



Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

Christian G. Bien

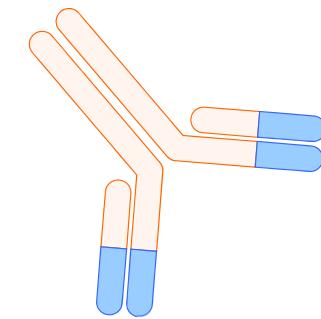
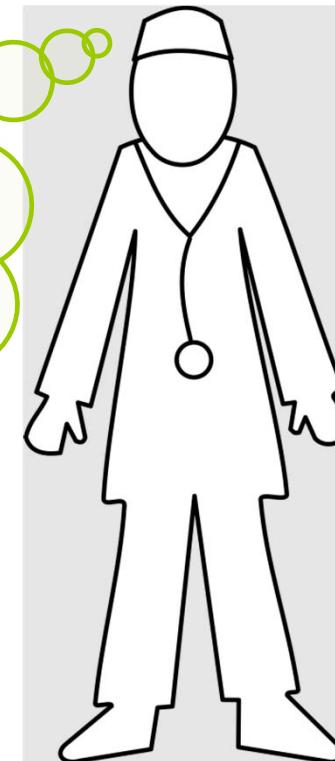
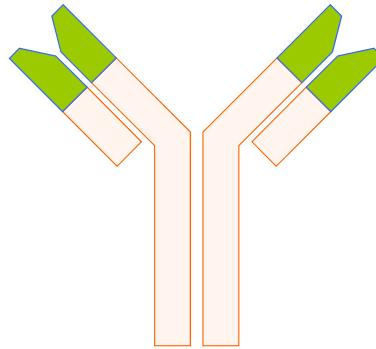
Buenos Aires, 13.09.2018

Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

The situation of the neuropediatrician

Adult neurology: Great success of autoimmune encephalitides!

...and in Neuropediatrics



Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

Order of my talk

1

Rasmussen encephalitis
- including etiology and pathogenesis -

With discussion/training section: one case – is this Rasmussen encephalitis?

2

Pediatric encephalitides with antibodies
- including etiology and pathogenesis -

3

Summary

Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

My background



Epilepsy Center Bethel, Bielefeld

- Large pediatric section (0-17 y)
- 1200 pediatric in-patients per year (40% of all)
- Presurgical/surgical and conservative sections

www.mara.de

Laboratory Krone, Bad Salzuflen

Antibody diagnostics
Approximately 500 pediatric patients per year tested

www.laborkrone.de

Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

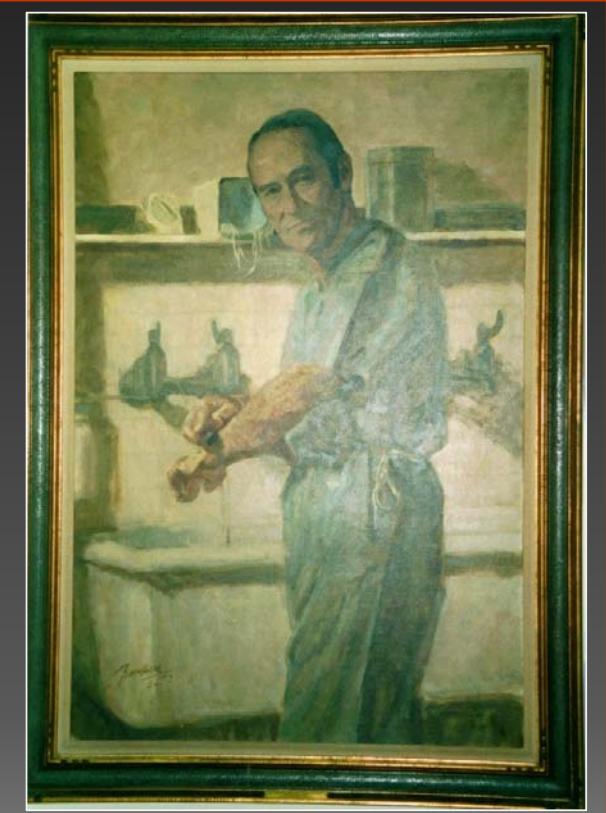
Rasmussen encephalitis

Rasmussen encephalitis

Intro



- Rare disorder, mainly of children:
85% < 10 years
- Disease onset usually at age 6
- Pharmacoresistant epileptic seizures,
unilateral Epilepsia partialis continua
- Progressive cerebral hemiatrophy
 - Progressive unilateral deficit
 - Histology: chronic encephalitis



T. B. Rasmussen (1910-2002)

Rasmussen encephalitis

Key messages

- Rasmussen encephalitis can be diagnosed safely
- Rasmussen encephalitis is a destructive disease mediated by cytotoxic T cells
- The only effective therapy is hemispherectomy

Rasmussen encephalitis

Aims

To make you familiar with

- the diagnostic criteria to make appropriate diagnoses
- the destructive process underlies Rasmussen encephalitis
- a suggested treatment algorithm

Rasmussen encephalitis

Potential objections

- The diagnosis of this difficult case always requires an expert. The pathogenesis remains enigmatic and Rasmussen encephalitis is untreatable.
- Diagnosis can be challenging. Fortunately, useful criteria exist – right, sometimes, only the disease course will tell. Etiology is still open but pathogenesis has been studied. There are treatment options.

Rasmussen encephalitis

Order of this section

- Definition
- Disease course incl. MRI and EEG
 - Case discussion: Is this Rasmussen encephalitis?
- Pathogenesis
- Treatment

Rasmussen encephalitis

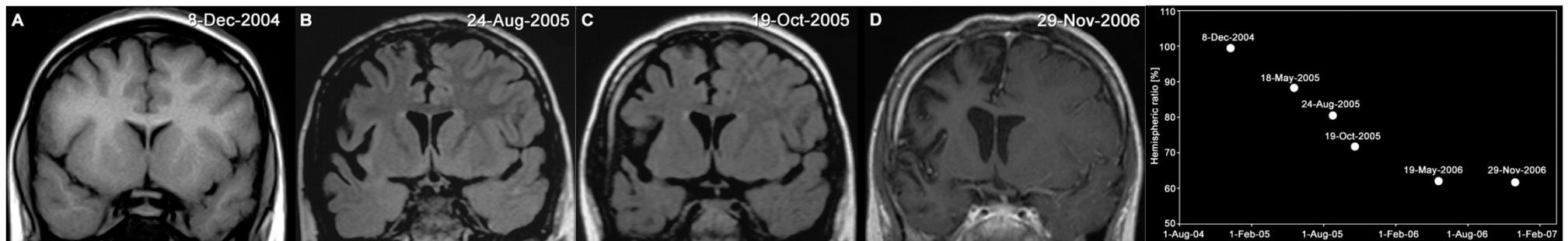
Epidemiology – Serial MRI

Incidence

2,4 cases among 10 mio. children and adolescents* per year

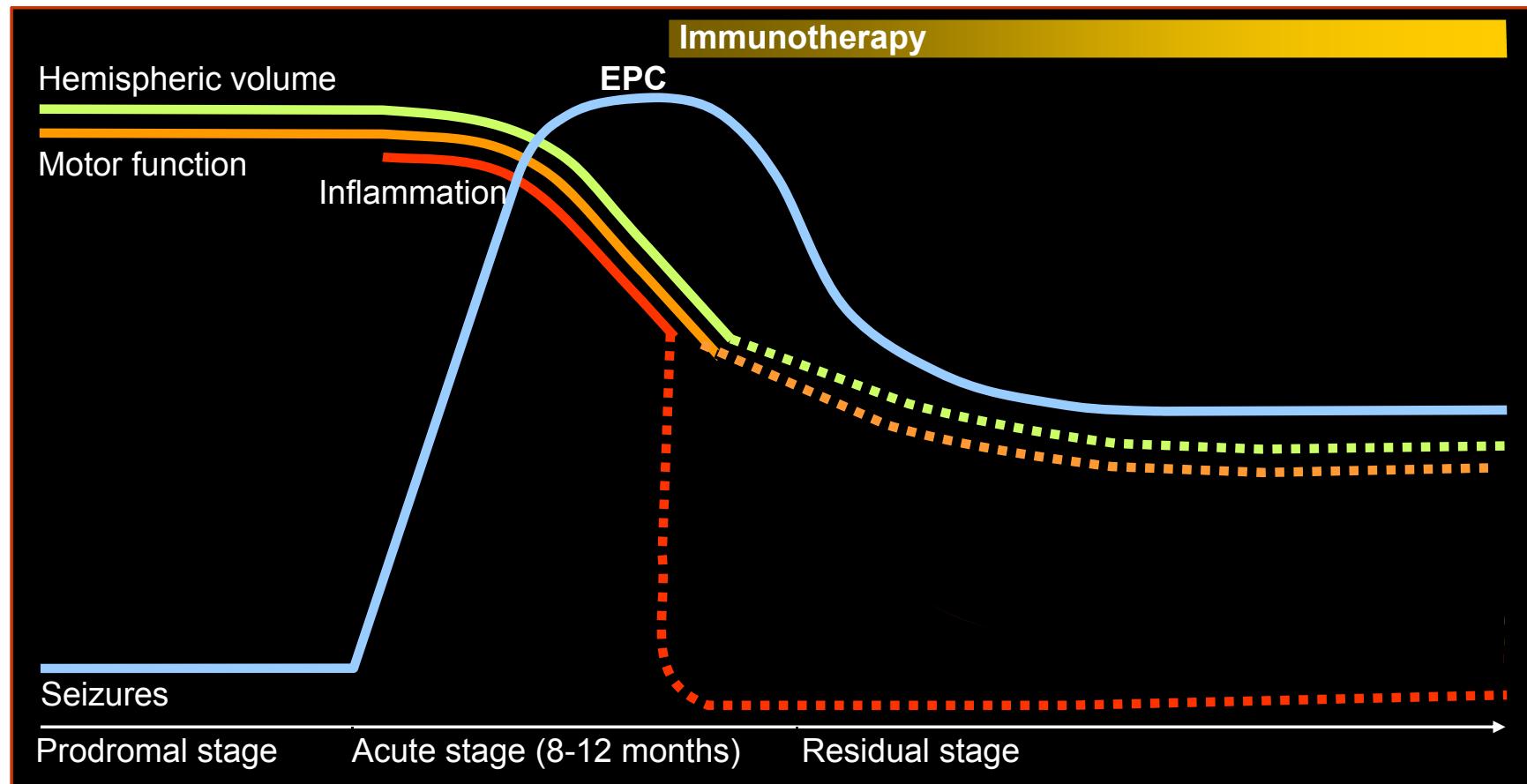
*≤18 y

MRI course



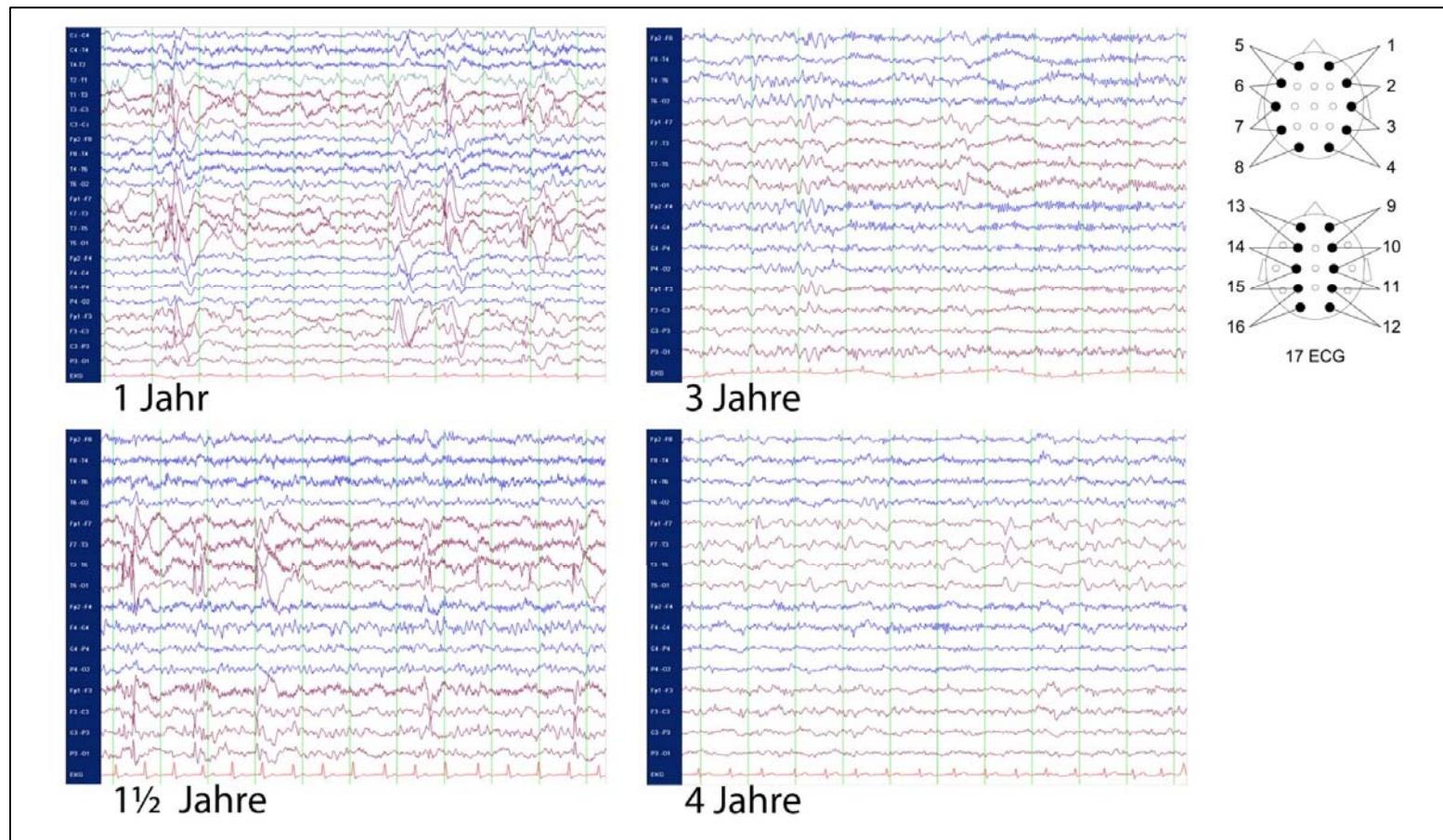
Rasmussen encephalitis

Natural course and expected effect of immuno-tx



Rasmussen encephalitis

EEG



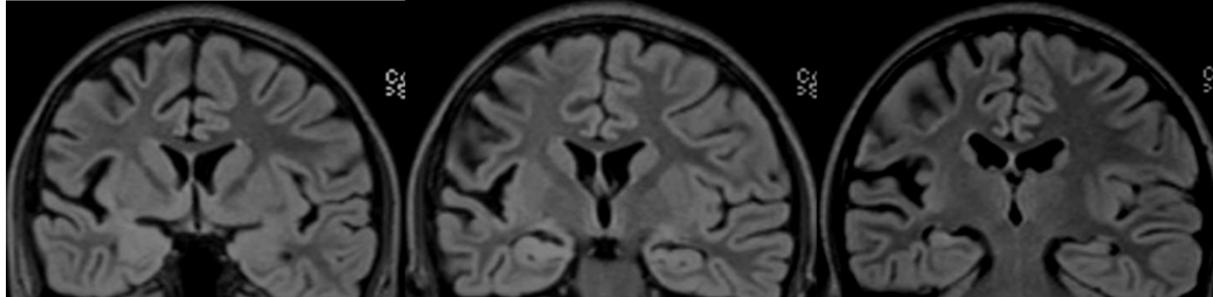
Rasmussen encephalitis

Case:

Is this Rasmussen encephalitis?

Case

R., S. ♀: disease onset at age 8

- Monomorphic focal seizures suggested of right hemisphere onset, 4-5/wk
- No neurological deficit
- EEG:
 - interictal: R hemispheric slowing. Frequent R fronto-temporal spikes
 - ictal: R temporal and frontotemporal area involvement.
- MRI:
 - Seizure frequency increases, no effect of multiple drug trials
 - Brain biopsy: Chronic encephalitis dominated by T cells. Astrogliosis. No microglial nodules.

Case R., S. ♀

Checking the diagnostic criteria – 1 y 9 mo into the disease



Part-A-criteria (cross-sectional): all 3 must be fulfilled

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Clinical
2. EEG
3. MRI | Focal seizures (+/- EPC) and Unilateral cortical deficit(s)
Unihemispheric slowing+/- ETP and Unilateral seizure onset |
| | Unihemispheric focal cortical atrophy
and ≥1 of the following:
(1) Grey or white matter T2/FLAIR hyperintense signal
(2) Hyperintense signal or atrophy of the ipsilateral caudate head |



Part-B-criteria (longitudinal/histopathological): 2/3 must be fulfilled

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Clinical
2. MRI
3. Histopathology | Epilepsia partialis continua or Progressive unilateral cortical deficit(s)
Progressive* unihemispheric focal cortical atrophy
T cell dominated encephalitis, activated microglial cells, reactive astrogliosis |
|--|---|

Case R., S. ♀, now age 15

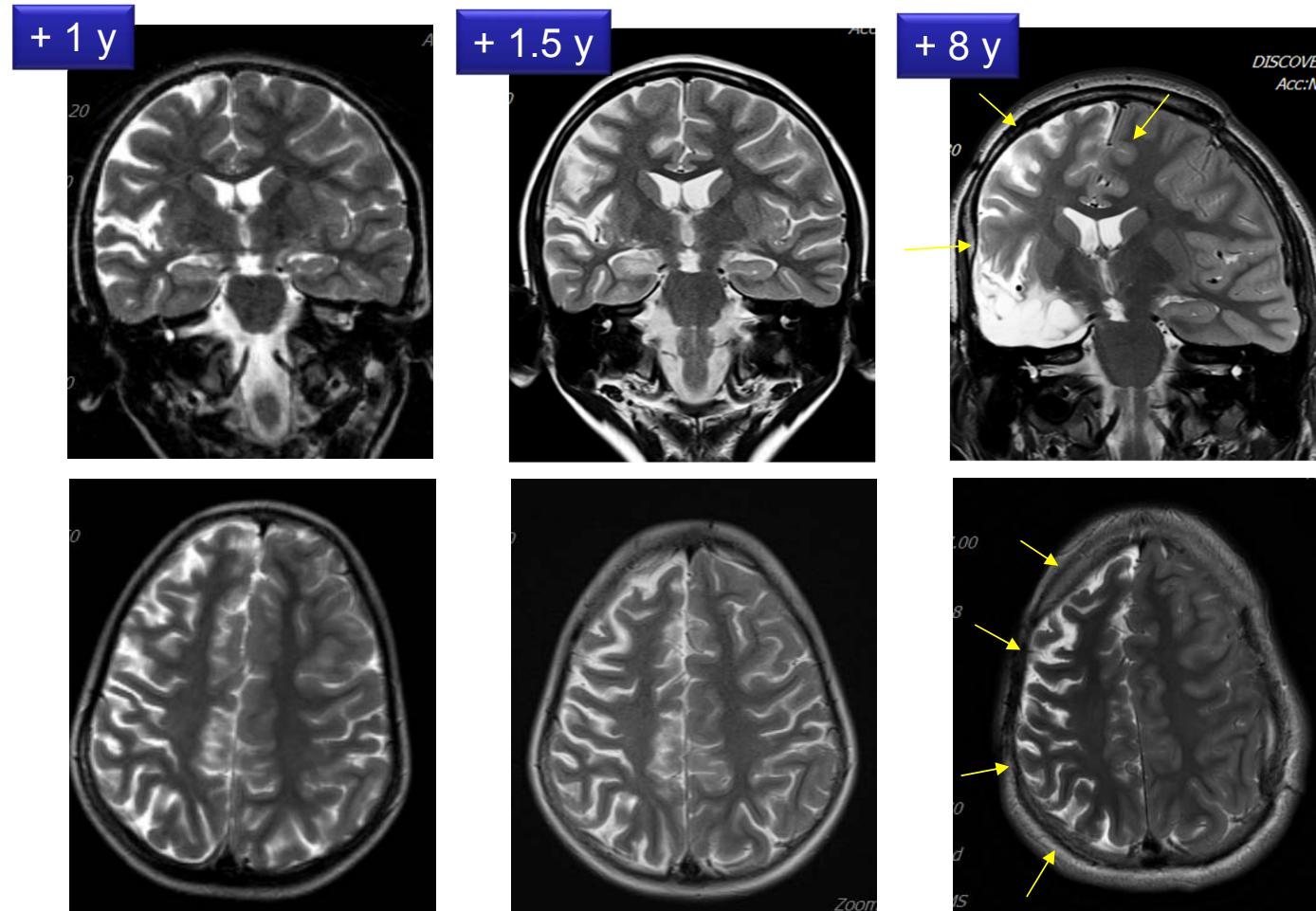
8 yrs after disease onset, still 4 szs per day

Clinically:

Progressive
R sided
hemiparesis.

But still partly useful
hand motricity.

No aphasia.



Case R., S. ♀

Checking the diagnostic criteria – 8 y after onset



Part-A-criteria (cross-sectional): all 3 must be fulfilled

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1. Clinical | Focal seizures (+/- EPC) and Unilaterale cortical deficit(s) | |
| 2. EEG | Unihemispheric slowing+/- ETP and Unilateral seizure onset | |
| 3. MRI | Unihemispheric focal cortical atrophy
and ≥1 of the following:
(1) Grey or white matter T2/FLAIR hyperintense signal
(2) Hyperintense signal or atrophy of the ipsilateral caudate head | |



Part-B-criteria (longitudinal/histopathological): 2/3 must be fulfilled

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 1. Clinical | Epilepsia partialis continua or Progressive unilateral cortical deficit(s) | |
| 2. MRI | Progressive* unihemispheric focal cortical atrophy | |
| 3. Histopathology | T cell dominated encephalitis, activated microglial cells, reactive astrogliosis | |

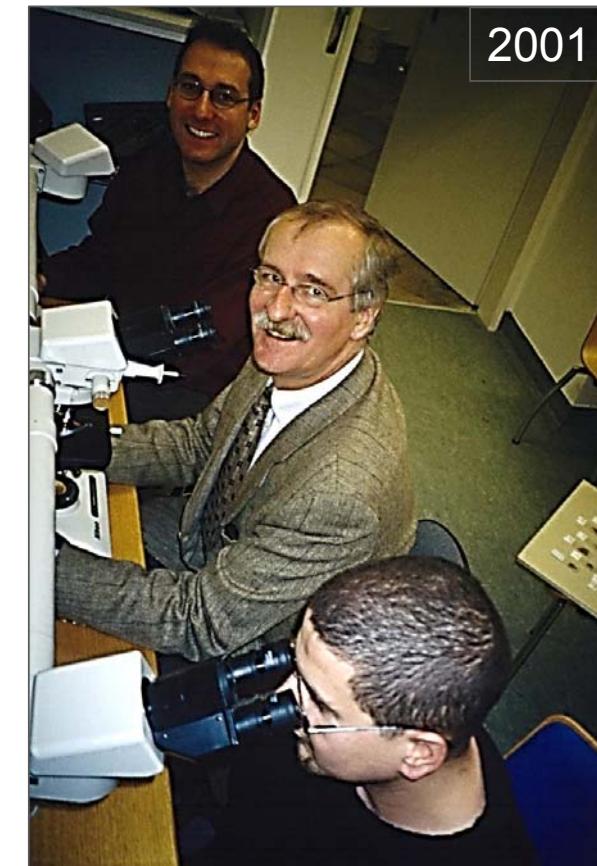
Rasmussen encephalitis

How does it all come about (pathogenesis)?



Center for Brain Research Med. Univ. Vienna
Prof. Hans Lassmann
Prof. Jan Bauer

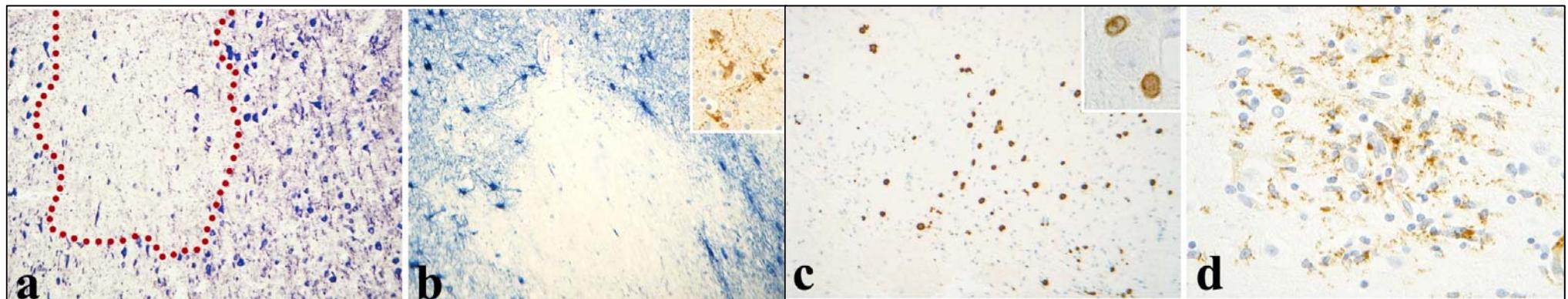
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Rasmussen encephalitis

Immunopathology



MAP2: Neurons

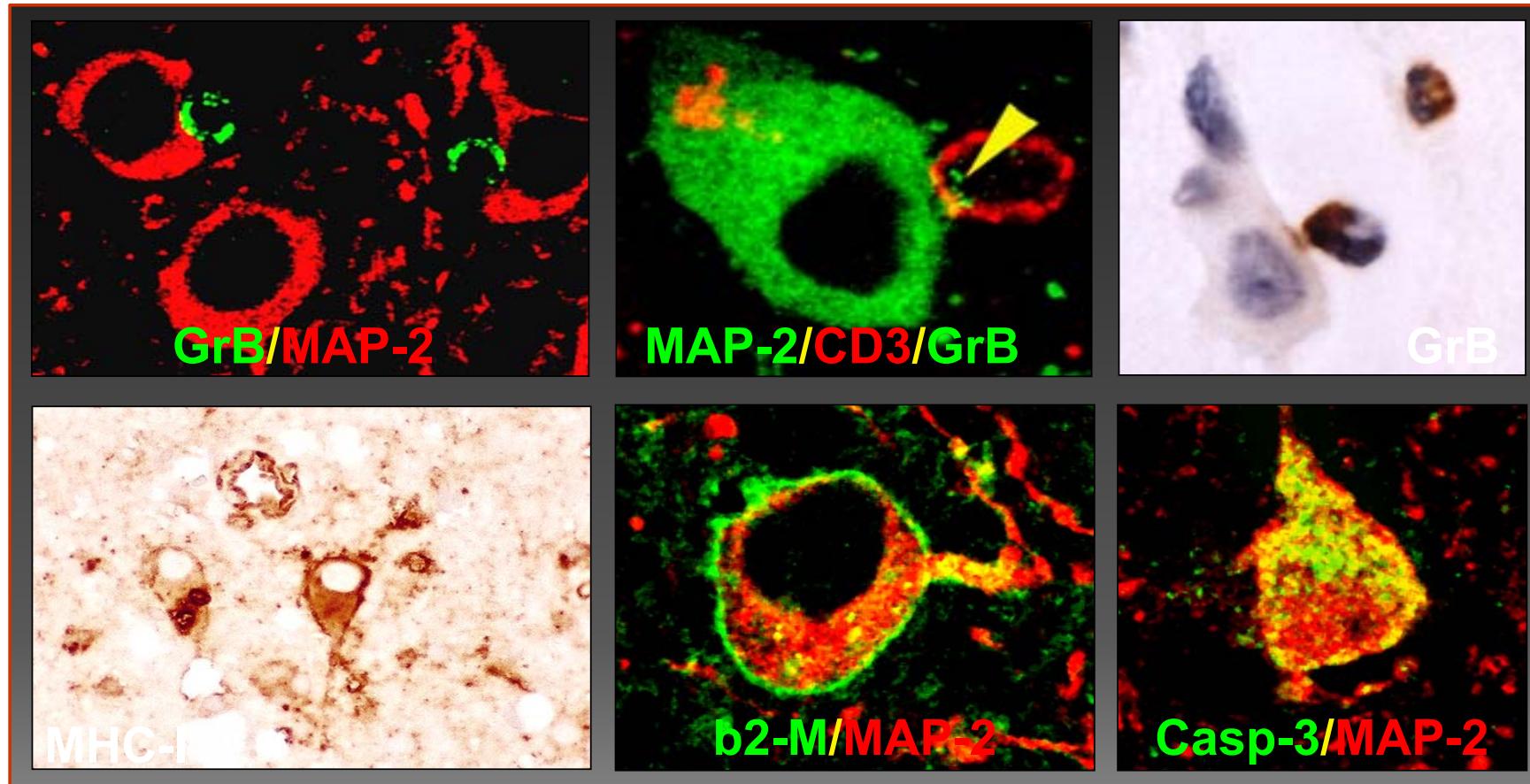
GFAP: Astrocytes.
Detail: Apoptotic
astrocytes

CD8: cytotoxic T-
lymphocytes.
Detail: Apposition to
neurons

CD68: Microglial
nodules

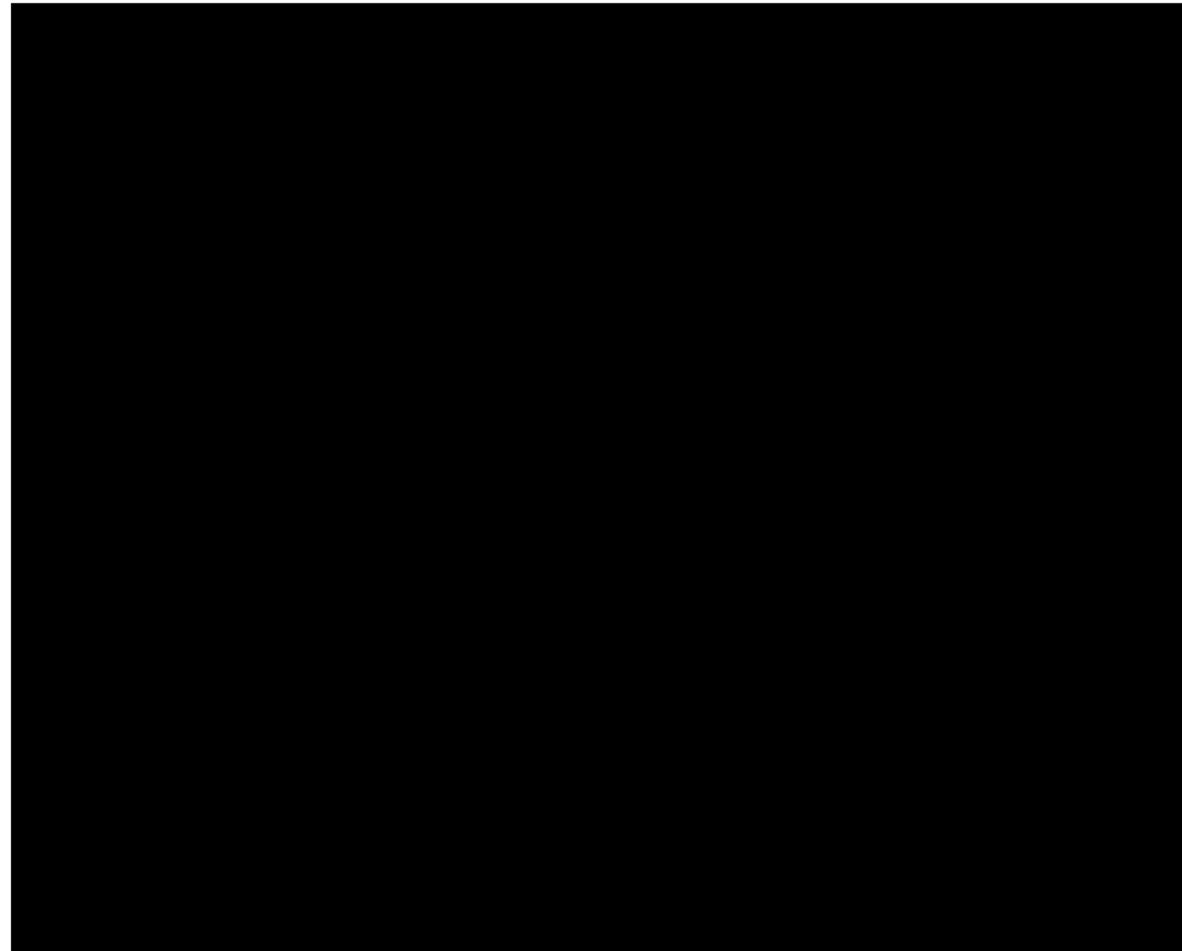
Rasmussen encephalitis

Cytotoxic T cell attack against neurons



Rasmussen-Enzephalitis

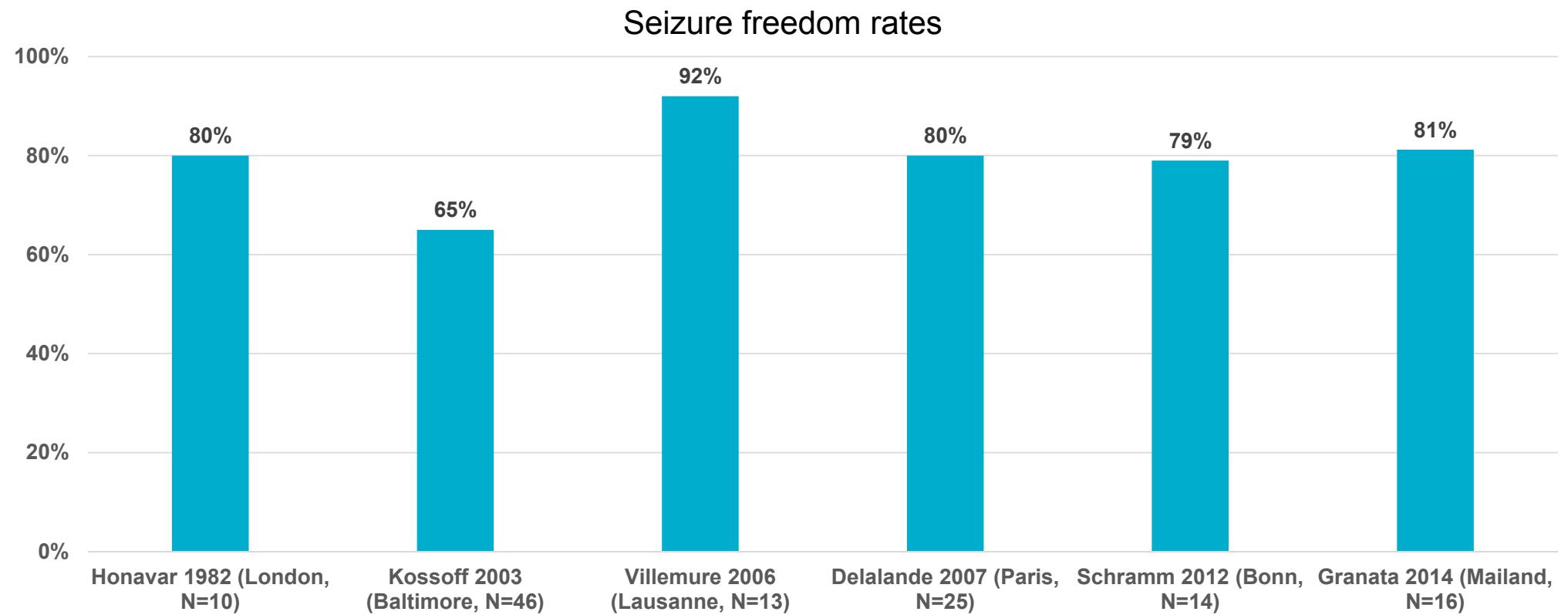
Epilepsia partialis continua



M., C. ♀ 12 y. University of Bonn, Dept of Epileptology

Rasmussen encephalitis

Hemispherectomy outcome



Rasmussen encephalitis

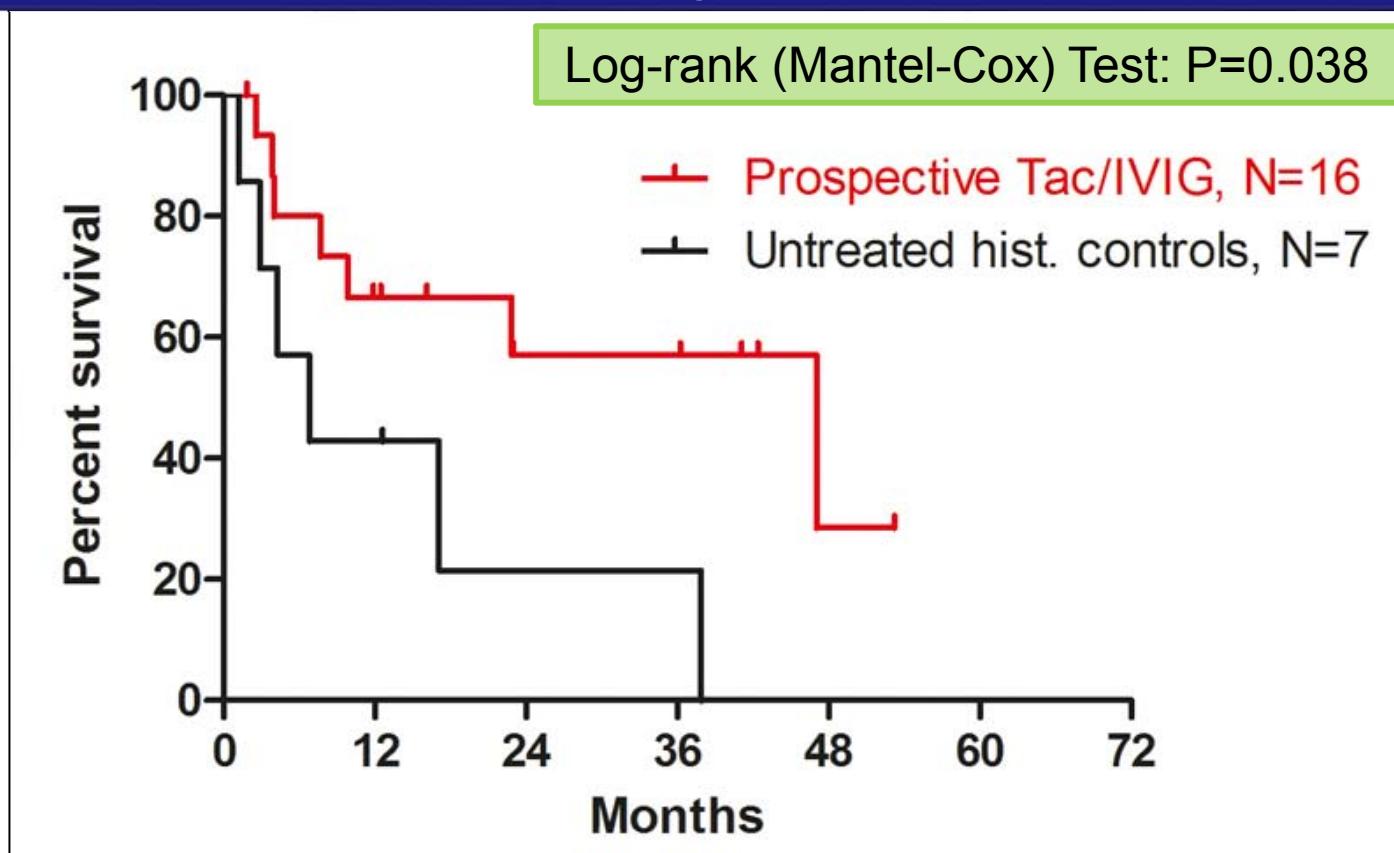
Immunotherapy

	N	Median age at disease onset (yrs)	Median duration until treatment (yrs)	Seizures	Neurological functions	Complications
IVIG	7	11,5	3	↓ - ↓↓	↑	-
Steroids	18	~5	~3	↓ - ↓↓	partly ↑	++
IVIG + Steroids	19	5.5	~3	temp ↓↓	partly ↑	++
Cyclophosphamide	1	15	14	temp ↓	temp ↑	-
Intraventricular IFN-α	2	3,7	1,2	↓↓	↑/=	+
Plasmapheresis/ IgG-Immunoabsorption	6	~7	~4	partly, temp ↓	partly, temp ↑	+/++
Ganciclovir	4	6,5	1,8	partly, temp ↓	partly, temp ↑	-
Zidovudine (AZT)	1	14	4	temp ↓↓	=	+

Rasmussen encephalitis

Prospektive: Tacrolimus vs. IVIG (N=16); hist. controls (N=7)

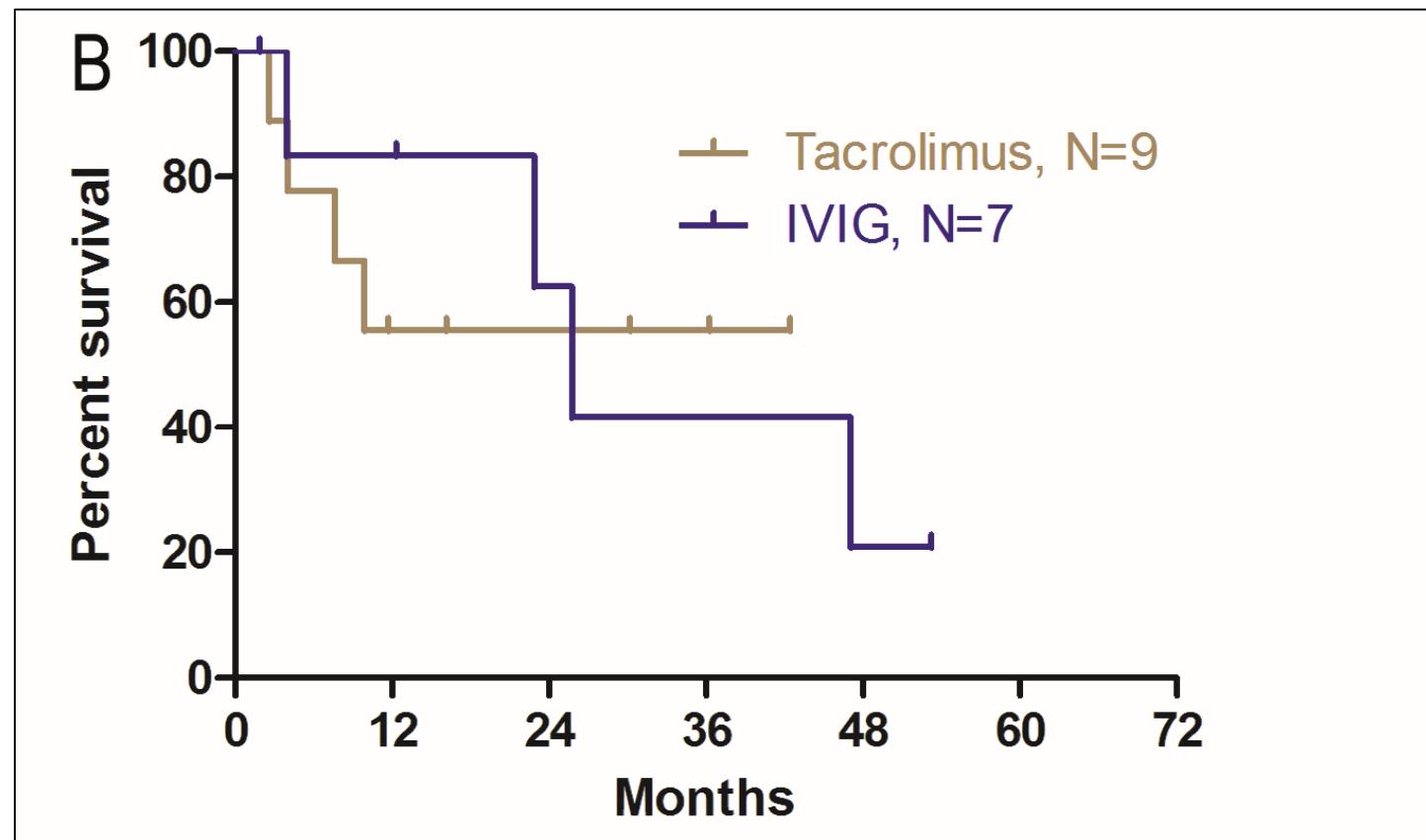
Endpoint: predefined loss in motricity



Bien CG et al., Epilepsia 2013;54:543

Rasmussen-Enzephalitis

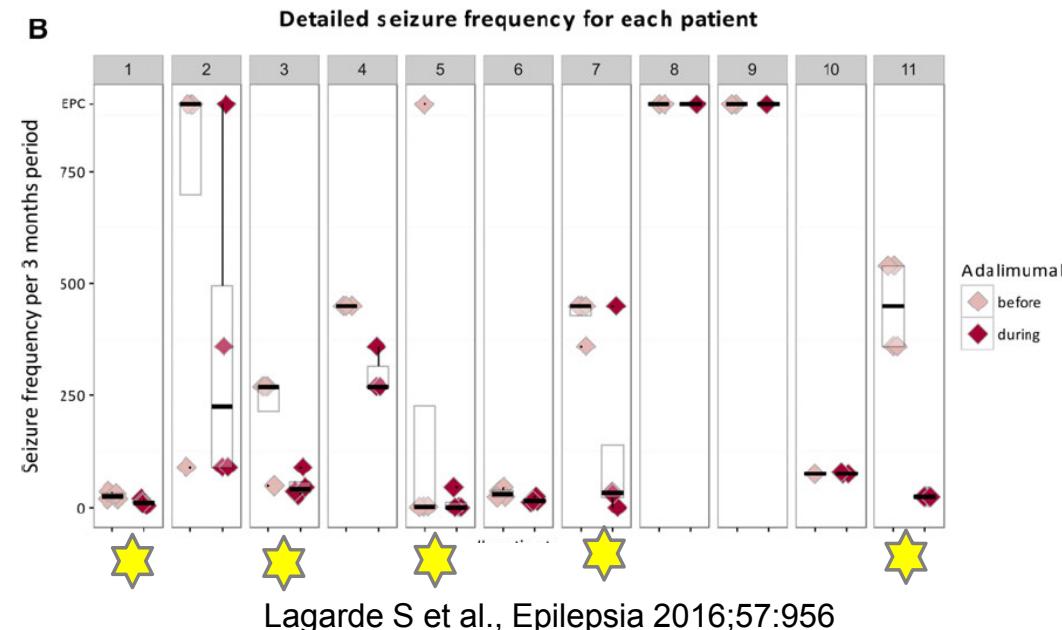
Prospektive Studie Tacrolimus (N=9) und IVIG (N=7)



Rasmussen encephalitis

Adalimumab (anti-TNF α)

- 11 patients open uncontrolled study: every 14 d: 24 mg/m² (max 40 mg)
- Disease onset: median 6,5 y (1.5-37 y)
- Disease duration: median 31 months (1 mo up to 16 y)
- Sz reduction in 5/11: all had slow disease progression

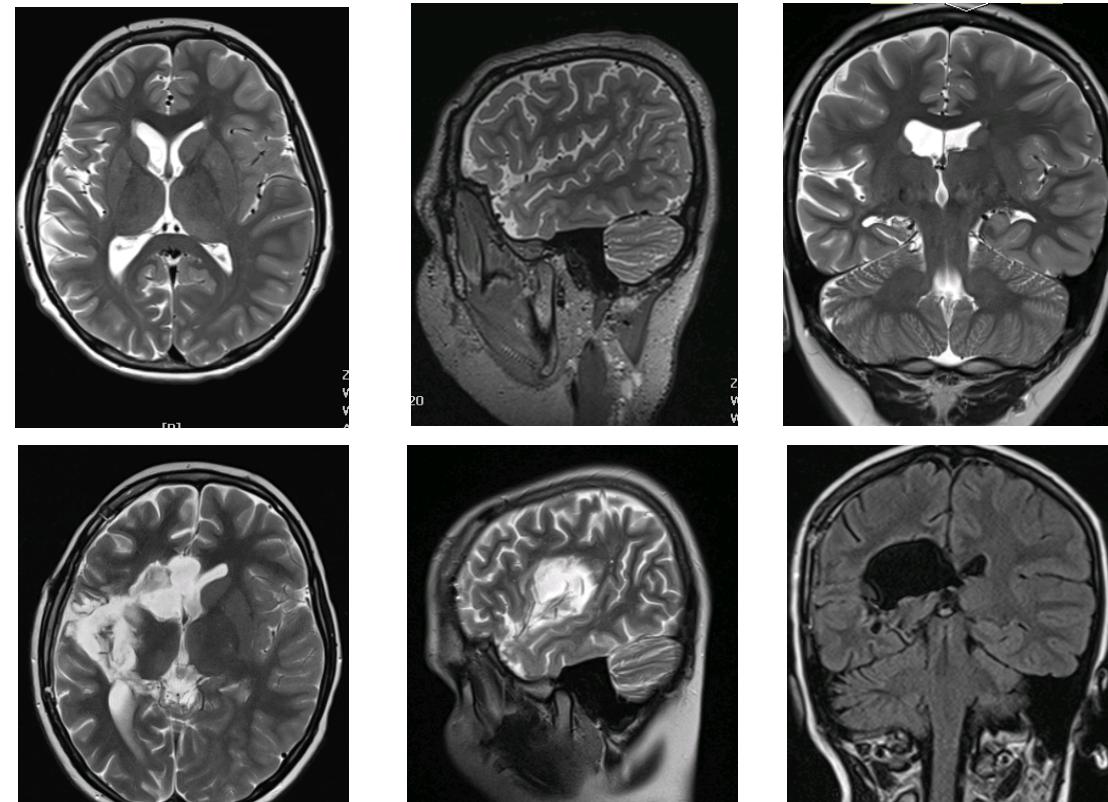


Rasmussen encephalitis

Bethel: modified periinsular hemispherotomy

Patient O., N. ♂, RE right hem,
manifestation age 5
Preoperative MRI
5 y after onset

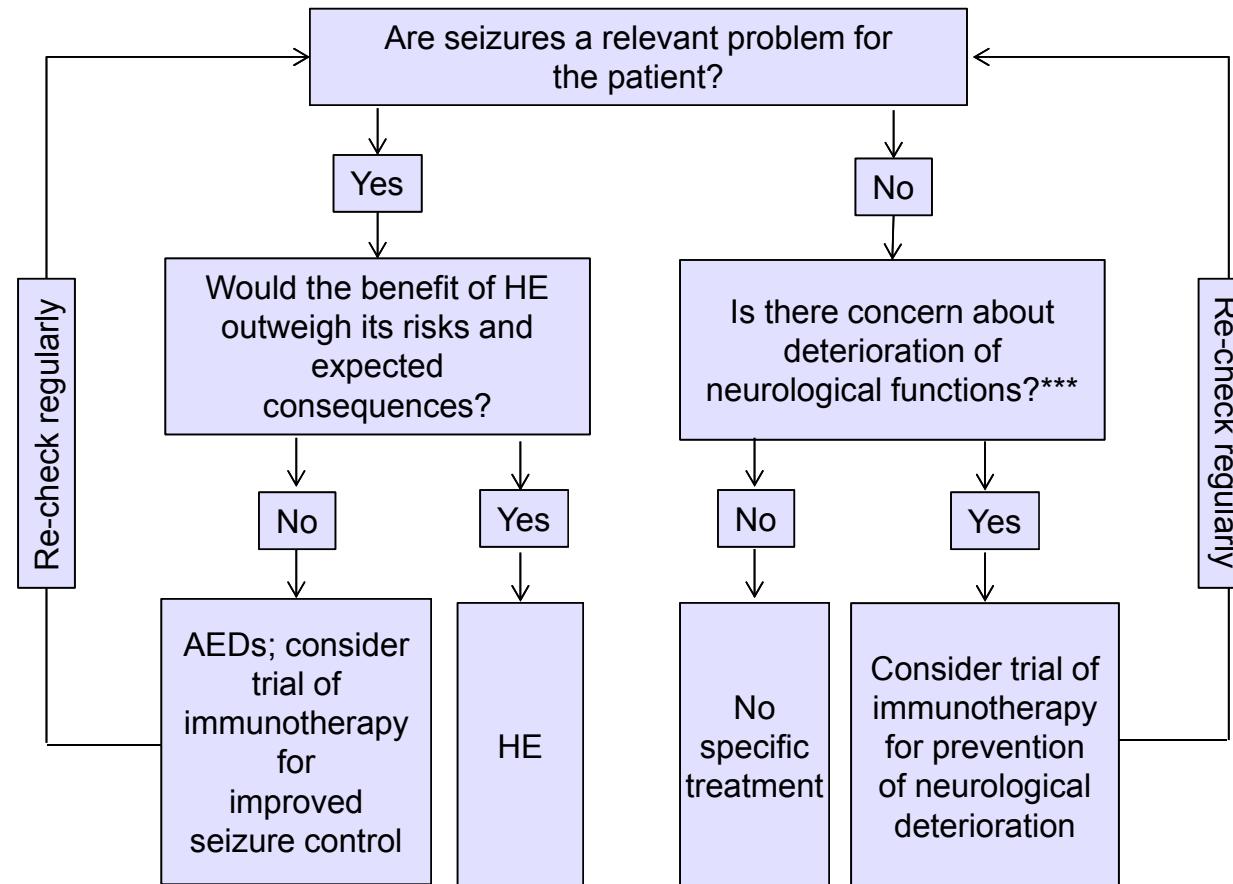
MRI 1 mo after surgery



2 y follow-up: Engel IA. No AED. No complication

Rasmussen encephalitis

Pathway treatment decisions



Rasmussen encephalitis

Summary

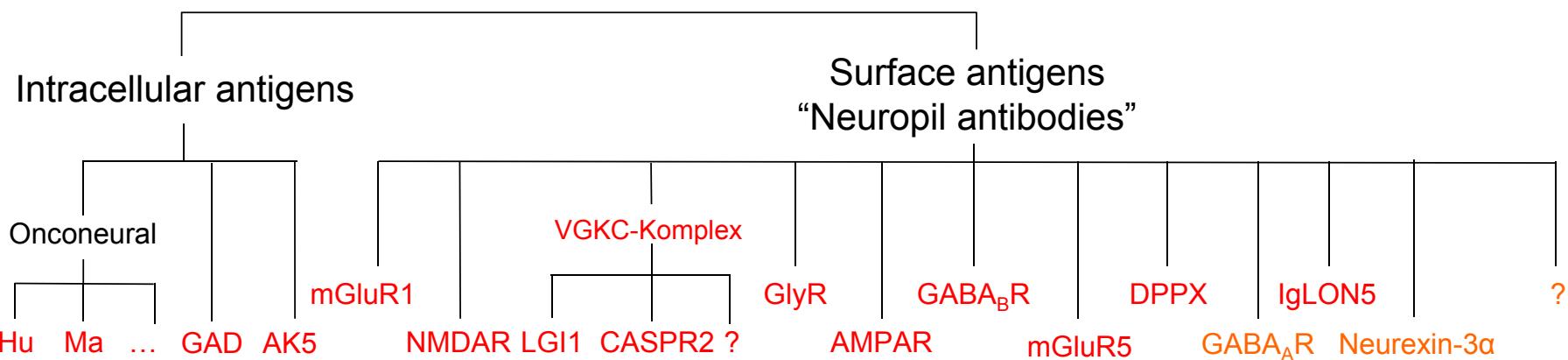
- Very good outcome of hemispherectomy/hemispherotomy (HE)
- No lasting effect of immunotherapies
- Patients with left-sided disease often atypically dominant*
- In patients with severe epilepsies, deterioration of motor functions as a consequence of HE may be justified.

Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

Pediatric antibody
associated autoimmune
encephalitides

Autoimmune encephalitides

Antigens of IgG antibodies



Publication	1980/90er	1990	2007	2000	2007	2010	2010	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014	2014	2016
Published Patients	>400	70	12	4	>700	160	120	100	35	75	4	27	35	8	5
Tumors	>90%	<10%	0%	100%	40%	10%?	<20%	10%	50%	50%	66%	0%	0%	0%	0%

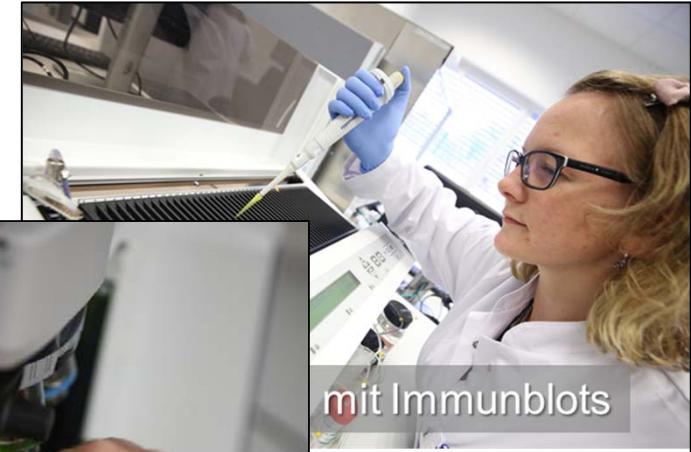
Modified from: Bien CG et al., Immunvermittelte Erkrankungen der grauen ZNS-Substanz sowie Neurosarkoidose,
 in: Leitlinien für Diagnostik und Therapie in der Neurologie, 5. Aufl., hrsg. v. Diener HC & Weimar C,
 Thieme: Stuttgart/New York, 2012, S. 476-487.

CG Bien: Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents. Buenos Aires, 13.09.2018

Krankenhaus **MARA**

Antibody diagnostics

Laboratory Krone, Bad Salzuflen



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Antibody associated encephalitides

Key messages

- The frequent auto-antibodies and autoimmune encephalitide can also be found in the pediatric population.
- The relative frequency is not much smaller than in the adult population.
- The most relevant pediatric antibody: anti-NMDA receptor. Very well treatable.

Experience with antibody testing

Patients

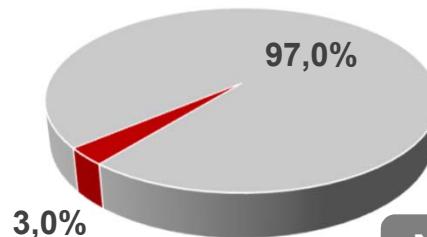
- **Samples** from the routine diagnostic service: The Mara and external senders
- **Period:** 1st Dec, 2011 - 31st Dec, 2015 (4 y 1 mo)
- **Patients:** N=10927
- **Materials:** Serum only: 44.0%, CSF only: 4.8%, CSF-serum pairs: 51.2%, all tested with cell based assays (biochips, Euroimmun/Lübeck)
- **Selection:** In cases with multiple samples, the first one was included
- **Additional tests** (not all patients): onconeural antibodies (immunoblot, Ravo, Freiburg, Germany), mouse brain IIF, VGKC complex ab (RIA, RSR Cardiff)

Experience with antibody testing

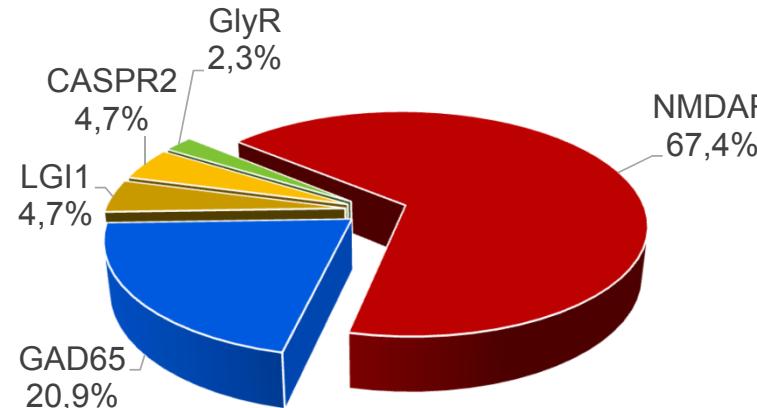
Patients with IgG antibodies 2011-2015 (4 y 1 mo)

Pediatric patients

■ Negative ■ Positive



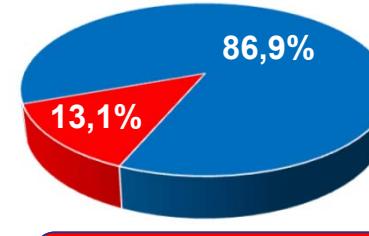
N=43



Preliminary results Antibody Lab Bethel

Patients tested

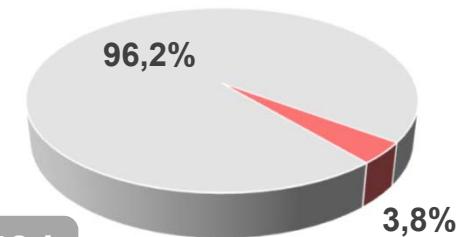
■ Adults ■ Pediatric patients



N=10927

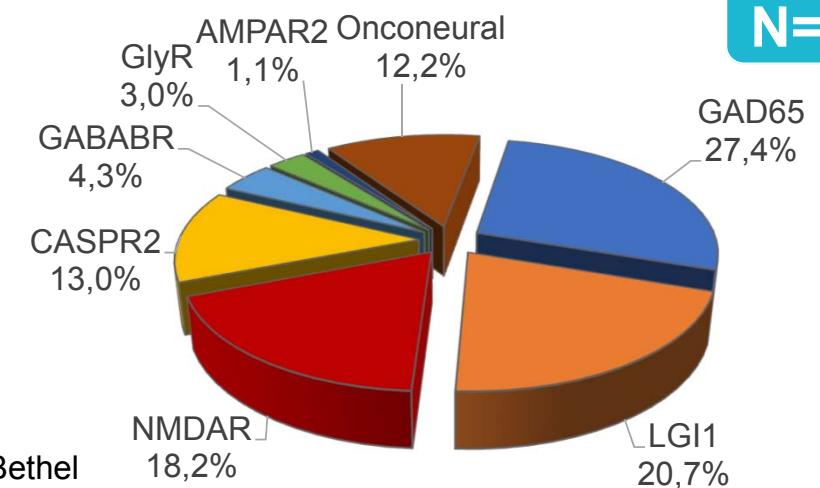
Adult patients

■ Negative ■ Positive



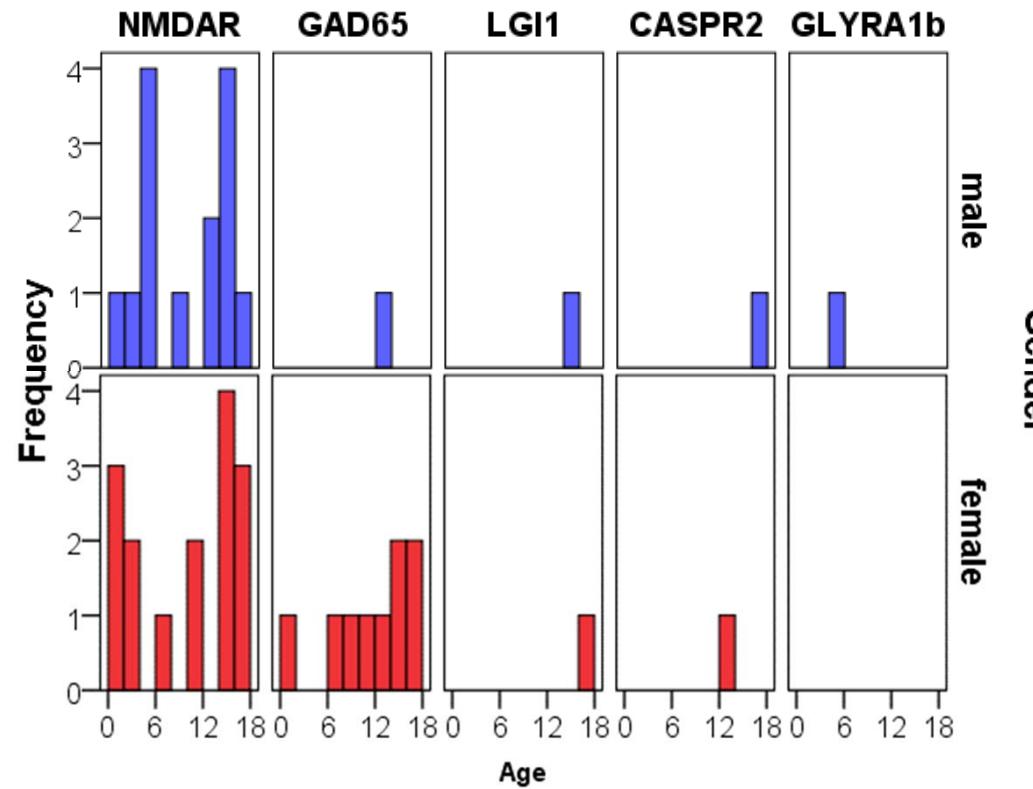
N=9501

N=359



Experience with antibody testing

Age and gender distribution



Autoimmune encephalitis

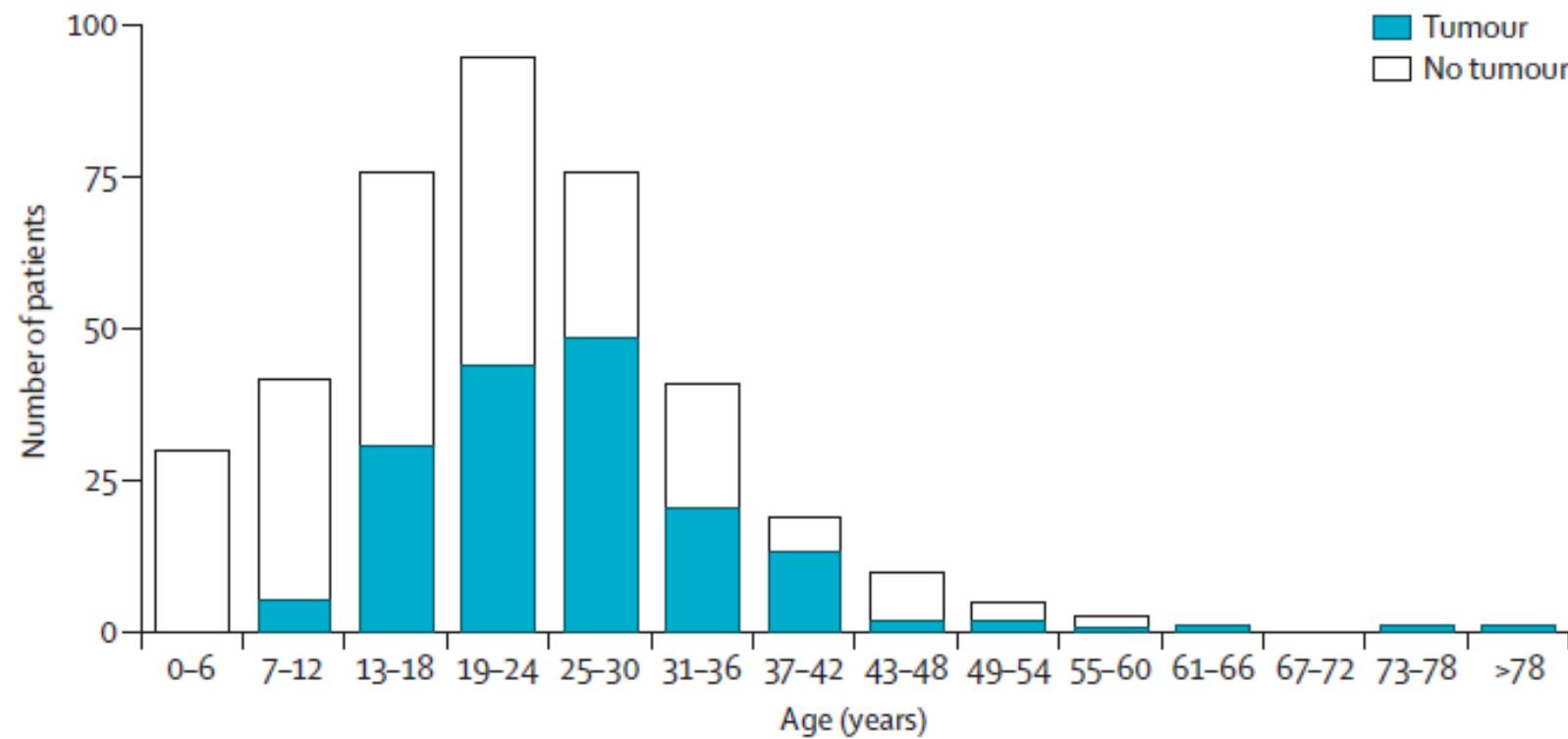
NMDAR antibodies

NMDAR antibodies Epidemiology

- ≤ 18y: 1 out of 1 mio persons per year*
- 80% of patients are female
- Paraneoplastic in ≈25% (ovarian teratoma)

Anti-NMDAR encephalitis

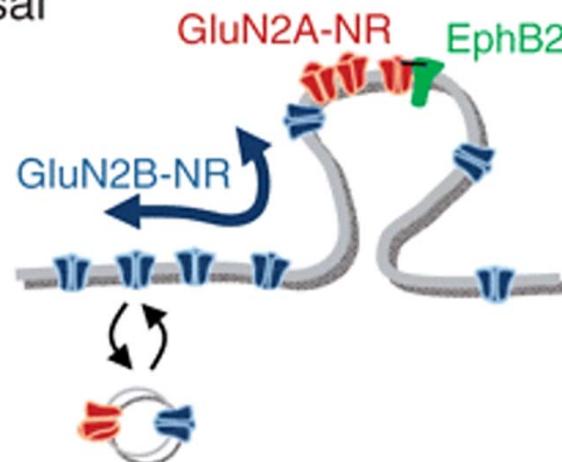
Age distribution



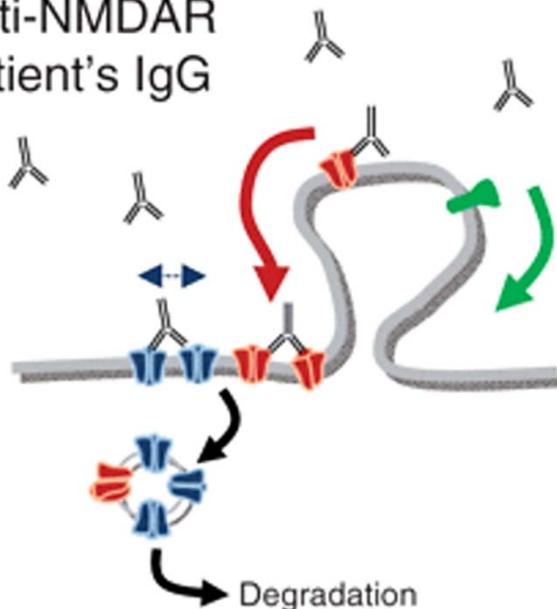
NMDAR antibodies

NMDAR abs lead to internalization of NMDAR

Basal

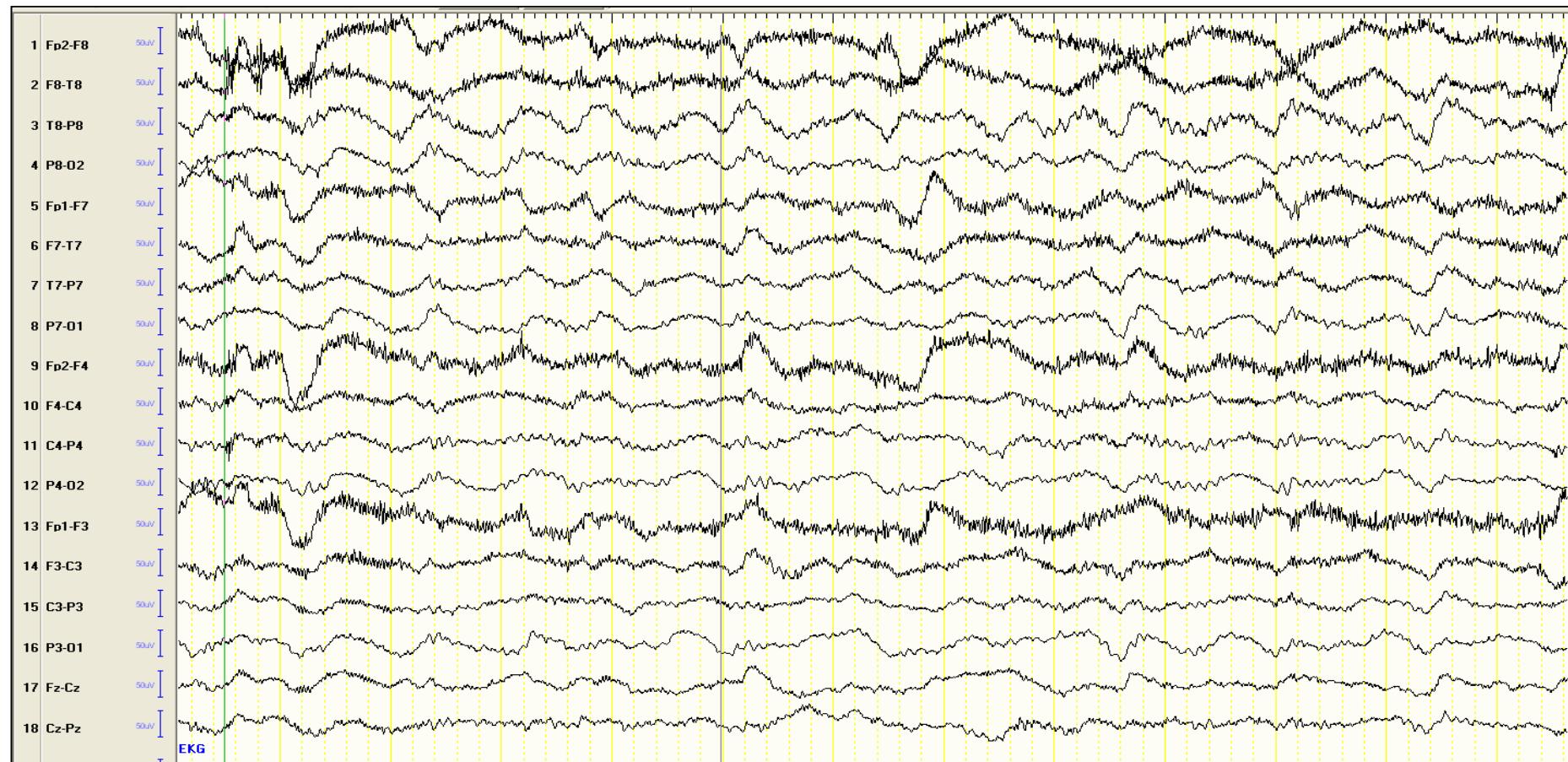


Anti-NMDAR
patient's IgG



Anti-NMDAR encephalitis

O., N. ♀ 24 y, NMDAR (NR1) antibodies: “Extreme delta brush“

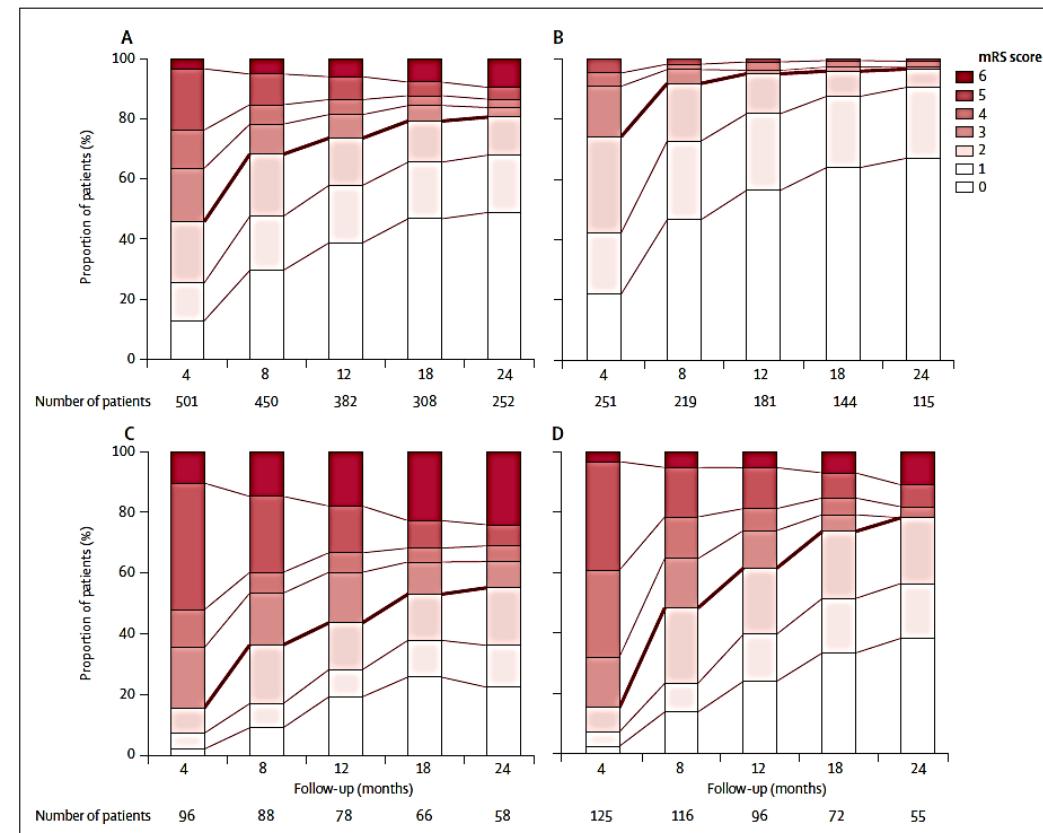


Anti-NMDAR encephalitis

Treatment-related outcome

All patients
N=501

Failed 1st line therapy,
no 2nd line
N=96



Response to 1st line therapy
N=251

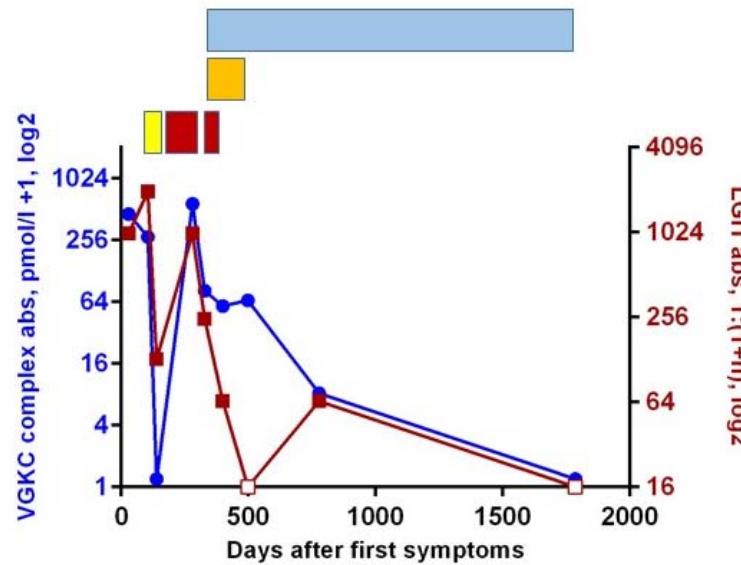
Failed 1st line,
received 2nd line
N=125

Autoimmune encephalitides

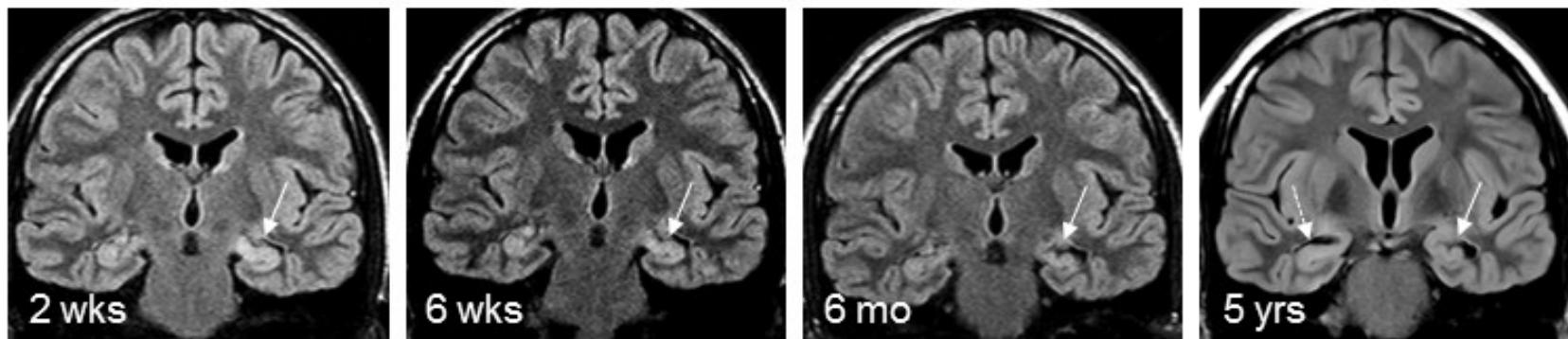
LGI1 antibodies

LGI1 antibodies

Patient K., R. ♂ 14 yrs, subacute memory loss



Yellow: methylprednisolone pulse
Red: plasma exchanges
Orange: oral prednisolone
Blue: mycophenolate mofetil



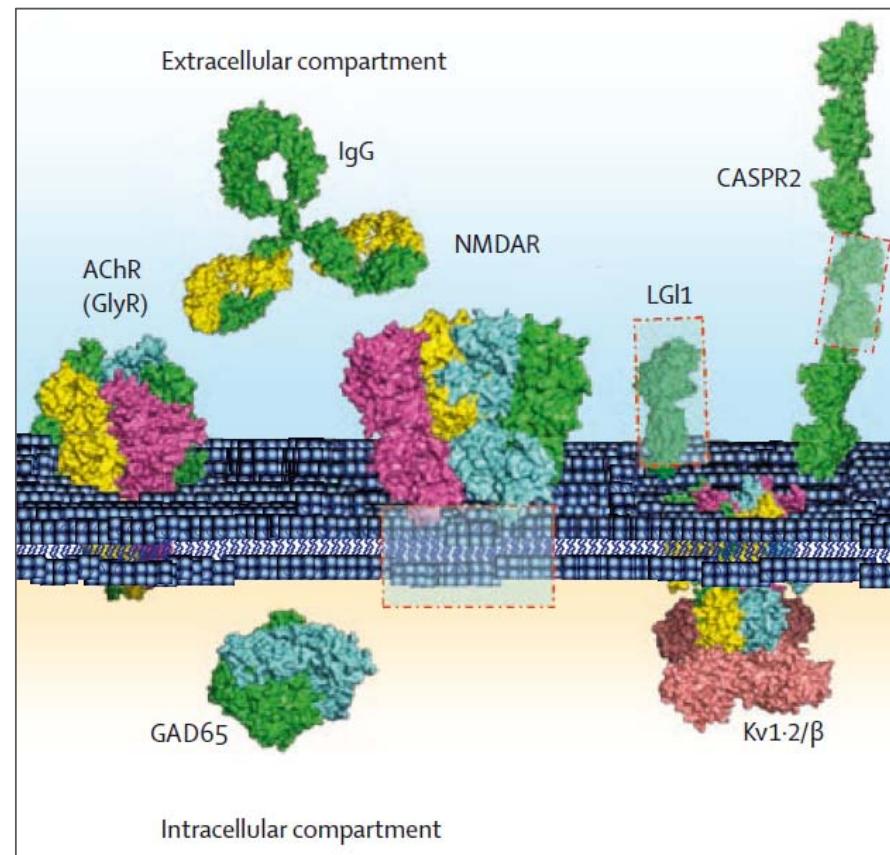
LGI1 antibodies

What is typical about this case?

- Prominent memory problems
- Good response to immunotherapy
- Antibodies go down
- Hippocampal sclerosis
- Remaining memory deficits

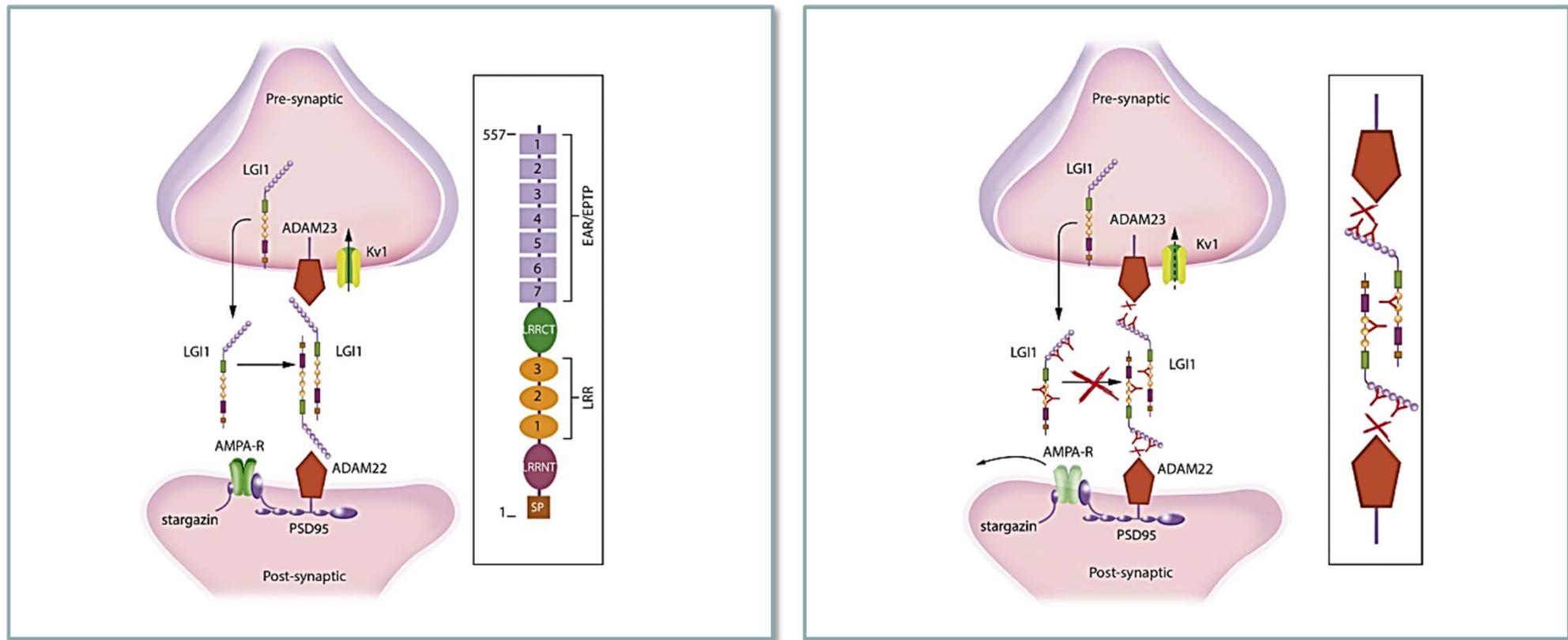
LGI1 antibodies

Soluble, secreted element of the potassium channel complex



LGI1 antibodies

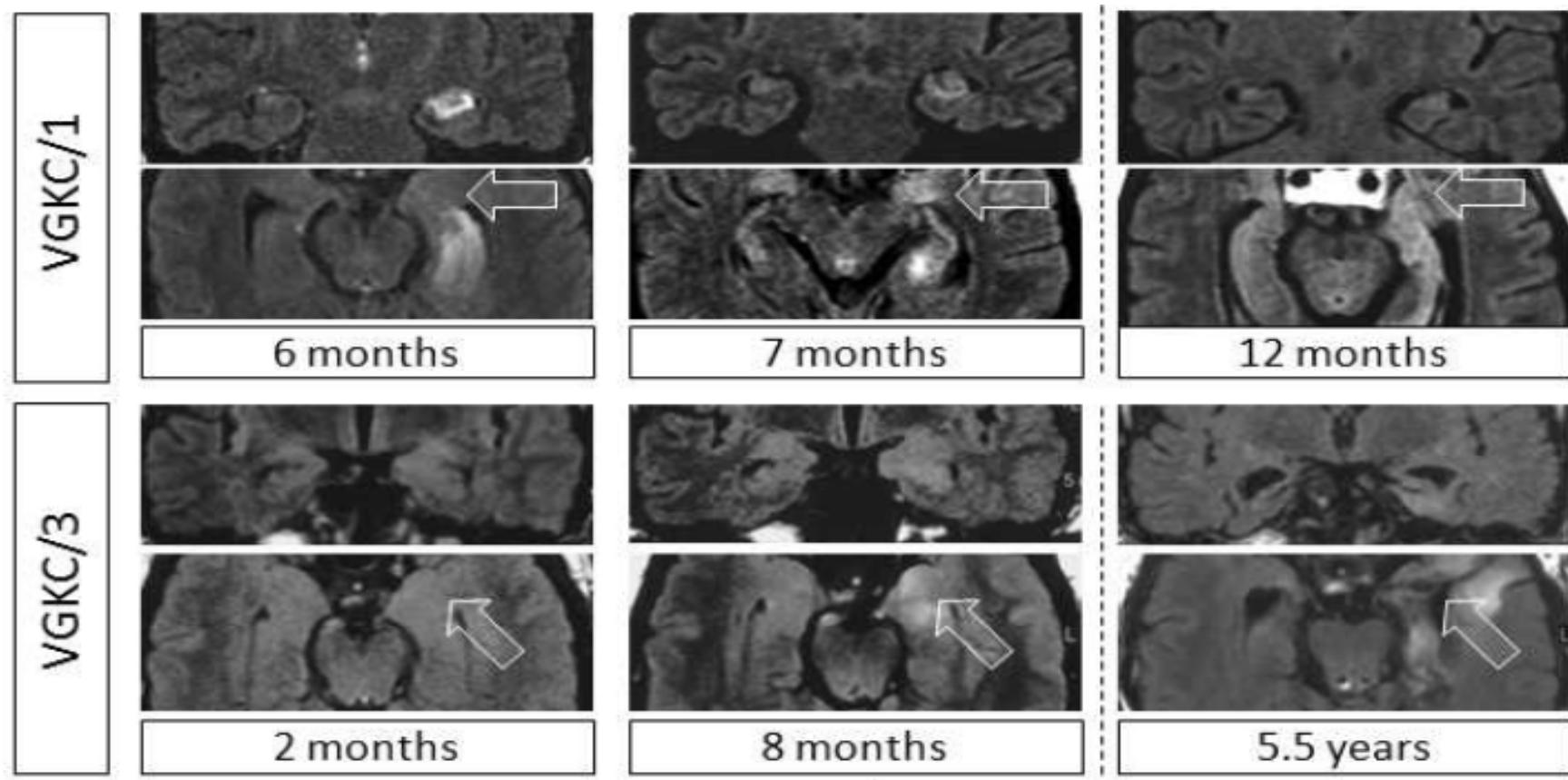
LGI1 abs disrupt transsynaptic protein complexes



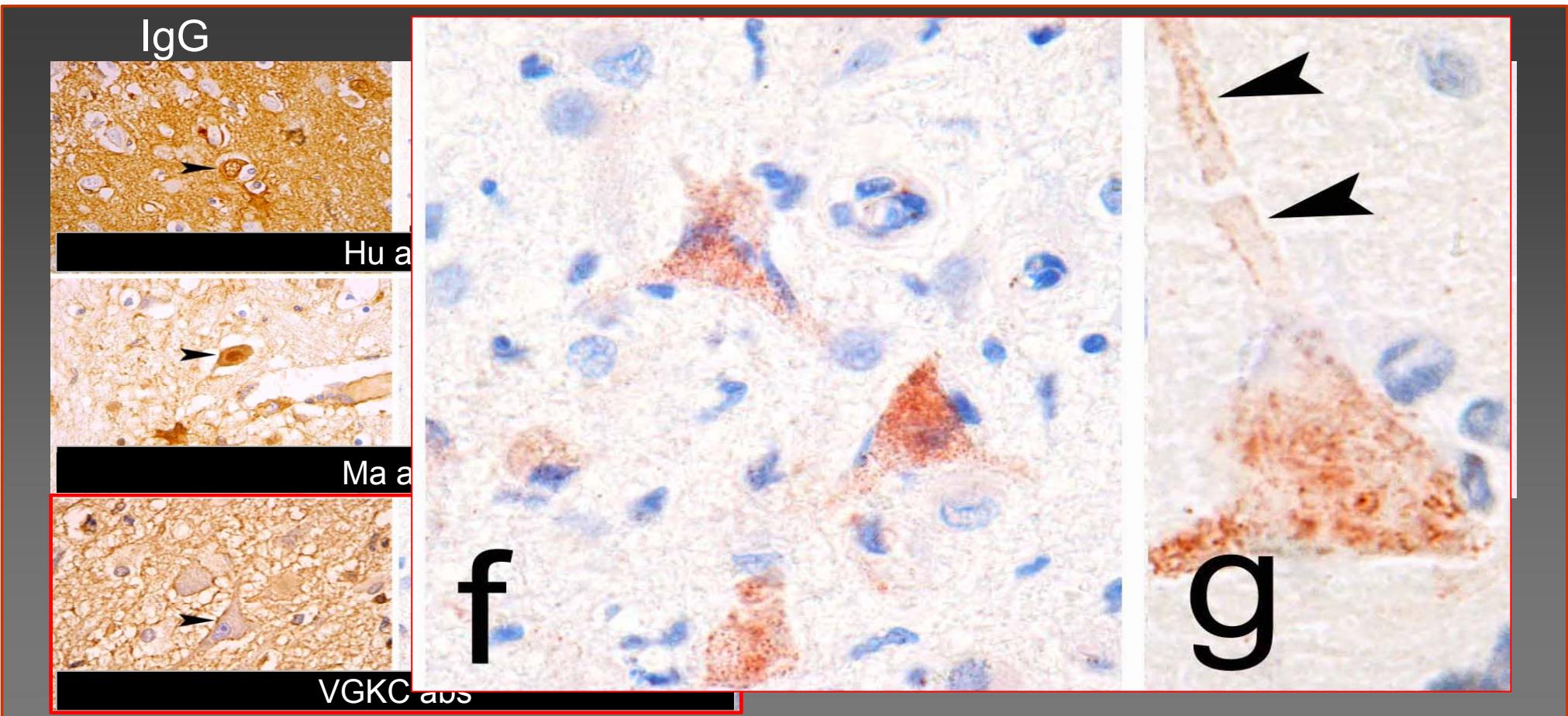
Loss of AMPARs: Does this explain seizures?

VGKC complex/LGI1 antibodies

Hippocampal atrophy

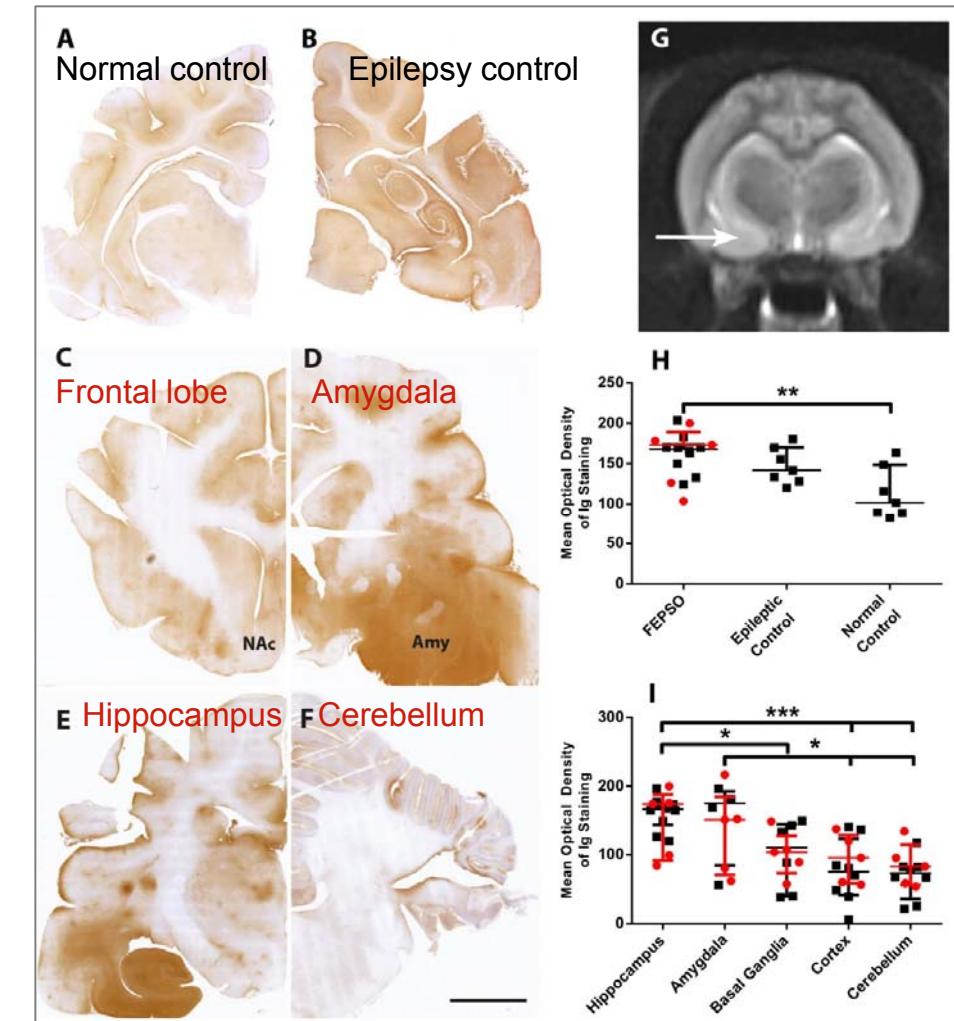
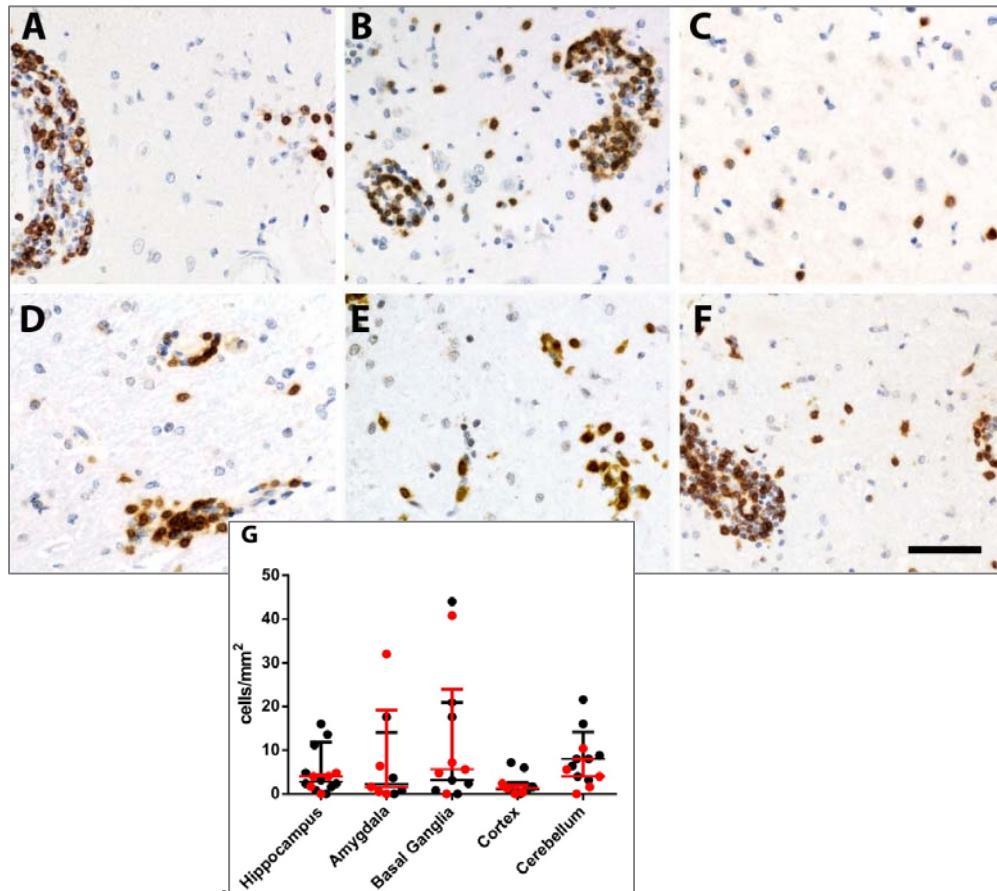


VGKC-Komplex-Antikörper IgG und Komplement (C9neo)



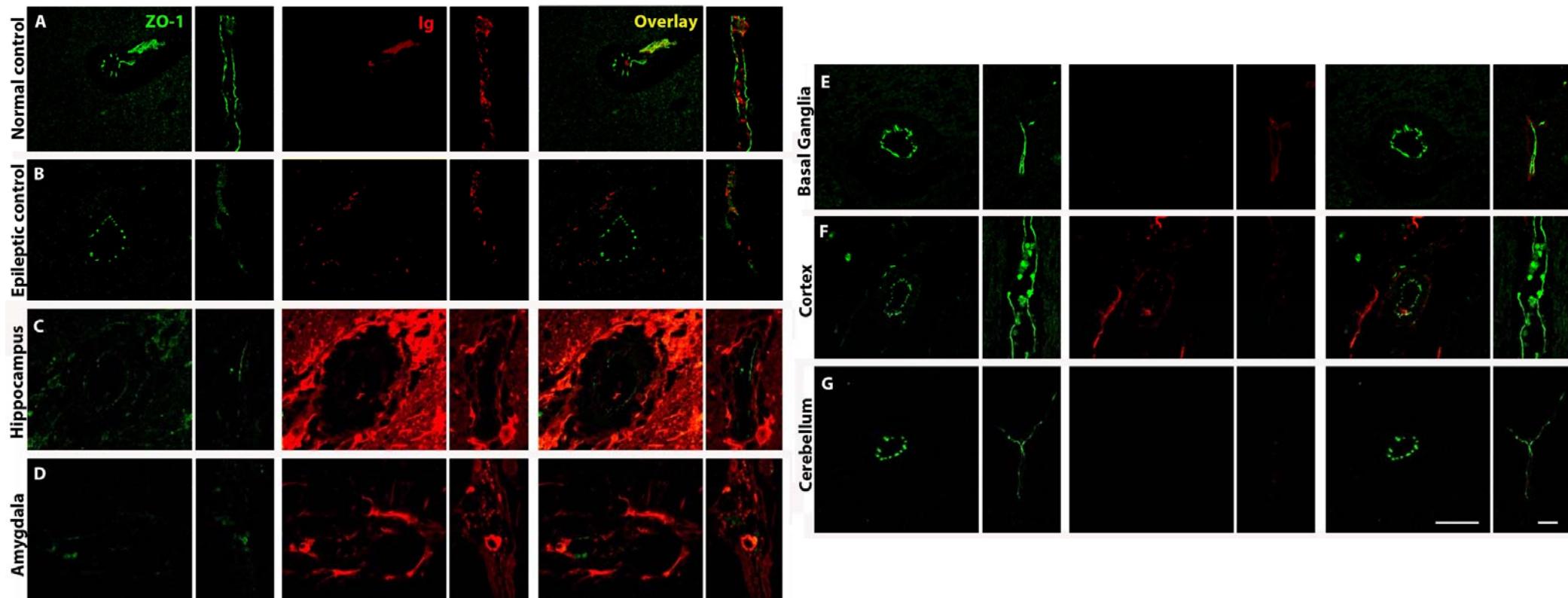
Encephalitis and blood brain barrier

Spontaneous cat model, LGI1 abs



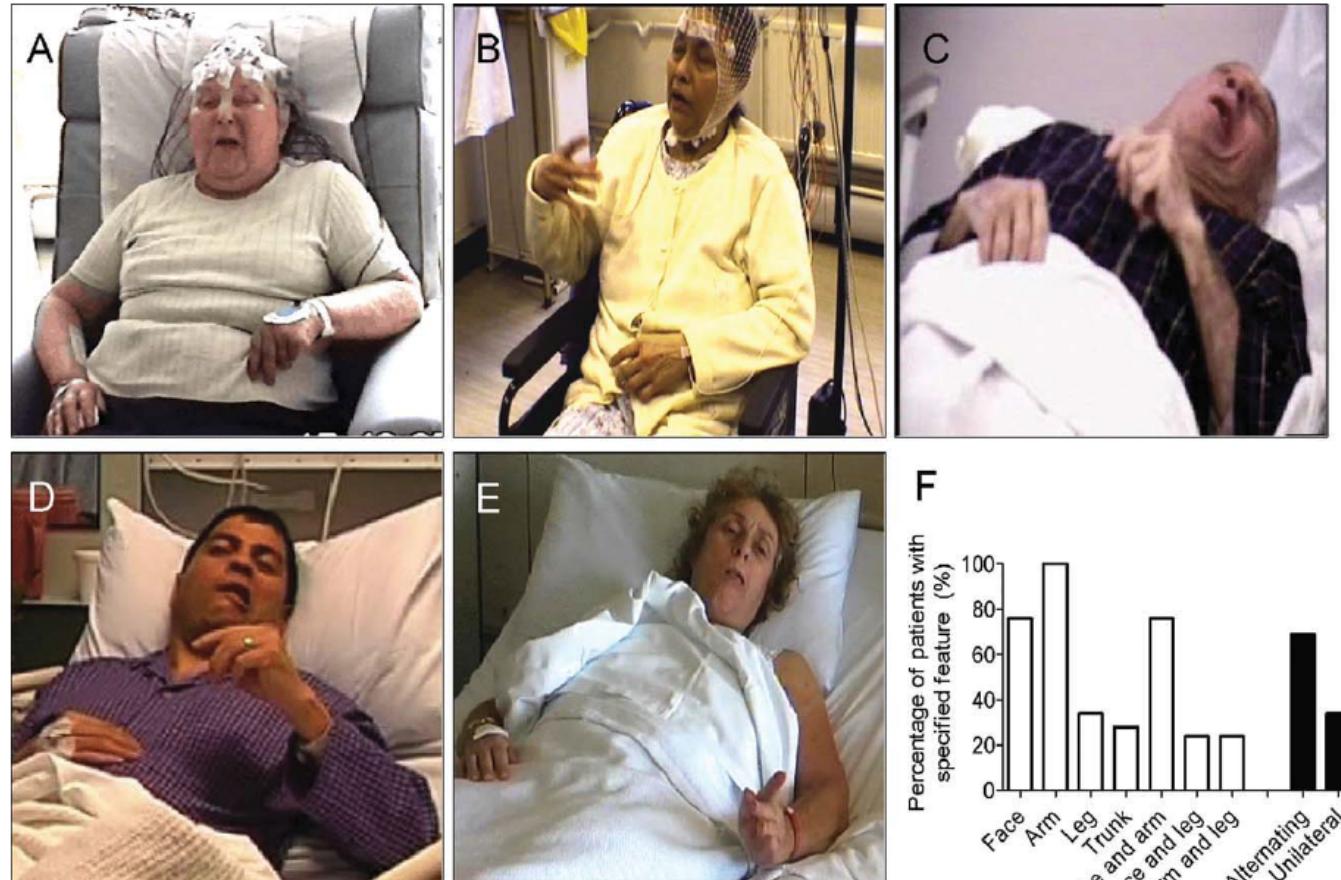
Bluthirnschranke bei Anti-LGI1-Enzephalitis

Spontanes Katzenmodell: löchrige Tight junctions



LGI1-Antikörper

Faciobrachiale dystone Anfälle

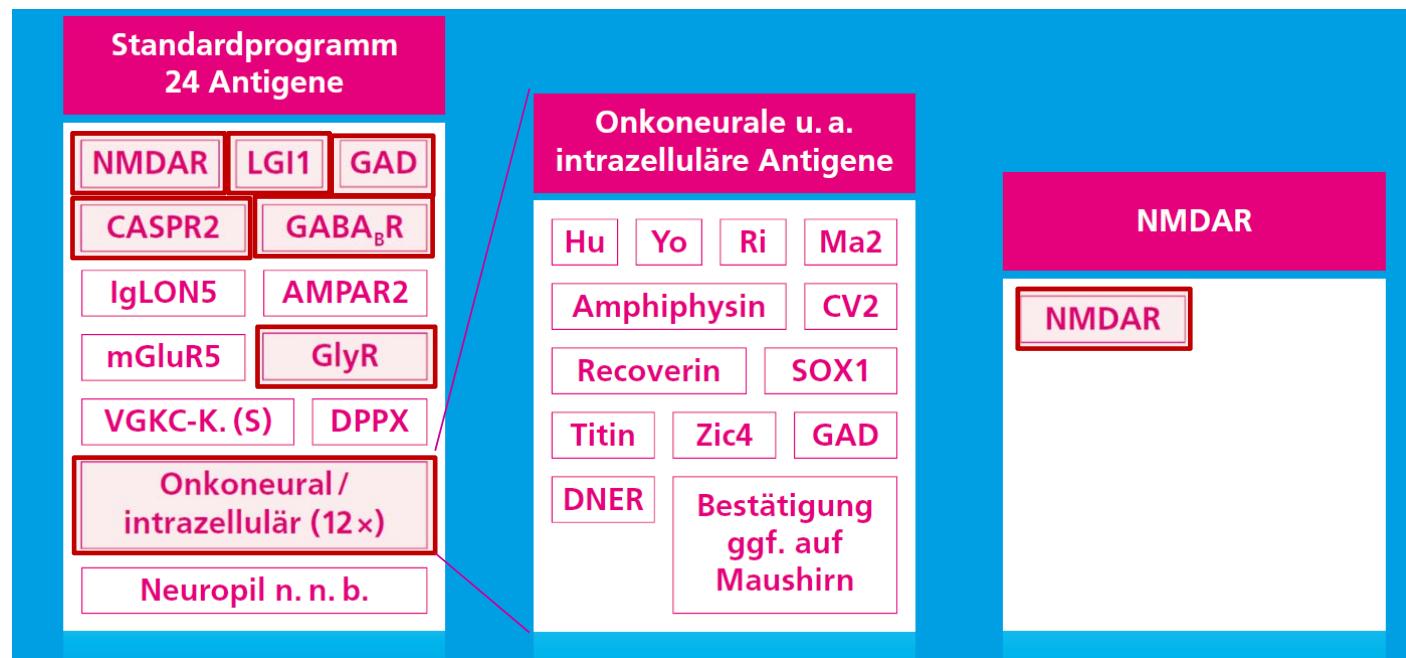


Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

Summary

Future perspectives

Antibody panel diagnostics



Autoimmune encephalitis in children and adolescents

Not so fruitful ↔ Promising

Routine testing in “standard syndromes” (epilepsies, psychoses ...)

Testing in patients with longstanding disorders

Serum only or CSF only tests*

Testing of single antibodies*

Testing only if standard CSF is abnormal

Testing of patients with complex neuro-psychiatric disorders

Subacute onset conditions

Testing Serum-CSF-pairs

Application of antigen panels

Immuno-therapy!

Bielefeld, Epilepsy Centre Bethel



Krankenhaus **MARA**

30 km apart: Bad Salzuflen



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Antibody research
laboratory

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Antibody diagnostic
laboratory

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