

XIX

Curso Nacional de
NEURORRADIOLOGÍA

Radiología Raquimedular

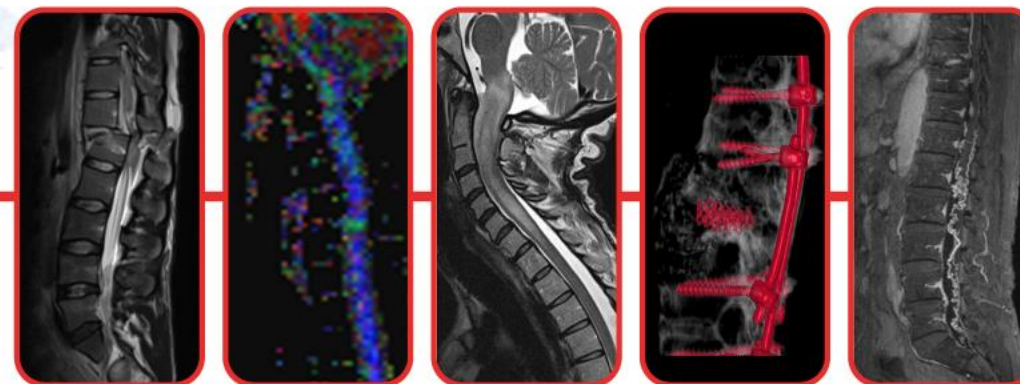
**“Procesos inflamatorios-
desmielinizantes medulares”**

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Sede: CINESA. Calle de Fuencarral, 136



Disclosures

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University Hospital Vall d'Hebron

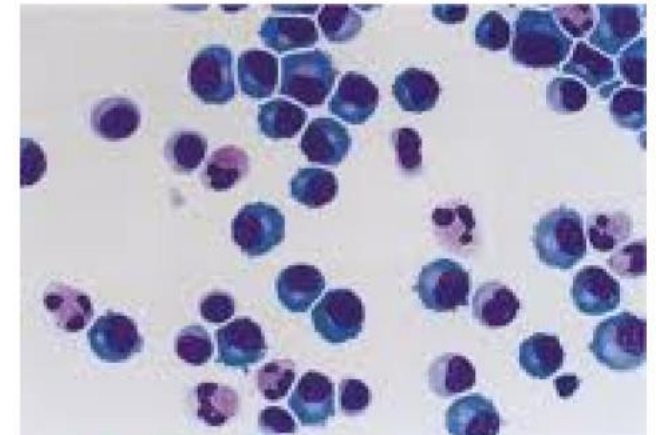
Barcelona, Spain

A. Rovira serves/ed on scientific advisory boards for Novartis, Sanofi-Genzyme, Biogen IDEC, OLEA Medical, Synthetic MR, TensorMedical, Icometrix and Bayer, has received speaker honoraria from Bayer, Sanofi-Genzyme, Bracco, Merck-Serono, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Novartis, Roche and Biogen Idec.



Transverse myelitis

- Transverse myelitis (TM), is an inflammatory lesion of the spinal cord
- Acute/subacute course
- Occurs in 1 (severe) to 8 (mild) cases/ million per year (24 if MS included)
- Usually accompanied by MRI signal abnormality in the spinal cord, CSF pleocytosis, or both



Transverse myelitis: etiology

- Demyelination: Multiple sclerosis, ADEM, AQP4+NMOSD, MOGAD
- Primary angiitis
- Infectious: herpes zoster, simplex
- Systemic autoimmune diseases: SLE, Behçet, Sjögren, sarcoidosis
- Idiopathic: 15-36%

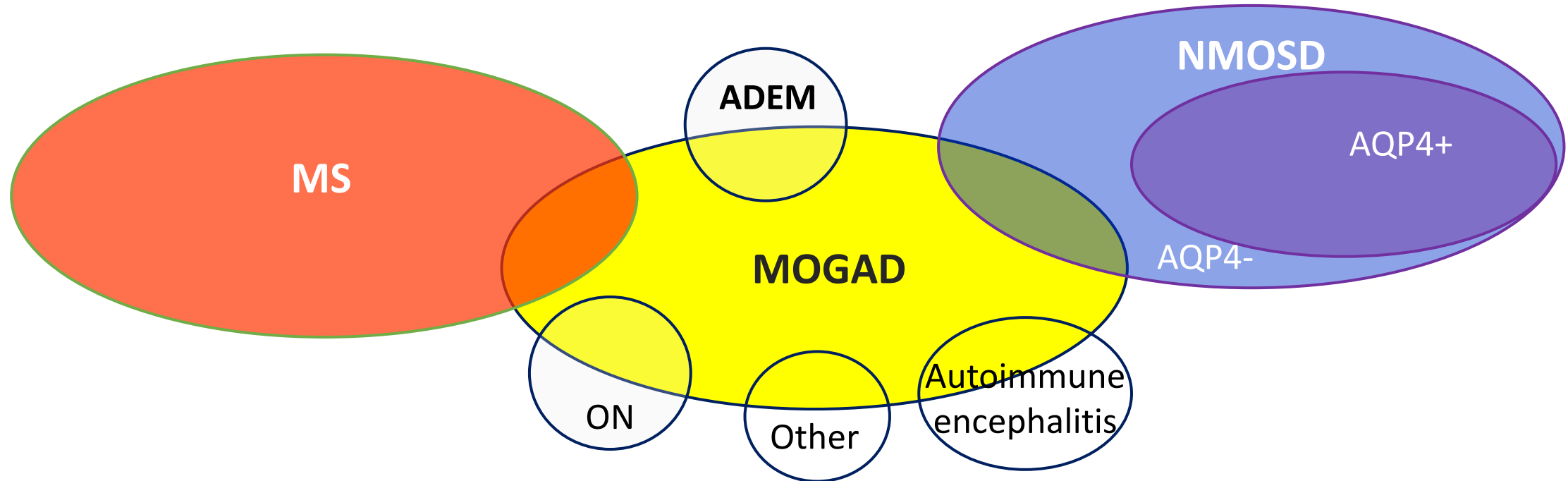


No demographic, family, and geographical data can predict the etiology with enough accuracy

Diagnosis based on imaging (MRI), clinical and lab findings



Inflammatory demyelinating diseases: new classification

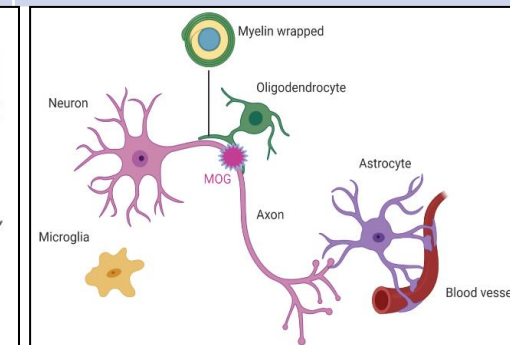
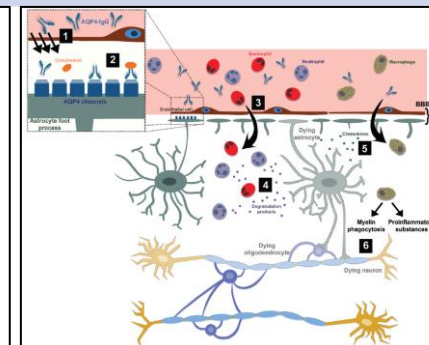
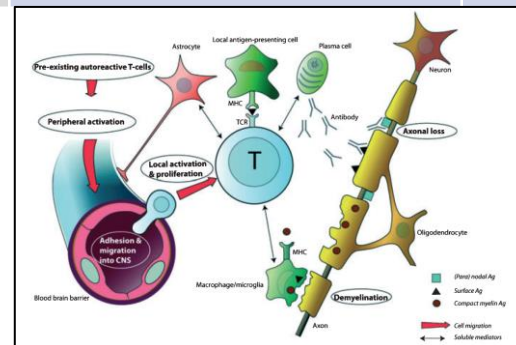


Integration of clinical, lab, and MRI data

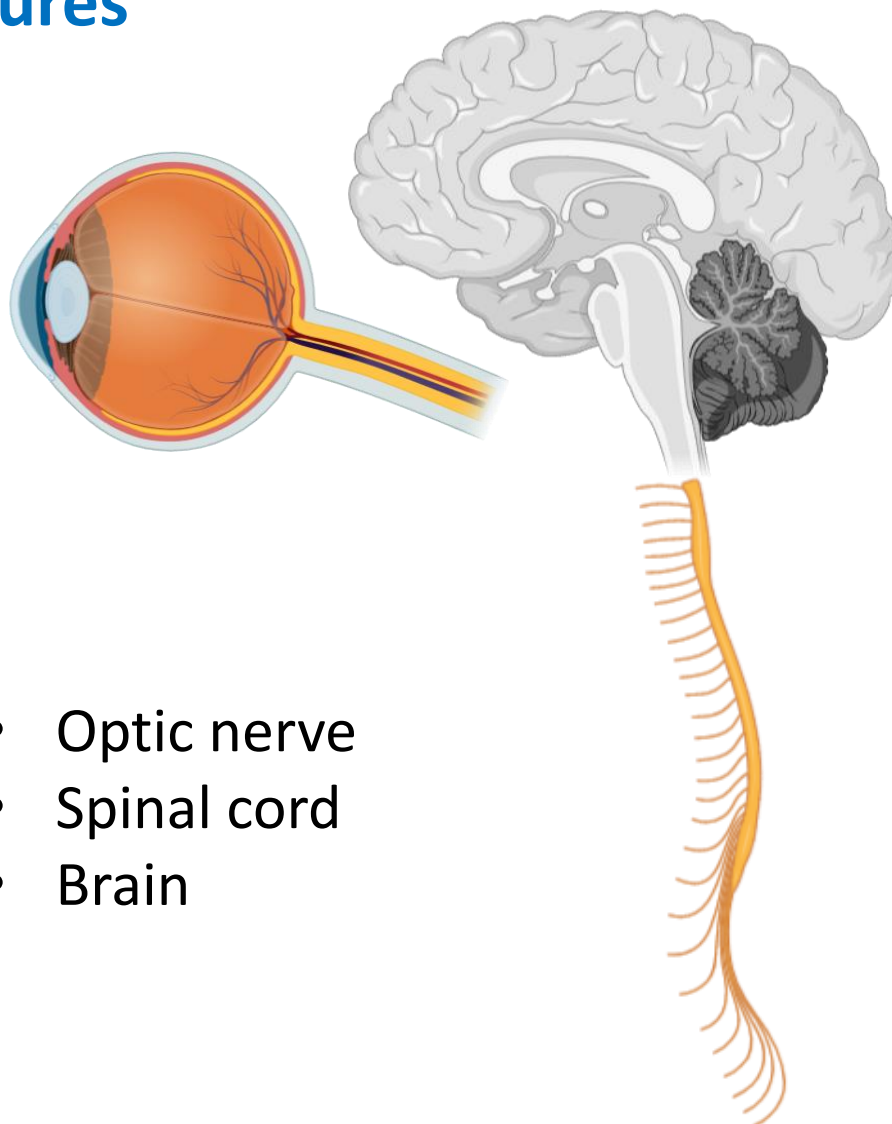


Autoimmune inflammatory demyelinating diseases

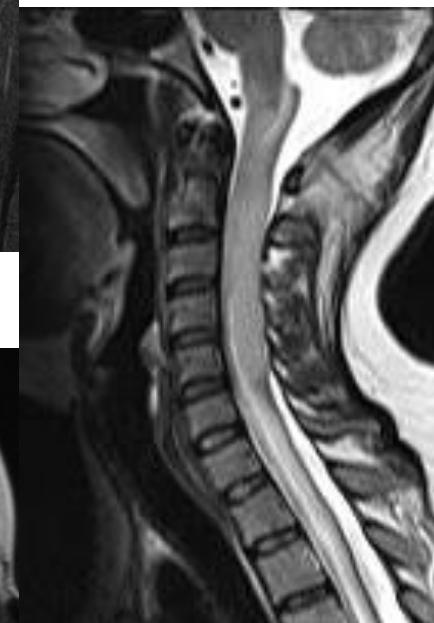
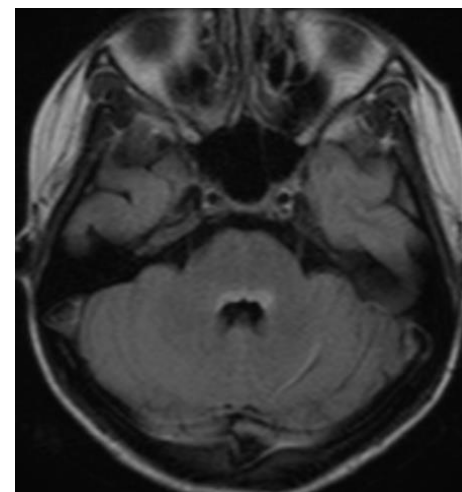
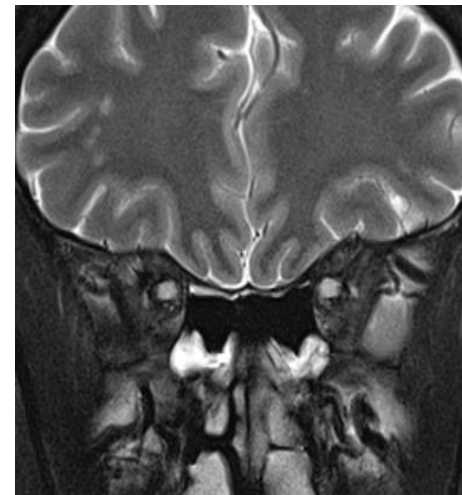
	Multiple sclerosis	AQP4 Ab	MOGAD
Target	Myelin	Astrocyte	Myelin
Female sex %	60-70	80-90	Slight predominance in women
Age at onset (years)	20-40	Around 40	Early to mid-30s
Disease course	Relapsing	Relapsing	Monophasic or relapsing
Attack severity	Usually mild	Usually severe	Mild-severe
CSF oligoclonal bands	Usually +	Usually -	Usually -
First-line preventative treatment	Immunomodulators	Immunosuppressors	Immunosuppressors



MRI features

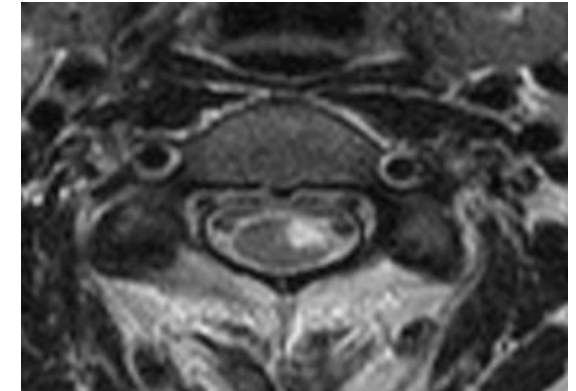


- Optic nerve
- Spinal cord
- Brain



Typical MR imaging findings: spinal cord

- ✓ No cord swelling (unless active)
- ✓ Unequivocal hyperintense T2; focal lesions
- ✓ $\geq 3\text{mm}$ in size; < 2 vertebral segments long
- ✓ Peripheral location, cigar shaped
- ✓ Occupying only part of cord cross-section (less than 50%)
- ✓ Enhancement uncommon (symptomatic)
- ✓ Cervical $>$ thoracic



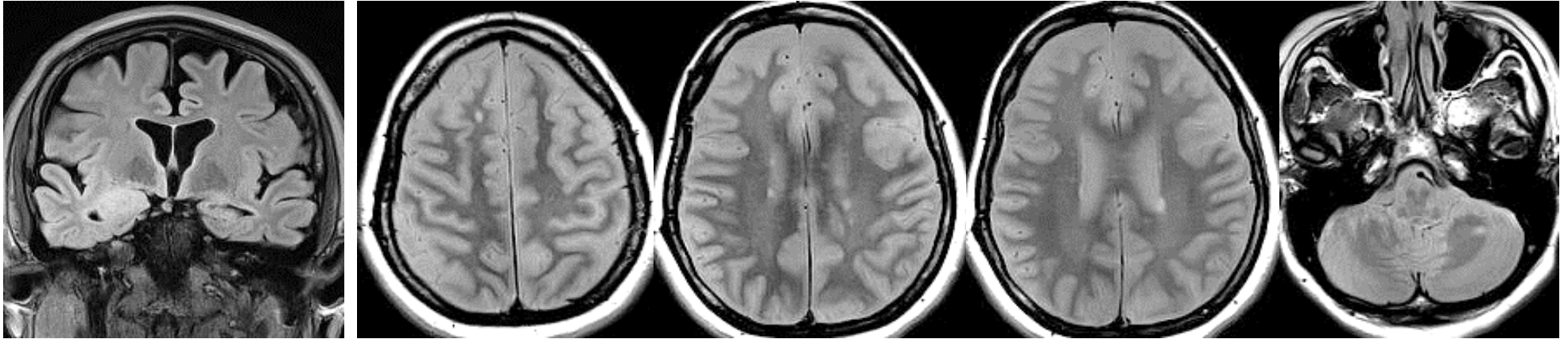
Prevalence of spinal cord lesions in Multiple Sclerosis

- Spinal cord lesions in **30%** of subjects with RIS
 - *84% progressed to CIS or PPMS (median time 1.6 years)*
 - *OR of clinical progression: 75.3*
- Subclinical lesions in **27-53%** of patients with CIS
- Spinal cord lesions **83%** of patients with early relapsing MS
- Spinal cord lesions in **74-92%** of patients with MS and in **6%** of patients with non-MS white matter diseases



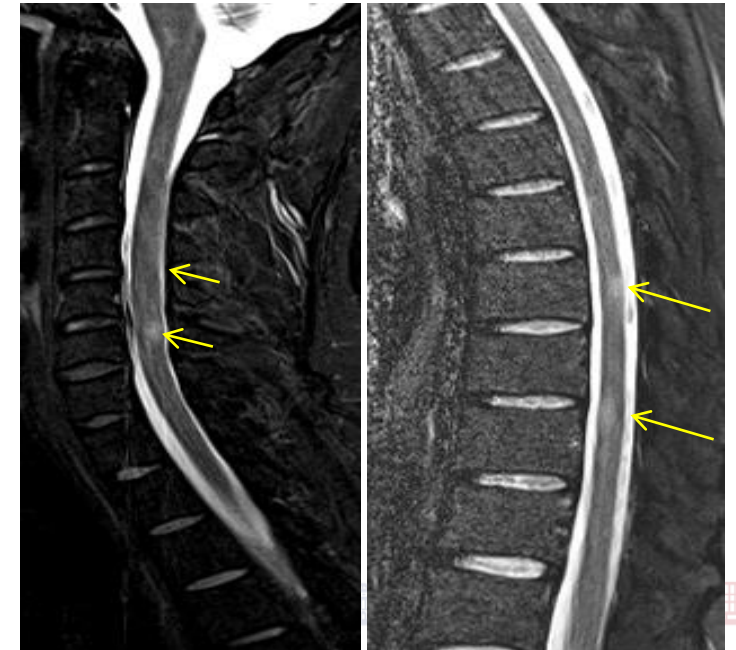
Radiological Isolated Syndrome RIS)

Male, 43 yo



TLE

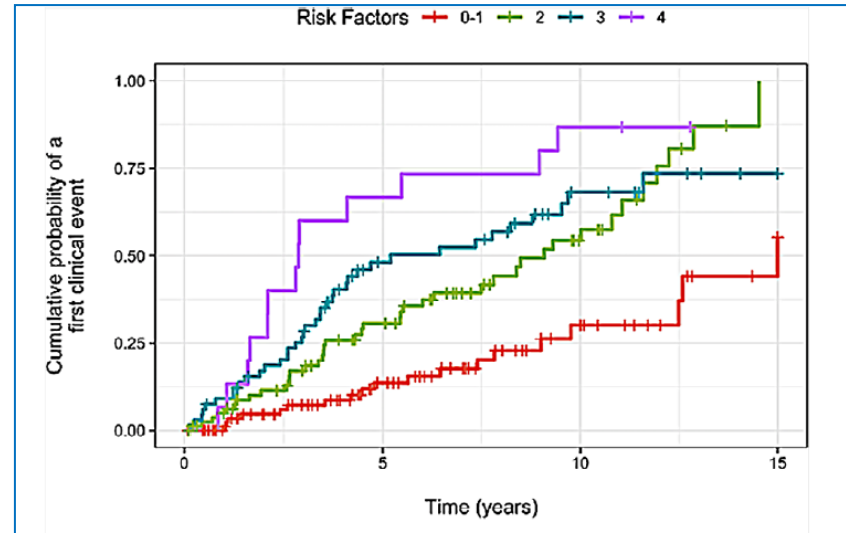
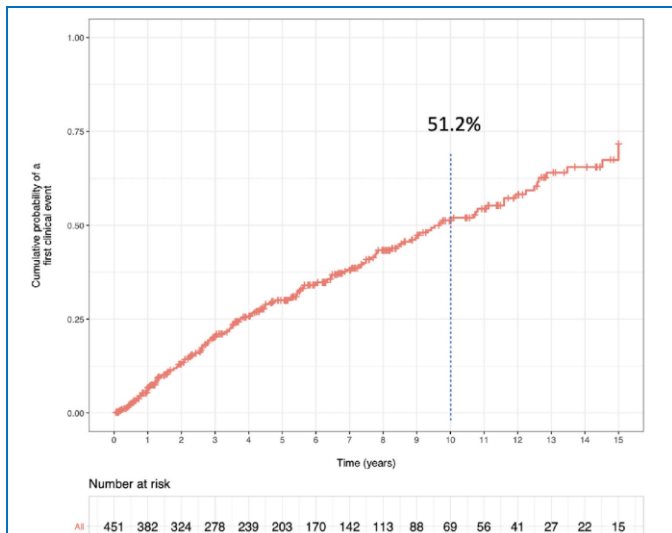
- Radiological isolated syndrome (RIS)
- High probability of MS in 5-10 years



Radiologically Isolated Syndrome (RIS): 10-year risk estimate

21 individual databases from 5 different countries

- Follow-up data available in 277 of 451 RIS subjects (86% female). Median follow-up 6.7 years
- Cumulative probability of a first clinical event at 10 years was **51.2%**.
- **Age, positive cerebrospinal fluid for oligoclonal bands, infratentorial lesions on MRI, and spinal cord lesions**, baseline independent predictors associated with a subsequent clinical event.
- Presence of **gadolinium-enhanced lesions during follow-up** associated with the risk of a seminal event

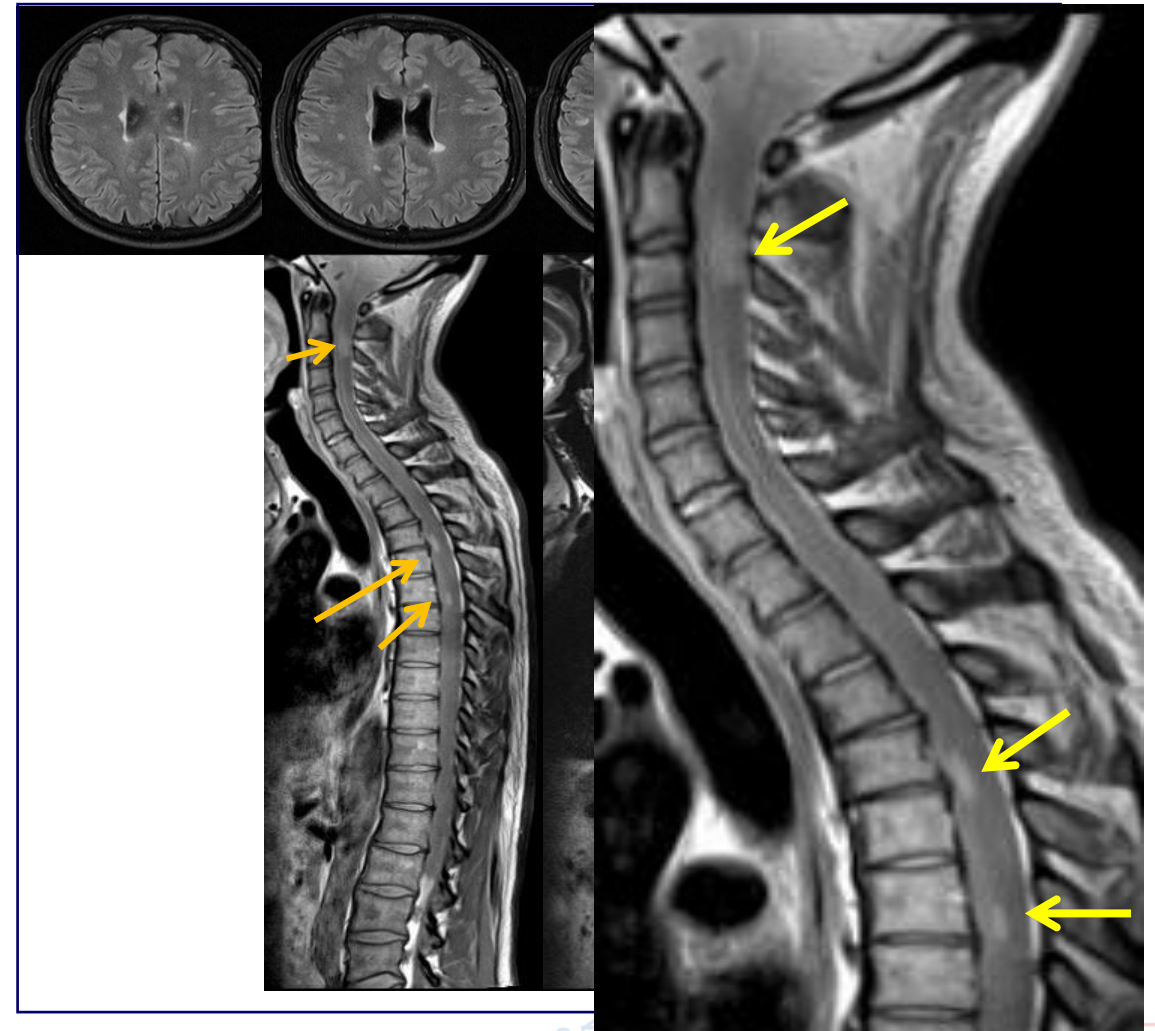
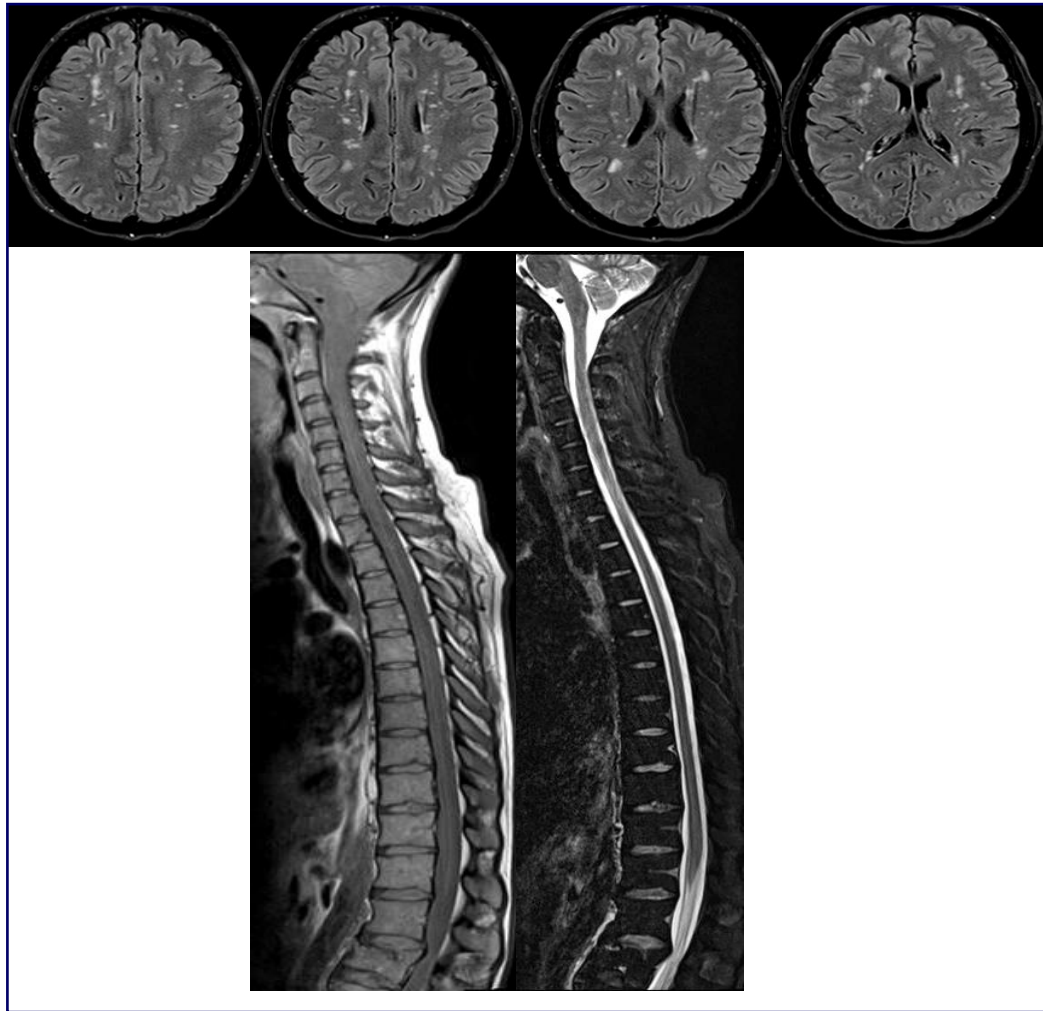


Baseline MRI characteristics	
Presence of ≥ 3 periventricular lesions, n (%)	440 (98.7)
Missing, n (%)	5 (1.1)
Presence of infratentorial lesions, n (%)	137 (30.4)
Missing, n (%)	5 (1.1)
Presence of juxtacortical lesions, n (%)	400 (90.1)
Missing, n (%)	7 (1.6)
Presence of spinal cord lesions lesions, n (%)	135 (35.2)
Missing, n (%)	65 (14)
Presence of gadolinium-enhancing lesions, n (%)	108 (28.3)
Missing, n (%)	70 (16)

Lebrun-Frenay et al. Ann Neurol 2020

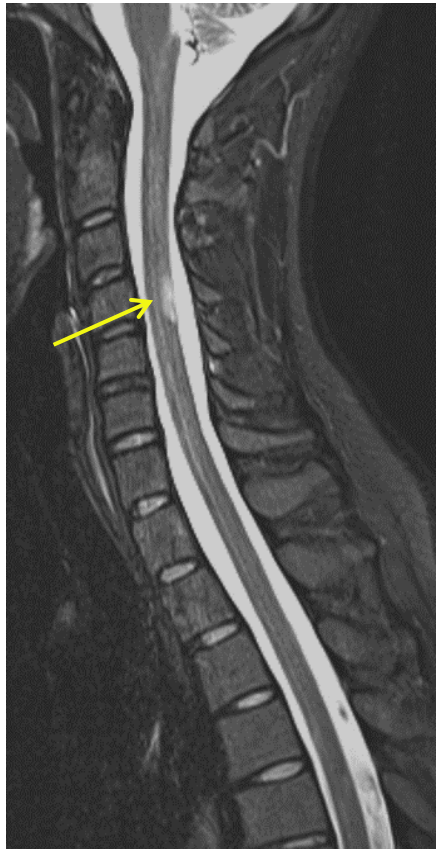


Brain MRI with equivocal findings



Lesion patterns in spinal cord MRI

Typical MRI patterns



unifocal



multifocal

Atypical MRI patterns

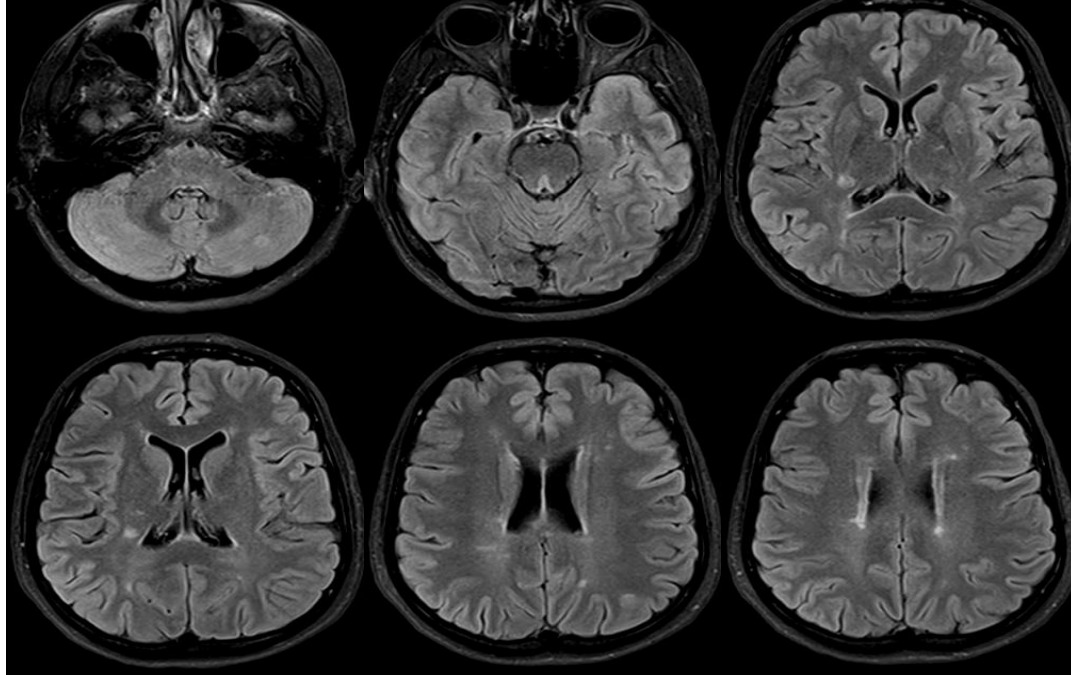


tumefactive



diffuse

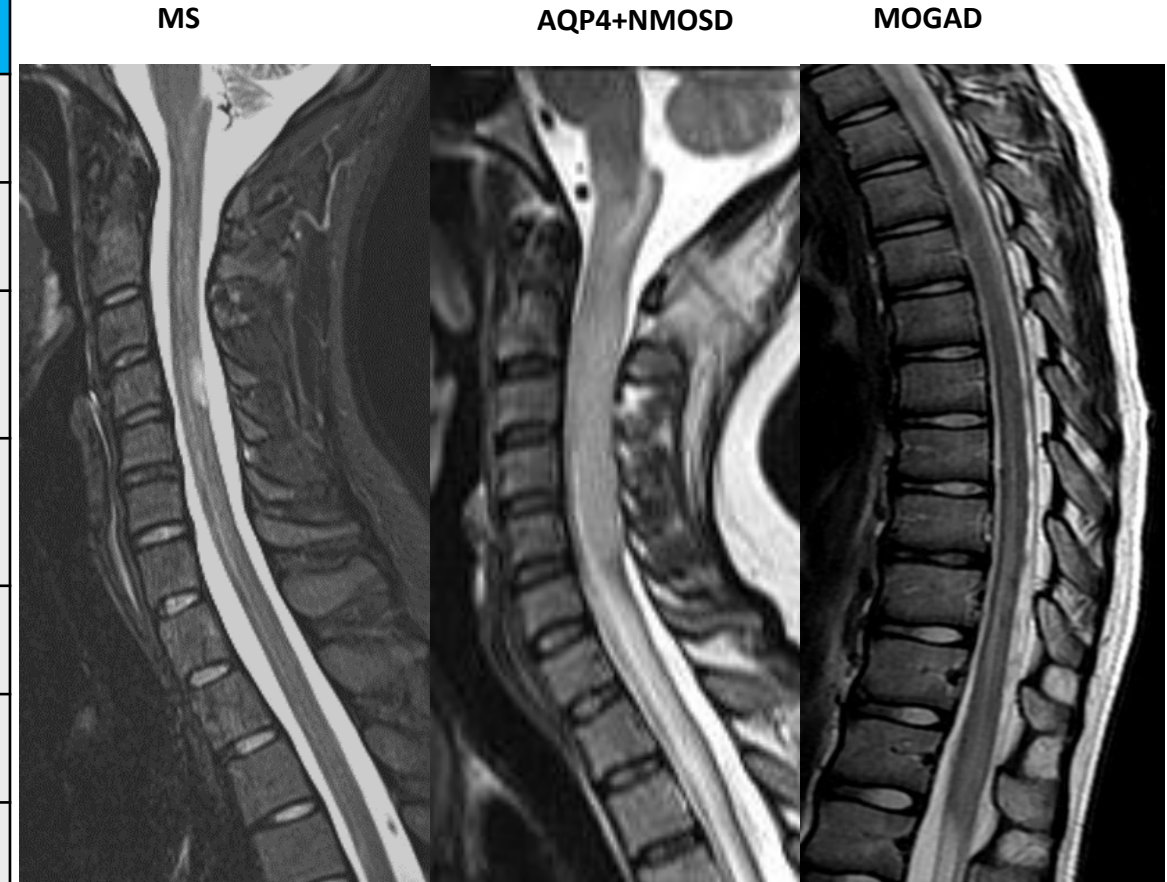
Diffuse pattern in spinal cord MRI



	RR	SP	PP
Spinal cord			
T ₂ focal lesion load	2.25 (0–6.5)	2.0 (0–9)	2.4 (0–13)
T ₁ focal lesion load	0	0	0
No. of patients with enhancing lesions (%)	0	2 (6%)	0
No. of segments showing diffuse abnormalities (%)	0 (0–19)	0 (0–19)	15 (0–19) [§]
No. of patients with diffuse abnormalities (%)	6 (21%)	10 (31%)	19 (61%) [¶]
CSA (mm ²)	77.5 (49–91.5) [‡]	67 (53–96)	72 (57.5–96)

Spinal cord MRI features: MS, AQP4+, Anti-MOG

Characteristics MRI spine	MOG-IgG	AQP4 IgG	MS
Longitudinal extensive T2 lesion(s)	Frequent	Very frequent	Very rare (pediatric)
Short T2 lesion (s)	Frequent	Infrequent	Very frequent
Grey matter restricted (axial H shape, sagittal line)	Frequent (30-50%)	Infrequent (8%)	Not seen
Marginal (dorsal, lateral)	Rare	Rare	Very frequent (wedge-shaped)
Conus involvement	25%	Rare	Rare
Multiple lesions	Frequent	Rare	Frequent
Enhancement	Infrequent	Frequent (lens shape)	Frequent (nodular/ring)



Modified from Dubey et al. JAMA Neurol 2018

Longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis (LETM)

Represents 2-10% of transverse myelitis

Differential diagnosis

- **NMOSD (including MOGAD)**
- Myelitis associated with systemic autoimmunity (Behçet, Sjögren/SLE)
- Infectious: HIV, HTLV, herpes, TB...
- Post-infectious myelitis (including ADEM)
- Neurosarcoidosis
- Progressive MS with confluence of lesions /diffuse pattern
- Neoplastic and Paraneoplastic myelitis, GFAP antibodies
- Vascular causes (spinal cord infarction, dural AVF)
- Cervical spondylotic myelopathy
- Metabolic: B12, copper deficiency



NMOSD AQP4 +



Spinal cord MRI in pediatric MS

36 children (age, 14.3 ± 3.3) with RRMS
MOG Ab not tested!!

	Summary statistics
Number of lesions per patient, median (IQR, range)	1 (1, 1–6)
Number of children with, <i>n</i> (%)	
Focal lesions	23 (64)
Longitudinally extensive lesions	3 (8)
Both	3 (8)
Number of children with lesions in each region, <i>n</i> (%)	
Cervical	11 (31)
Thoracic	9 (25)
Cervical and thoracic	9 (25)
Lumbar	0
Number of children with gadolinium enhancing lesions, <i>n</i> (%) ^a	5 (31)
Number of lesions detected in 36 children, <i>n</i> (%)	60 (100)
Number of focal lesions, <i>n</i> (%)	54 (90)
Number of longitudinally extensive lesions, <i>n</i> (%)	6 (10)



Diffuse pattern in spinal cord MRI



MS



AQP4 + NMOSD



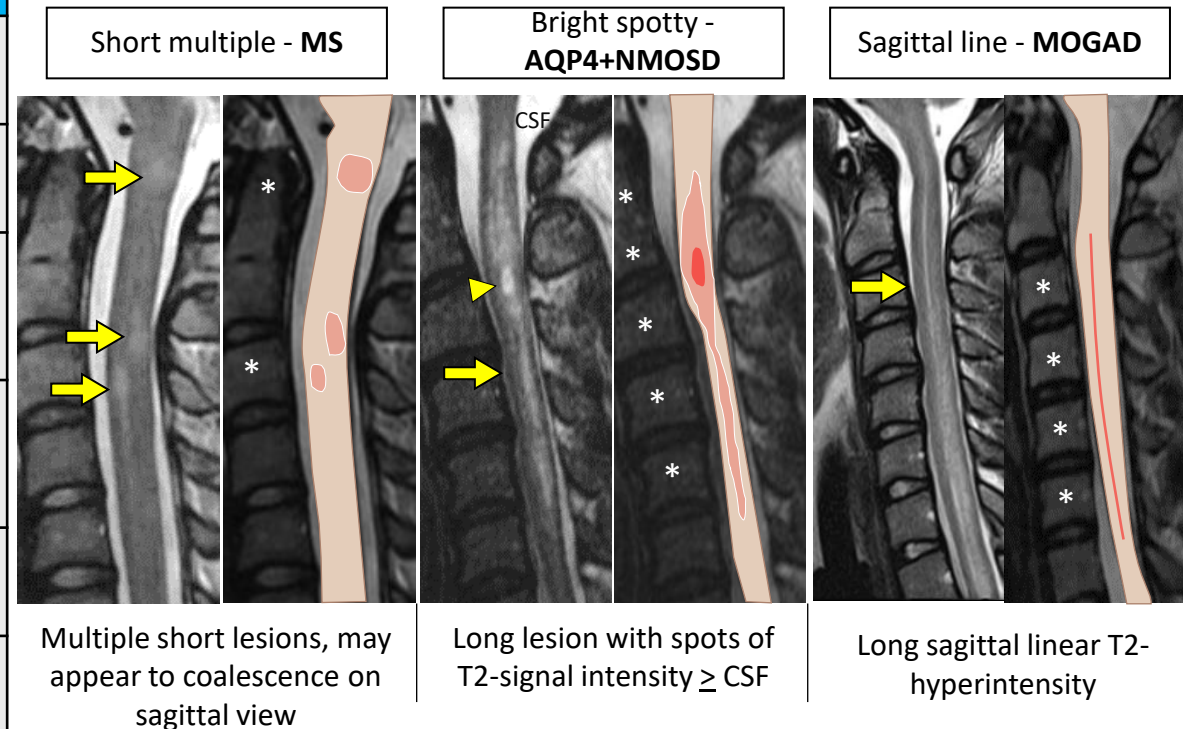
MOGAD



Spinal cord MRI features: MS, AQP4, Anti-MOG

Courtesy of L. Cacciaguerra (Milan)

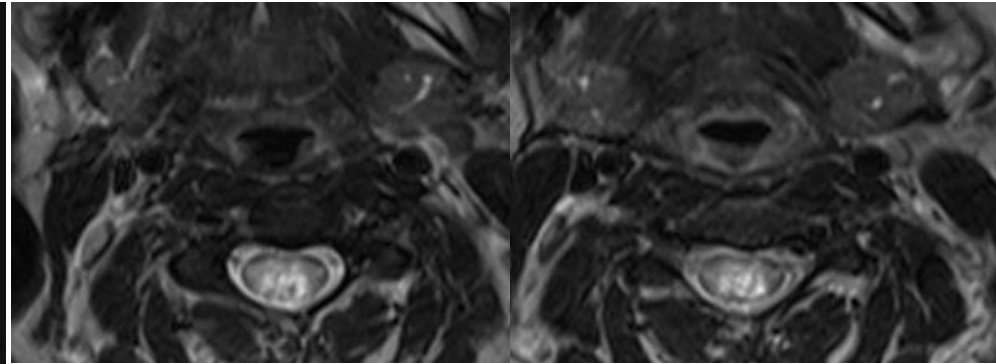
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Bright spotty lesion pattern: specific pattern for NMOSD

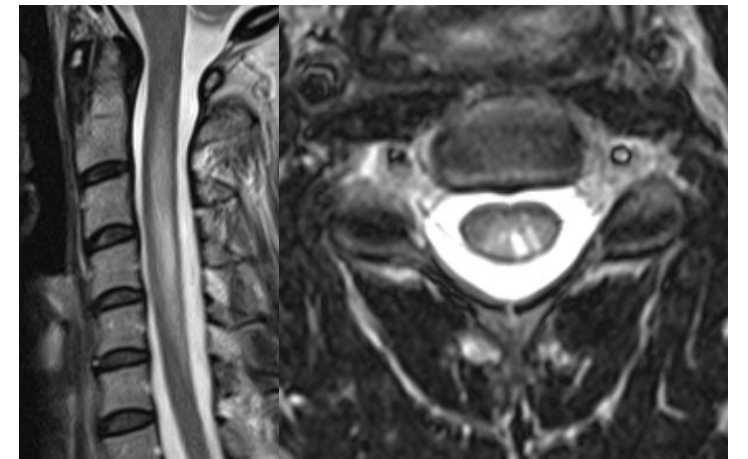
- Very hyperintense spotty lesions on axial T2WI
- More hyperintense than that of surrounding cerebrospinal fluid

Yonezu T et al. Mult Scler 2013



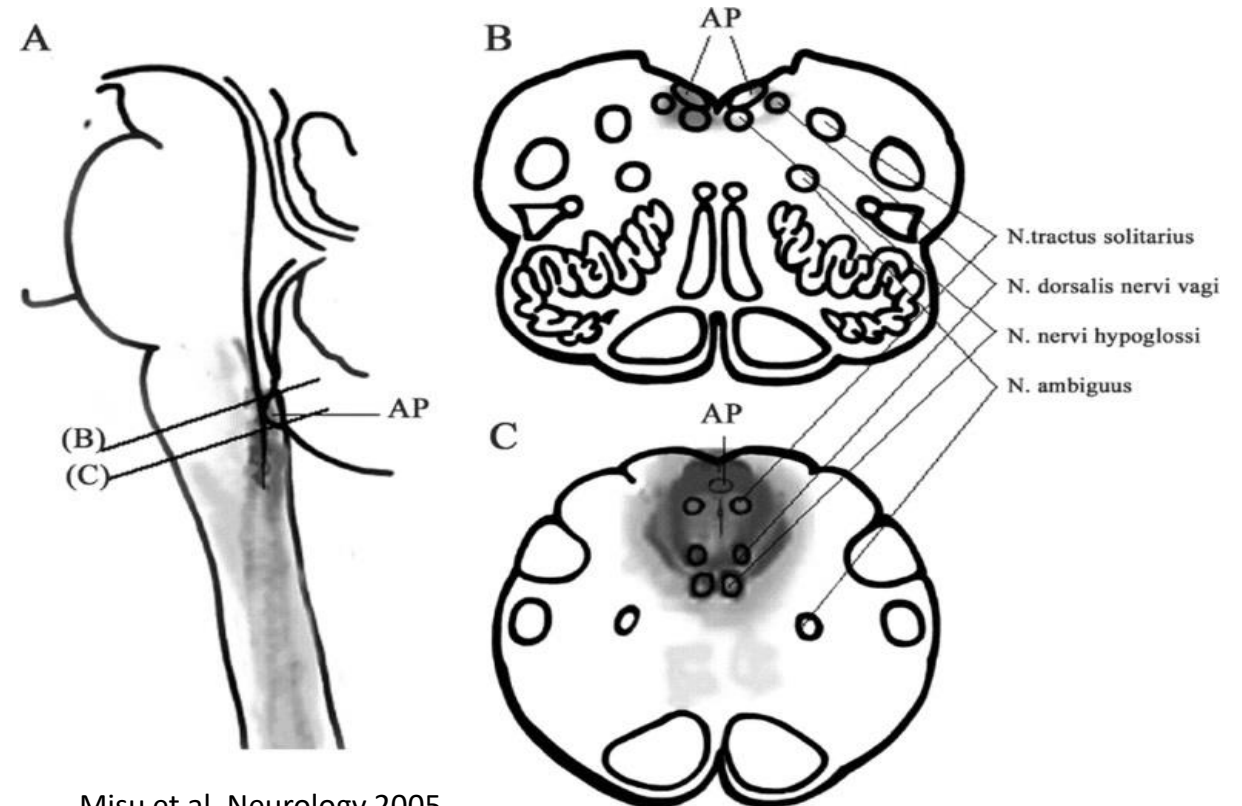
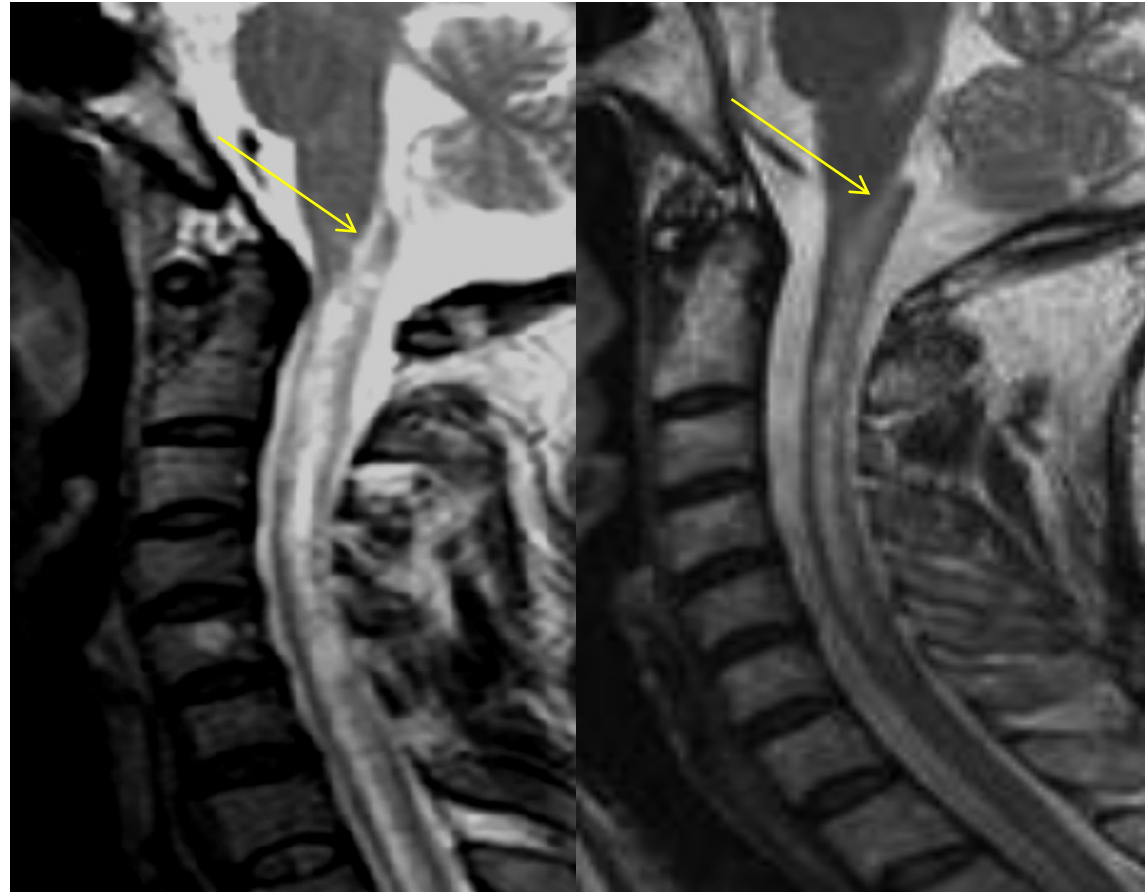
BSLs sensitivity = 54%; specificity = 97%
LETM sensitivity = 67%; specificity = 97%

BSLs or LETM: sensitivity 88%



Area postrema extension: specific pattern for AQP4+ NMOSD

Linear lesion at the region of area postrema typically seen in NMOSD and causes intractable vomiting



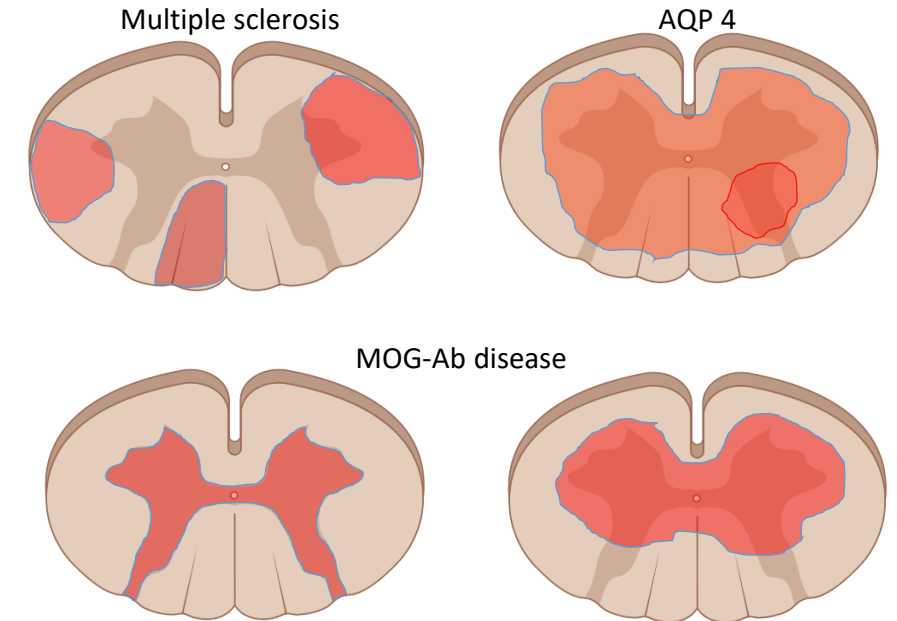
Misu et al. Neurology 2005



Intractable hiccup and nausea

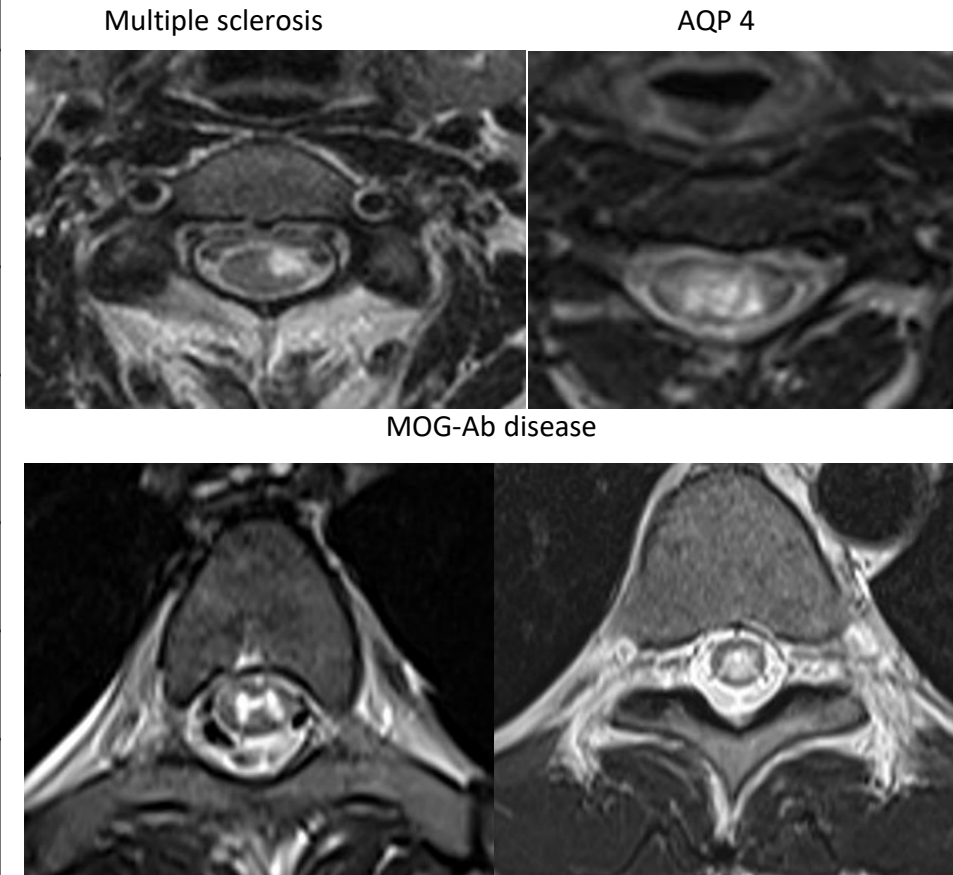
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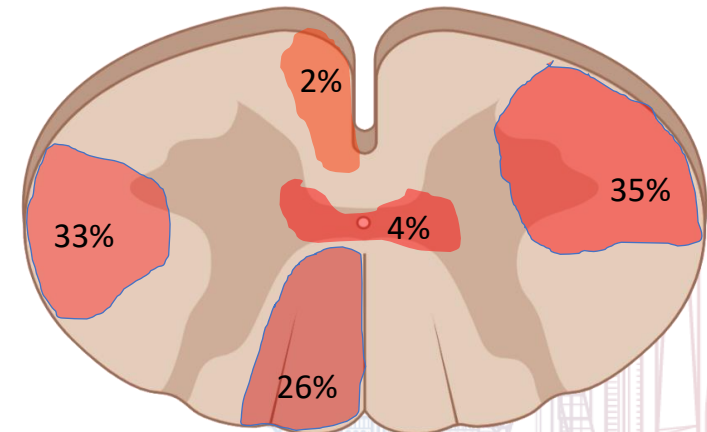
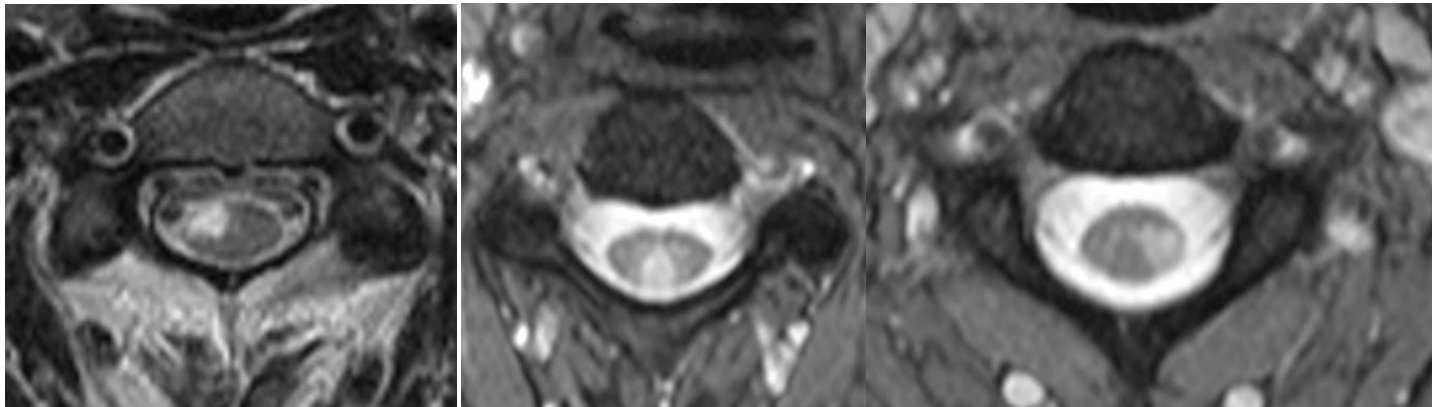


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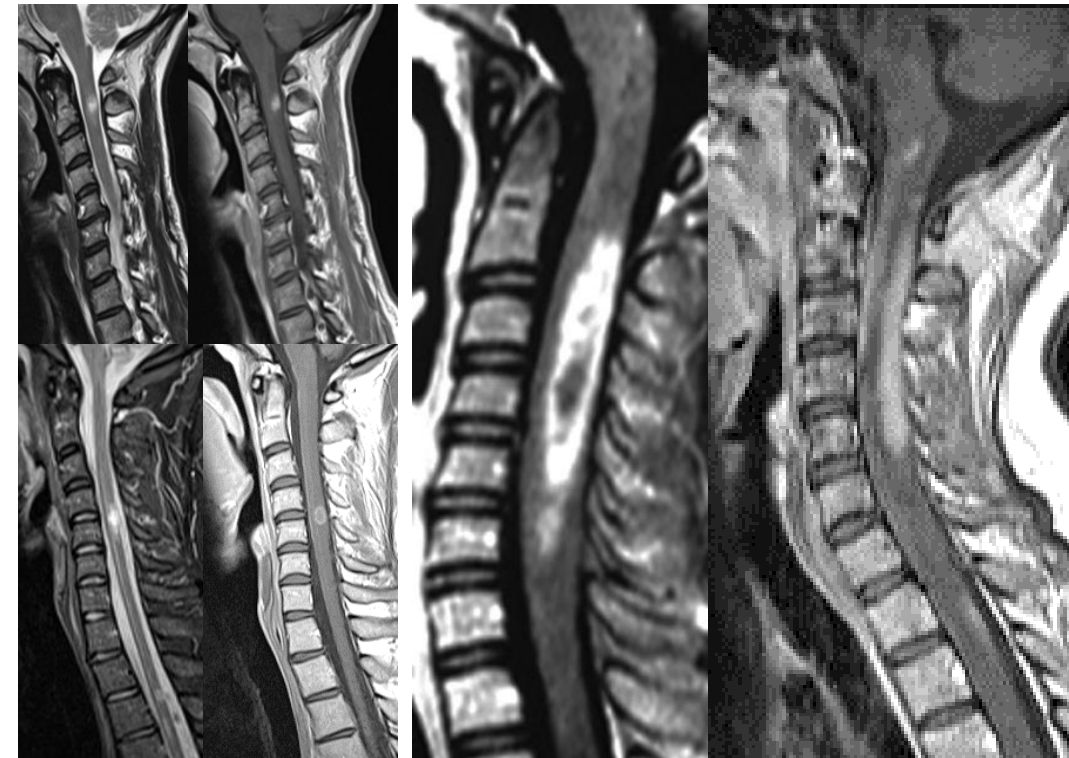


Short-segment myelitis plus eccentric tract-specific pattern



Spinal cord MRI features (transverse): MS, AQP4, Anti-MOG

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Multiple lesions	Frequent	Rare	Frequent
Enhancement	Infrequent	Frequent (lens shape, peripheral)	Frequent (nodular/ring)



MS: nodular/ring

NMOSD: lens/peripheral

MS diagnosis: McDonald 2017 criteria

Dissemination in space (DIS)

- **≥1 T2 lesion* in 2 out of 4 regions of the CNS**
 - Periventricular
 - Cortico-Juxtacortical
 - Infratentorial
 - Spinal cord

CNS= central nervous system; Gd=gadolinium, CSF=cerebrospinal fluid

*Gd not needed for demonstration of DIS

Dissemination in time (DIT)

- Simultaneous presence of Gd+ and non-enhancing lesions at any time
- New T2 and/or Gd+ lesion on follow-up MRI
 - Compared to reference (baseline) MRI

Alternative to DIT

- Presence of CSF specific oligoclonal bands

Primary progressive multiple sclerosis

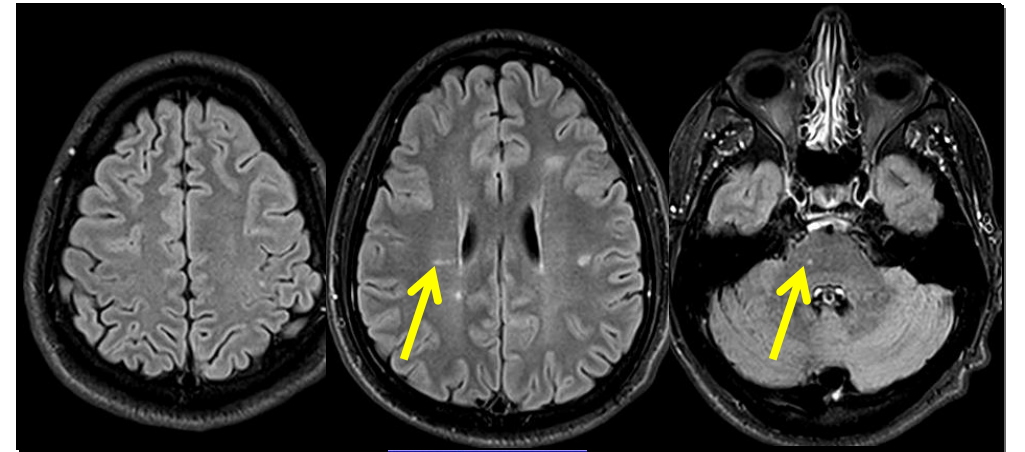
One year of disability progression (retrospectively or prospectively determined) independent of clinical relapse and demonstration of **two of the following**:

≥ 1 T2-hyperintense lesions^a characteristic of MS in ≥ 1 of 3 areas of the central nervous system:

- Periventricular
- Cortical/juxtacortical
- Infratentorial

≥ 2 T2-hyperintense spinal cord lesions
CSF-specific OBs

^a No distinction between symptomatic and asymptomatic MRI lesions is required



Primary progressive multiple sclerosis

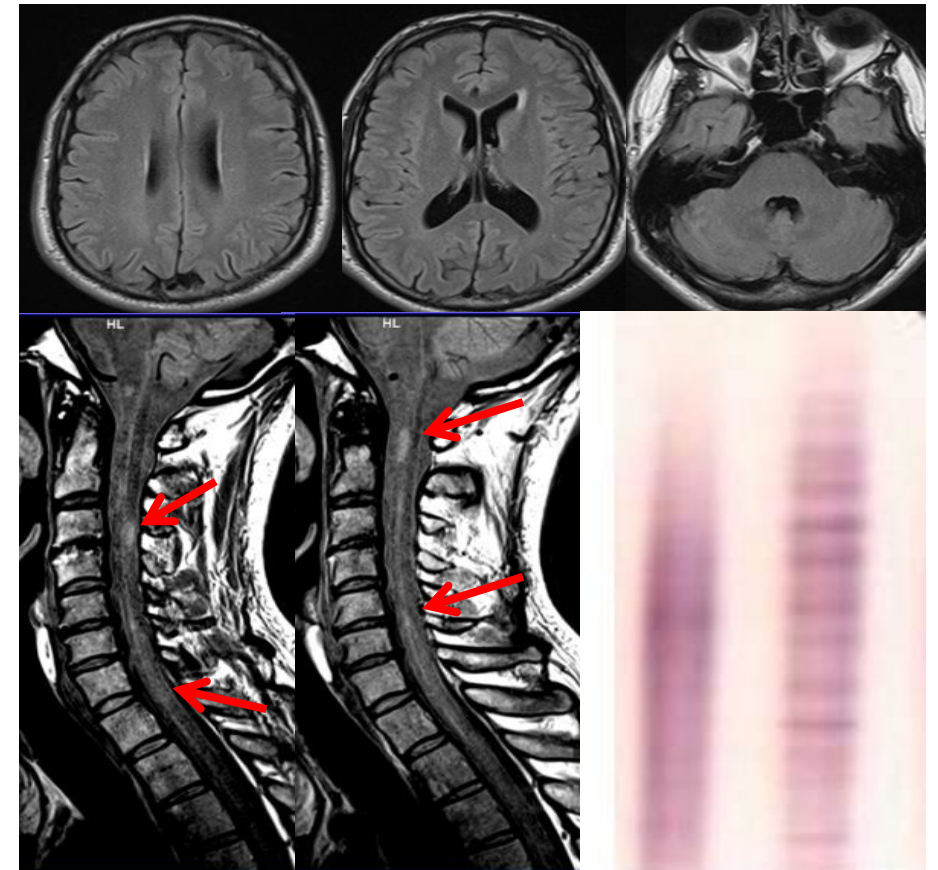
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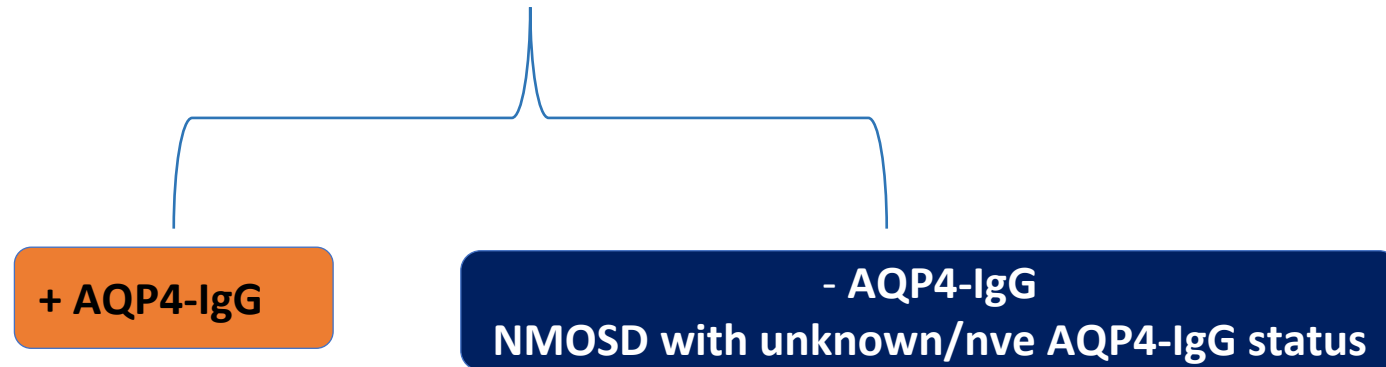
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CSF-specific OBs

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NMOSD: 2015 diagnostic criteria

Emphasis on clinical diagnosis rather than solely AQP4-IgG positivity: integration of clinical, serologic, and MR imaging data



At least one of the following core clinical characteristics:

- Optic neuritis
- Acute myelitis
- Area postrema syndrome
- Acute brainstem syndrome
- Acute diencephalic syndrome (**typical MRI**)
- Cerebral syndrome (**typical MRI**)

At least two of the following core clinical characteristics:

- Optic neuritis (**typical MRI**)
- Acute myelitis (**typical MRI**)
- Area postrema syndrome (**typical MRI**)
- Acute brainstem syndrome (**typical MRI**)
- Acute diencephalic syndrome (**typical MRI**)
- Cerebral syndrome (**typical MRI**)

Additional MR imaging requirements



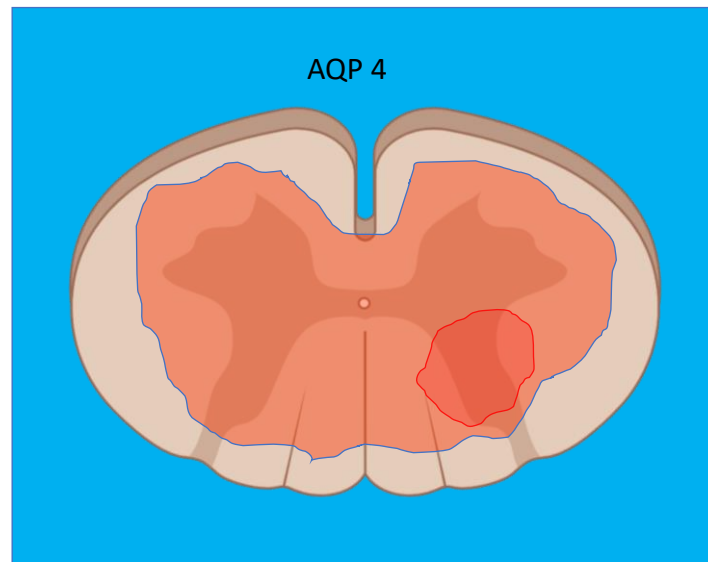
NMOSD: 2015 diagnostic criteria

Additional MRI requirements (AQP4-IgG negative/unknown)

Acute myelitis:

Intramedullary lesions ≥ 3 contiguous segments (LETM)

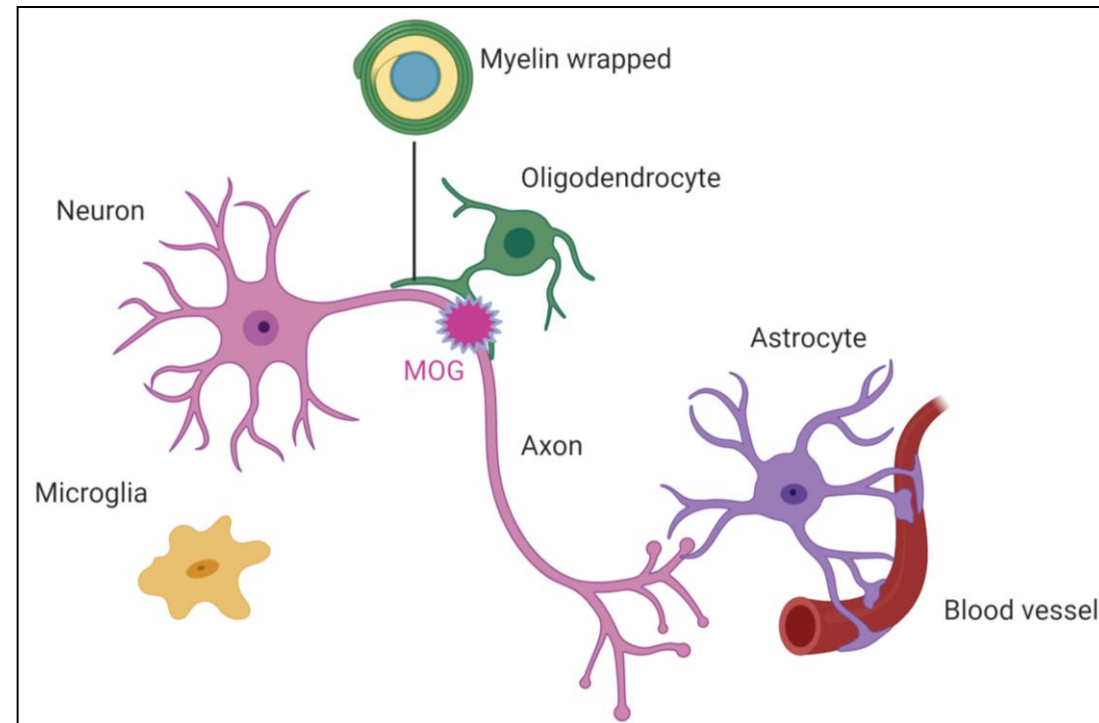
≥ 3 contiguous segments spinal cord atrophy (history of myelitis)



Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein (MOG)-antibody disease (MOGAD)

- Female : Male equal
- No non-Caucasian predominance
- ~ 50% monophasic
- Better outcome than AQP4-antibody disease
- Not associated with other auto-immunity
- Onset with both **Optic Neuritis + Transverse Myelitis** common
- Overlap with ADEM (monophasic & relapsing)

Parrotta and Kister. Front Neurol 2020



MOGAD diagnosis requires: MOG-IgG positivity + compatible clinical-MRI phenotype
Risk of false positive MOG-IgG (up to 28%) with low titers

MOGAD diagnostic criteria

Banwell et al. Lancet Neurol 2023

A/ Core clinical demyelinating event

- Optic neuritis
- Myelitis
- ADEM
- Cerebral monofocal or polyfocal deficits
- Brainstem or cerebellar deficits
- Cerebral cortical encephalitis often with seizures

B/ Positive MOG-IgG test (Cell-based assay: serum)

- **Clear positive:** no additional supporting features required
- **Low positive/positive without reported titre, negative but CSF positive:** additional supporting features required:
 - AQP4-IgG seronegative AND
 - ≥ 1 supporting clinical or MRI features

C/ Exclusion of better diagnoses including multiple sclerosis

Supporting clinical or MRI features:

- **Optic neuritis**
- **Myelitis**
- **Brain, brainstem or cerebellar syndrome**

{ Bilateral simultaneous clinical involvement
Longitudinal optic nerve involvement (>50% length)
Perineural optic sheath enhancement

{ LETM
Central cord lesion or H-sign
Conus lesion

{ Multiple ill-defined T2 lesions in supratentorial and often infratentorial WM
Deep grey matter involvement
Ill-defined T2 lesions involving pons, middle cerebellar peduncles or medulla
Cortical lesions with or without lesional and overlying meningeal enhancement

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Banwell et al. Lancet Neurol 2023

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MOGAD diagnostic criteria

Banwell et al. Lancet Neurol 2023

Supporting clinical or MRI features:

- **Optic neuritis**

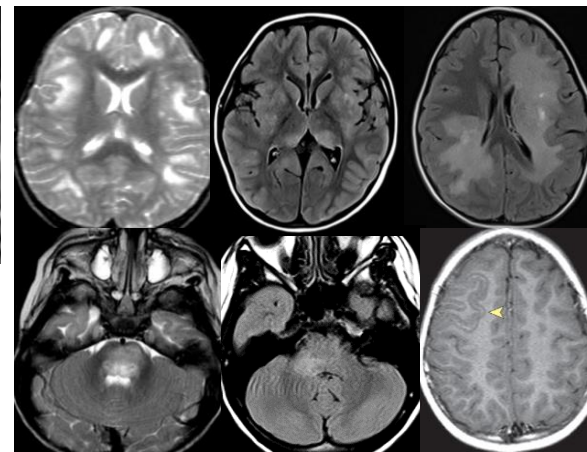
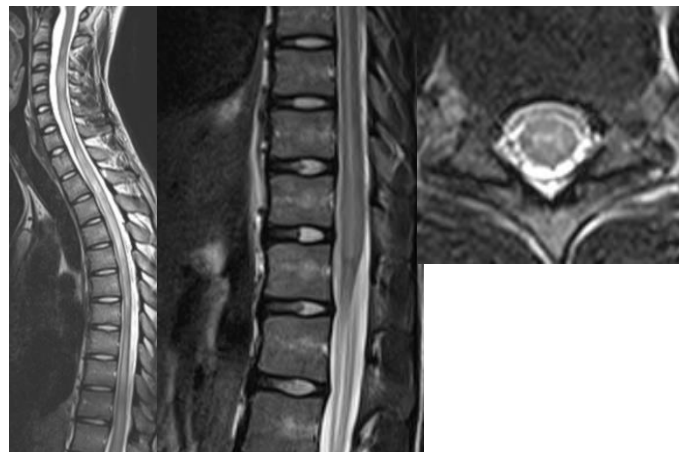
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Diagnostic criteria: MS, AQP4+, MOGAD

Diagnosis of multiple sclerosis: 2017 revisions of the McDonald criteria

Alan J Thompson, Brenda L Banwell, Frederik Barkhof, William M Carroll, Timothy Coetzee, Giancarlo Comi, Jorge Correale, Franz Fazekas, Massimo Filippi, Mark S Freedman, Kazuo Fujihara, Steven L Galetta, Hans Peter Hartung, Ludwig Kappos, Fred D Lublin, Ruth Ann Marrie, Aaron E Miller, David H Miller, Xavier Montalban, Ellen M Mowry, Per Soelberg Sorensen, Mar Tintoré, Anthony L Traboulsee, Maria Trojano, Bernard M J Uitdehaag, Sandra Vukusic, Emmanuelle Waubant, Brian G Weinshenker, Stephen C Reingold, Jeffrey A Cohen

Lancet Neurol 2017

VIEWS & REVIEWS

International consensus diagnostic criteria for neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders

OPEN

Dean M. Wingerchuk,

ABSTRACT

Neurology 2015

Diagnosis of myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein antibody-associated disease: International MOGAD Panel proposed criteria

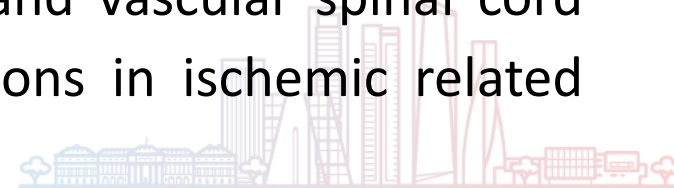
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Conclusions

- MR imaging is the only imaging technique able to directly visualize the spinal cord, and therefore is considered the first imaging modality to be used in the diagnostic work up of patients with suspected inflammatory-infectious conditions involving the spinal cord.
- MR imaging findings are not disease-specific and an accurate diagnosis requires not only a detailed analysis of the extension and topography of the spinal cord lesions, but also of the additional imaging findings that may affect the spinal column and the brain, together with relevant demographic, clinical and laboratory data.
- Of crucial clinical relevance is the distinction between inflammatory and vascular spinal cord lesions, being relatively frequent to overdiagnoses demyelinating lesions in ischemic related lesions.





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