



# Joint webinar series



## Immune-mediated Chorea

Jan Lewerenz

University Hospital Ulm, Germany

# Speaker: Jan Lewerenz

## Biography

### Current Position

- **Since 2018** **Co-Head of the Huntington's Disease Outpatient Clinic (Head Prof. G.B. Landwehrmeyer)**
- **Since 2015** **Co-Head of the Cerebrospinal Fluid Laboratory (Head Prof. H. Tumani), special expertise: antineuronal and onconeuronal antibodies**
- **Since 2014** **Head: Outpatient Clinic for Autoimmune Encephalitides and Paraneoplastic Neurological Disorders**
- 2013 Habilitation in Neurology, Ulm University
- 2011 Board Certification in Neurology
- 2000-2011 Neurology residency, Department of Neurology, University Hospital Hamburg-Eppendorf, (Chair: Prof. Dr. C. Gerloff)
- 2006-2008 Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cellular Neurobiology Laboratory, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Ca, USA (Chair Prof. Schubert)
- 2003 Doctoral thesis, Dept. of Neurology, University of Hamburg
- 2003 Postgraduate education: Molecular Biology, Center for Molecular Neurobiology Hamburg
- 1992 - 1999 Medical School, Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany

### Other Positions

Extended Executive Board, German Association for Cerebrospinal Fluid Diagnostics

Scientific Advisory Board, GENERATE (German Network for Research of Autoimmune Encephalitides)



# General information about the webinars

- RARE neurological, neuromuscular and movement disorders
- 30-35min presentation
- 15min Q&A session at the end (please write your questions in the Q&A)
- Target audience: neurologists, residents, paediatric neurologists, geneticists from RND members, RND affiliated partners, and non-RND HCPs across Europe and worldwide
- Recorded Webinar and presentation to be found at the latest 2 weeks after on: <http://www.ern-rnd.eu/education-training/past-webinars/>
- Post-webinar survey (2-3min): satisfaction, topic ideas for next webinars

# Webinar outline

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- **The Classics**
  - Sydenham's Chorea
  - Chorea associated with anti-phospholipid syndrome
- **Autoimmune choreas associated with specific antineuronal antibodies**
  - Paraneoplastic neurological syndromes with antibodies against intracellular antigens
  - Autoimmune encephalitides with antibodies against neuronal surface antigens

# Learning objectives

By the end of this webinar you will be able to:

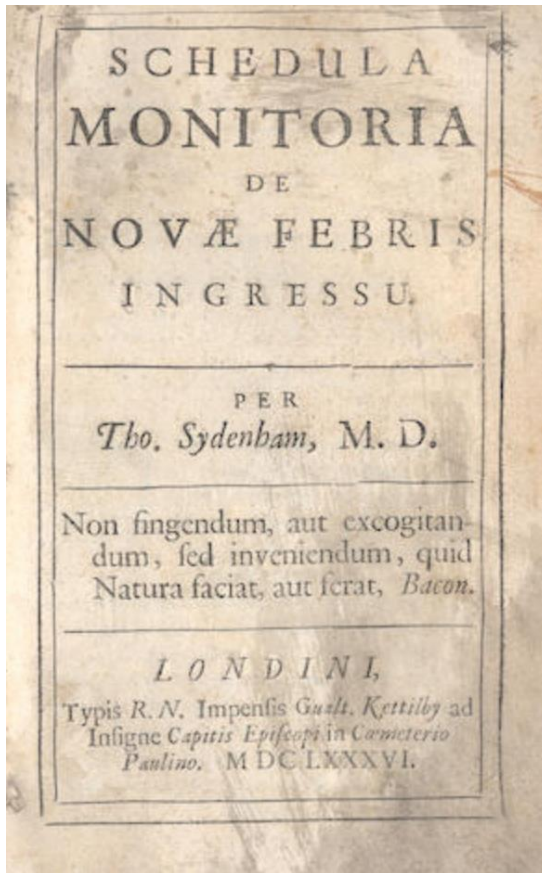
- identify red flags for potentially treatable choreatic movement disorders of autoimmune origin
- choose appropriate diagnostic tests to verify or exclude specific subtypes of autoimmune chorea
- state important therapeutic approaches

# The audience

Q1: What is the best description for your profession?

- a. Neurologist -> Movement disorders specialist
- b. Neurologist -> Immunology specialist
- c. Psychiatrist
- d. Pediatrician
- e. Nurse
- f. Neuroscientist
- g. other

# The classics (part I): Chorea Sydenham



Erstbeschreibung 1686



**Thomas Sydenham**

\*10. 09.1624 (Dorchester); † 29.12.1689 (London)

# Pathogenesis of Sydenham's Chorea

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- Post-infectious
- Group A  $\beta$ -hemolytic Streptococcus
- Immune-mediated dysfunction of striatal pathways as part of rheumatic fever



# How to detect a recent Group A $\beta$ -hemolytic streptococcus infection?

1. Increased or rising anti-streptolysin O titer oder other streptococcal antibodies (anti-DNASE B, rise is better than a single titer)
2. A positive throat culture for group A  $\beta$ -hemolytic streptococci
3. A positive rapid group A streptococcal carbohydrate antigen test in child with a high clinical pretest probability of a streptococcal pharyngitis

# Sydenham's chorea is one symptom complex of rheumatic fever!

## The 2015 revised Jones criteria for acute rheumatic fever

### A. Evidence of preceding group A streptococcal infection +

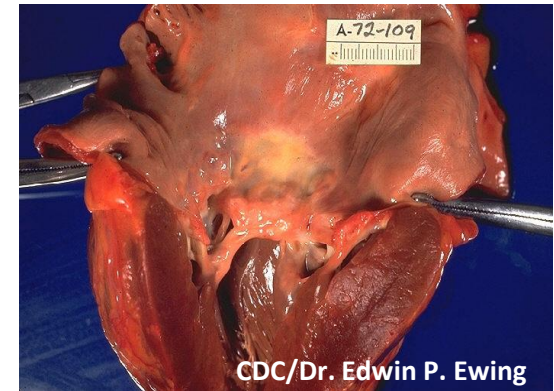
### B. Major criteria

- Carditis (clinical and/or subclinical)
- Arthritis (polyarthritis only)
- Chorea
- Erythema marginatum
- Subcutaneous nodules

### C. Minor criteria

- Polyarthralgia
- Fever ( $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- ESR  $\geq 60$  mm/h and/or CRP  $\geq 3.0$  mg/dl
- Prolonged PR interval (unless carditis is present)

**Required for the diagnosis of acute rheumatic fever:** 2 major or 1 major+2 mi



# How often do patients with rheumatic fever have Sydenham's chorea?

- Annual incidence of ARF 3.2-9.6 per 100.000 5-14 years old children in Northern Italy (Licciardi et al., J Pediatr 2018 Jul;198:25-28.e1.)
- Relative frequency of the major criteria (Gewitz et al. Circulation. 2015;131:1806-1818)
  - carditis (50%–70%)
  - arthritis (35%–66%)
  - chorea (10%–30%,female predominance)
  - subcutaneous nodules (0%–10%)
  - erythema marginatum(<6%)

# Clinical findings patients with rheumatic fever with and without in Sydenham's chorea

**TABLE 2.** *Findings on neurologic examination<sup>a</sup>*

	Total	Chorea	No chorea
Number of patients	50	13	37
Dysarthria	2 (4)	2 (15.4)	0
Hypotonia	10 (20)	9 (69.2)	1 (2.7)
Motor impersistence	5 (10)	4 (30.8)	1 (2.7)
Hang-up reflexes	4 (8)	4 (30.8)	0
Hypometric saccades	10 (20)	5 (38.5)	5 (13.5)
Oculogyric crisis	1 (2)	1 (7.7)	0

<sup>a</sup> Percentages are within parentheses.

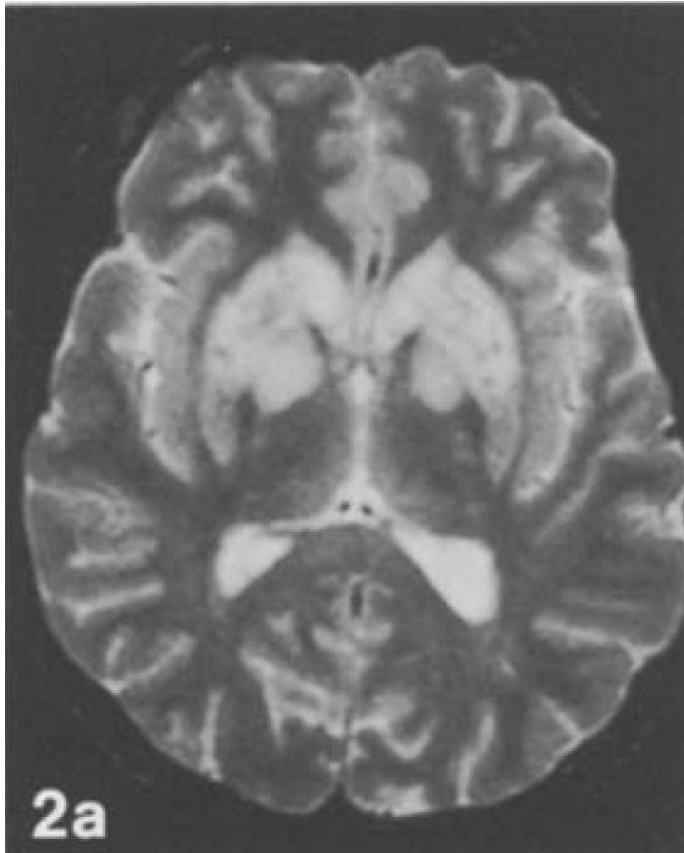
# Neuropsychiatric findings in Sydenham's chorea

Children with Sydenham's chorea were found to be more likely to experience

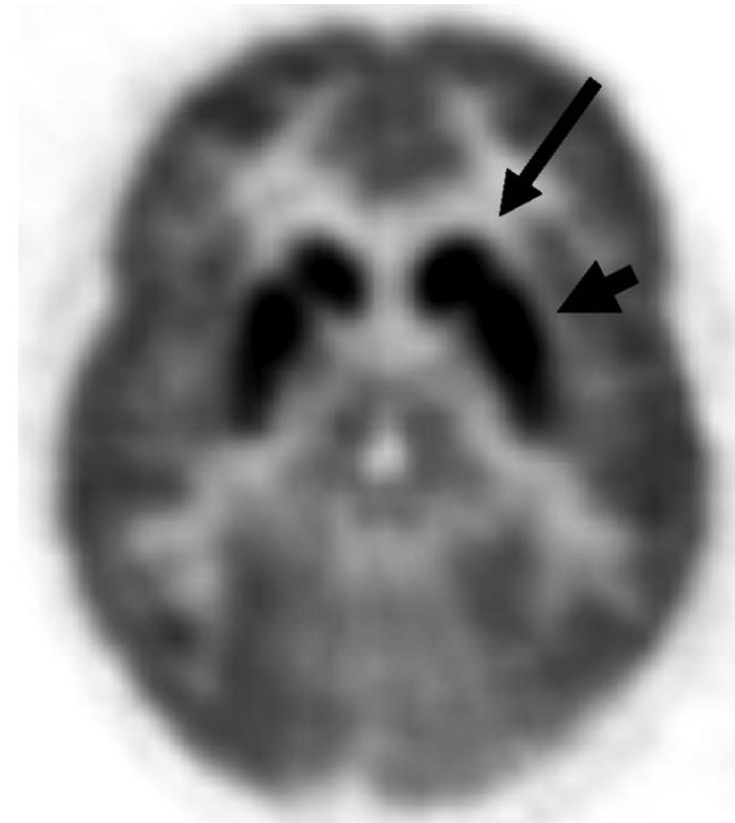
- major depressive disorder
- tic disorders
- attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

than both healthy children and those with acute rheumatic fever without chorea

# Imaging studies in Sydenham's chorea



Heye et al. Neurol (1993) 240 : 121-12



Ho Clin Nucl Med. 2009 Feb;34(2):114-6.





# Treatment and outcome

- Eradication of streptococci (penicillin, in some cases tonsillectomy)
- Cardiac work-up
- Long-term penicillin treatment to prevent relapses (until the age of 21)
- Steroids, NSARs
- Chorea: valproic acid, carbamazepine, neuroleptics

**Outcome:** Remission without residual neurological impairment in 90%



# Immunosuppressive treatment

Placebo-controlled trial, 37 patients , 4 weeks 2mg/kg body weight prednisone

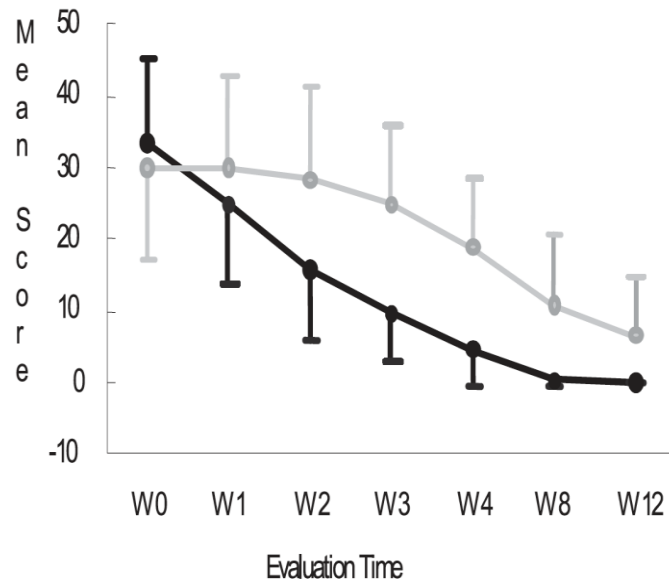


Table 3. Weekly rate improvement of chorea intensity score, for prednisone and placebo groups

Week	Total	Prednisone	Placebo	P
1	-16.3	-25.5	-1.1	<0.001
2	-34.8	-53	-4.8	<0.001
3	-51.5	-71.8	-18.2	<0.001
4	-65.5	-85	-33.4	<0.001
8	-86.3	-98.6	-65.9	<0.001
12	-79.8	-100	-79.8	<0.001

# Pathophysiology: cross-reacting antibodies?

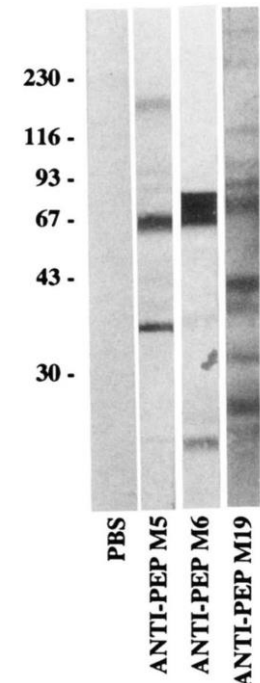
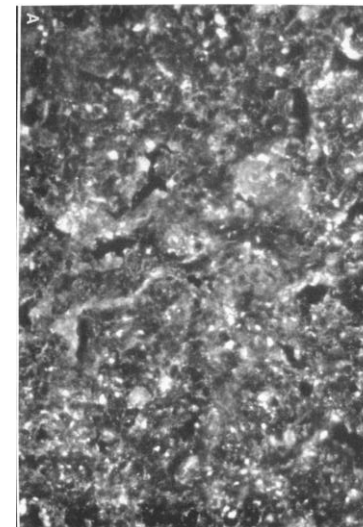
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The Journal of Immunology  
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Vol 151, 2820–2828, No. 5, September 1, 1993  
Printed in U.S.A.

## Epitopes of Streptococcal M Proteins that Evoke Antibodies that Cross-React with Human Brain<sup>1</sup>

Michael S. Bronze and James B. Dale<sup>2</sup>

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Department of Medicine, University of Tennessee,  
Memphis, TN 38104



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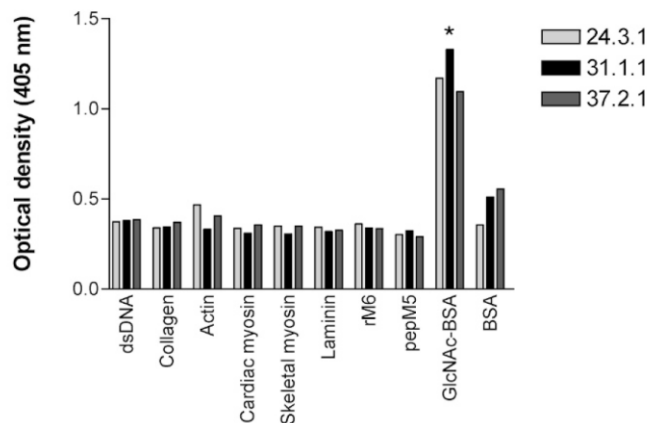
# What are the target antigens?

**nature  
medicine**

## Gangliosides?

### Mimicry and autoantibody-mediated neuronal cell signaling in Sydenham chorea

Christine A Kirvan<sup>1</sup>, Susan E Swedo<sup>2</sup>, Janet S Heuser<sup>1</sup> & Madeleine W Cunningham<sup>1</sup>



**Table 2 Lysoganglioside GM1 inhibition of acute chorea sera binding to GlcNAc-BSA**

Acute serum	Lysoganglioside GM1 (µg/ml) <sup>a</sup>
60	7.3
61	6.9
101	79.4
118	11.4
123	108.3
A1	20.3

# What are the target antigens?

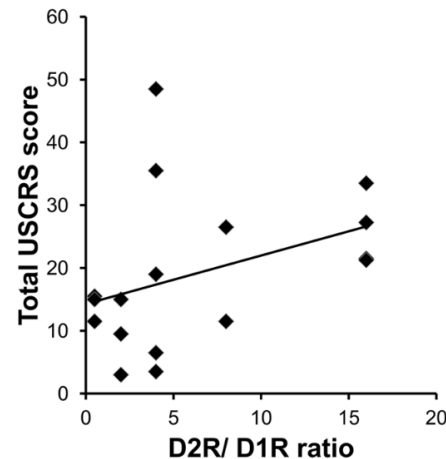
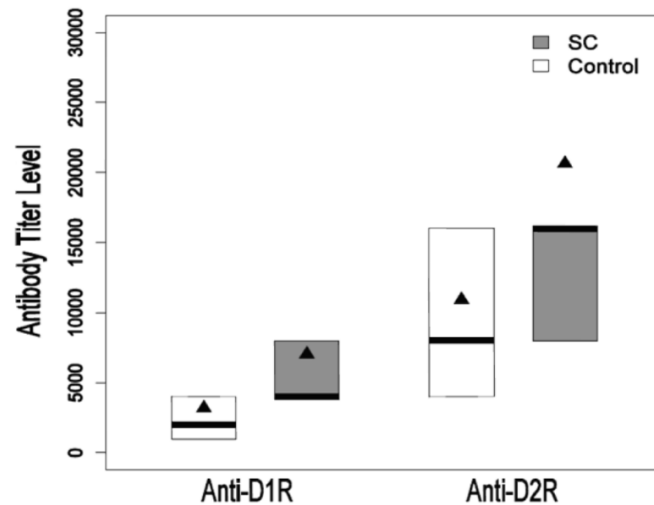
OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

## Dopamin receptors?



### Dopamine Receptor Autoantibodies Correlate with Symptoms in Sydenham's Chorea

Hilla Ben-Pazi<sup>1\*</sup>, Julie A. Stoner<sup>2</sup>, Madeleine W. Cunningham<sup>3</sup>



# Basal ganglia antibodies in Sydenham's chorea: A road to nowhere?



# Chorea in Lupus erythematoses and anti-phospholipid syndrome

- Initial description in 1987 by Asherson et al. in SLE + antiphospholipid antibodies<sup>1</sup>
- Later described also in primary APS<sup>2</sup>
- <4% of SLE patients develop chorea<sup>2</sup>
- 70% SLE or “Lupus-like” disease, 30% primary APS<sup>2</sup>
- Female/male ratio >20:1<sup>2</sup>
- Median age 23 ±12 years<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Asherson et al., Semin Arthritis Rheum 1987 May;16(4):253-9.

<sup>2</sup>Cervera et al. Medicine (Baltimore). 1997 May;76(3):203-12.

# Accompanying clinical manifestations

## Several other manifestations of APS in most patients:

- Ischemic stroke (~25%)
- Deep vein thrombosis (~25%)
- Miscarriages (~20%)
- Peripheral artery occlusion (~5%)
- Myocardial infarction (~5%)

## Manifestations of SLE in many patients:

- Polyarthrititis/-arthralgia (~30%)
- Nephritis (~30%)
- Serositis, pericarditis/pleuritis (~10%)
- Valve lesions (~10%)

## Other

- Migraine (~10%)
- Psychosis (~5%)



# Laboratory findings and imaging

## Laboratory findings<sup>1</sup>

- Lupus anticoagulans (~90%)
- Anti-Cardiolipin-Abs (~90%) + b<sub>2</sub>-Glykoprotein Abs
- Anti-nuclear Abs (~80%)
- Ds-DNA Abs (~80%) ~
- Thrombocytopenia (~50%)
- Hemolytic anemia (~5%)

## Cerebral MRI<sup>1</sup>

- Normal (~40%)
- Subcortical and basal ganglia postischemic lesions (~60%)

## PET<sup>2</sup>

- Contralateral glucose hypermetabolism



<sup>1</sup>Cervera et al. Medicine (Baltimore). 1997 May;76(3):203-12,

<sup>2</sup>Wu et al., Movement Disorders, Vol. 22, No. 12, 2007



# Clinical course

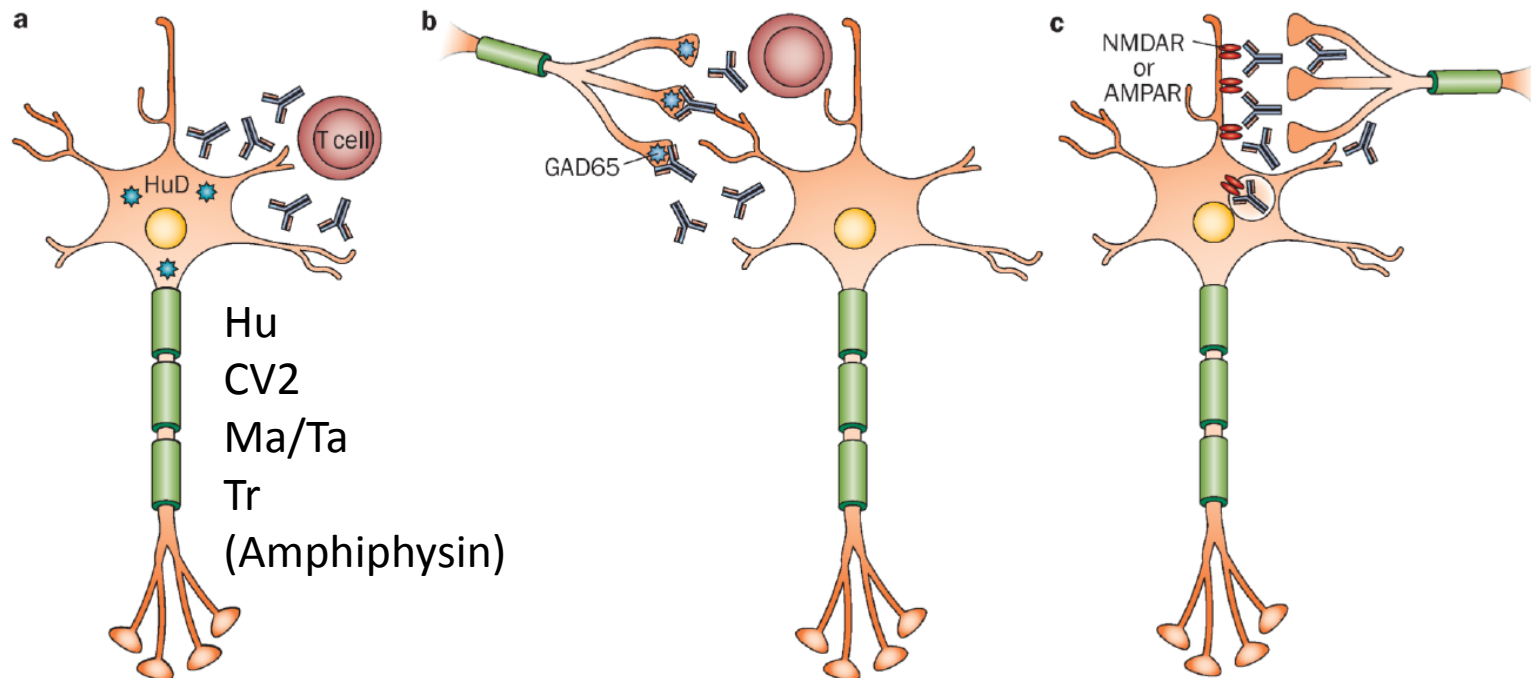
- Mostly first presentation of APS
- Episodic (mostly 1, 30% >1)
- Sometimes exacerbate by oral  
co **Mechanism: unknown**
- 50% bilateral chorea / 50% hemichorea
- Other neurologic disturbance due to ischemic  
leasion in ~25%
- Responsive to steroid /neuroleptics

## Q2- Which answer is correct?

Brain-specific antibodies found in Sydenham's chorea

- a. are essential for the diagnosis of both diseases
- b. have been reproducibly shown to target gangliosides
- c. have been published to bind to diverse brain-specific targets, however not resulting in a specific routine diagnostic test
- d. lead to irreversible basal ganglia damage

## Part II: Autoimmune choreas associated with specific antineuronal antibodies



Lancaster & Dalmau, Nat Rev Neurol. 2012 Jun 19;8(7):380-90.

# Patients with paraneoplastic chorea in the PNS EuroNetwork registry

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2	M, 54	Classical chorea	Myoclonus	SCLC 16 months after	CV2/CRMP5	<sup>a</sup> Cells 5 Prot:58	Normal	Mild response	Death from tumor after 23 months
3 <sup>b</sup>	F, 49	Classical chorea	PN Opsoclonus	SCLC 1 month after	Hu/ANNA1	<sup>b</sup> Cells:0 Prot: 5 OB:+: 9	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy	Mild response	Death from tumor after 19 months
4	M, 78	Classical chorea	–	NSCLC 1 month after	CV2/CRMP5	–	Normal	No response	Death from tumor after 15 months
5	M, 77	Classical chorea	–	SCLC 3 months after	Hu/ANNA1 CV2/CRMP5	–	Mild frontal atrophy	No response	Death from tumor after 14 months
6 <sup>c</sup>	M, 81	Oral dyskinesia, slow speech, vocal tics and gnashing of teeth	–	SCLC 1 month before	CV2/CRMP5	–	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy	Mild response	Dead after 3 months
7	M, 77	Classical chorea	–	SCLC 7 months after	CV2/CRMP5	–	Normal	No response	Alive after 24 months
8	F, 76	Classical chorea	–	Kidney cancer 4 months after	CV2/CRMP5	Cells: 3 Prot: n.n.	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy; bilateral hyperintensity of BG (after 4 months)	No therapy	Alive after 18 months
9	M, 65	Oral dyskinesia, slow speech, vocal tics and gnashing of teeth	LE PN	SCLC 4 months after	Hu/ANNA1 CV2/CRMP5	<sup>a</sup> Cells:55 Prot: 1 OB: +	Normal	Good response	Death from PNS after 9 months
10	M, 75	Unilateral chorea	Cognitive disorders	Colon cancer 4 months after	Hu/ANNA1	–	Temporobasal and temporomesial bilateral hyperintensity	No therapy	Death from PNS after 6 months
<i>Possible paraneoplastic chorea</i>									
11	F, 73	Classical chorea	–	SCLC 17 months before	No Ab	Cells: 1 Prot:40	Normal	No response	
12 <sup>b</sup>	F, 59	Cervical dystonia and choreic jerks at left shoulder	Anxiety	Colon cancer 7 months after	No Ab	<sup>a</sup> Cells:1 Prot:60 ↑ IgG index	Normal	No response	Death from tumor after 15 months
13	M, 82	Classical chorea	LE	Colon cancer 6 months after	No Ab	Cells: 3 Prot:49 OB: neg	MRI:NA CT: Normal	No therapy	Death from tumor after 1 month

Mostly 60 yrs +  
9/13 male

PN polyneuropathy, CT computed tomography, MRI magnetic resonance imaging, OCD obsessive-compulsive disorder, LE limbic encephalitis, SCLC small cell lung cancer, NSCLC non small cell lung cancer, CSF cerebrospinal fluid, Cell X cell/mm<sup>3</sup>, Prot proteins mg/dl, OB oligoclonal bands, IgG intravenous immunoglobulins, BG basal ganglia, PNS paraneoplastic neurological syndrome, NA not available

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6 <sup>c</sup>	M, 81	Oral dyskinesia cervical dystonia	OCD PN	SCLC 1 month before	CV2/	<b>8/13 SCLC</b>		Mild response	Dead after 3 months
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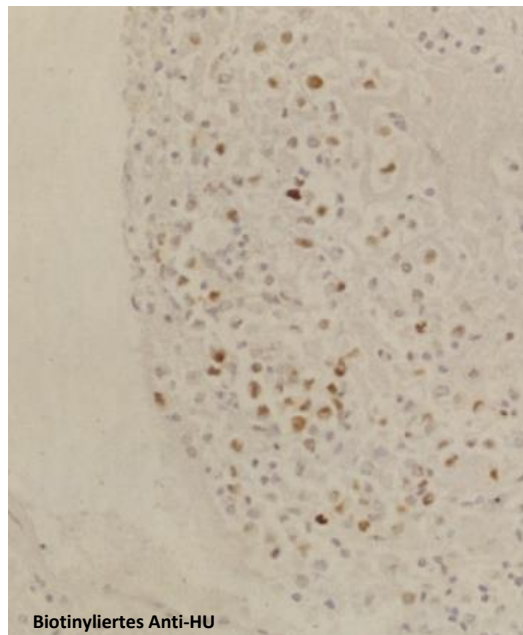
<sup>a</sup> Pathologic CSF

# Onconeural antibodies and associations with tumours and neurological syndromes

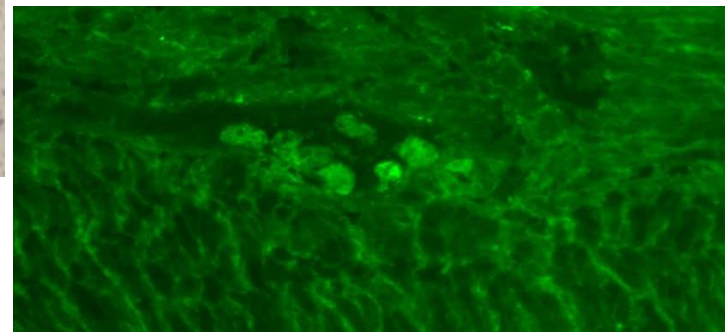
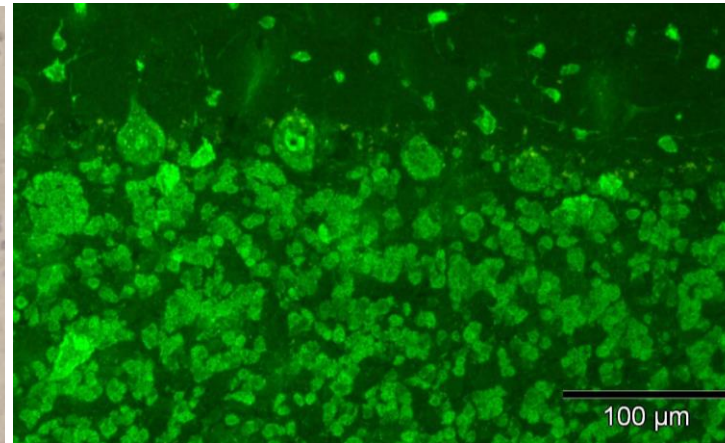
Name	Tumour	Syndrome
Anti-Hu, 40%	SCLC	Sensory Neuronopathy
Anti-Yo, 15%	Neuroblastoma	Encephalomyelitis
Anti-CV2, 5%		Cerebellar Degeneration
		Limbic Encephalitis
Anti-Ma1, 5%	Breast	GI Pseudo-obstruction
		Opsoclonus-Myoclonus
Anti-Ma2, 5%	Ovary	Brainstem encephalitis
		Sensorimotor Neuropathy
Anti-Ri, 5%	Uterus	Autonomic Neuropathy
Anti-Amphi- physin, 5%	Thymoma	Retinal Degeneration
		Optic Neuritis
Anti-Recoverin	Testis	Myelitis
		Stiff-Person Syndrome



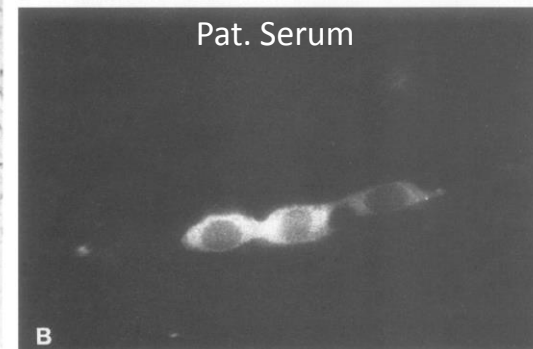
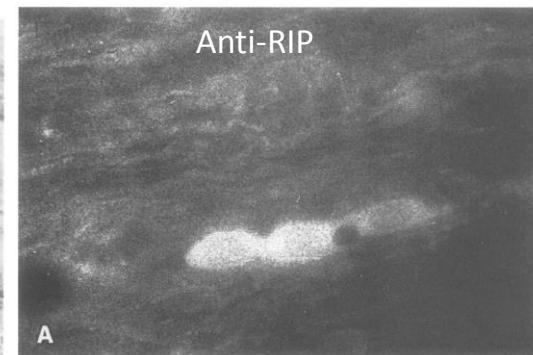
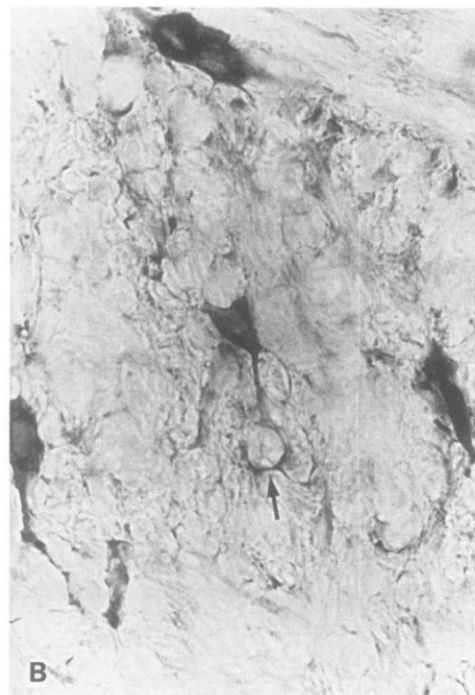
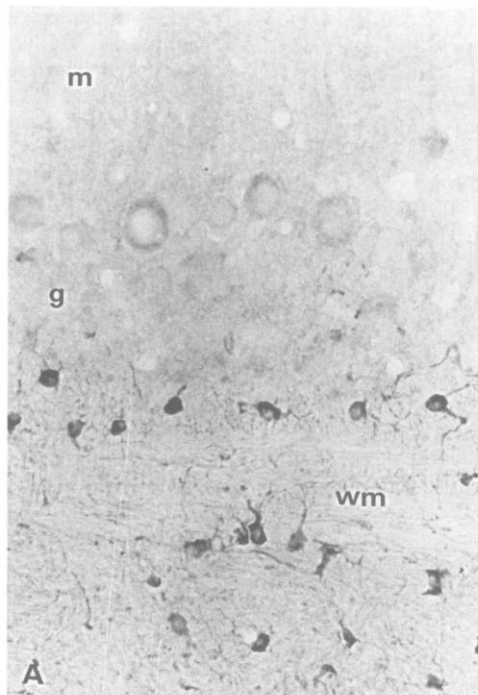
# Expression of HuD in tumour tissue and the nervous system



Dysgerminom eines Patienten mit  
Anti-Hu-postiver PEM



# CV2 / CRMP5 antibodies bind to oligodendrocytes



# Patients with paraneoplastic chorea in the PNS EuroNetwork registry

11 of 913 patients had chorea (1.2%)

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8	F, 76	Classical				Cells: 3 Prot: n.n.	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy; bilateral hyperintensity of BG (after 4 months)	No therapy	Alive after 18 months
9	M, 65	Oral dyskinesia, slow speech, vocal tics and gnashing of teeth	LE PN	SCLC 4 months after	Hu/ANNA1 CV2/CRMP5	<sup>a</sup> Cells:55 Prot: 1 OB: +	Normal	Good response	Death from PNS after 9 months
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<i>Possible paraneoplastic chorea</i>									
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12 <sup>b</sup>	F, 59	Cervical dystonia and choreic jerks at left shoulder	Anxiety	Colon cancer 7 months after	No Ab	<sup>a</sup> Cells:1 Prot:60 ↑ IgG index	Normal	No response	Death from tumor after 15 months
13	M, 82	Classical chorea	LE	Colon cancer 6 months after	No Ab	Cells: 3 Prot:49 OB: neg	MRI:NA CT: Normal	No therapy	Death from tumor after 1 month

PN polyneuropathy, CT computed tomography, MRI magnetic resonance imaging, OCD obsessive-compulsive disorder, LE limbic encephalitis, SCLC small cell lung cancer, NSCLC non small cell lung cancer, CSF cerebrospinal fluid, Cell X cell/mm<sup>3</sup>, Prot proteins mg/dl, OB oligoclonal bands, IgG intravenous immunoglobulins, BG basal ganglia, PNS paraneoplastic neurological syndrome, NA not available

<sup>a</sup> Pathologic CSF



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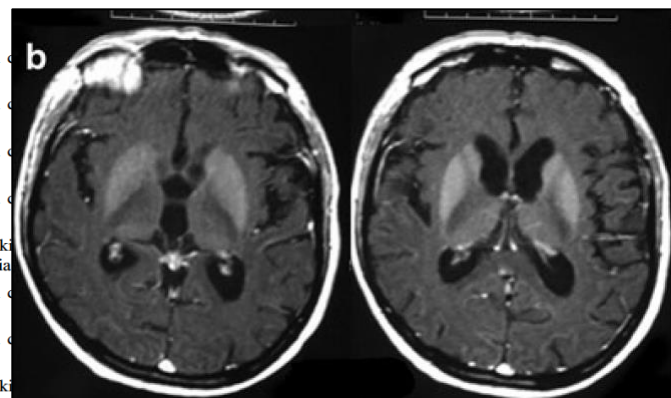
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9	M, 65	Oral dyskinesia, vocal tics and gnashing of teeth			CV2/CRMP5	Prot: 1	Normal	Good response	Death from PNS after 9 months
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6/10 patients:  
No response to cancer therapy

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3 <sup>b</sup>	<b>Typical CSF finding in PNS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— CSF pleocytosis: ~40%</li><li>— Protein increased: ~66%</li><li>— OCBs positive: ~66%</li><li>— Normal: ~10%</li></ul> <b>Psimaras et al., JNNP 2010, 81(1):42-5</b>				NA1	<sup>b</sup> Cells: 0 Prot: 5 OB: +: 9	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy	Mild response	Death from tumor after 19 months
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8					CRMP5	Cells: 3 Prot: n.n.	Diffuse leuko-encephalopathy; bilateral hyperintensity of BG (after 4 months)	No therapy	Alive after 18 months
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4/7 patients:  
Inflammatory CSF changes

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Grim prognosis

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3/13 Neuropathy



# Chorea in PNS: Is it really chorea?



# What to you think that this patient mostly probably has?

## Q3- What to you think that this patient mostly probably has?

- a. Classical chorea with slight lateralisation to the left
- b. Myoclonus
- c. Pseudoathetosis due to sensory deafferentiation
- d. Cerebellar ataxia

# Management of patients with PNS

## **Search for the underlying neoplasm:**

every 6 months for up to 5 years

CT /US depending on suspected tumor entity, FDG-PET

## **Tumor therapy** (surgery, chemotherapy)

## **Immunosuppression**

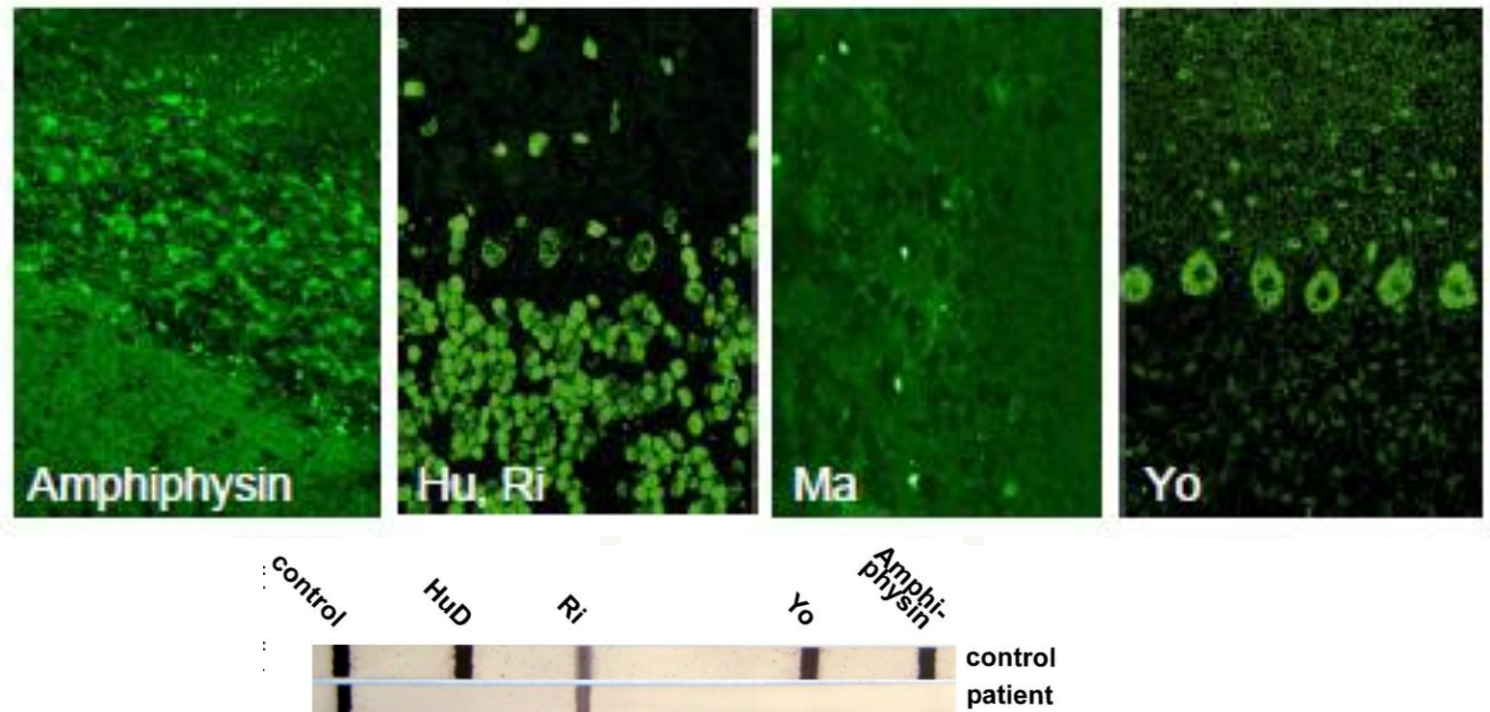
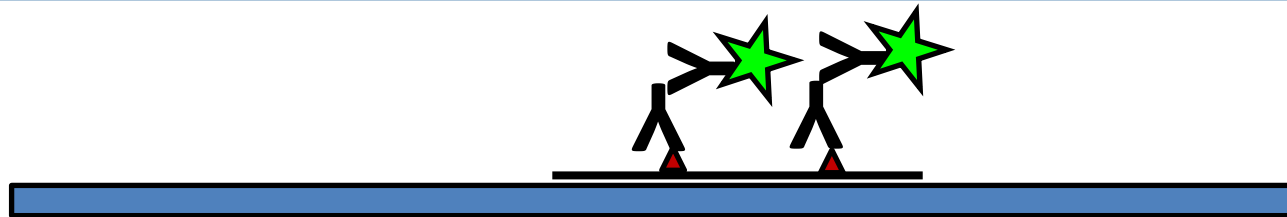
### CNS:

- Methylprednisolone 5 x 1g
- If no response within 2 weeks:
- Cyclophosphamide (750-1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 4 w.),  
Alternatively rituximab

### PNS

- Alternatives are IVIG or plasma exchange

# How to test for onconeural antibodies?

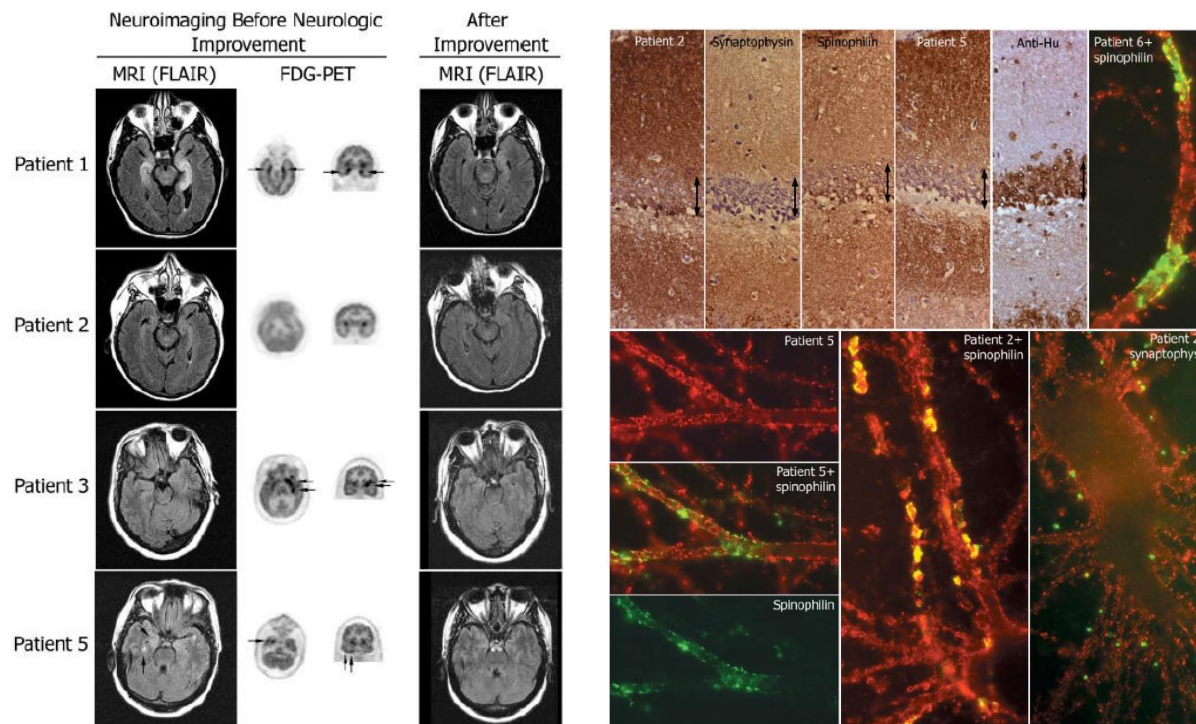


**In ~20% of all PNS no onconeural antibodies are present**

(Giometto et al., Arch Neurol 2010 ; 67 : 330 – 335)

# Chorea in autoimmune encephalitis associated with antibodies against neuronal surface proteins

## Discovery of neuropil antibodies in patients with therapy-reponsive limbic encephalitis



Ances et al. Brain 2005; 128: 1764-1777



## Potentially paraneoplastic autoimmune encephalitides with antibodies against neuronal surface antigen

Year	Target antigen	Tumour	
2007 <sup>1</sup>	NMDA-Rezeptor	30-50%	Ovary (teratoma)
2009 <sup>2</sup>	AMPA receptor	70%	Lung, breast, thymoma
2010 <sup>3</sup>	GABA <sub>B</sub> receptor	60%	SCLC
2004 <sup>4</sup>	VGKC complex (obsolete)		
- 2010 <sup>5</sup>	LGI1	0 <sup>5</sup> -11 <sup>6</sup> %	SCLC, thymoma
- 2010 <sup>5</sup>	CASPR2	up to 40%	Thymoma
2013 <sup>7</sup>	DPPX	n.k.	
2014 <sup>8,9</sup>	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor	40%	thymoma, SCLC
2014 <sup>10</sup>	IgLON5	n.k.	
2016 <sup>11</sup>	Neurexin-3α	n.k.	

<sup>1</sup>Dalmau et al., Ann Neurol. 2007; 61: 25–36. <sup>2</sup>Lai et al., Ann Neurol 2009; 65: 424 – 434. <sup>3</sup>Lancaster et al., Lancet Neurol. 2010; 9: 67–76. <sup>4</sup>Vincent A, Brain 2004; 127: 701–12. <sup>5</sup>Irani et al., Brain 2010; 133: 2734–2748, <sup>6</sup>Van Sonderen et al. Neurology. 2016 Oct 4;87(14):1449-1456, <sup>7</sup>Boronnat et al., Ann Neurol 2013;73:120–128, <sup>8</sup>Petit-Pedrol et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(3):276-86, <sup>9</sup>Spatola et al., Neurology 2017, epub Feb 15, <sup>10</sup>Sabater et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(6):575-86, <sup>11</sup>Gresa-Arribas et al., Neurology. 2016 Jun 14;86(24):2235-42.

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2014 <sup>8,9</sup>	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor	40%	thymoma, SCLC
2014 <sup>10</sup>	IgLON5	n.k.	
2016 <sup>11</sup>	Neurexin-3α	n.k.	

<sup>1</sup>Dalmau et al., Ann Neurol. 2007; 61: 25–36. <sup>2</sup>Lai et al., Ann Neurol 2009; 65: 424 – 434. <sup>3</sup>Lancaster et al., Lancet Neurol. 2010; 9: 67–76. <sup>4</sup>Vincent A, Brain 2004; 127: 701–12. <sup>5</sup>Irani et al., Brain 2010; 133: 2734–2748, <sup>6</sup>Van Sonderen et al. Neurology. 2016 Oct 4;87(14):1449-1456, <sup>7</sup>Boronnat et al., Ann Neurol 2013;73:120–128, <sup>8</sup>Petit-Pedrol et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(3):276-86, <sup>9</sup>Spatola et al., Neurology 2017, epub Feb 15, <sup>10</sup>Sabater et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(6):575-86, <sup>11</sup>Gresa-Arribas et al., Neurology. 2016 Jun 14;86(24):2235-42.

# Encephalitis with NMDAR antibodies affect young patients



47% of all cases with encephalitis

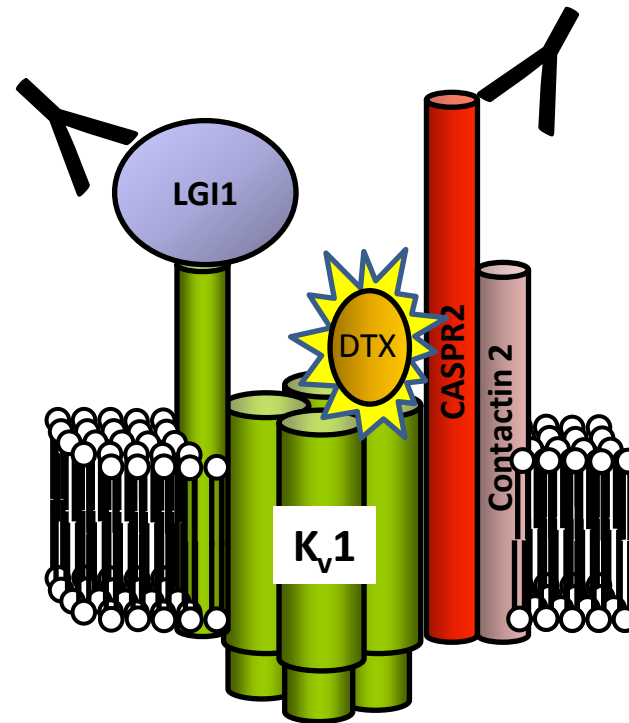
<sup>1</sup>Prüss et al., Neurology 2010; 75:1735–1739, <sup>2</sup>Granerod et al., Lancet Infect Dis 2010;10: 835–44

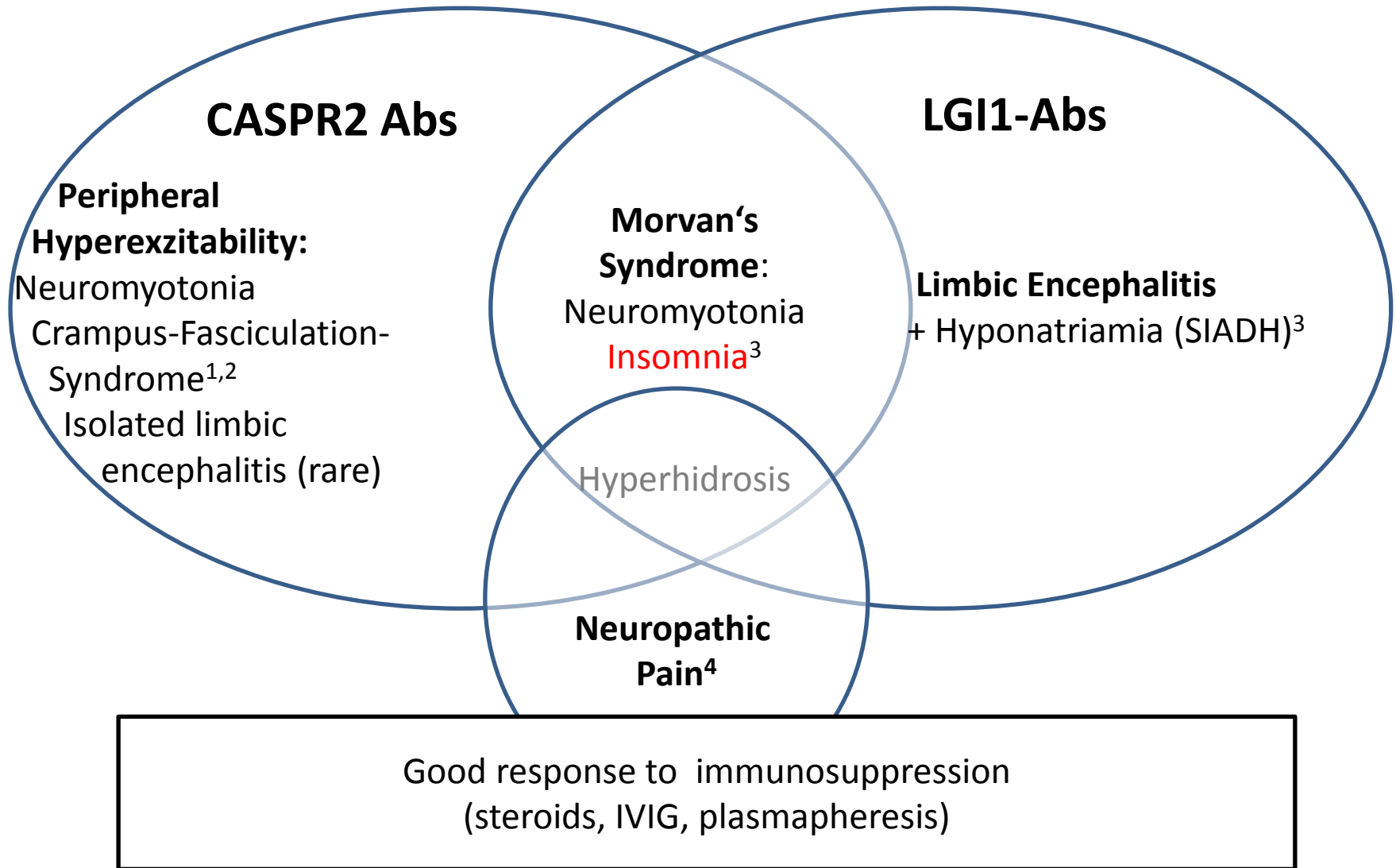
## Potentially paraneoplastic autoimmune encephalitides with antibodies against neuronal surface antigen

Year	Target antigen	Tumour	
2007 <sup>1</sup>	NMDA-Rezeptor	30-50%	Ovary (teratoma)
2009 <sup>2</sup>	AMPA receptor	70%	Lung, breast, thymoma
2010 <sup>3</sup>	GABA <sub>B</sub> receptor	60%	SCLC
2004 <sup>4</sup>	VGKC complex (obsolete)		
- 2010 <sup>5</sup>	LGI1	0 <sup>5</sup> -11 <sup>6</sup> %	SCLC, thymoma
- 2010 <sup>5</sup>	CASPR2	up to 40%	Thymoma
2013 <sup>7</sup>	DPPX	n.k.	
2014 <sup>8,9</sup>	GABA <sub>A</sub> receptor	40%	thymoma, SCLC
2014 <sup>10</sup>	IgLON5	n.k.	
2016 <sup>11</sup>	Neurexin-3α	n.k.	

<sup>1</sup>Dalmau et al., Ann Neurol. 2007; 61: 25–36. <sup>2</sup>Lai et al., Ann Neurol 2009; 65: 424 – 434. <sup>3</sup>Lancaster et al., Lancet Neurol. 2010; 9: 67–76. <sup>4</sup>Vincent A, Brain 2004; 127: 701–12. <sup>5</sup>Irani et al., Brain 2010; 133: 2734–2748, <sup>6</sup>Van Sonderen et al. Neurology. 2016 Oct 4;87(14):1449-1456, <sup>7</sup>Boronnat et al., Ann Neurol 2013;73:120–128, <sup>8</sup>Petit-Pedrol et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(3):276-86, <sup>9</sup>Spatola et al., Neurology 2017, epub Feb 15, <sup>10</sup>Sabater et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(6):575-86, <sup>11</sup>Gresa-Arribas et al., Neurology. 2016 Jun 14;86(24):2235-42.

# CASPR2 and LGI1 antibodies, formerly known as VGKC

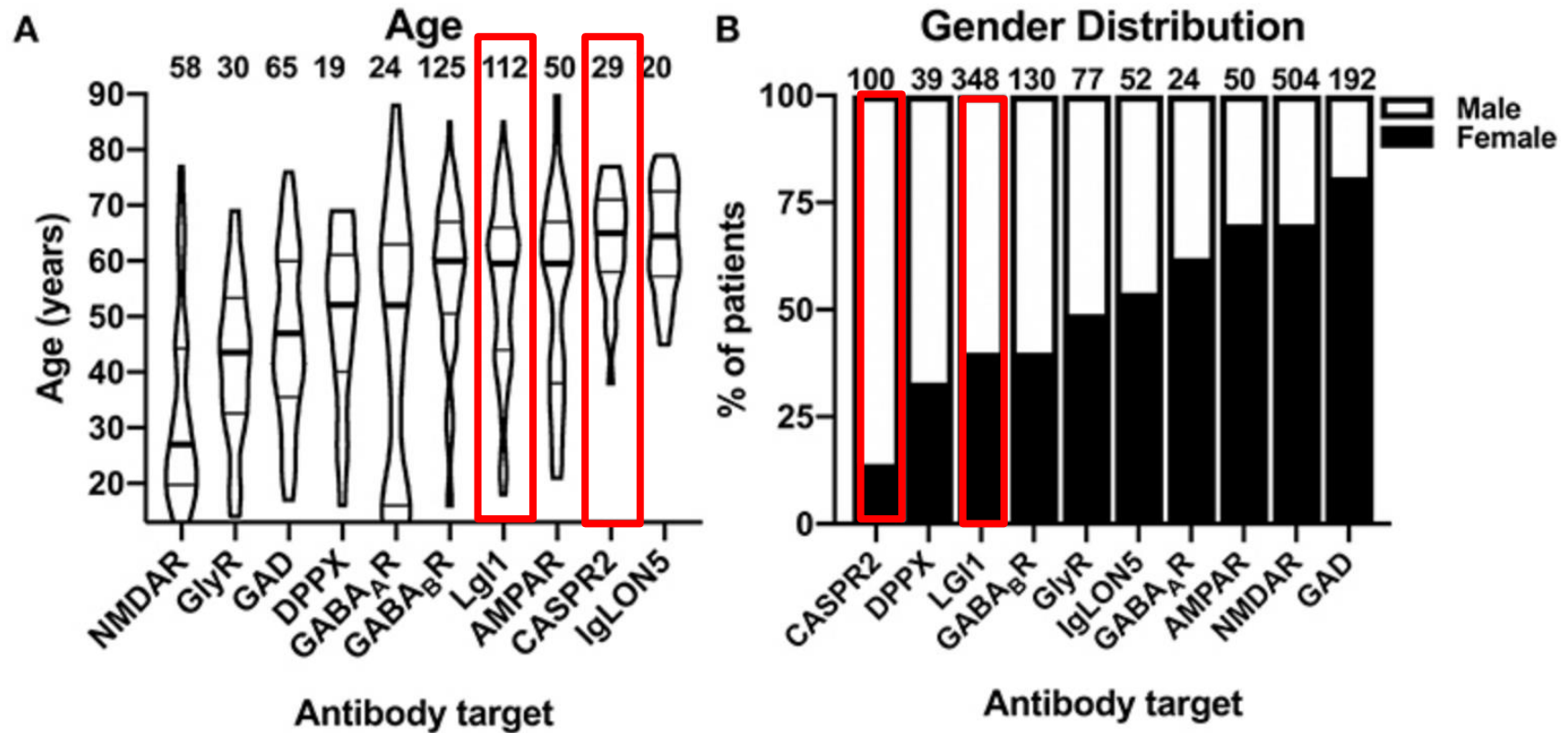




<sup>1</sup>Hart et al., Brain 2002; 125:1887-1895, <sup>2</sup>Irani et al., Brain 2010: 133; 2734–2748,

<sup>3</sup>Irani et al., Ann Neurol 2011;69:892–900, <sup>4</sup>Klein et al., Neurology 2012; 79: 1136-44.

# Older age and male predominance in autoimmune encephalitis associated with either CASPR2 or LGI1 antibodies





# Basal ganglia abnormalities in some patients with autoimmune encephalitis associated with LGI1 antibodies



(A) Brain MRI obtained during relapse: (A.a) Prominent restricted diffusion and (A.b) apparent diffusion coefficient correlate with changes in the bilateral basal ganglia. (A.c) T2 fluid-attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) hyperintensities in the same "restricted diffusion" distribution. (A.d) FLAIR normal hippocampal size. (A.e) Coronal sequence showing T1 hyperintensities in the right basal ganglia. (A.f) 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG) PET/CT. Intense 18F-FDG uptake is noted in the bilateral basal ganglia, asymmetric FDG uptake within the left medial temporal lobe. (B) Follow-up brain MRI: (B.a, B.b) 16 months after the onset of symptoms. Axial T2 FLAIR shows prominent caudate nuclei atrophy and bilateral hippocampal atrophy (arrowheads).

# Chorea in autoimmune encephalitis with LGI1 antibodies **is rare**



Ramdhani & Frucht, Tremor Other Hyperkinet Mov 2014; 8:4

Characteristics	Values
Male, n (%)	25/38 (66)
Age at onset, y, median (IQR, range)	64 (60-69, 31-84)
Time to maximum disease severity, wk (IQR, range)	22 (8-32, 2-150)
Clinical syndrome, n (%)	
Limbic encephalitis	34 (90)
Morvan syndrome <sup>a</sup>	3 (8)
Epilepsy	1 (3)
Seizures, n (%)	34 (90)
Memory deficit, n (%)	37 (97)
Disorder of behavior, n (%)	34 (90)
Spatial disorientation, n (%)	17/33 (52)
Insomnia, n (%)	20/31 (65)
Weight loss, n (%)	9/33 (27)
Autonomic dysfunction, n (%)	15/32 (47)
Pain, n (%)	3/34 (9)
Peripheral nervous system symptoms, n (%)	5/32 (16)
Hyponatremia, n (%)	24/37 (65)
CSF, n (%)	
Cell count >5 cells/ $\mu$ L	~5/32 (16) (max 88 cells/ $\mu$ L)
Protein >0.58 g/L	~5/32 (16)
EEG, n (%)	
Focal slowing	~9/36 (25)
Epileptic	~11/36 (31)
MRI at presentation, n (%)	
Unilateral hippocampal lesion	~21/35 (60)
Bilateral hippocampal lesion	~5/35 (14)
Normal	~9/35 (26)

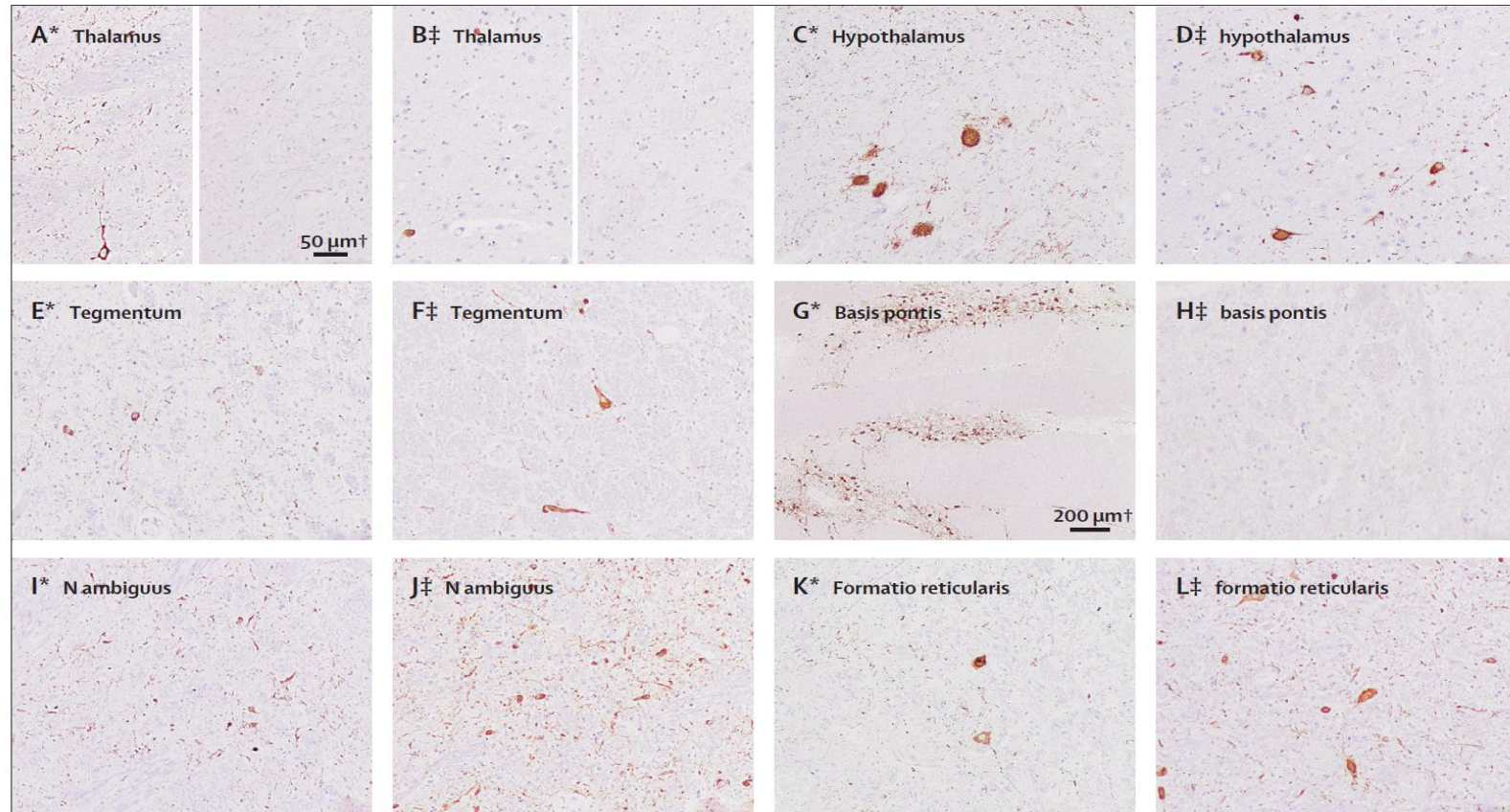
Van Sonderen et al., Neurology. 2016 Oct 4;87(14):1449-1456

# Chorea in autoimmune encephalitis with CASPR2 antibodies





# Potentially paraneoplastic autoimmune encephalitides with antibodies against neuronal surface antigen



**Figure 5: Distribution of tau pathology**

Moderate amounts of AT8-immunoreactive neuropil threads and neurofibrillary tangles are detected in hypothalamic nuclei (C, D; posterior hypothalamic nucleus) and anterior thalamus (A, B [left panels]), but are completely absent in lateral and posterior thalamic neurons of both cases (A, B [right panels]). Although the pontine tegmentum is mildly (F) and moderately (E) affected in patients seven and two, respectively, neurons of nucleus propii of basis pontis show extensive tau pathology mainly in form of pretangles (G), which is not noted in patient seven (H). By contrast, prominent pathological change in nucleus ambiguus is detected in patient seven (J), and less in patient two (I) and to a lesser extent in magnocellular nuclei of the formatio reticularis in both cases (K, L). \*Patient two. †The scale bar is 50 μm for all panels except panel G, for which the bar is 200 μm. ‡Patient seven.

# Chorea is frequent in IgLON5 encephalopathy

Patient	Neurologic profile	Sleep disorder	Bulbar syndrome	Gait instability	Oculomotor abnormalities	Cognitive impairment	Autonomic dysfunction	Chorea	Anti-IgLON5 in CSF	% IgG4	DRB1*1001/DQB1*0501 alleles
1	Sleep disorder								Positive	73	Positive
2	Sleep disorder								Positive	71	Positive
3	Sleep disorder								Positive	45	Positive
7	Sleep disorder									51	
13	Sleep disorder								Positive	75	
15	Sleep disorder								Positive	48	Positive
16	Sleep disorder									57	Positive
22	Sleep disorder								Positive	58	Positive
4	Bulbar syndrome								Positive	45	
5	Bulbar syndrome								Positive		Positive
8	Bulbar syndrome									57	
11	Bulbar syndrome									48	Positive
12	Bulbar syndrome								Positive	83	Positive
20	Bulbar syndrome								Positive	23	Positive
6	PSP-like								Positive	59	
9	PSP-like								Negative	61	Negative
17	PSP-like									93	
18	PSP-like								Negative	0	Positive
19	PSP-like									76	
10	Cognitive impairment								Positive	74	Positive
14	Cognitive impairment								Positive	63	Negative
21	Cognitive impairment								Positive	58	Positive

Parasomnia confirmed by video-PSG  
History of parasomnia not video-PSG confirmed  
Other sleep disturbances in absence of parasomnia

Severe  
Mild-moderate


Severe  
Mild  
Subjective  
Supranuclear gaze palsy  
Other oculomotor problems

Dementia  
Mild cognitive impairment  
Heart involvement  
Mild dysautonomia  
Chorea

7/22 of patients had chorea

Sabater et al. Lancet Neurol 2014; 13: 575–86

# Frequency of chorea in IgLON5 encephalopathy

	Patient one	Patient two	Patient three	Patient four	Patient five	Patient six	Patient seven	Patient eight
								
Outcome	No change	No change. Sudden death at home while asleep	No change	No change. Sudden death at home	No change. Sudden death during wakefulness	No change. Died in the intensive care unit during wakefulness	No change. Sudden death at home while asleep	Improved. Discharged from the intensive care unit. Sudden death during wakefulness



# Management of autoimmune encephalitis with neuronal surfact antibodies

- Autoimmune encephalitides frequently respond to immunotherapy
- Early treatment is associated with better prognosis ->
- High clinical suspicion should trigger treatment!

## A clinical approach to diagnosis of autoimmune encephalitis



*Francesc Graus, Maarten J Titulaer, Ramani Balu, Susanne Benseler, Christian G Bien, Tania Cellucci, Irene Cortese, Russell C Dale, Jeffrey M Gelfand, Michael Geschwind, Carol A Glaser, Jerome Honnorat, Romana Höftberger, Takahiro Iizuka, Sarosh R Irani, Eric Lancaster, Frank Leypoldt, Harald Prüss, Alexander Rae-Grant, Markus Reindl, Myrna R Rosenfeld, Kevin Rostásy, Albert Saiz, Arun Venkatesan, Angela Vincent, Klaus-Peter Wandinger, Patrick Waters, Josep Dalmau*

Encephalitis is a severe inflammatory disorder of the brain with many possible causes and a complex differential diagnosis. Advances in autoimmune encephalitis research in the past 10 years have led to the identification of new syndromes and biomarkers that have transformed the diagnostic approach to these disorders. However, existing criteria for autoimmune encephalitis are too reliant on antibody testing and response to immunotherapy, which might delay the diagnosis. We reviewed the literature and gathered the experience of a team of experts with the aims of developing a practical, syndrome-based diagnostic approach to autoimmune encephalitis and providing guidelines to navigate through the differential diagnosis. Because autoantibody test results and response to therapy are not available at disease onset, we based the initial diagnostic approach on neurological assessment and conventional tests that are accessible to most clinicians. Through logical differential diagnosis, levels of evidence for autoimmune encephalitis (possible, probable, or definite) are achieved, which can lead to prompt immunotherapy.

*Lancet Neurol* 2016; 15: 391–404

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[S1474-4422\(15\)00401-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1474-4422(15)00401-9)

See [Comment](#) page 349

Neuroimmunology Program,

Institut d'Investigacions

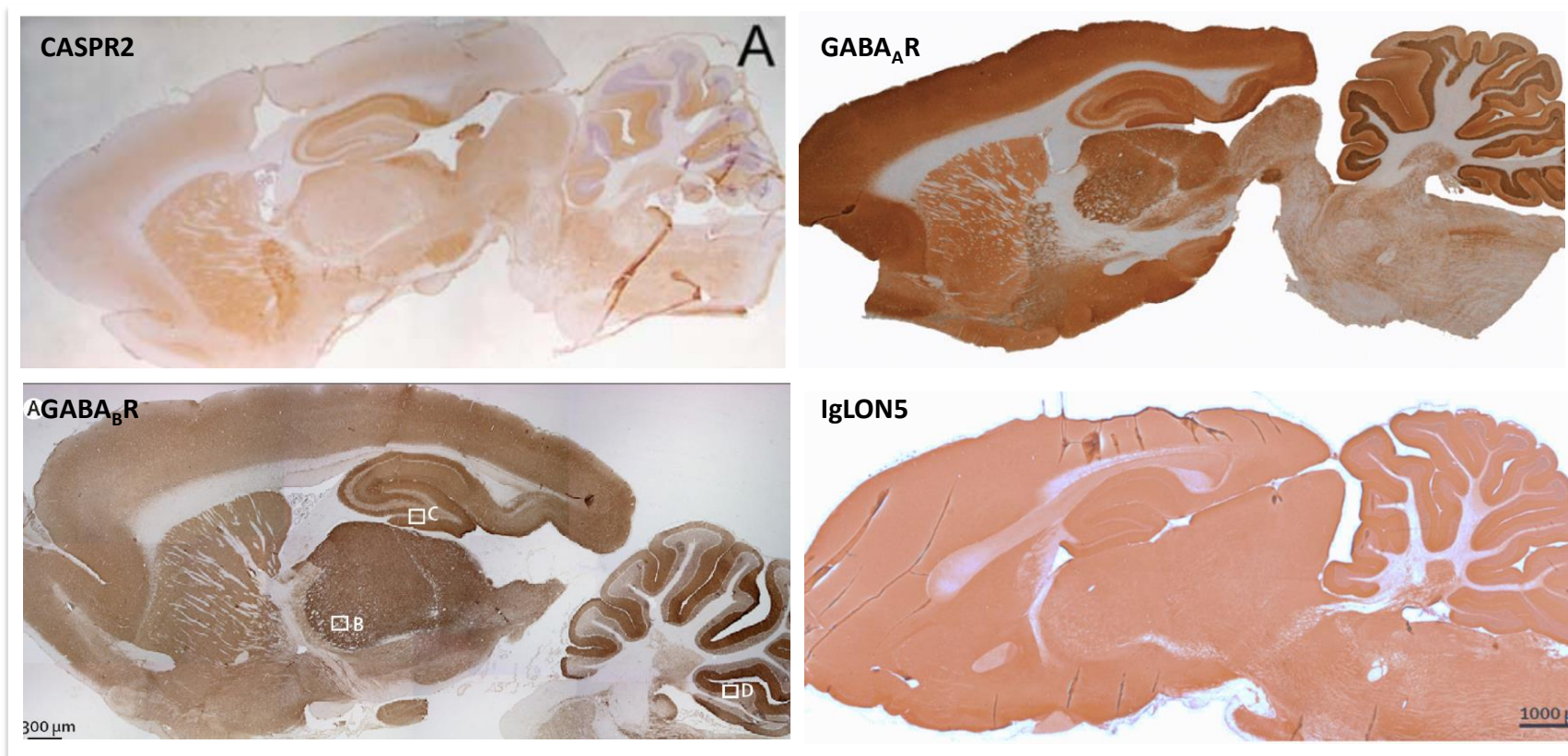
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Sunyer, Barcelona, Spain

(Prof F Graus MD,

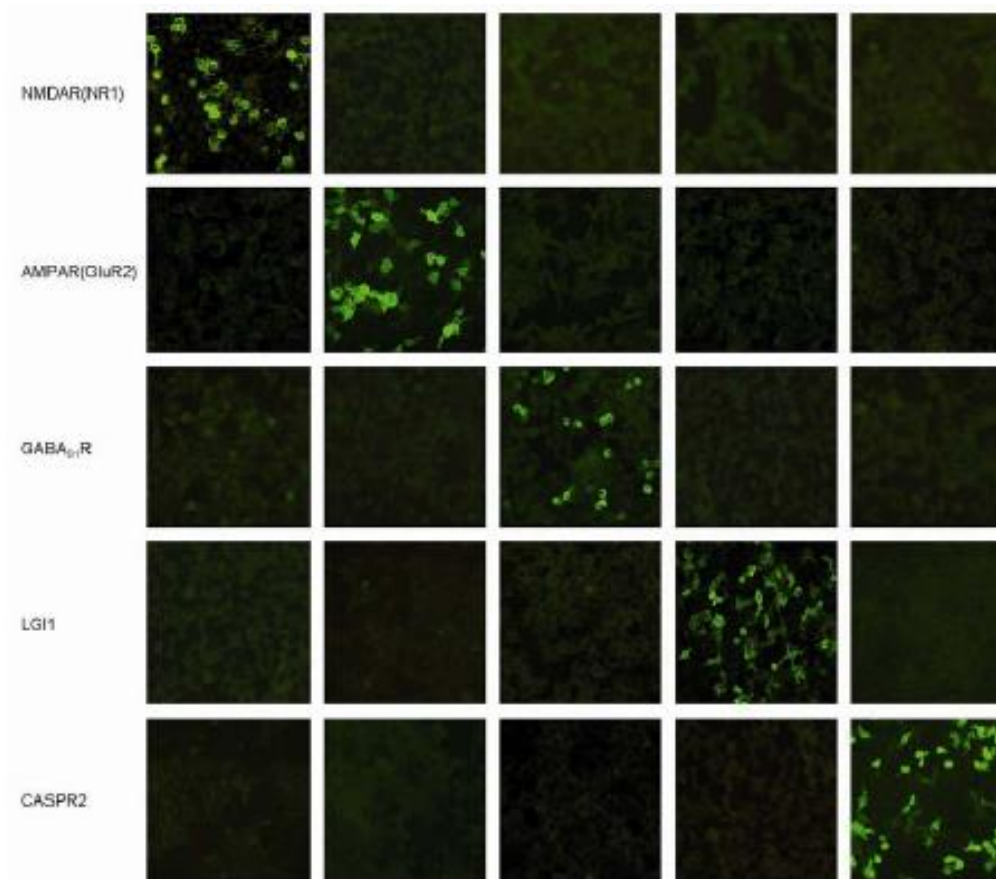
Prof M R Rosenfeld MD,

## Testing for antibodies against neuronal surface antigens




Lancaster et al., Ann Neurol 2011;69:303–311, Petit-Pedrol et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(3):276-86, Lancaster et al., Lancet Neurol. 2010 January ; 9(1): 67–76, Sabater et al., Lancet Neurol 2014;13(6):575-86

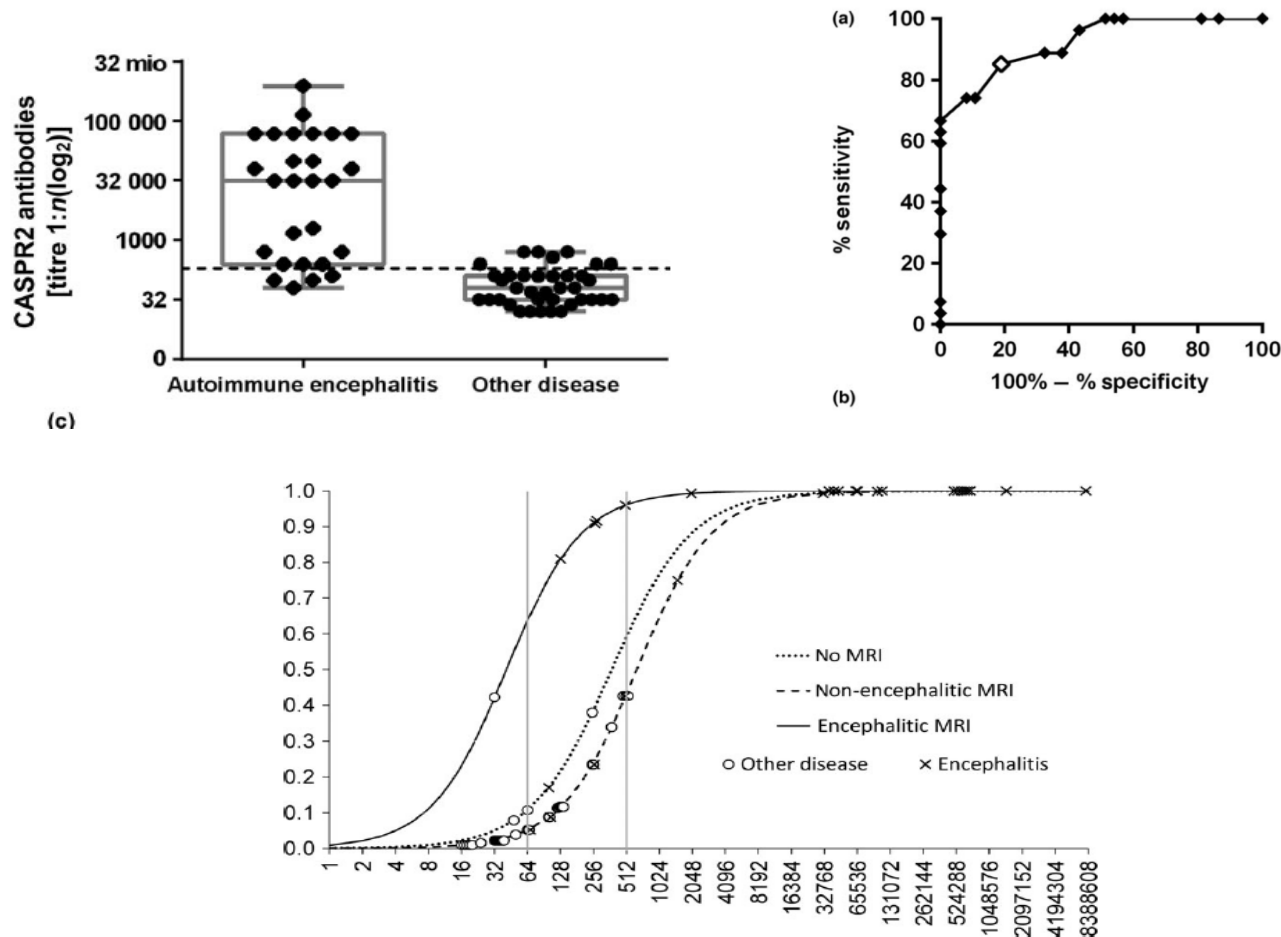
## Cell-based assay as specific test



*Wandinger et al., J Lab Med 2011*

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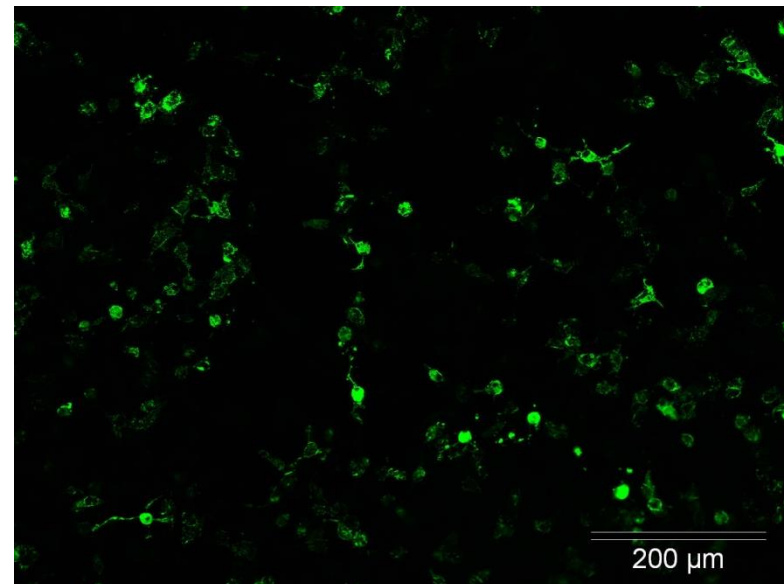
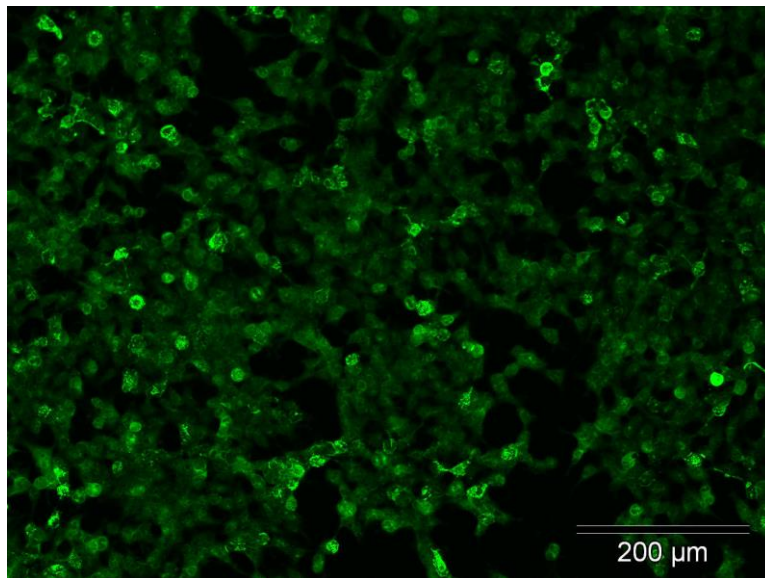
# Low titre CASPR2 antibodies can unrelated to neurological symptoms





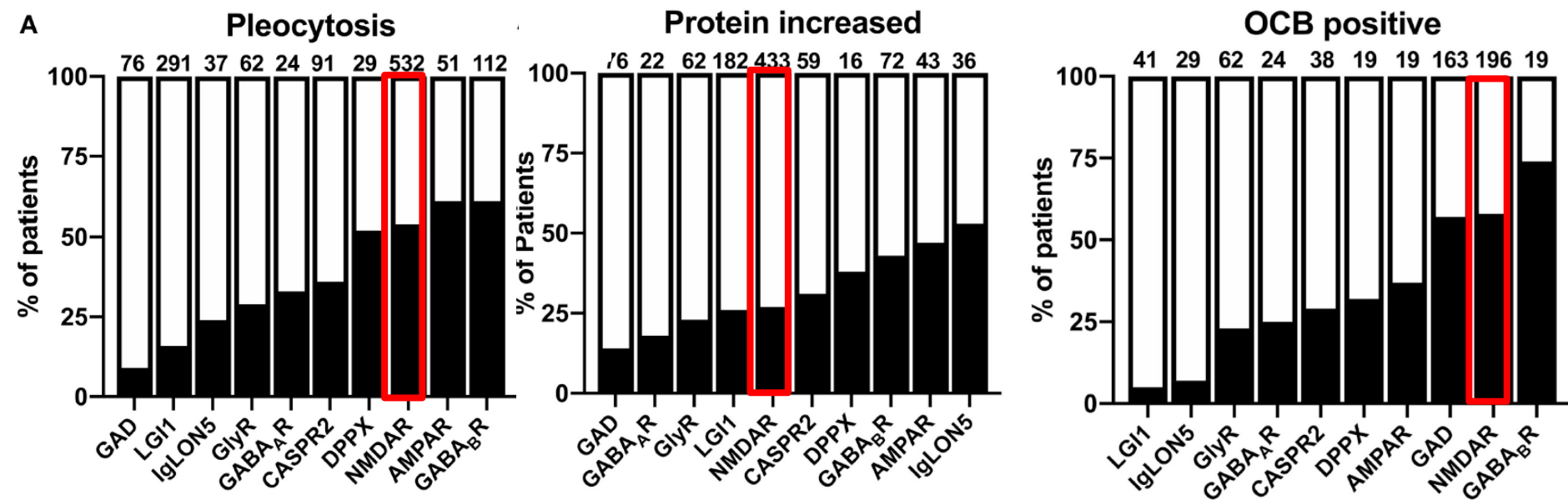
# Testing for NMDAR antibodies should always include serum

Detection of NMDAR antibodies in CSF is more sensitive than in serum (100% vs 85%, N=250)



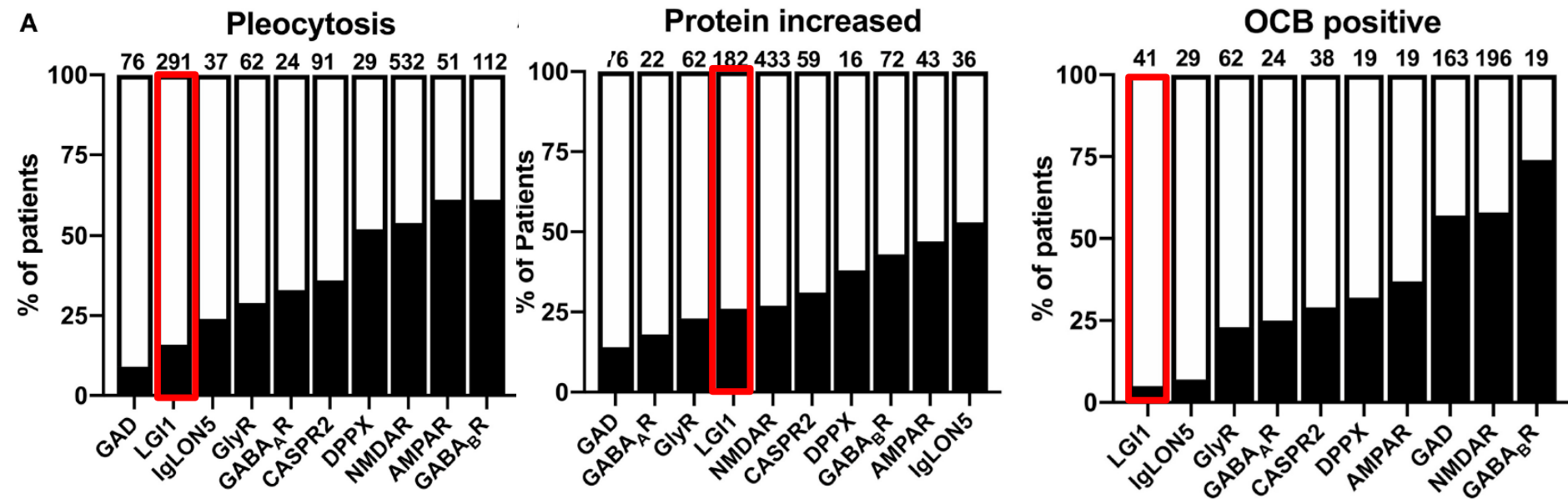
Titer : Serum 1:100, CSF 1:100

# Frequency of cerebrospinal fluid abnormalities in auto-immune encephalitides potentially associated with chorea

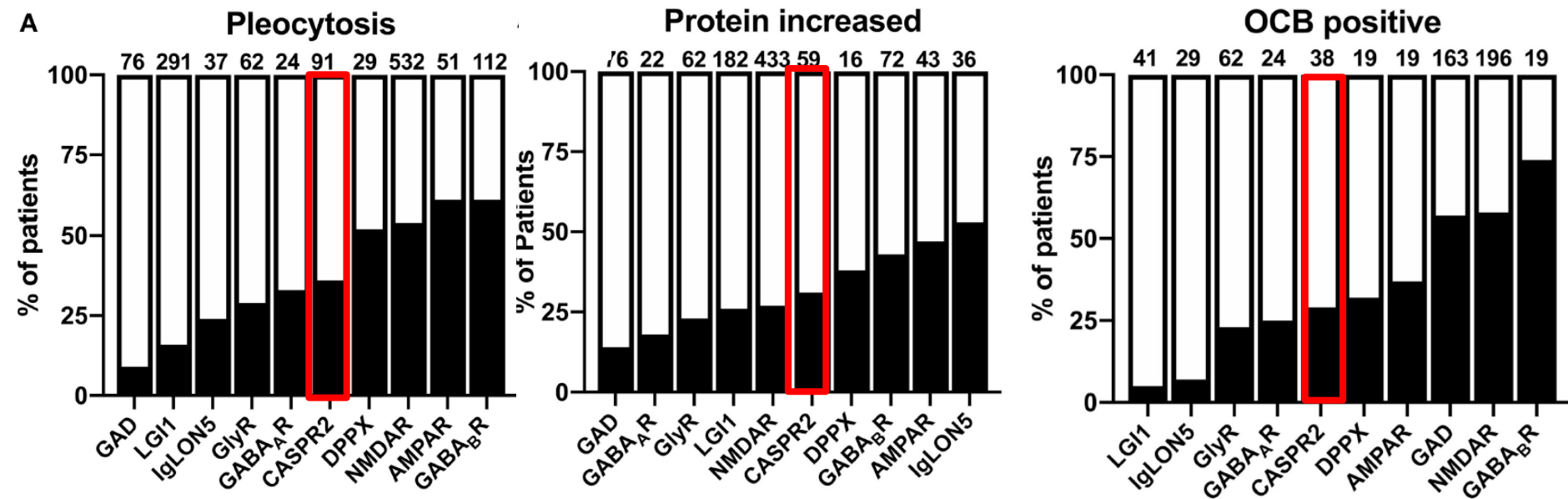




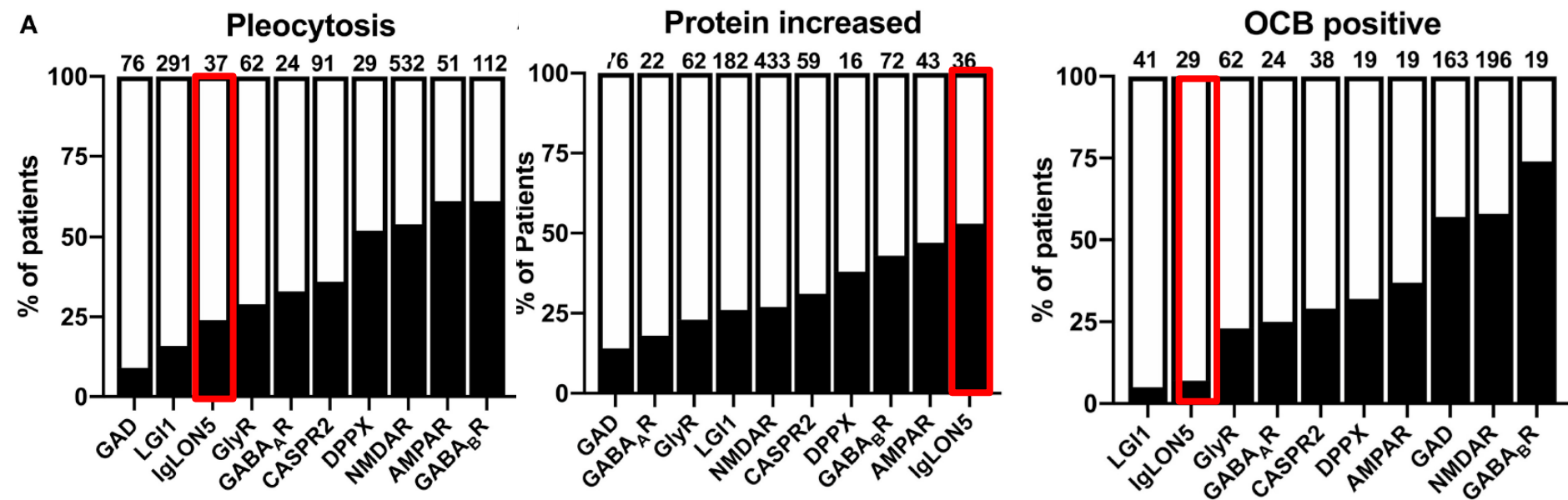
# Frequency of cerebrospinal fluid abnormalities in auto-immune encephalitides potentially associated with chorea



# Frequency of cerebrospinal fluid abnormalities in auto-immune encephalitides potentially associated with chorea



# Frequency of cerebrospinal fluid abnormalities in auto-immune encephalitides potentially associated with chorea



## Q4-Which answer is not correct?

Immune-mediated chorea with detection of brain-specific antibodies

- a. warrants immediate immune-modulatory therapy
- b. might be associated with different types of tumors, depending on the identified antibody
- c. has a poor prognosis
- d. cannot be excluded by normal routine CSF findings

## Q5-Which statement is not correct?

- a. Chorea associated with IgLON5 or Caspr2 antibodies might be associated with sleep disturbances
- b. Fasciculations are mostly found in patients with Caspr2 antibodies
- c. Testing serum is sufficient to diagnose autoimmune-encephalitis associated with NMDAR antibodies
- d. Positive Caspr2 antibodies in serum can occur without association with a immune-mediated CNS disease

# Key Points /Conclusions

- Autoimmune chorea rarely is often associated with other clinical or laboratory findings that hint to the correct diagnosis
- Rheumatological test and CSF analysis including antineuronal/onconeuronal antibodies should be included in the work-up of unexplained non-hereditary chorea
- Immunotherapy in many cases is beneficial





# Joint webinar series



## THANK YOU

Next Webinar: ,Introduction into Leukodystrophies'  
28 January 2020, 15-16h CET