

# Improving the differential diagnosis of multiple sclerosis using MRI

## Neuromyelitis spectrum disorders Imaging

Jackie Palace

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# Definitions of NMO/SD

**NMO** ~ 60% AQP4-Abs



ON + TM  
and  
2 of 3:  
LETM  
NMO abs  
Non MS brain MRI

2006  
Wingerchuk

## NMOSD

**LETM** ~ 60% AQP4-Abs



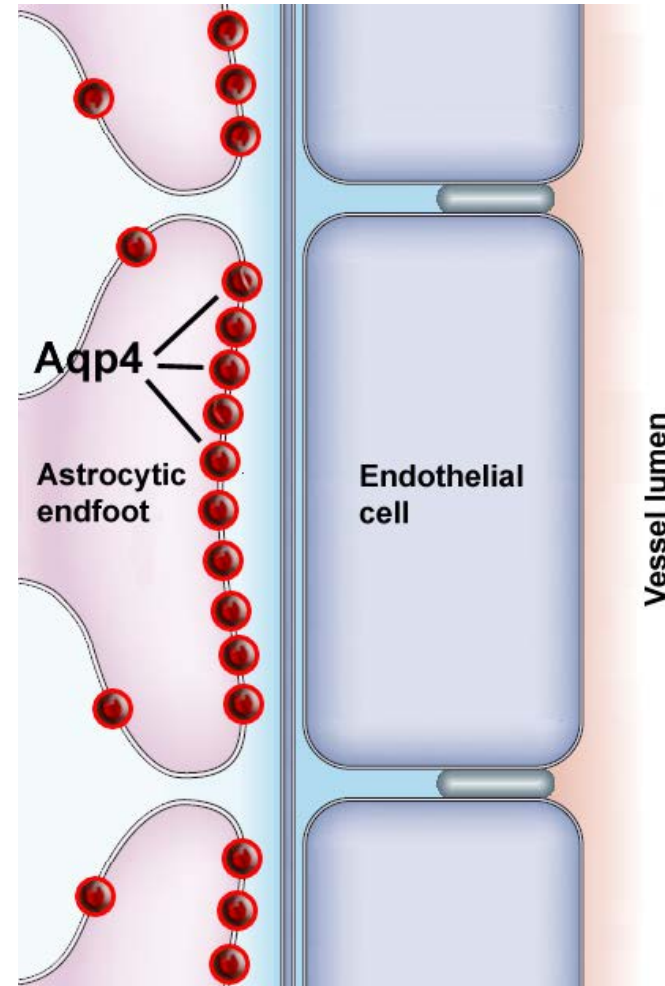
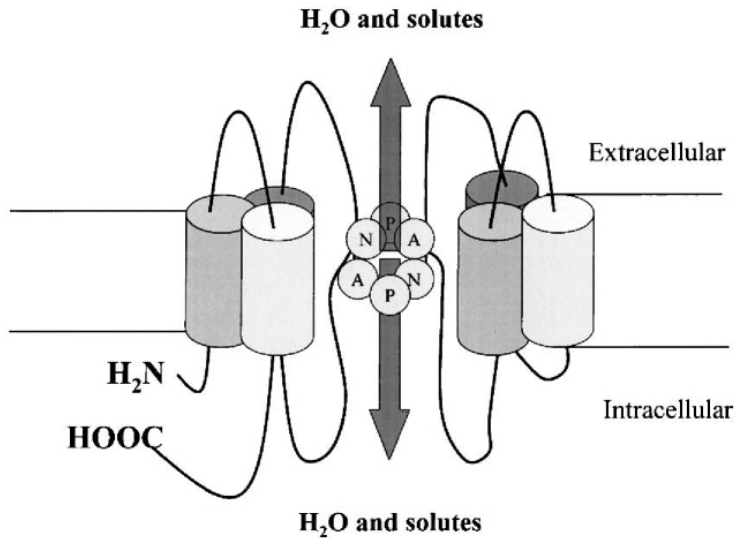
**ON:** ~ 50% AQP4-Abs  
recurrent  
simultaneous bilateral  
w auto-immune disease  
w NMO typical brain lesions  
poor visual outcome



**Inflammatory brain lesions with NMO abs**  
eg area postrema (~1/3)  
**100% AQP4-Abs**

2007  
Wingerchuk

# Aquaporin-4

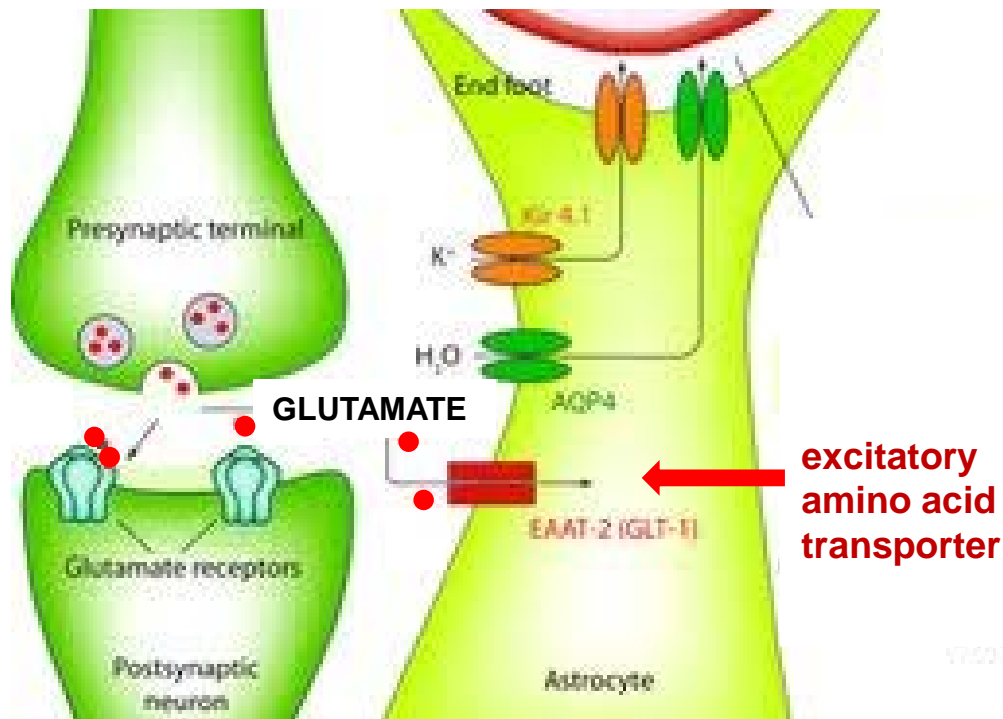


**most abundant water channel in CNS  
concentrated in astrocytic foot processes**

Lennon et al Lancet 2004; J Ex Med 2005

# Antibodies to AQP4 → astrocytopathy

reduced glutamate uptake → secondary myelin damage



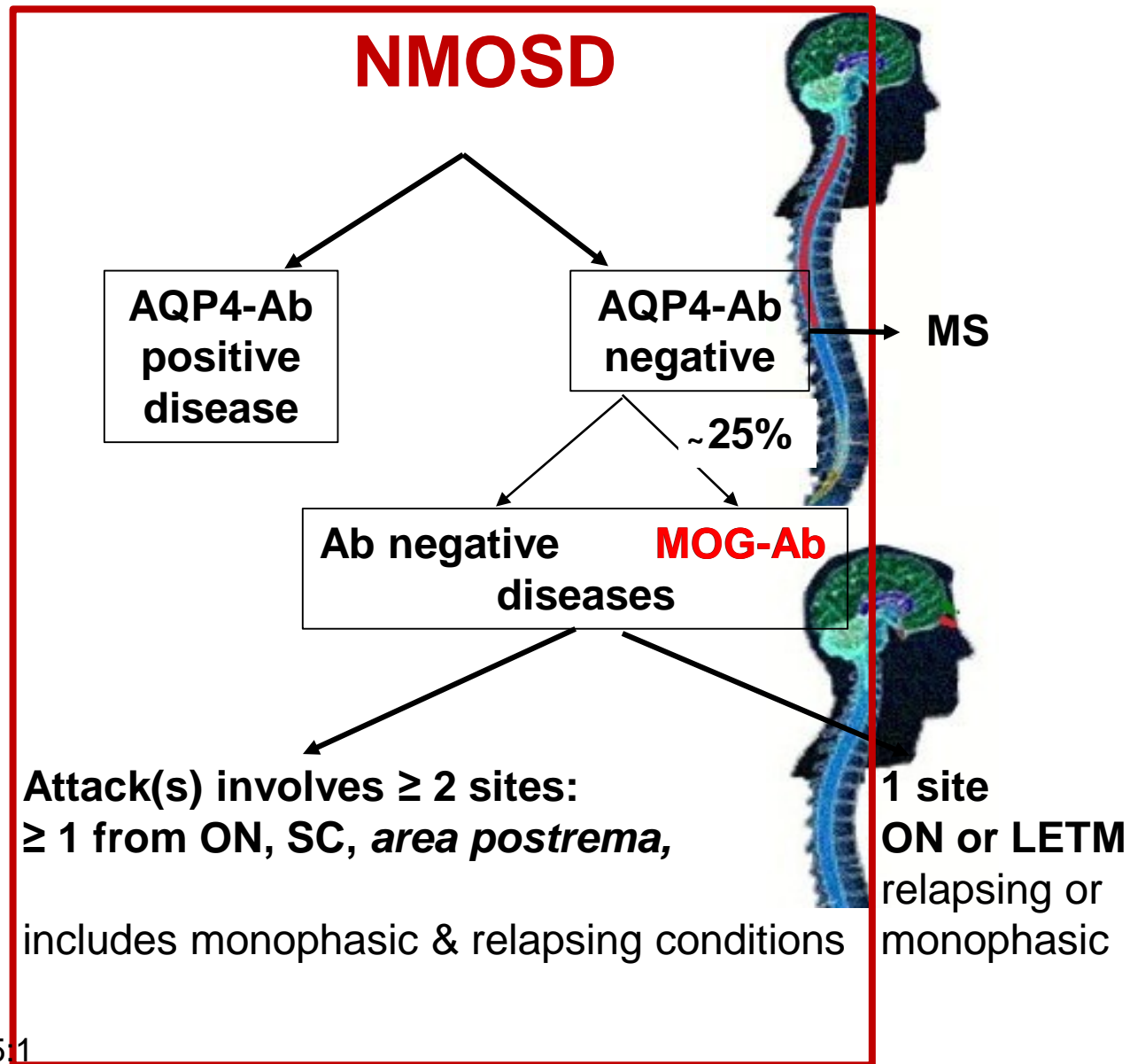
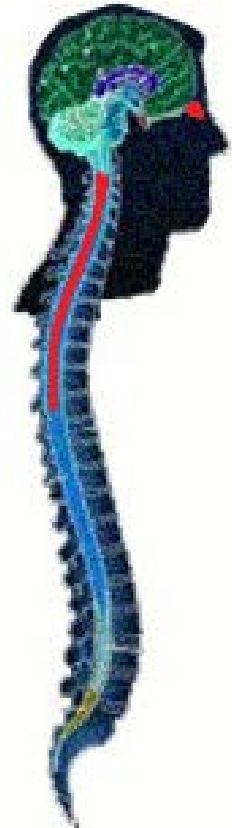
17/03/2022

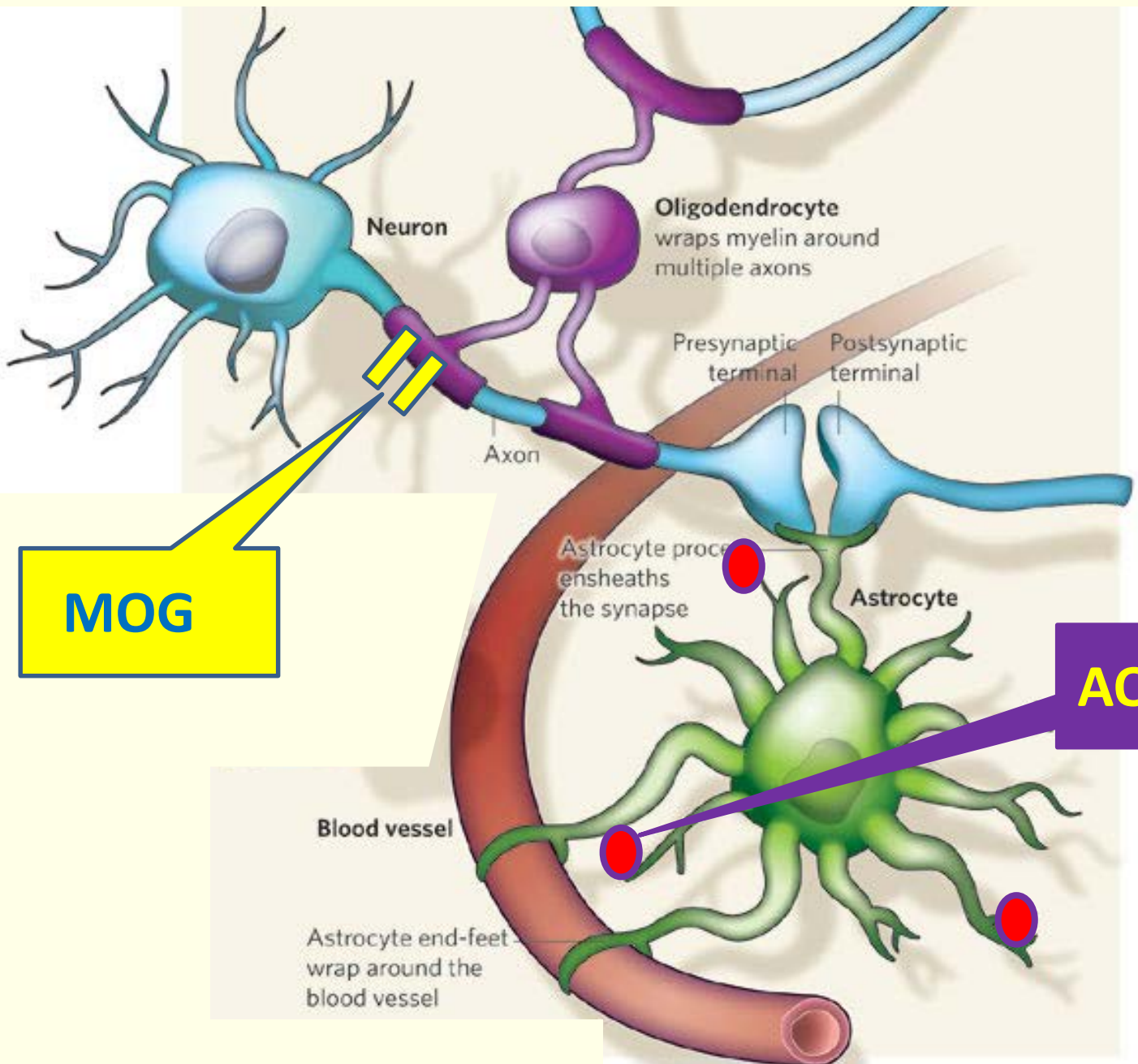


# AQP4-Ab disease

- Female > 80%
- Non-Caucasian predominance
- Relapsing if untreated
- Severe disability and high mortality
- Associated with other auto-immunity
- Onset with both ON + TM uncommon

# Definitions of NMO/SD 2015



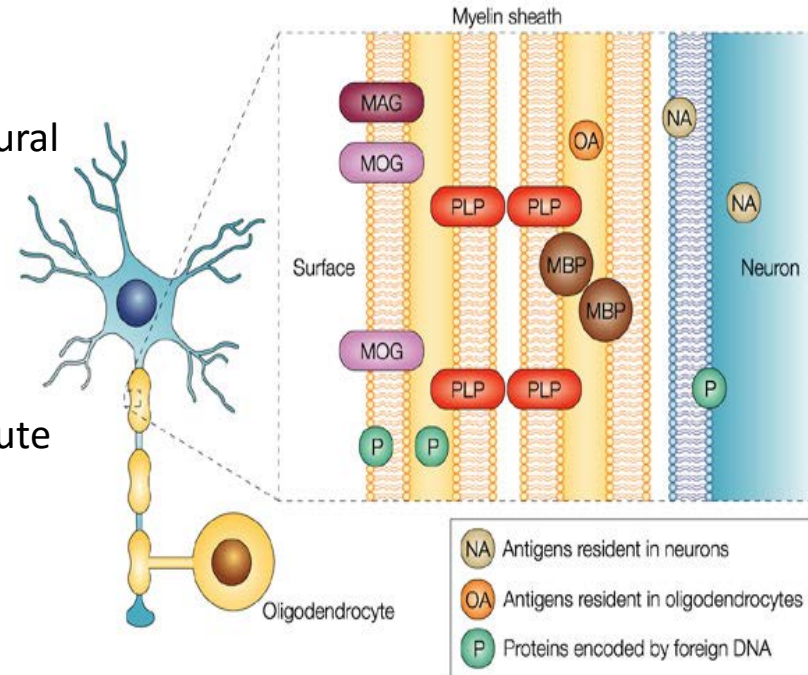


**MOG**

**AQP4**

# MOG

- glycoprotein: myelin sheath surface important for structural integrity
- exclusively expressed in CNS
- accessible
- MOG used in EAE: MOG-Abs shown to induce or contribute to demyelination
- early studies used assay detecting antibodies against denatured MOG (linear epitopes)
  - reported MOG antibodies in MS and other controls
- current cell-based assays can detect binding to conformational MOG epitopes
- predict MOG-Ab disease to be 1ry demyelinating disease



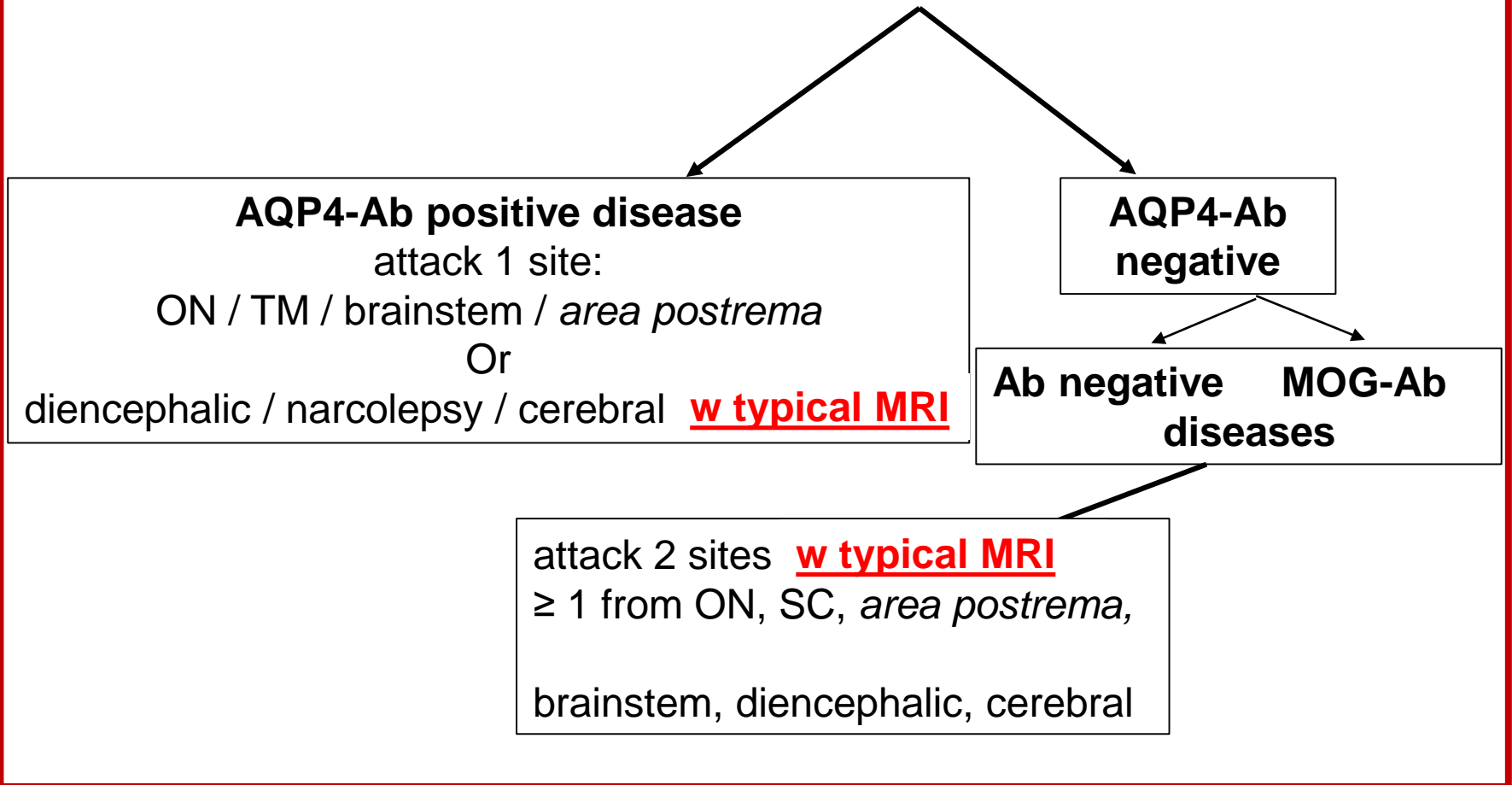
Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

# MOG-Ab disease

- Female : Male equal
- No non-caucasian predominance
- ~ 50% monophasic
- Better outcome than AQP4-Ab disease
- Not associated with other auto-immunity
- Onset with both ON + TM common
- Overlap with ADEM (monophasic & relapsing)

# Definitions of NMO/SD 2015

## NMOSD



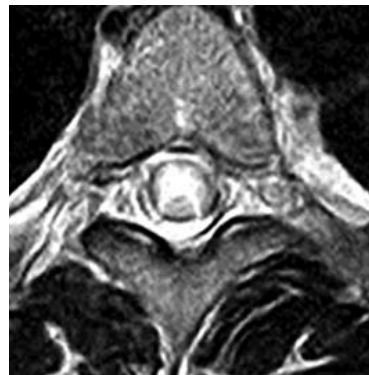
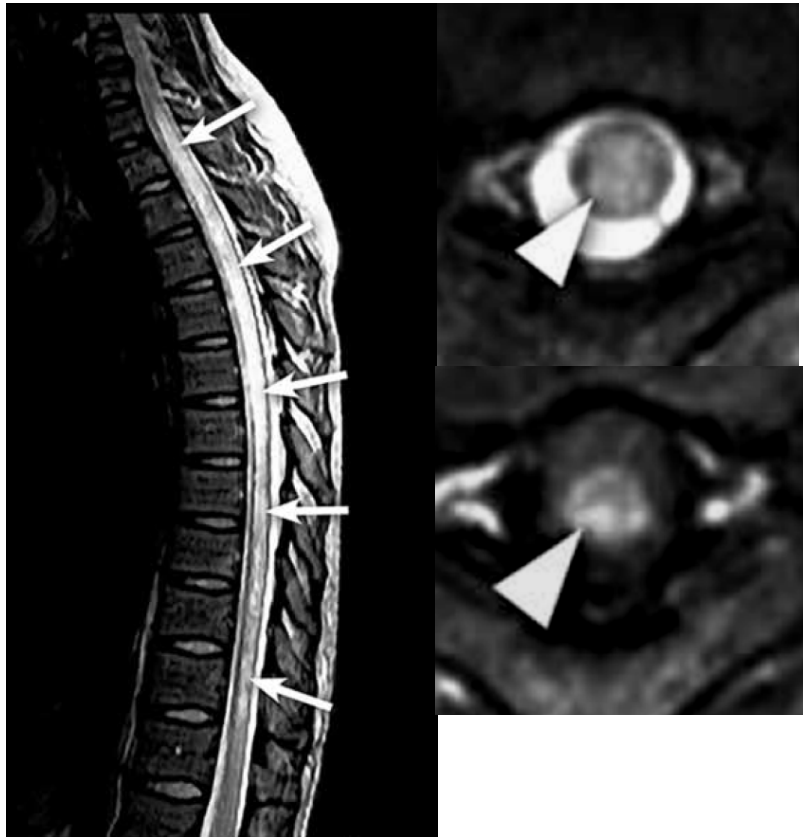
# TRANSVERSE MYELITIS

LETM  $\geq$  3 vertebral segments





## Spinal Cord: central, extend medulla





## Spinal cord: T1 hypointensity acute lesions



Wingerchuk *et al* 2015 *Neurology* 85:1  
Muchison *et al* *J Neurol Sci*, 355, 49

Original Investigation

## Short Myelitis Lesions in Aquaporin-4-IgG-Positive Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorders

Eoin P. Flanagan, MBBCh; Brian G. Weinschenker, MD; Karl N. Krecke, MD; Vanda A. Lennon, MD, PhD; Claudia F. Lucchinetti, MD; Andrew McKeon, MBBCh; Dean M. Wingerchuk, MD; Elizabeth A. Shuster, MD; Yujuan Jiao, MD; Erika S. Horta, MD; Sean J. Pittock, MD

JAMA Neurol.2015;72(1):



**RESULTS** Twenty-five patients who were AQP4-IgG seropositive with an initial STM represented 14% of initial myelitis episodes among patients with NMOSD. The STM episode was defined as the first manifestation of NMOSD in 10 patients (40%) preceded by optic

# OPTIC NEURITIS

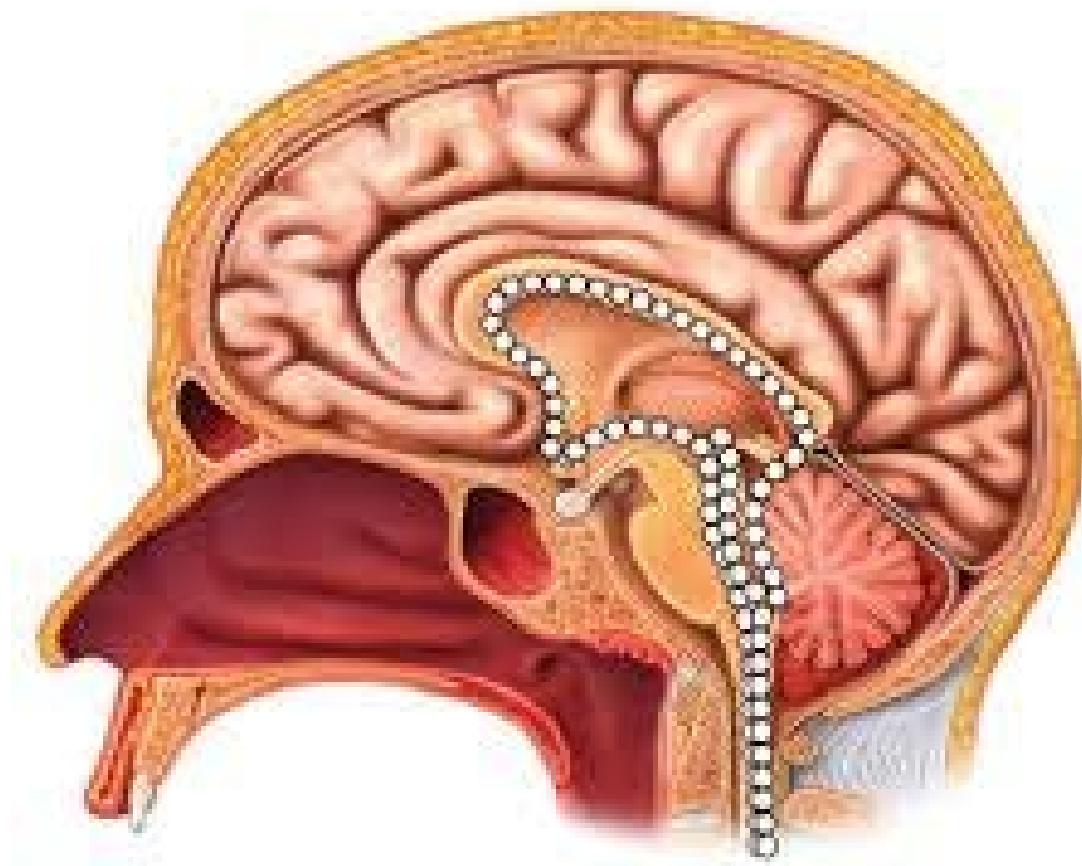
> ½ ON length or chiasmatic involvement

OR

BRAIN MRI: normal or non-specific WMLs



## Periependymal expression AQP4



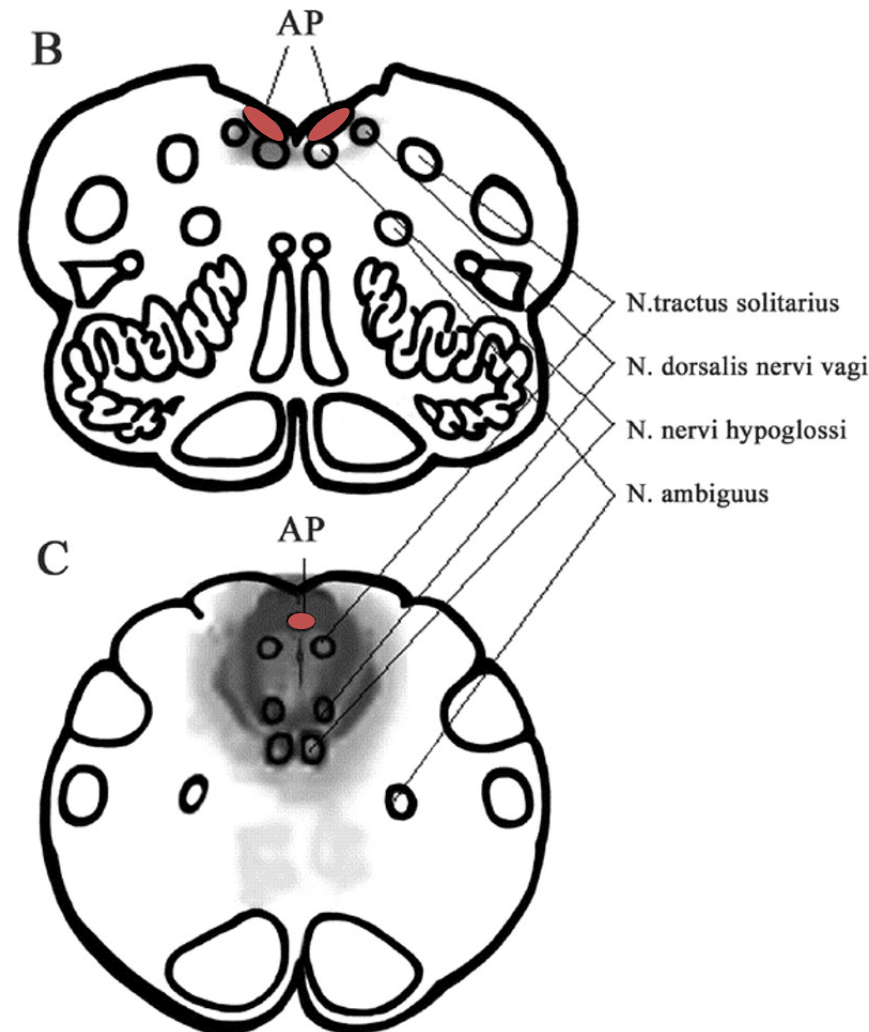
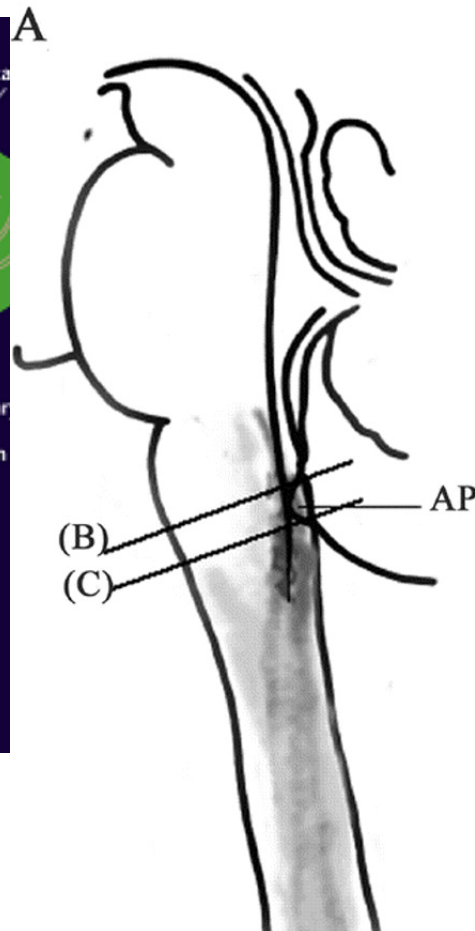
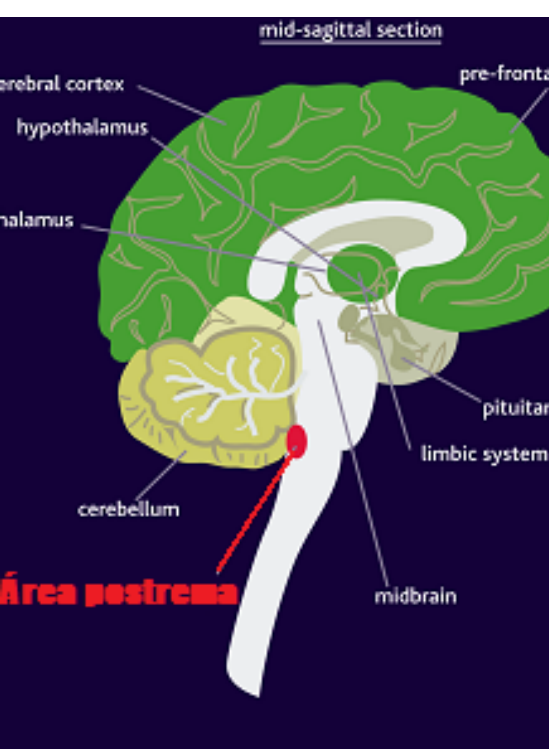
The spectrum of neuromyelitis optica

Dean M Wingerchuk, Vanda A Lennon, Claudia F Lucchinetti, Sean J Pittock, Brian G Weinshenker

*Lancet Neurol* 2007; 6: 805-15

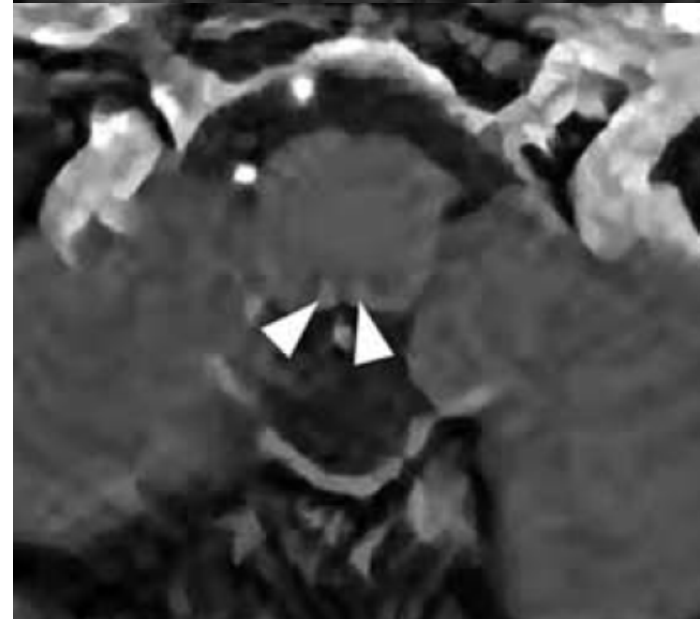
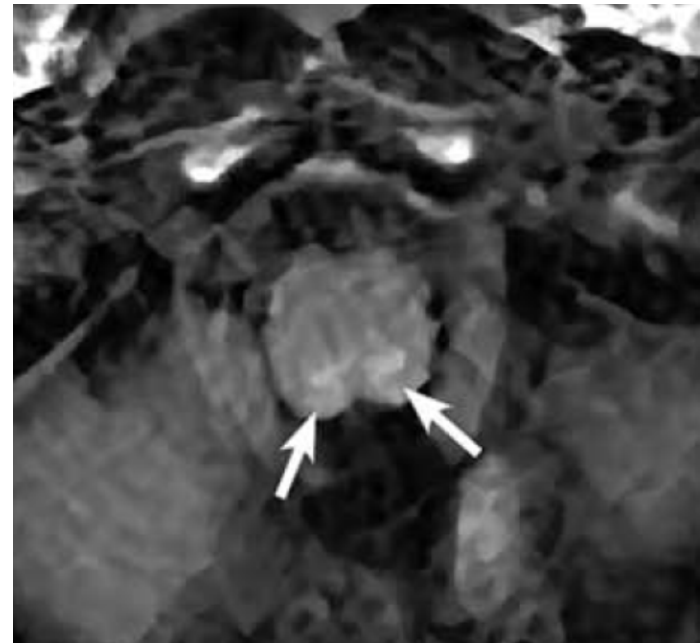
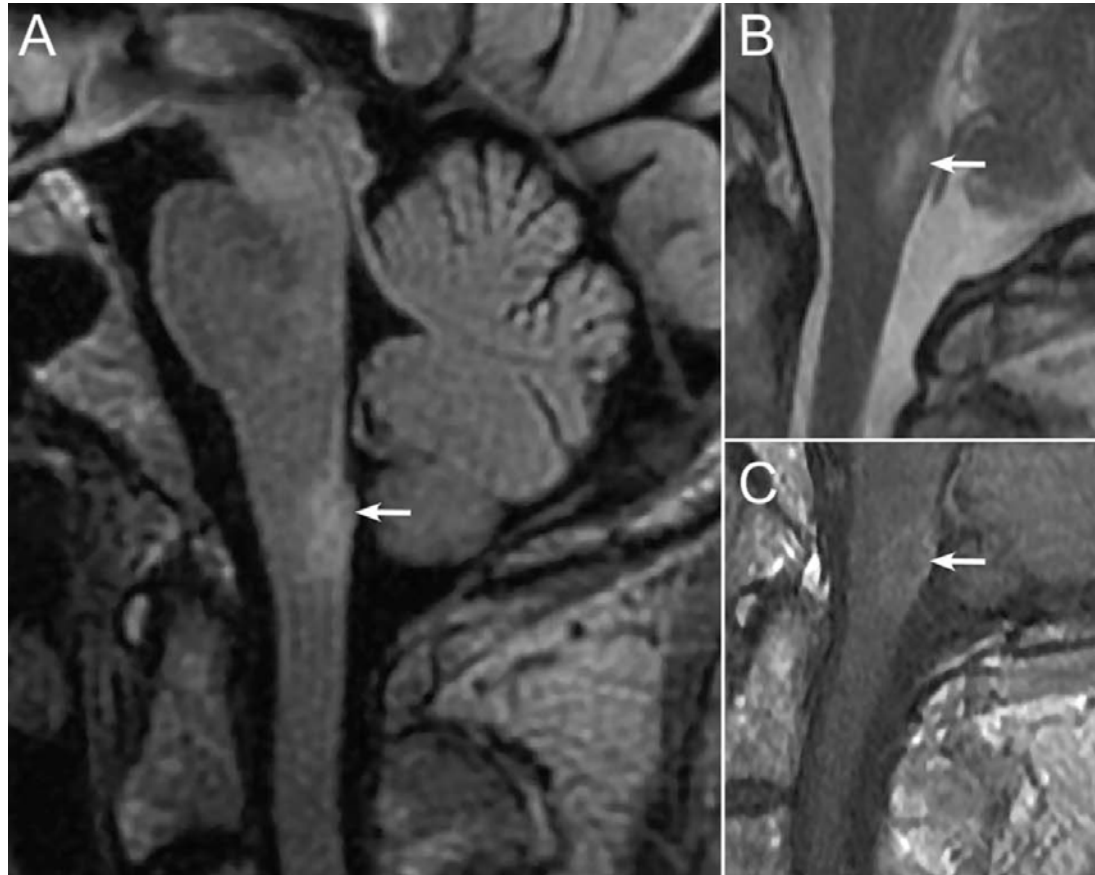
# Area Postrema

A small, rounded eminence on each side of the 4<sup>th</sup> ventricle, in medulla.  
Lies outside the BBB



# AREA POSTREMA ATTACK

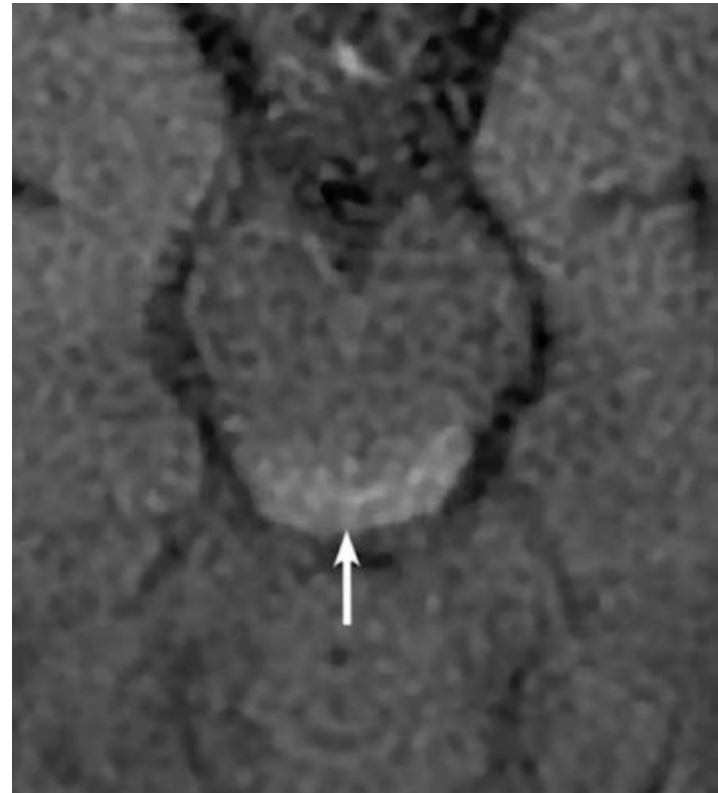
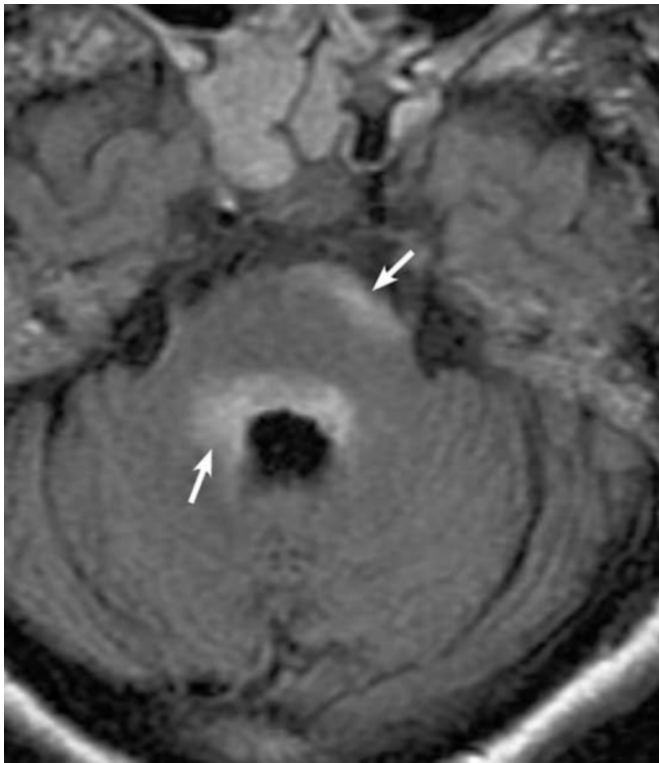
Area postrema / dorsal medulla



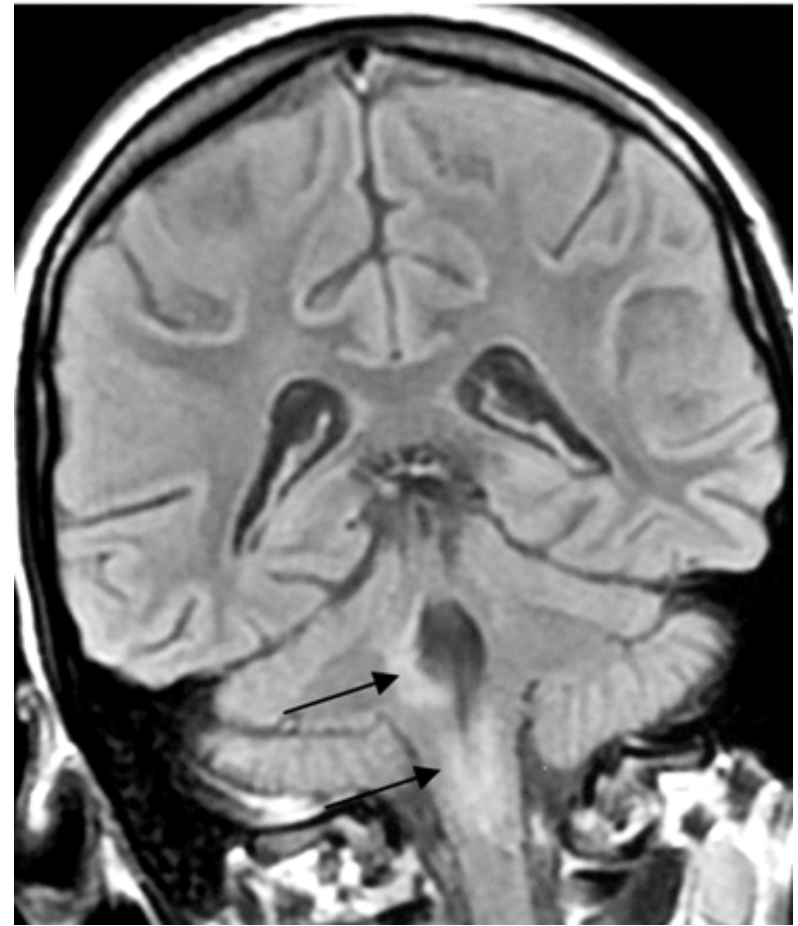


# BRAINSTEM ATTACK

Periependymal lesions



## 4th ventricle



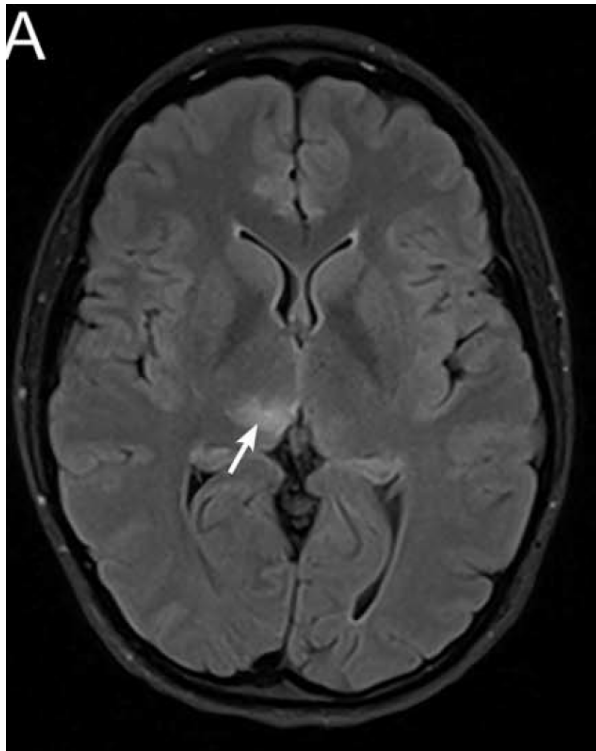
Viegas *et al*, 2009 JNNP 80:679

Wingerchuk *et al* 2015 Neurology 85:1

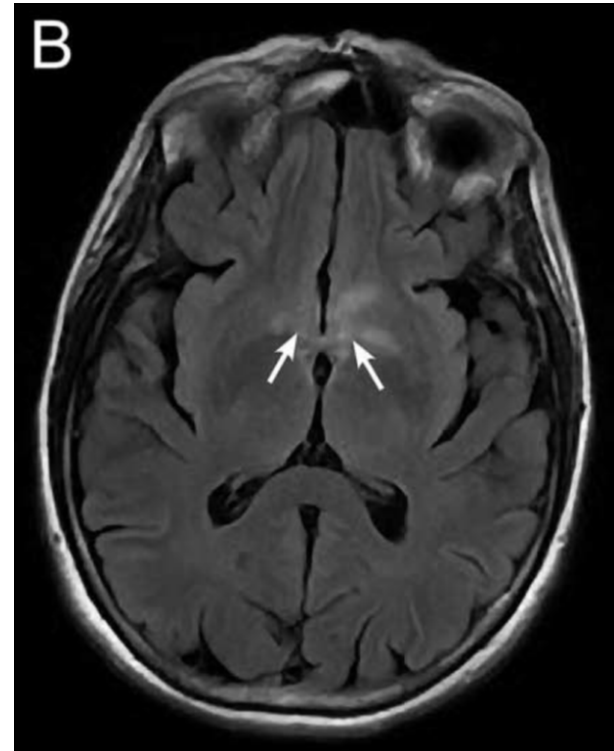


# NARCOLEPSY OR DIENCEPHALIC ATTACK

NMOSD typical Diencephalic lesions



thalamus



hypothalamus

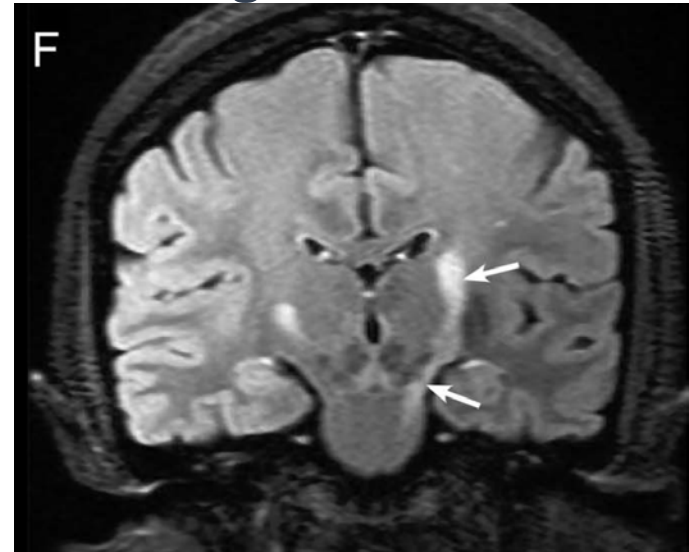
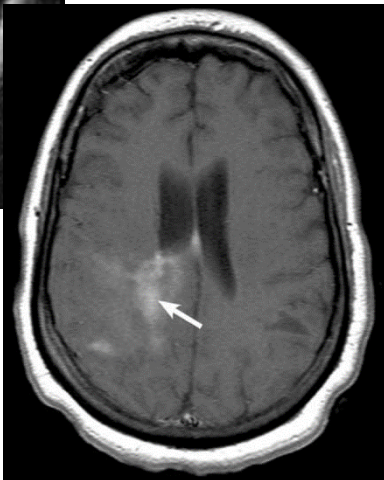
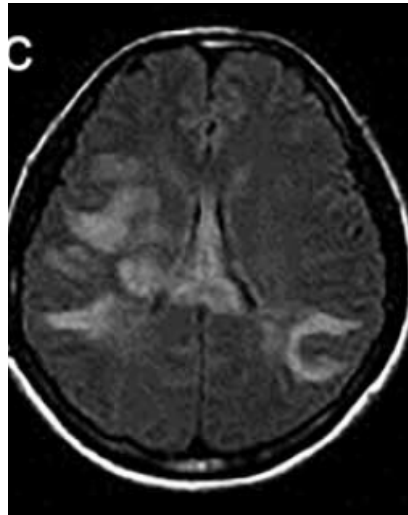
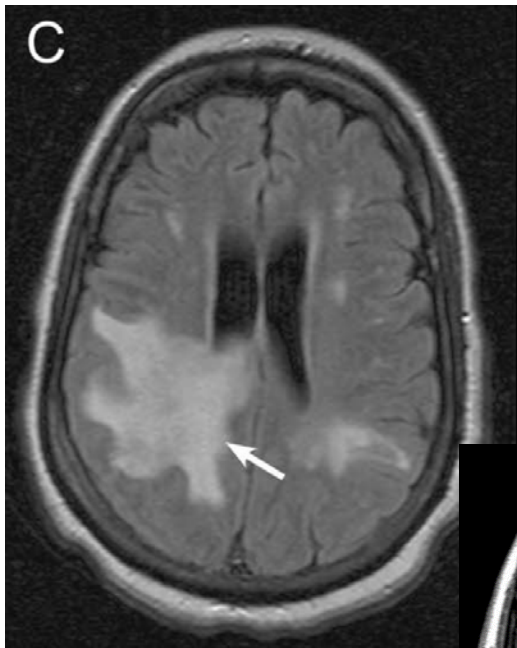
Viegas *et al*, 2009 JNNP 80:679

Wingerchuk *et al* 2015 Neurology 85:1

# CEREBRAL ATTACK

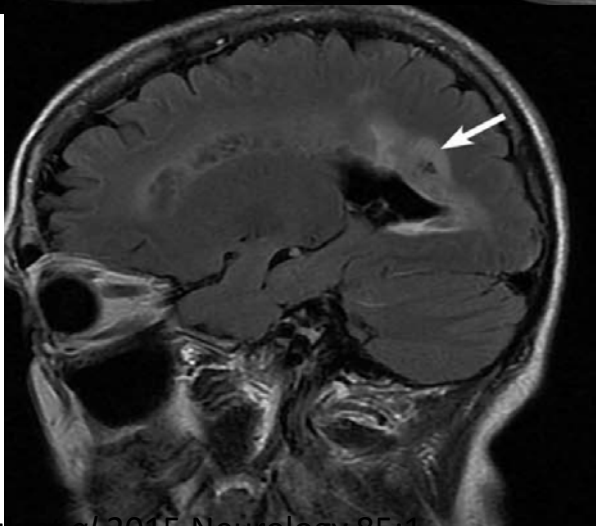
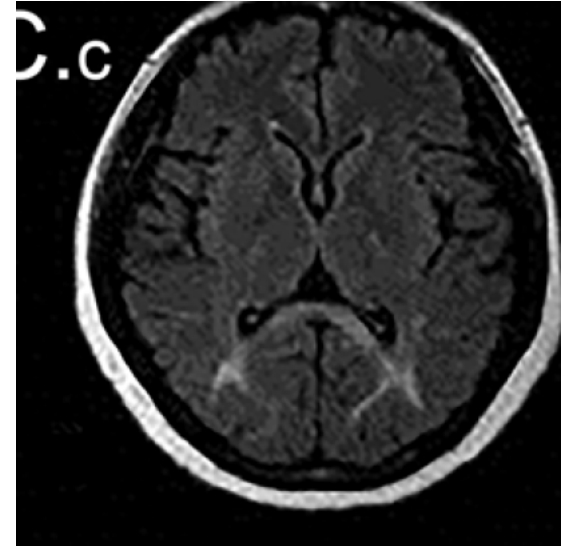
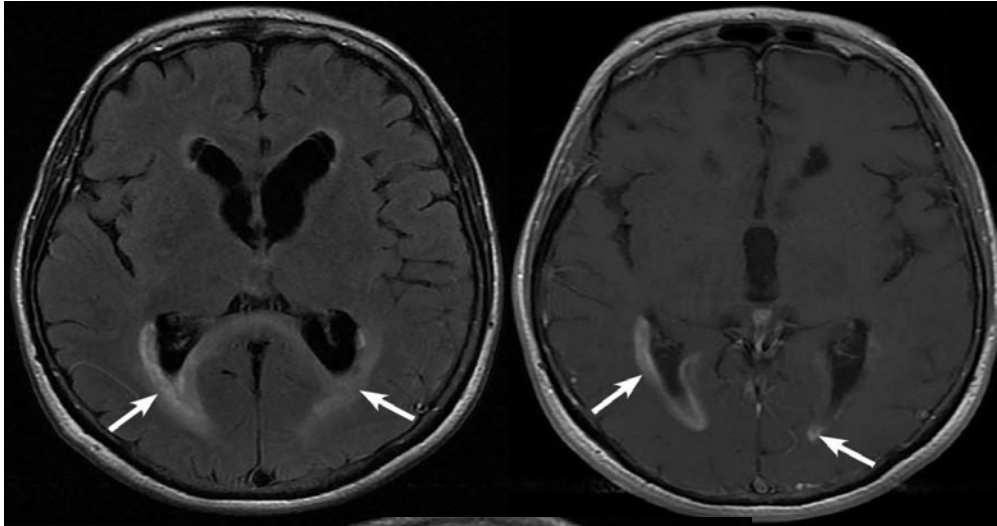
NMOSD typical brain lesions

Long CS tract lesion



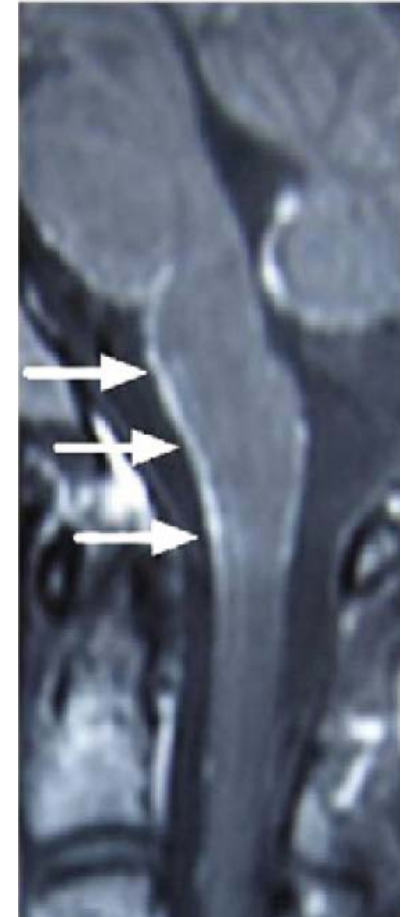
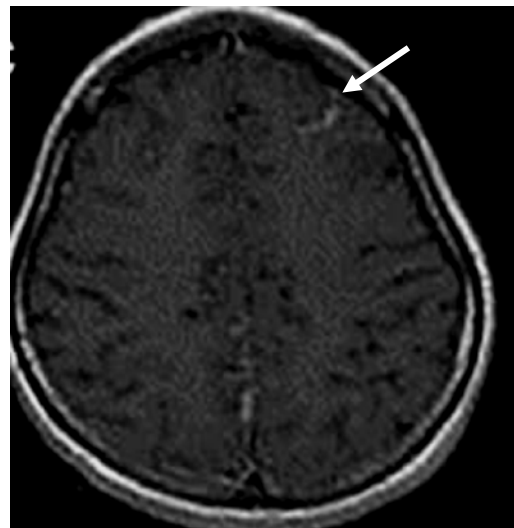
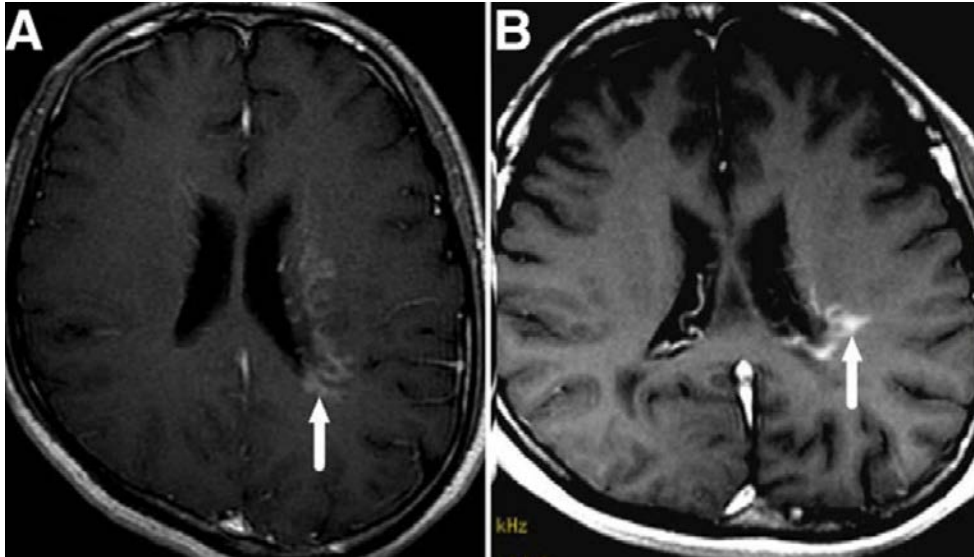
# CEREBRAL ATTACK

Peri ependymal / ventricular lesions/CC



# CEREBRAL ATTACK

## Patterns of enhancement



**MRI examples of MOG-Ab disease:**

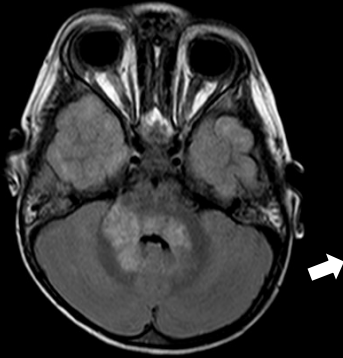


# Brainstem lesions in MOG-IgG1+ve patients

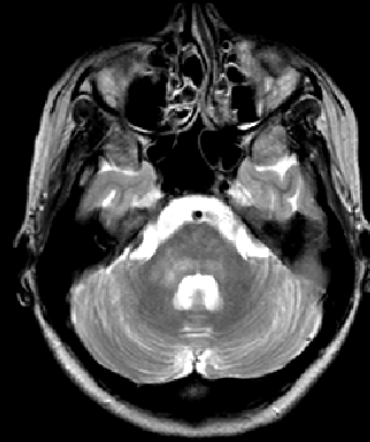
Maciej Juryńczyk

NHS Confidential: Personal Data about a Patient

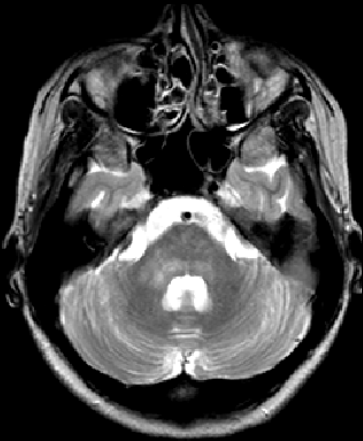
2yr-old child



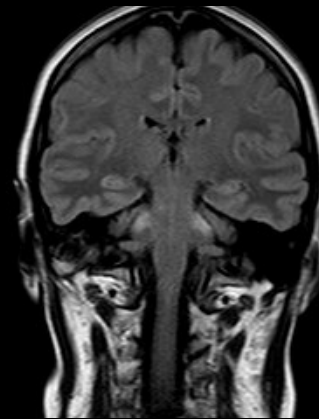
adult



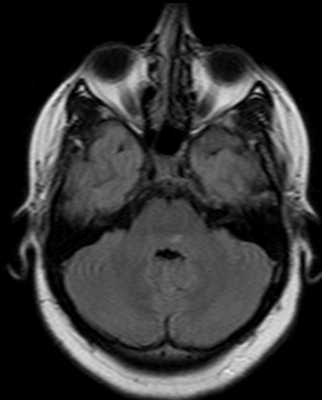
adult



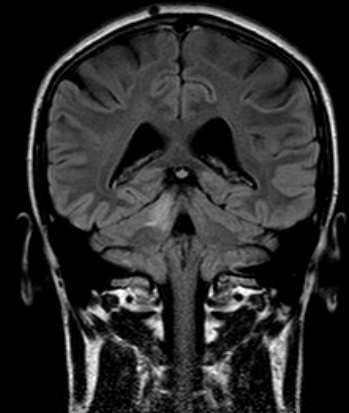
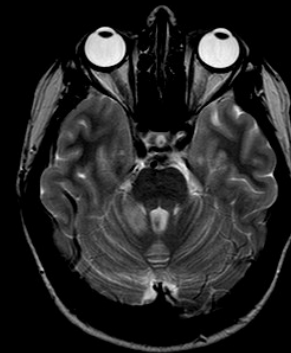
adult



adult



adult



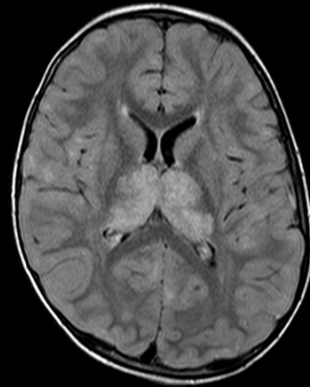
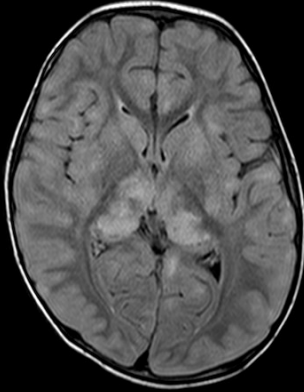
# Basal ganglia/thalamic lesions in MOG-IgG1+ve patients

Maciej Juryńczyk

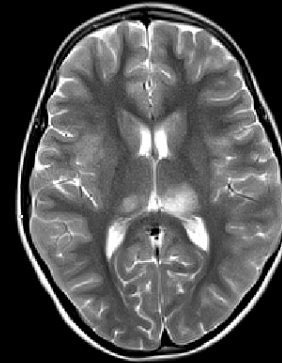
NHS Confidential: Personal Data about a Patient

NHS Confidential: Personal Data about a Patient

2yr child



11yr child

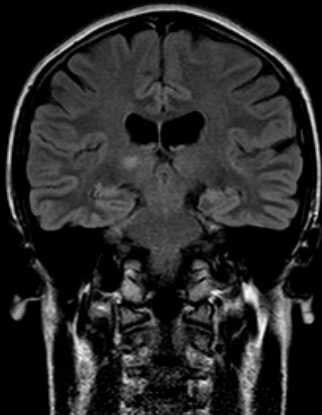


NHS Confidential: Personal Data about a Patient

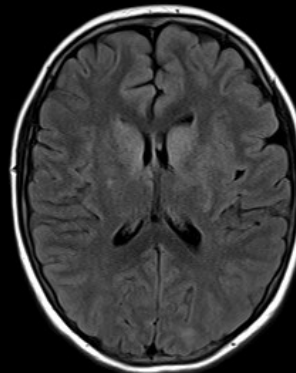
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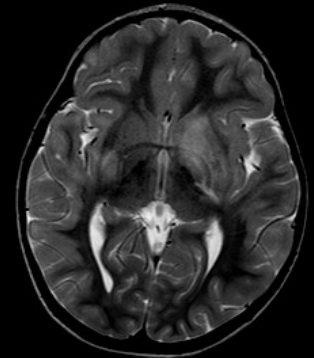
adult



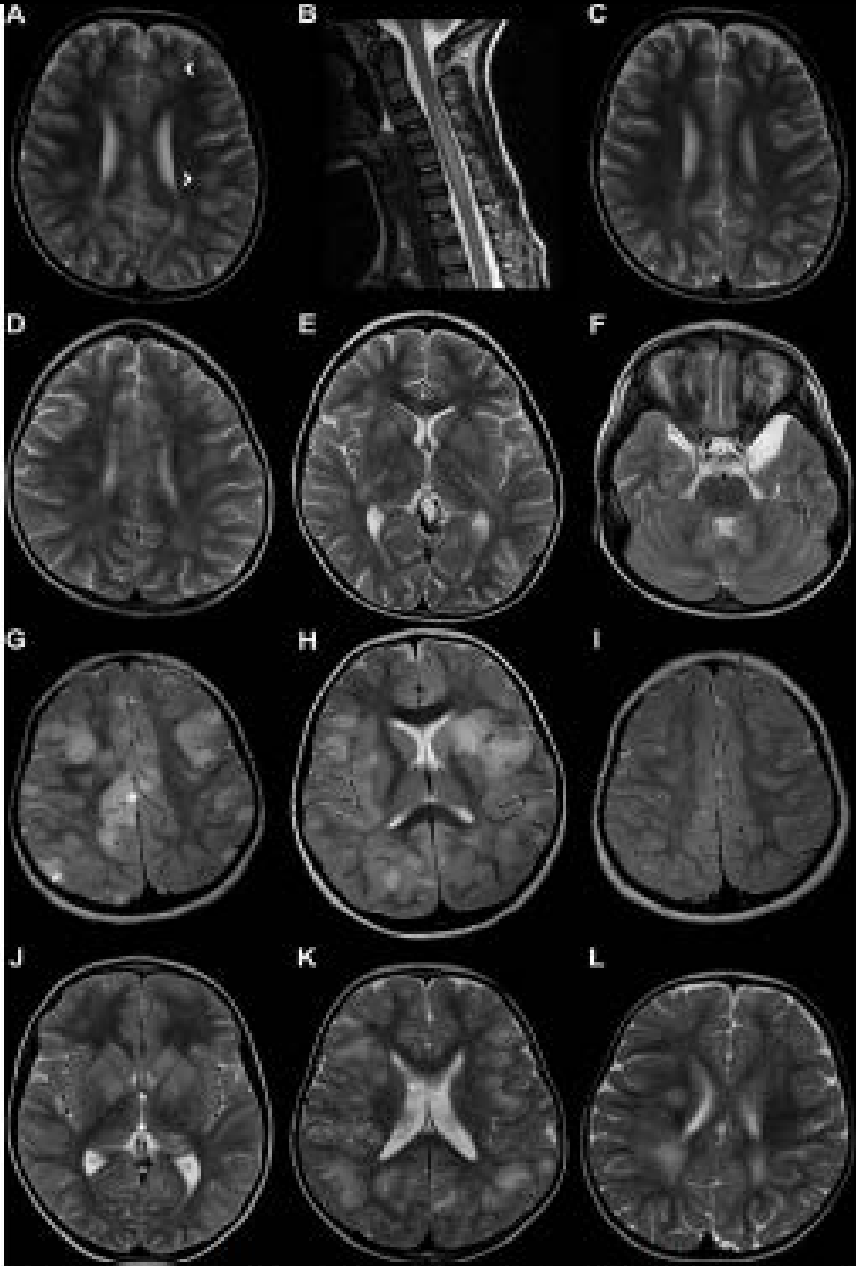
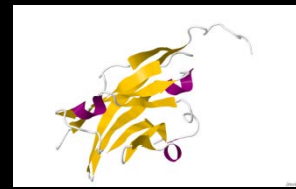
14yr child



3yr child



# MOG-Ab with ADEM



A-C 6yrs C 2/52 on  
headache, lethargy, Lt sensory, paraparesis,  
sphincter,

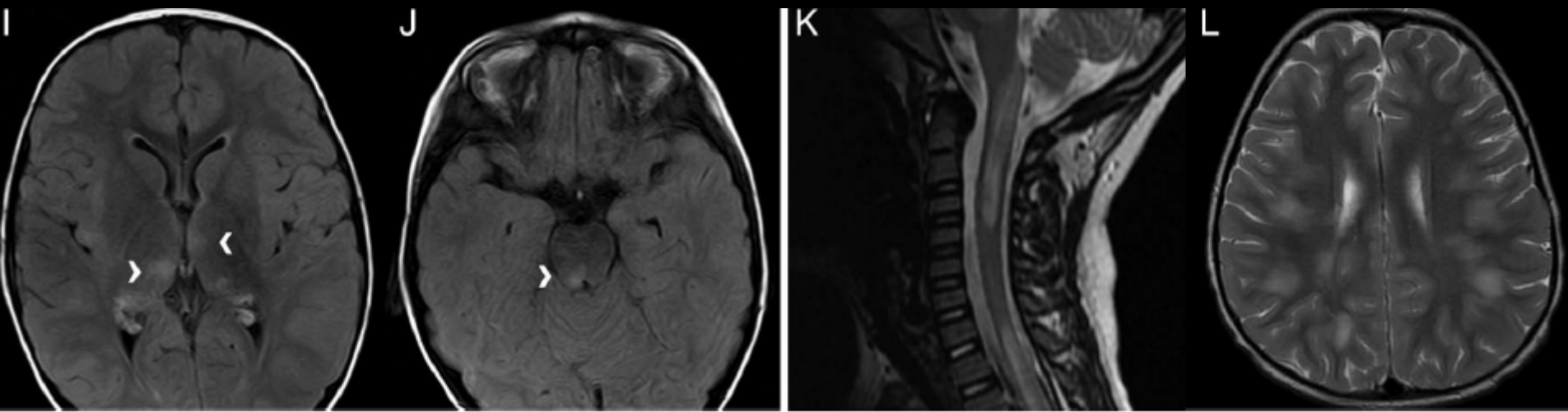
D-F 4yrs  
Lethargy, headaches, paraparesis (cord LETM)

G-I 2yr I 5/12 later  
Somnolence, opisthotonus, bulbar and resp

J 5yr headache, ataxia lethargy  
K 3yr fever, headache, dysarthria, rt hemi, gait  
L 1yr ataxia, strabismus, lethargy,



Lechner et al JNNP 2015  
Paediatric MOG ab



# MRI MOG-Ab vs AQP4-Ab disease

## Similar to AQP4-Ab disease

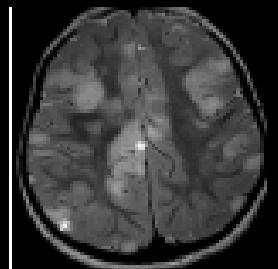
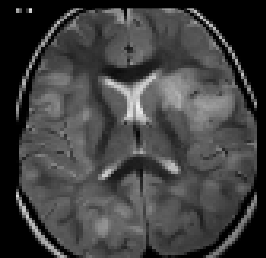
More:

conus involvement (left w isolated sphincter and erectile dysfunction)

fluffy lesions (adults, or ADEM attacks childhood)

bilateral cerebellar peduncle lesions

thalamic lesions



Maciej Juryńczyk  
Friday 17.30

NMOSD from MS

# Imaging criteria: MS and NMO

17% OS MS had LETM

## Revised diagnostic criteria for neuromyelitis optica

D.M. Wingerchuk, MD, FRCP(C); V.A. Lennon, MD, PhD; S.J. Pittock, MD; C.F. Lucchinetti, MD; and B.G. Weinshenker, MD, FRCP(C)

'Barkof criteria for MS' positive in 16% AQP4-Ab +ve patients

Lucy Matthews

Distinction of seropositive NMO spectrum disorder and MS brain lesion distribution



Lucy Matthews, MRCP

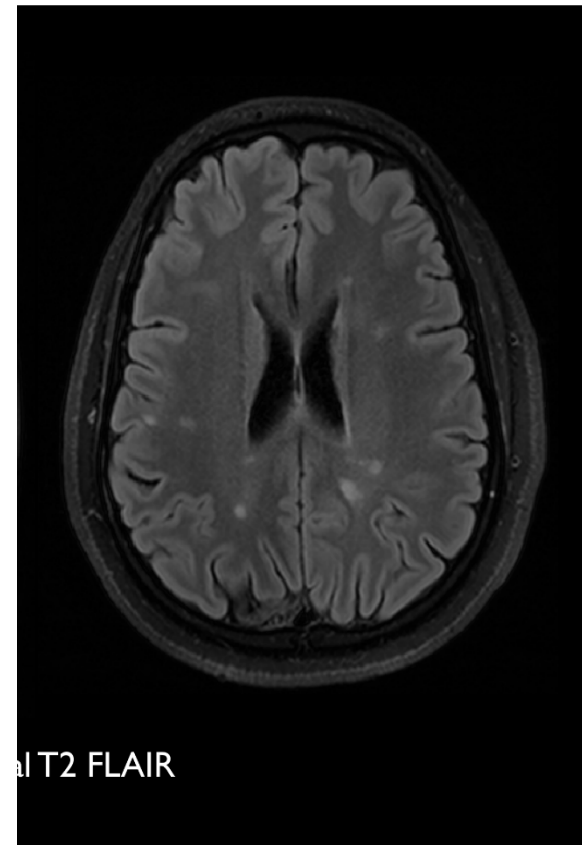
ABSTRACT

# AQP4-Ab Brain MRI

~ 9% have characteristic peri-ependymal or diencephalic

Normal in around 1/3

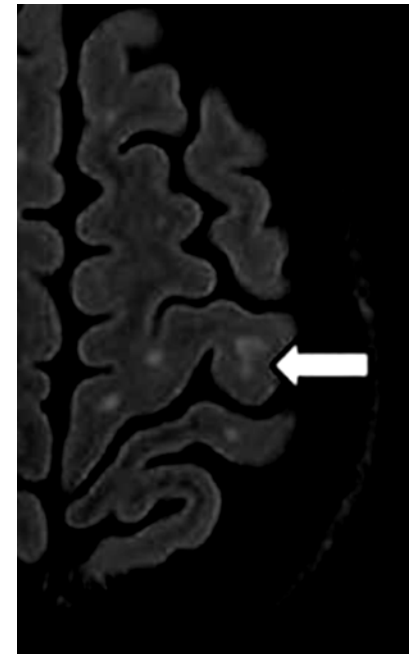
Non-specific WML commonest ab<sup>n</sup>



# MS and NMO w abn brain MRIs – can be differentiated

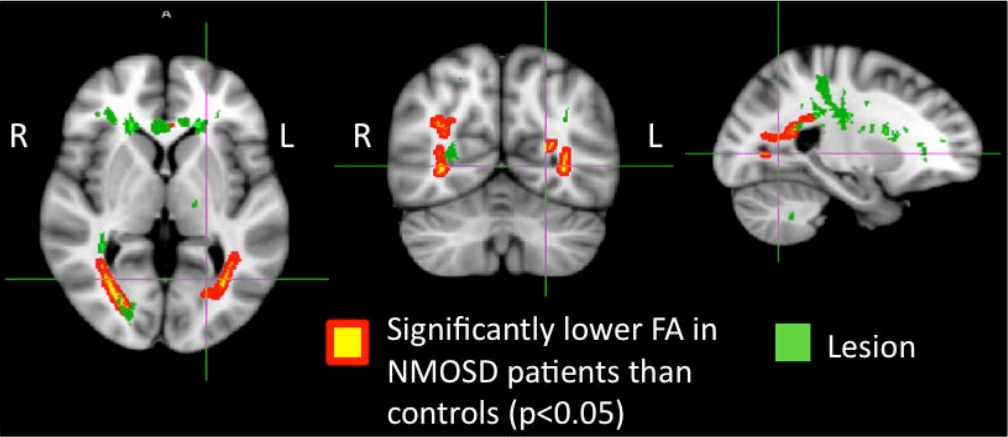
	Number	Lesions adjacent to lateral ventricle <u>and</u> in the inferior temporal lobe, or Dawson's finger or S-shaped U fibre lesion
AQP4+ve w abn brain MRIs	26	1
RRMS	50	46
Sensitivity	-	92 %
Specificity	-	96 %

Lucy Matthews



# Non-conventional imaging

- Normal appearing brain tissue:  
abnormal in MS,  
prob normal NMOSD (outside of connected tracts)

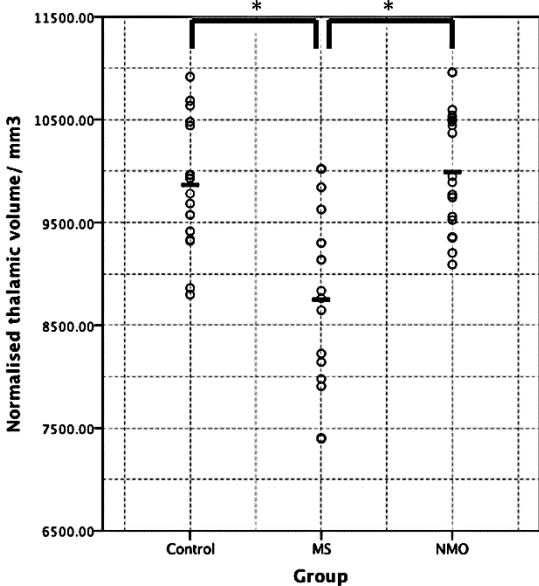


- Cortical lesions in MS, not NMO

Sinnecker et al  
Calebrese et al

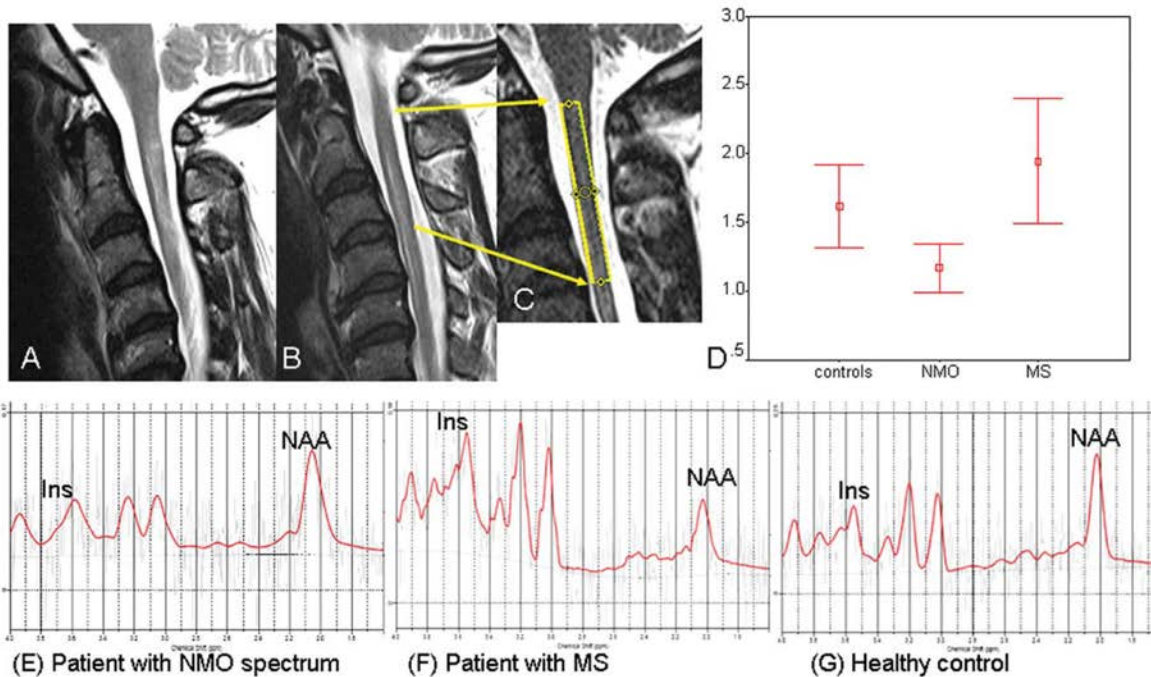
- Thalamic (& Caudate) atrophy in MS

Lucy Matthews  
PLOS ONE | DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0137715 September 18, 2015



# Non-conventional imaging

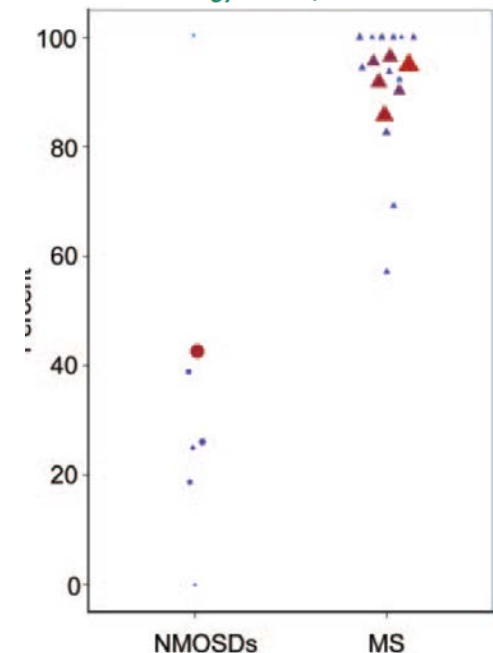
- Astrocyte damage (myo-inositol) reduced in NMOSD



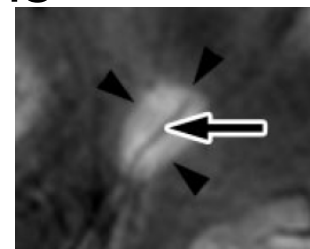
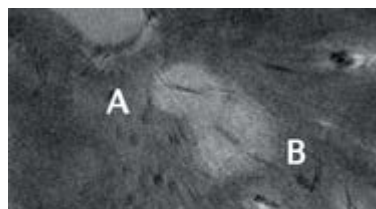
Ciccarelli et al  
Ann Neurol 2013;74:301

Sinnecker et al

Neurology® 2012;79:708-714



- Lesions with central veins



Absinta et al, Nat Rev Neurol 2016;12:358



# Conclusion: NMOSD vs MS

long lesions

typical NMOSD brain MRI features (minority)

ns wml or normal brain MRI common

can fulfil MS brain MRI criteria

NMO 2015 diagnostic criteria more reliant on MRI if no AQP4-Abs

AQP4-Ab contrast to MS less/absence of:

Dawsons fingers, S-shaped U fibre cortical lesions,  
lesional central veins, cortical lesions, NAWM ab<sup>n</sup>,  
thalamic atrophy, lesional myo-inositol ,

MOG-Ab disease: similar to AQP4-Abs, more lesions:

fluffy, conus, (bilateral cerebellar peduncles, thalamus)