MOGAD in children - evolving phenotypes and treatments strategies

Ming Lim

Children's Neurosciences, Evelina London Children's Hospital Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, Kings College London

Ming.lim@gstt.nhs.uk







Disclosures

Consultation fees from CSL Behring, Roche, Novartis and Octapharma Travel grants from Merck Serono Educational grants to organize meetings by Novartis, Biogen Idec, Merck Serono and Bayer





Summary

- Clinical spectrum of MOGAD
- Applying the diagnostic criteria
- Beginnings of a management consensus





Myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein

- "Exclusively" expressed in the CNS
 Outermost lamellae of the myelin sheath
 Plasma membrane of oligodendrocytes
- Minor component of myelin (0.05%)
- Surface marker of oligodendrocyte maturation
- Abs to MOG have been shown to induce or contribute to demyelination in various animal models

Reindl, M. et al. 2013 Nat. Rev. Neurol. 9(8):455-61



Hemmer B. et al. 2002. Nature Reviews Neuroscience **3(4)**, 291-301





It's all about the assay

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Antimyelin Antibodies as a Predictor of Clinically Definite Multiple Sclerosis after a First Demyelinating Event

Thomas Berger, M.D., Paul Rubner, M.D., Franz Schautzer, M.D., Robert Egg, M.D., Hanno Ulmer, Ph.D., Irmgard Mayringer, M.D., Erika Dilitz, M.D., Florian Deisenhammer, M.D., and Markus Reindl, Ph.

N Engl J Med 2003 Jul 10;349(2):139-45

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Lack of Association between Antimyelin Antibodies and Progression to Multiple Sclerosis

Jens Kuhle, M.D., Christoph Pohl, M.D., Matthias Mehling, M.D., Gilles Edan, M.D., Mark S. Freedman, M.D., Hans-Peter Hartung, M.D., Chris H. Polman, M.D., Ph.D., David H. Miller, M.D., Xavier Montalban, M.D., Frederik Barkhof, M.D., Ph.D., Lars Bauer, M.D., Susanne Dahms, Ph.D., Raija Lindberg, Ph.D., Ludwig Kappos, M.D., and Rupert Sandbrink, M.D., Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2007 Jan 25;356(4):371-8







MOG antibodies are associated with a non-MS course in children

MOG-Abs by cell-based assay

Dale et al., 2014 **N2** 1(1):e12 Hacohen et al., 2015 **N2** 2(2):e81

Anti-MOG antibodies plead against MS diagnosis in an ADS

Ketelslegers et al., 2015 *Mult Scler.* 21(12):1513-2





MOG antibodies in relapsing ADS



Selter et al., 2010 *Neurology.* 74(21):1711-5; Dale et al., 2014 *N2* 1(1):e12; Fernandez-Carbonell et-al., 2016 *Mult Scler.* 22(2): 174-84; Hacohen et al., 2015 *N2* 2(2):e81; Ketelslegers et al., 2015 *Mult Scler.* 21(12):1513-20; Hacohen et al., 2017 *Neurology* 89(3):269-278; Hennes et al., 2017 *Neurology* 89(9):900-908; Ramanathan et al., 2018 *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry.* 89(2):127-137; de Mol et al., 2018 *J Neurol* 265(6):1310-1319; Duignan et al., 2018 *Dev Med Child Neurol* 60(9):958-962; Lopez-Chriboga et al., 2018 *JAMA Neurol* 75(11):1355-1363





Prevalence/Incidence of MOGAD









Boesen et al., 2018 Clin Epidemiol 10:391-399

Abdel-Mannan et al., 2022 Dev Med Child Neurol. 64(4):502-508

58-73% Monophasic MS still the most prevalent RDS phenotype





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

Brenda Banwell*, Jeffrey L Bennett*, Romain Marignier*, Ho Jin Kim*, Fabienne Brilot, Eoin P Flanagan, Sudarshini Ramanathan, Patrick Waters, Silvia Tenembaum, Jennifer S Graves, Tanuja Chitnis, Alexander U Brandt, Cheryl Hemingway, Rinze Neuteboom, Lekha Pandit, Markus Reindl, Albert Saiz, Douglas Kazutoshi Sato, Kevin Rostasy*, Friedemann Paul*, Sean J Pittock*, Kazuo Fujihara*, Jacqueline Palace*

Recognised demyelinating (including cortical) phenotypes Widely available cell based assays Supportive radiological (and sometime clinical features)

Banwell et al., 2023 Lancet Neurol 22: 268-82





Presentation phenotype of patients with MOGAD



- Visual acuity 6/60 (and can be worse)
- Moderate to severe myelopathy (EDSS >4) in 50%
- ADEM or brainstem syndrome has significant morbidity

Banwell et al., 2023 Lancet Neurol 22: 268-82





Features of MOG-ab associated demyelination

- Younger patients
 - ➢ 30% under 5
- More features of systemic inflammation
 - CSF reactive
 - ESR elevated
 - Seizures
- Paraclinical feature different from MS
 - Frequency of EBV
 - Intrathecal oligoclonal bands

Hacohen et al., 2015 *Neurol Neuroimmunol Neuroinflamm.* 2015 2(2):e81; Ketelslegers et al., 2015 *Mult Scler.* 21(12):1513-2; Fernandez-Carbonell et-al., 2016 *Mult Scler.* 22(2): 174-84; Hennes et al., 2017 *Neurology* 89(9):900-908





Case 5Y M

- Viral illness 3 prior
- Tired and lethargic
- Sleepy and unwilling to weight bear
- Clinically
 - Depressed level of consciousness
 - Disorientated
 - Irritable with left sided posturing
 - No meningism
 - Nystagmus and long tract signs



Clinical and neuroradiological differences of MOG + and – are not that easy to discern

Baumann et al., 2015 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 86(3):265-72







Imaging features of MOGAD CNS disease

- Multiple ill-defined T2 hyperintense lesions in supratentorial and often infratentorial white matter
- Deep grey matter involvement
- Ill-defined T2 hyperintensity involving pons, middle cerebellar peduncle, or medulla
- Cortical lesion with or without lesional and overlying meningeal enhancement

Hennes et al., 2020 *Eur J Paediatr Neurol*. 29:14-21 Hacohen et al., 2018 *Dev Med Child Neurol*. 60(4):417-423





Cortical involvement in MOGAD



Cortical encephalitis

N2 2020; 7: e731; JAMA Neurol. 2018; 75: 65-71; N2 2017; 4: e322



FLAIR-hyperintense Lesions in Anti-MOGassociated Encephalitis With Seizures (FLAMES)

Mult Scler Relat Disord 2020 Sep;44:102283





MOG antibodies in autoimmune encephalitis



Armangue et al., 2020 *Lancet Neurol.* 19(3):234-246

Olivé-Cirera et al. 2025 Lancet Neurol 24(1):54-64

MOG is perhaps as common as NMDAR antibodies but may be population specific



IIII IIII IIIII KING'S HEALTH PARTNERS



Expanding cortical MOGAD phenotypes



9yr M acute febrile encephalopathy following seizure

Fulminant cerebral oedema



10yr F Febrile and refractory seizures FIRES/NORSE



10yr M meningoencephalitis and seizures

Meningoencephalitis

32/235 (14%) of MOGAD cases have cortical encephalitis phenotype

Kim et al., 2024 **N2** 11(6):e200323





Case 6Y F

Bilateral visual failure

- 6/60 right and only to movement left
- No significant colour vision
- Hyperaemic fundus

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3		
deciriptive sentence about an animal from the Arctic.	·***************	05/02/1		
* ~ * * *	Arctic Animals	Arctic Animals		
*** * 5000 * ×	Polarban Where he lives	-ppa-		
/ * 500 × 500	Live			
	in the in the Arite			
In the Arctic it is call and folloat The animal's in the	The part parco bear			
Artic like the Snow and the Snow Lake like it's grant and the Snow Lake it's grant	Waters Waters			
beautiful	What he looks the suiter is uthen	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Wondergul sentinces liket	It Was a root	Q∦		







Gad enhancement+ Perineuritis





MOGAD Optic neuritis



- Bilateral simultaneous clinical involvement
- Longitudinal optic nerve involvement (>50% of the optic nerve length)
- Perineural optic sheath enhancement
- Optic disc oedema

Paediatric Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein Antibody-Associated Disease (MOGAD) - EyeWiki





OCT correlates less will with vision in MOGAD

Good recovery



MOGADOR 2018 Neurology 90(21):e1858-e1869

Here is a constrained of the second of the s

(a) ဥ

Stiebel-Kalish et al., 2017 **PLoS One.**12(1):e0170847 Eyre et al., 2018 *Dev Med Child Neurol*. 60(12):1244-1250 Narayan et al., 2019 *Mult Scler Relat Disord.* 28:86-90





Case 8Y F

- Transferred to our centre
 - Clinically dehydrated
 - Fretful
 - Meningism
 - Clinically
 - Fundoscopy normal
 - ➢ No antigravity power in lower limbs
 - > No apparent positive sensory symptoms
 - Brisk reflexes and upgoing plantars
 - Palpable bladder







Striking recovery is seen





MOGAD Transverse Myelitis



- Longitudinal extensive myelitis
- Central cord lesion or H-sign
- Conus lesion

Paediatric Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein Antibody-Associated Disease (MOGAD) - EyeWiki





Diagnosis of MOGAD (requires fulfilment of A, B, and C)					
(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 §§		AQP4-IgG seronegative AND	
Supporting clinical or MRI features	Optic neuritis		 Bilateral simultaneous clinical involvement Longitudinal optic nerve involvement (> 50% length of the optic nerve) Perineural optic sheath enhancement Optic disc oedema 		
Myelitis Brain, brainstem, or cerebral syndrome			 Longitudinally extensive myelitis Central cord lesion or H-sign Conus lesion 		
		 Multiple ill-defined T2 hyperintense lesions in supratentorial and often infratentorial white matter Deep grey matter involvement Ill-defined T2-hyperintensity involving pons, middle cerebellar peduncle, or medulla Cortical lesion with or without lesional and overlying meningeal enhancement 			
(C) Exclusion of better diagnoses including multiple sclerosis¶¶					

Banwell et al., 2023 Lancet Neurol 22: 268-82





MOGAD 2023 criteria have high specificity and sensitivity

Table 3 Performance of the MOG-Ab Seropositivity and the 2023 International MOGAD Criteria When Clinical MOGAD Diagnosis Was Used as Benchmarking Against Which the New Criteria Were Tested

	Sensitivity, % (95% Cl)	Specificity, % (95% Cl)	Accuracy, % (95% Cls)	PPV, % (95% CI)	NPV, % (95% Cls)
All patients					
MOG-Ab testing	100 (95.7–100)	96.3 (94.1-97.6)	96.9 (95.0–98.2)	83.5 (75.2–89.4)	100 (99.1–100)
2023 MOGAD diagnostic criteria	96.5 (90.2-99.1)	98.9 (97.4–99.5)	98.5 (97.1–99.4)	94.3 (87.4–97.6)	99.3 (98.1–99.8)
Children					
MOG-Ab testing	100 (92.7–100)	98.8 (93.7–99.9)	99.2 (95.9–100)	98.0 (89.5-99.9)	100 (95.7–100)
2023 MOGAD diagnostic criteria	100 (92.7–100)	98.8 (93.7–99.9)	99.2 (95.9–100)	98.0 (89.5-99.9)	100 (95.7–100)
Adults					
MOG-Ab testing	100 (90.69–100)	95.6 (93.0-97.3)	96.0 (93.7-97.2)	69.8 (56.5-80.5)	100 (98.9–100)
2023 MOGAD diagnostic criteria	91.9 (78.7–97.2)	98.9 (93.7–99.9)	98.3 (96.5-99.3)	89.4 (75.8–95.8)	99.2 (97.6-99.7)

Abbreviations: MOG-Ab = MOG antibody; MOGAD = MOG-Ab-associated disease; NPV = negative predictive value; PPV = positive predictive value.

Risi et al., 2024 J Neurol. 271(5):2840-2843

Filippatou et al., 2024 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 95(9):870-873

Varley et al., 2024 *Neurology* 103(1):e20932

Cai et al., 2025 BMC Med 23(1):40





Can lesion dynamics help?



97 MOGAD; 103 MS

- Lesion resolution in 83% in MOGAD (only one MS case)
- Lesion resolution decreased with subsequent attack 40% vs 21% vs None

Abdel-Mannon et al., 2023 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 95(5):426-433





MRI T2-lesion evolution in pediatric MOGAD, NMOSD, and MS



Redenbaugh et al., 2023 Mult Scler. 29(7):799-808







Can lesion characteristic help?

- 68.1% sensitivity and 82.9% specificity for distinguishing MS from not MS (35% threshold)
- 61.9% sensitivity and 89% specificity (3 CVS)

Sati et al., 2016 *Nat Rev Neurol* 12(12):714-722 Sinnecker et al. 2019 *JAMA Neurol* 76(12):1446-1456





Time is vision

Is visual recovery in optic neuritis dependent on the timing of treatment?



Neuroimmunology Nonminflammation

Stiebel-Kalish et al. 2019 N2 6:e572

Original research

Time to steroids impacts visual outcome of optic neuritis in MOGAD

Julie Rode O, ¹ Julie Pique, ² Adil Maarouf O, ^{1,3} Xavier Ayrignac, ⁴ Bertrand Bourre, ⁵ Jonathan Ciron, ⁶ Mikael Cohen ¹⁰, ⁷ Nicolas Collongues ¹⁰, ⁶ Romain Deschamps ⁹ Elisabeth Maillart, ¹⁰ Alexis Montcuguet, ¹ Caroline Papeix ⁹ Aurelie Ruet, ¹¹ Sandrine Wiertlewski, ¹² Helene Zephir, ¹³ Romain Marignier,² Bertrand Audoin @ ^{1,3}

First episode of ON N=82 Mean VA at nadir= 1/10



Neuro-inflammation

Absence of full recovery at 3 months was associated delay in MP treatment \geq 10 days (OR 16, 95% CI 1.14 to 213, p=0.01). pRNFL thickness after 3 months was related to better BCVA at nadir and time to first MP treatment <10 days (r2=19%, p=0.004 and r2=11%, p=0.03, respectively).

Rode et al., 2023 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 94(4):309-313



IIII IIII IIII IIIII KING'S HEALTH PARTNERS





IVIG may be an effective treatment option for acute MOGAD attacks

Lotan et al., *Mult Scler.* 2023 Aug;29(9):1080-1089





Short delay to initiate plasma exchange is the strongest predictor of outcome in severe attacks of NMO spectrum disorders



Respond even up to 6 months

Bonnan et al., 2018 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. Apr;89(4):346-351

Savransky et al., 2019 *Neurology* 93(22):e2065-e2073





Before TPE

End of TPE

3 months

6 months

Plasma exchange delay is predictor of outcome in optic neuritis



- 395 ON attack treated with PLEX from 317 patients were evaluated.
- Median age was 37 years (range 9 to 75) 71% were female
- 105 MS; 92 MOGAD; 75 AQP4 NMOSD; 34 DN NMOSD; 83 idiopathic and 2 other

Chen et al., 2023 Am J Ophthalmol 252:213-224





•. 2024 •. 2024

Efficacy of plasma exchange in MOGAD



117/571 (20.5%) attacks in 85/209 (40.7%) patients

Schwakew et al., 2024 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. Nov 4





Early immunotherapy and/or longer corticosteroid treatment influences relapsing disease course in adult and paediatric MOGAD



A Factors associated with relapsing course in all patients HR Univariable Less likely More likely analysis (95% CI) to relapse to relapse P value Female 0.719 (0.492-1.050) .09 Age at onset 0.989 (0.977-1.001) .07 1.217 (0.832-1.781) .31 Optic neuritis onse Worst EDSS at first attack 0.936 (0.811-1.081) .37 CSF WBC .81 1.000 (0.996-1.003) CSF protein 0.999 (0.995-1.004) .80 1.187 (0.462-3.050) .72 OCB positive .001 Time to treat the first attack Early 1 [Reference] Intermediate 1.510 (0.912-2.499) .11 Late 2.163 (1.311-3.566) <.001 .49 IVIG at first attack 0.785 (0.396-1.553) 0.997 (0.437-2.274) >.99 PLEX at first attack CS tapper out >1 mo 0.757 (0.505-1.134) .12 NSIS maintenance 0.214 (0.127-0.360) <.001 0.1 10 HR (95% CI) Multivariabl aHR Less likely More likely (95% CI) analysis to relapse to relapse P value Female 0.771 (0.513-1.159) .21 0.995 (0.982-1.009) .50 Age at onset .004 Time to treat the first attack Early 1 [Reference] 2.024 (1.095-3.740) .02 Intermediate .002 Late 2.635 (1.434-4.843) CS tapper out >1 mo 1.251 (0.822-1.903) 30 <.001 NSIS maintenance 0.241 (0.139-0.415) 0.1 10 aHR (95% CI)



Kwon et al., 2024 JAMA Neurol. 81(10):1073-1084

Reduced relapse risk for those dosed \geq 12.5 mg/day for at least 3 months (HR 0.12, 95% CI 0.03 to 0.44; p=0.0012) Trewin et

Trewin et al., 2024 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 95(11):1054-63





Efficacy of disease modifying therapies in MOGAD

Figure 3. Efficacy of Various Disease-Modifying Therapies in Patients With Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein Antibody-Associated Relapsing Demyelination Patients



Hacohen et al., 2018 JAMA Neurol. 75(4):478-487

Chen et al., 2020 *Neurology* 95(2):e111-e120 Chen et al., 2022 *JAMA Neurol*. 79(5):518-525









Very modest effect of Rituximab

Circulating CD19⁺*B*-cells were suppressed to <1% of total circulating lymphocyte population at the time of 45/57 (78.9%) relapses.

Whittam et al., 2020 Mult Scler Relat Disord. 44:102251





Efficacy of disease modifying therapies in MOGAD



Have we hit the sweet spot with IL6 blockade?

ARR 6 to 0 Relapse free in 11/14 Monotherapy 8/14

Ringelstein et al., 2021 N2 9(1):e1100







E.U. paediatric MOG consortium consensus 2020





Complete recovery reduces at second attack in adults



Crucial to prevent relapse and disability accrual

Contentti et al., 2021 Mult Scler J Exp Transl Clin 7(3):20552173211032334





Impaired Brain Growth in Myelin Oligodendrocyte Glycoprotein Antibody–Associated Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis



Bartels et al., 2023 N2 10(2):e200066





Significant cognitive impact in children

Table 1. Demographic, Clinical, and Paraclinical Features of Children According to Their Original Relapsing Demyelination Syndrome Diagnosis^a

Variable Outcome	MDEM (n = 20)	ADEM-ON (n = 20)	NMOSD (n = 44)	RON (n = 18)	All Patients (N = 102)
Follow-up duration, median (range), y	6.3 (2.0-10.2)	7.0 (3.6-9.2)	5.0 (3.1-7.6)	4.3 (3.0-6.7)	5.5 (3.1-9.0)
TTFR, median (range), mo	5.5 (3.5-28.2)	10.0 (3.0-28.0)	5.0 (2.0-19.0)	12.0 (4.0-27.0)	6.0 (3.0-22.0)
Total No. of relapses, median (IQR)	2.5 (1.0-5.0)	2.0 (2.0-4.0)	2.0 (1.0-4.5)	2.0 (1.0-4.0)	2.0 (1.0-4.0)
EDSS score, median (range)	1.5 (0-5.0)	1.0 (0-4.0)	1.2 (0-10.0)	1.0 (0-2.0)	1.0 (0-10.0)
Good recovery (EDSS score = 0 and no relapse >6 mo)	5.0 (25.0)	5.0 (25.0)	14.0 (31.8)	8.0 (44.4)	32.0 (31.4)
Cognitive problems	10.0 (50.0)	6.0 (30.0)	4.0 (9.1)	0	20.0 (19.6)

Hacohen et al., 2018 JAMA Neurol. 75(4); 478-487





Factors associated with relapses in MOGAD







Can lesion dynamics predict relapsing disease in children?



38% had silent lesion

New interval lesions are also seen in MOGAD

14% had silent lesion

- 44% detected in first 3 months
- 66% within the year20% clinical relapses

Fadda et al,. 2021 Ann Neurol 89 408-13

Abdel-Mannon et al., 2023 J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 95(5):426-433





Maintenance treatment to prevent future attacks should be offered after the first episode of a demyelinating illness to patients, especially those with:-

- Poor recovery following 1st attack
- Significant risk of elapse (combined risk factors particularly)

Crucial to prevent relapse and disability accrual Maintain NO rather than minimal disability





Conclusion

- MOGAD is recognisable clinically
- Wider differentials in children
- Treatment should be initiated as quickly as possible







I I I III III III KING'S HEALTH PARTNERS

Evelina Paediatric Research



Brain and Spine Inflammation

Hock Sin Heng **Thomas Rossor** Michael Eyre Yaiza Hernandez Rahul Singh Vanessa Lee John Gadian **Claire Thompson** Ani Almoyan Sarah Crichton Giulia Bravar Sirrane VishnuVardhan Sarah Rudeback Naomi De Souza Christina Benetou Renata Paolilo Aphra Luchesa Smith Susan Byrne Tatia Gakharia Sonia Khamis

Children's Neurosciences





Sarosh Irani; J Palace; Patrick Waters; M Leite

Centre for the **developing brain**

Tom Arichi, David Edwards, Jo Hajnal, **David Carmichael**, Enrico De Vita

European Network on Rare Primary Immunodeficiency, AuToinflammatory and Autoimmune diseases



Service de neurologie pédiatrique, Hôpitaux Universitaires Paris Sud, Le Kremlin Bicêtre

Kumaran Deiva

Abdel-Mannan O, Absoud M, Ambergaonkar G, Anand I, Byrne S, Chitre M, Chong WK, Crichton S, De Goede C, Eyre M, Forsyth R, Gadian J, Garrood I, Gilmour S, Gray V, Hacohen Y, Hansen K, **Hemingway C**, Hussain N, Israni A, Jones G, Kneen R, Lim MJ, Livingston J, Mankad K, Mordekar S, Nischal K, Ram D, Rossor T, Vassallo G, West S, Whitehouse W, Williams H, Wassmer E UK & Ireland Childhood Neuro-inflammatory Disorder Working Group (UK-CNID)







NHS National Institute for Health Research



Yael Hacohen, Olga Cicarelli, Claudia Wheeler-Kingshott