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SERUM ANTI-GQIb IgG ANTIBODY IS ASSOCIATED WITH OPHTHALMOPLEGIA IN MILLER FISHER SYNDROME AND GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME: CLINICAL AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL STUDIES

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To determine the significance of serum anti- GQ_{1b} IgG antibody, we studied the disease spectrum associated with this antibody and GQ_{1b} epitope in the human nervous system. We examined sera from 19 patients with typical Miller Fisher syndrome (MFS), five patients with acute postinfectious ophthalmoplegia without ataxia (atypical MFS), six patients with Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) with ophthalmoplegia (GBS-OP[+]), and 23 patients with GBS without ophthalmoplegia (GBS-OP[-]). We also examined sera from 84 patients with other neurologic or non-neurologic disorders and from 16 normal control subjects. Eighteen of the 19 patients with typical MFS, all the patients with atypical MFS, and five of the six patients with GBS-OP(+) had increased anti- GQ_{1b} IgG activity in ELISA, but none of the patients in the other groups, including GBS-OP(-), had it. All the patients' sera that had anti- GQ_{1b} IgG antibody showed anti- GQ_{1b} Induced antibody immunostained the paranodal regions of the extramedullary portion of the human oculomotor, trochlear, and abducens nerves. Biochemical analysis showed that the human oculomotor nerve contained a larger amount of GQ_{1b} than did the ventral and dorsal roots of the spinal cord. We conclude that serum IgG antibody against GQ_{1b} is very closely associated with acute postinfectious ophthalmoplegia in MFS and GBS.

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Comment from Richard M. Ransohoff, MD, Associate Editor: An early demonstration that antibody specificity correlated to clinical phenotype in GBS variants.



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