

Institut-Hôpital neurologique de Montréal

Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital

Lésions de la matière blanche : quand soupçonner un problème génétique

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Conflicts of Interest No conflicts of interest to be declared for this presentation

Research Funding

- Canadian Radiological Foundation
- Hoffman-La Roche Canada
- Fonds de Recherche en Santé du Quebec
- Tanenbaum Open Science Institute
- Rare Disease Foundation
 Speaking Honoraria
- Novartis





Outline of the presentation

- 1. Review of hereditary vascular white matter diseases
- 2. Useful hints for the diagnosis in the clinical practice
- 3. The challenge of identifying new entities



The Problem



Misinterpretation of **MRI** abnormalities is the most frequent cause of misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis of a genetic white matter disorder



normal WM



diffuse and symmetric = genetic



multifocal and asymmetric =





Images from#OpenShippice

The interpretation of **MRI** abnormalities is crucial to correctly classify white matter diseases



diffuse and symmetric = genetic



Frontal predominance

-Alexander disease -Metachromatic leukodystrophy



Infratentorial predominance

-Cerebrotendineous xanthomatosis -Adult-Autosomal Dominant Leukodystrophy



Occipital predominance

-Krabbe Disease -X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy





CADASIL



CARASIL



COL4A1-related

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multifocal and asymmetric = acquired



When to suspect a vascular white matter disease of genetic origin

- 1. Absence of risk factors for acquired cerebrovascular disorders
- 2. MRI findings can suggest specific forms



MRI Pattern Recognition



CADASIL Involvement of temporal poles and external capsules

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COL4A1-related disorders Calcifications Cortical malformations Enlarged perivascular spaces

Tonduti, La Piana et al., 2012

CADASIL Cerebral Autosomal Dominant Arteriopathy with Sub-cortical Infarcts and Leukoencephalopathy

- Autosomal dominant
- Mutations in the *NOTCH3* gene

Diagnostic challenges

- Relapsing course
- No migraine

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- No psychiatric symptoms
- No family history





When to suspect a vascular white matter disease of genetic origin

- 1. Absence of risk factors for acquired cerebrovascular disorders
- 2. MRI findings suggests specific forms
- 3. Extraneurological involvement can orient the diagnosis



COL4A1-related disorders

-Autosomal dominant (*de novo* in 27%)
-Clinically heterogeneous
-High intrafamilial variability in age of onset and presentation











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Mak and Mei, 2017

COL4A2-related disorders

Woman with cranial pain syndrome Low QI Cramps

Family history Negative Six younger siblings with higher cognitive functioning

Heterozygous COL4A2 mutation





Mutation of FOXC1 and PITX2 induces cerebral small-vessel disease

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FOXC1-related disorders

- Progressive hearing loss
- Eye abnormalities
- Cerebral small vessel
 disease



Axenfeld-Rieger Anomaly





Tabassum et al. to be submitted

Retinal Vasculopathy with Cerebral Leukodystrophy (RVCL)

Autosomal dominant mutations in *TREX1*

Retinal microangiopathy

Genetic endotheliopathy affecting multiple organs: eye, kidney, brain







Schuh et al., Neurology 2015



Useful reminders for the clinical practice

- Hereditary CSVD are underrecognized
- MRI features and patterns can narrow down the differential genetic diagnosis
- MRI alone may not be sufficient in identifying all genetic CSVD and there is a need to integrate genetic and clinical datasets



Undiagnosed vascular white matter diseases of genetic origin



32-year-old woman, migraine

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67-year-old woman, ataxia and vertigo. Same symptoms and MRI findings in the sister



47-year-old man, episodes of intracranial hemorrhage. Important family history for "sudden death".

White Matter Rounds

- Created in 2013
- Now an established monthly meeting
- Multidisciplinary team including MS clinicians and scientists,

neurogeneticists, imaging experts





TYPE Brief Research Report PUBLISHED 25 July 2022 DOI 10.3389/fneur.2022.928493

Check for updates

OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY Isabella Laura Simone, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

REVIEWED BY Federico Antonio, University of Siena, Italy Lifen Yang, Central South University, China

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SPECIALTY SECTION

This article was submitted to Neurogenetics, a section of the journal Frontiers in Neurology

RECEIVED 25 April 2022 ACCEPTED 30 June 2022 PUBLISHED 25 July 2022

CITATION

Huang YT, Giacomini PS, Massie R, Venkateswaran S, Trudelle A, Fadda G, Sharifian-Dorche M, Boudjani H, Poliquin-Lasnier L, Airas L, Saveriano AW, Ziller MG, Miller E, Martinez-Rios C, Wilson N, Davila J, Rush C, Longbrake EE, Longoni G, Macaron G, Bernard G, Tampieri D, Antel J, Brais B and La Piana R (2022)

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The White Matter Rounds experience: The importance of a multidisciplinary network to accelerate the diagnostic process for adult patients with rare white matter disorders

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Huang et al., Front Neurol 2022

Diagnostic Algorithm



Huang et al., Front Neurol 2022

Aims

1) To assess the **rate** of subjects with leukoencephalopathy of vascular origin in our cohort of genetic leukoencephalopathies

2) To identify **specific MRI patterns** that

- a. will orient the diagnosis
- b. will guide the genetic analysis in undiagnosed forms



Prevalence of vascular MRI patterns in our cohort





euro *candidate genes identified by WES in 2 subjects to be validated in other cohorts



Project Outline and Future Directions



Conclusions



Conclusions



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van der Knaap & Bugiani, Acta Pathol 2017

Acknowledgements



<u>WHITE Lab</u> Dr. Maryam Sharifian Shihan Shen Ruwan Bedeir Diana Casas Hanifa Hasan Justin Simo Jianyu Li

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Neuroimmunology Group Dr. J. Antel Dr. J-A. Stratton Dr. P. Giacomini Dr. A. Saveriano Dr. D. Rudko Dr. S. Narayanan Dr. D. Arnold Dr. A. Fournier

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The **Canadian** Radiological Foundation



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