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## Multifocal Motor Neuropathy

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Multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) is a chronic immune-mediated peripheral myelinopathy. The major clinical features include slowly progressive, painless, and asymmetric weakness, usually of distal limb muscle. Early in the course of the disease, weakness is not necessarily associated with muscle atrophy, owing to the initial primary involvement of peripheral myelin. Chronic progressive weakness is often associated with some degree of concurrent axonal loss and subsequent muscle atrophy. Sensory symptoms are usually mild or absent, and involvement of cranial and respiratory muscles is rare. The findings of multifocal motor conduction block, abnormal temporal dispersion, and focal conduction slowing at segments not at risk for common entrapment or compression injury, associated with normal sensory conduction studies along the same segments, are the hallmark electrophysiologic features of MMN.

The slow progression and absence of upper motor neuron signs are the major clinical points that separate MMN from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The role of GM1 antibodies, found in high titers in 22~84% of MMN patients, remains uncertain. The contention that MMN is an autoimmune disorder is largely based on the often dramatic improvement in symptoms following the administration of intravenous immunoglobulin or cyclophosphamide.

**Key Words :** Multifocal motor neuropathy, Conduction block

(fasciculation) (cramp)

1982 Lewis <sup>1</sup> (conduction block) 가 ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, 가 가

1988 Pestronk <sup>2</sup> (multifocal motor neuropathy, MMN) . MMN

(temporal dispersion), 가, 가

(intra venous immunoglobulin, IVIg) cyclophosphamide MMN (chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy, CIDP) <sup>6-8</sup>

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1.  
 MMN 50~100

ALS 1 가 MMN 3 10~70 가 MMN  
45 MMN 가 MMN  
~30 7.5 (safety factor)가<sup>3,13,17,18</sup>  
MMN (glycolipid)  
가 (biceps) 가 MMN  
(twitching) 2,19,20  
(numbness) (tingling) 21-24 MMN  
3,9,10 25 GM1 26,27 MMN  
cutaneous) (muscle 가 20,28  
(bulk) MRC 4 (phrenic) MMN 29 가  
(myokymia) (stretch reflex) 가 GM1 26  
가 가 (clonus), GM1 ganglioside  
Babinski MMN K<sup>+</sup> 가 Na<sup>+</sup>  
3,8,9,11-13 가 31  
(myelitis) 14,15 (marker) GM1 MMN  
MMN 가 GM1  
(recruitment) 32 GM1 MMN  
33 Kaji 34 MMN 가  
(hypertrophy) 16 가  
2. MMN 3. MMN 가 (entrapment)  
cyclophosphamide CIDP (seg-  
mental) 10%  
가 (mixed) 가 (trunk) 가 (fascicle) 가 가

가 Erb -

가 F

가 F

가 4,29

MAP

Nobile-Orazio<sup>18</sup> (area) 40%

(peak) Feldman<sup>35</sup> 가 15% 30%

Chaudhry<sup>21</sup> Lange 가 15%

36

50%

가

가 37

(wallerian degeneration) 가 38,39

pound muscle action potential, CMAP) MMN (com- MMN 1

가 MMN 가 CMAP 4.

(interphase cancellation)가 MMN IgM 22~84% GM1 19,37

CMAP

inching 가 MMN GM1

가 M 가 MMN GM1

가 MMN GM1 가

(supramaximal) GM1 가 MMN

가 3 (Table 1)<sup>3,4,42</sup>

가 MRI (CK) 가

43,44 가 가 3

1 MMN MMN

45 MMN

가 (onion-bulb) 가 MMN 가<sup>46,47</sup>  
 5. (Table 2)<sup>42</sup>  
 MMN CIDP MMN 1982 Lewis<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1.** GM1 antibodies in multifocal motor neuropathy

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- Multifocal motor neuropathy is a peripheral nerve disorder associated with GM1 antibodies in ~50% of cases.
- Partial motor conduction block, not GM1 antibodies, establishes a diagnosis of multifocal motor neuropathy in the appropriate clinical setting.
- Patients with multifocal motor neuropathy may respond to treatment in the absence of GM1 antibodies.
- Lower motor neuron syndromes are distinct from multifocal motor neuropathy and may be associated with GM1 antibodies; immunosuppressive therapy for lower motor neuron syndromes must be considered experimental.

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**Table 2.** Proposed diagnostic criteria for multifocal motor neuropathy

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Clinical criteria

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1. Slowly progressive or stepwise limb weakness
2. Asymmetrical limb weakness
3. Number of affected limb regions < 7. Limb regions are defined as upper arm, lower arm, upper leg, or lower leg on both sides (maximum of 8)
4. Decreased or absent tendon reflexes in affected limbs
5. Signs and symptoms are more pronounced in upper limbs than in lower limbs
6. Age at onset of disease: 20~65 years
7. No objective sensory abnormalities except for vibration sense
8. No bulbar signs or symptoms
9. No upper motor neuron features
10. No other neuropathies (eg, diabetic, lead, porphyric or vasculitic neuropathy; chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy; Lyme neuroborreliosis; postradiation neuropathy; hereditary neuropathy with liability to pressure palsies; Charcot-Marie-Tooth neuropathies; meningeal carcinomatosis)
11. No myopathy (eg, facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, inclusion body myositis)

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Laboratory criteria

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1. CSF protein < 1 g/L
2. Elevated anti-GM1 antibodies
3. Increased signal intensity on T2-weighted MRI scans of the brachial plexus

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Electrodiagnostic criteria

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1. Definite motor CB: CMAP area reduction on proximal versus distal stimulation of at least 50% over a long segment (between Erb's point and axilla, upper arm, lower arm, lower leg) or a CMAP amplitude reduction on proximal versus distal stimulation of at least 30% over a short distance (2.5 cm) detected by inching.  
 CMAP amplitude on stimulation of the distal part of the segment with motor CB of at least 1 mV.
2. Probable motor CB: CMAP amplitude reduction on proximal versus distal stimulation of at least 30% over a long segment of an arm nerve. CMAP amplitude on stimulation of the distal part of the segment with motor CB of at least 1 mV.
3. Slowing of conduction compatible with demyelination: MCV < 75% of the lower limit of normal. DML of shortest F wave latency > 130% of the upper limit of normal or absence of F waves all after 16~20 stimuli. CMAP amplitude on distal stimulation of at least 0.5 mV.
4. Normal sensory nerve conduction in arm segments with motor CB.  
 Normal SNAP amplitudes on distal stimulation

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Definite MMN	I 1-11	and	II 1	and	III 1 + 4
Probable MMN	I 1-3, 6-11	and	II 1	and	III 2 + 4
Possible MMN	I 1, 7-11	and	II 2 or 3	or	III 3 + 4

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CSF=cerebrospinal fluid; CB=conduction block;  
 CMAP=compound muscle action potential; MCV=motor conduction velocity;  
 DML=distal motor latency; SNAP=sensory nerve action potential.

가  
ALS MMN 가  
IgM GM1 가 가  
MMN

IVIg cyclophosphamide  
<sup>21,48</sup> Van den Berg-Vos MMN  
<sup>42</sup> (definite), (probable), 가 (decom-  
(possible) MMN pression)  
<sup>55</sup> MMN

6. 가  
hexosaminidase A , , MMN (multifocal acquired motor axo-  
MMN 가 nopathy)  
<sup>8,21,49</sup> 가 IVIg <sup>56</sup>  
MMN 가 CIDP

7. MMN pred-  
nisone, azathioprine, chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide,  
IVIg 가  
Saperstein <sup>51</sup> CIDP CIDP pred-  
nisone MMN 가  
<sup>3,19,57-60</sup> MMN <sup>61,62</sup>

Lewis-Sumner MMN  
Saperstein <sup>52</sup> CIDP  
MMN ,  
(multifocal acquired demyelinating sensory  
and motor neuropathy) ,  
<sup>63</sup> azathioprine 4 1  
가 <sup>13,21,64</sup>  
(distal acquired demyelinating symmetric neu-  
ropathy) (Table 3).<sup>52</sup> 가  
phamid가 MMN 50~80%  
<sup>4,65,66</sup> 100~150  
ALS MMN mg 1~3 g/M2 6  
cyclophosphamide MMN  
MMN  
ALS 가,  
<sup>3</sup> 가  
가 가 3~6 가  
cyclophosphamide MMN

ALS 가 MMN <sup>19</sup> chlorambucil  
<sup>3,8,21</sup> ALS  
<sup>45</sup> 가 MMN 가 IVIg  
(myotome) 가 2 g/kg 2~5  
가

**Table 3.** Comparison of chronic acquired immune-mediated demyelinating polyneuropathies

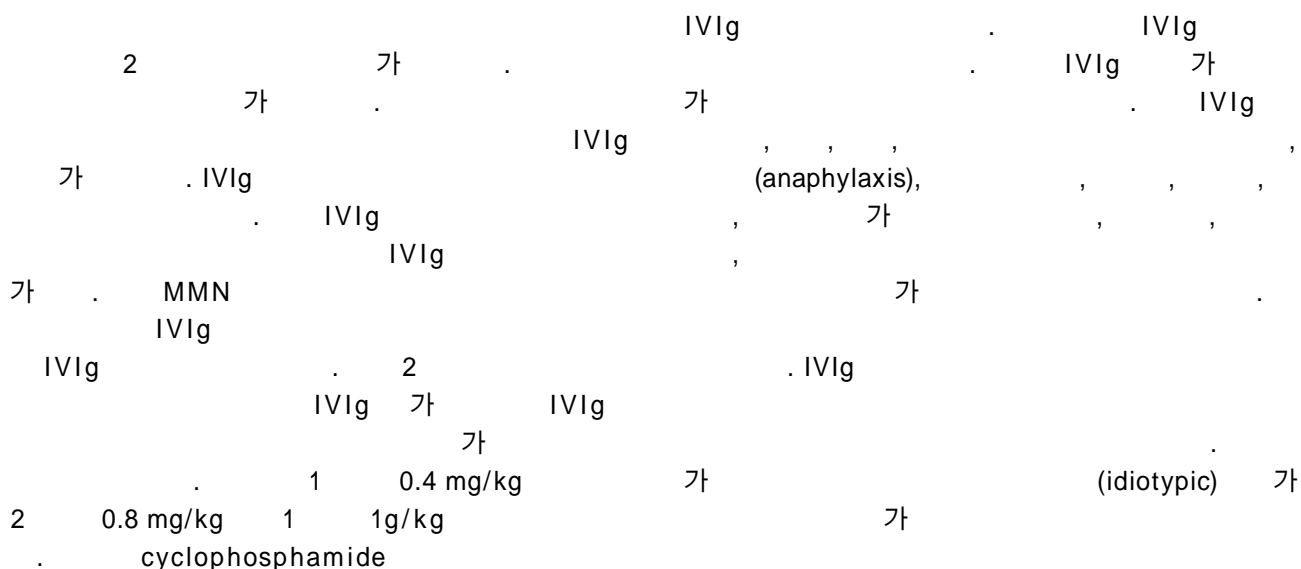
	CIDP	DADS neuropathy	MADSAM neuropathy	MMN
<b>Clinical features</b>				
Weakness	Symmetric; proximal+distal	Symmetric; distal only; mild or no weakness	Asymmetric; distal >proximal upper limbs >lower limbs	Asymmetric; distal >proximal; upper limbs >lower limbs
Sensory deficits	Symmetric	Symmetric	Multifocal (distribution of individual nerves)	Absent
Reflexes	Reduced or absent symmetrically	Reduced or absent symmetrically	Reduced or absent (multifocal or diffuse)	Reduced or absent (multifocal or diffuse)
<b>Electrophysiology</b>				
Abnormal CMAPs				
Demyelinating features	Usually symmetric	Usually symmetric Prolonged distal latencies	Asymmetric (multifocal)	Asymmetric (multifocal)
Conduction block	Frequent	Uncommon	Frequent	Frequent
Abnormal SNAPs	Usually symmetric	Usually symmetric	Asymmetric (multifocal)	SNAPs are normal
<b>Laboratory Findings</b>				
CSF protein	Usually elevated	Usually elevated	Usually elevated	Usually normal
M-protein	Occasionally present; usually IgG or IgA	IgM- present in the majority; 50~70% are MAG-positive	Rarely present	Rarely present
Anti-GM1 Ab	Rarely present	Not present	Rarely present	Frequently present (50%)
Sensory nerve biopsy; demyelination/ remyelination	Frequent	Frequent	Frequent;  sometimes asymmetric	Occasional;  minimal findings
<b>Treatment response</b>				
Prednisone	Yes	Poor*	Yes	No
Plasma exchange	Yes	Poor*	Possible (more study needed)	No
IVIg	Yes	Poor*	Yes	Yes
Cyclophosphamide	Yes	Poor*	Possible (more study needed)	Yes

CIDP=chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy; DADS=distal acquired demyelinating symmetric

MADSAM= multifocal acquired demyelinating sensory and motor; MMN=multifocal motor neuropathy

CMAP=compound muscle action potential; SNAP=sensory nerve action potential

\* when associated with an IgM-MGUS (treatment responses in DADS neuropathy patients without a MGUS are more similar to those with CIDP).



**Table 4.** Differential diagnosis of multifocal motor neuropathy

	Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Multifocal Motor Neuropathy
ANATOMICAL			
	Sensory-motor myelinopathy	Motor neuronopathy	Motor myelinopathy
CLINICAL FEATURES			
Age of onset (Sex)	All ages (M>F, 1.5:1)	Fifth-sixth decade (M>F, 2:1)	15~60 yr (M>F, 3:1)
Weakness	Symmetrical	Asymmetrical	Asymmetrical onset; remains asymmetrical
Distribution	Sensory & motor nerves Proximal >distal lower>upper limbs	Myotomes Onset distal >proximal bulb, lower limbs, upper limbs, respiratory	Motor nerves Distal >proximal upper > lower limbs
Progression	Insidious	Rapidly progressive; fatal in 3~5 yr	Stepwise/insidious; some functional limitation
Fasciculations/Cramps	Uncommon	Very common	Common
Reflexes	Reduced/absent	Pathologically active	Asymmetrically reduced
ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY			
SNAP amplitude	Absent or reduced	Normal	Normal
CMAP amplitude	Reduced	Reduced	Reduced or normal
Partial motor conduction block	May be present	Absent	Present and localizable to small segments
Motor conduction velocity	May be markedly reduced; multiple segments of multiple nerves	Normal or mildly reduced	May be markedly reduced, but only focally in segments with partial motor conduction block
Fibrillations/PSW	Symmetrical + to ++	Widespread ++++	Localized - to ++
OTHER LABORATORY FINDINGS			
CSF protein	Increased	Normal	Normal
Anti-GM1 antibodies	Negative or slightly increased	Negative or slightly increased	Moderate or markedly increased
Paraproteins	May be present	Rare	May be present
Sural nerve biopsy	Inflammation demyelination and remyelination	Normal	Minor evidence of demyelination and remyelination
TREATMENT			
	Plasma exchange, prednisone, azathioprine, cyclosporine, intravenous immunoglobulin	Riluzole	Intravenous immunoglobulin cyclophosphamide
Time to response	Slow-weeks to months	?years	Dramatic-over days
Prognosis	May remit, relapse, or slowly progress	Invariably progressive and fatal	Remains focal-slow progression over many years
PATHOPHYSIOLOGY			
	Immune-mediated	?Excitotoxic, free radical, oxidative stress, & cytotoxic	Possibly immune-mediated

SNAP=sensory nerve action potentials; CMAP=compound muscle action potential; PSW=positive sharp wave; CSF=cerebrospinal fluid

. IVIg  
 GM1  
 3,9,11,21,22,29,67-70  
 8.  
 MMN 1982  
 MMN  
 IVIg cyclophosphamide 가  
 18,71  
 MMN  
 가  
 가  
 가  
 MMN GM1  
 MMN CIDP  
 가

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