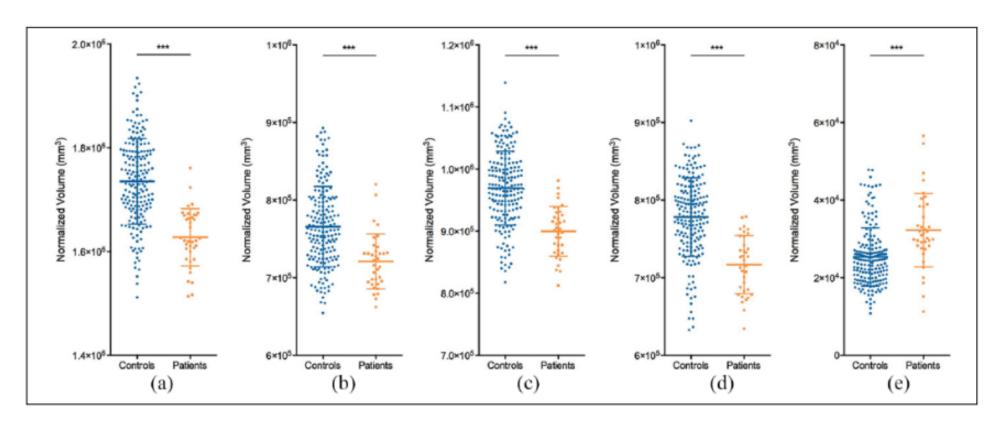


Figure 1. Brain atrophy at first clinical presentation. Normalized brain volumes (mm³) at first clinical presentation. All brain volumes are significantly smaller in MS patients (n=37) at disease onset compared to matched (1:5) healthy controls (n=185): (a) whole brain volume, (b) white matter volume, (c) grey matter volume, (d) peripheral grey matter volume, and (e) ventricular CSF volume.



Table 1. Clinical clues in the recognition of particular types of autoimmune encephalitis

| Clinical finding | Associated autoantibody disorders |
|--|--|
| Psychosis | NMDAR, AMPAR, GABA-B-R |
| Dystonia, chorea | NMDAR, Sydenham chorea, D2R |
| Hyperekplexia | GlyR |
| Status epilepticus —— | Most characteristic of GABA-B-R and GABA-A-R but NMDAR is much more common; may occur in other types as well |
| New onset type 1 diabetes | GAD65 |
| Fasciobrachial dystonic seizures | LGI1 |
| Neuromyotonia, muscle spasms, fasciculations | Caspr2 |
| Stiff-person syndrome and/or exaggerated startle | GAD65, GlyR, Amphiphysin (with GAD65 being most common in stiff person/stiff limb and GlyR in PERM, and Amphiphysin in women with breast cancer) |
| CNS (myoclonus, startle, delirium) and gastrointestinal hyper-excitability | DPPX |
| Cranial neuropathies | Ma2, Hu, Miller-Fisher, Bickerstaff (but also infections like Sarcoidosis, Lyme, TB) |
| Cerebellitis | GAD65, PCA-1 (Yo), ANNA-1 (Hu), DNER (Tr), mGluR1, VGCC |
| CNS: central nervous system, TB: tuberculosis. | Lancaster E; JCN; 2016 |