Brain tissue-derived autoimmune encephalitis cytokine TSLP primes neuroinflammation by activating JAK2-NLRP3 axis

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Abstract

Hyperactivation of NLRP3 inflammasome contributes to the neuroinflammation in autoimmune disorders, but the underlying regulating mechanism remains to be elucidated. We here demonstrate that mice lacking thymic stromal lymphopoietin receptor gene (Tslpr-/-) exhibit significant decreases in experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE) score, reduced CD4+ T cells infiltration, and restored expression of myelin basic protein (MBP) in the brain after induction of EAE by injection of myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein35-55 (MOG35-55) . TSLPR signals through Janus Kinase 2 (JAK2) to activate NLRP3. Tslpr-/-mice of EAE show decreased phosphorylation of JAK2 and expression of NLRP3 in the brain. In wild type (WT) mice after induction of EAE, inhibition of JAK2 by ruxolitinib inflammatory and CD4+ cell infiltration, decreased expression of NLRP3, and restored BMP expression in the brain. Ruxolitinib also decreased levels of IL-1 β and TSLP in brain of EAE mouse when compared to that without ruxolitinib treatment. Further results with NLRP3 inhibitor MCC950 in EAE mouse of WT verified the proinflammatory role of NLRP3 by showing decreased inflammatory cells and CD4+ T cells, restored MBP expression, and declined levels of IL-1 β and TSLP in the brain. In patients with anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAR) encephalitis we found increased level of NLRP3 and IL-1 β in CSF when compared to that in control subjects. These findings highlight TSLP as a prospective target for treating JAK2-NLRP3 axis-associated autoimmune inflammatory disorders.

Introduction

Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), mediated by myelin-specific autoreactive T-helper cells, is a classical animal model of autoimmune encephalitis, such as anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NM-DAR) encephalitis, which manifested with typical demyelination and neurodegeneration-associated symptoms ¹. Although drugs targeting several immunological pathways have shown beneficial effects in patients with demyelinating disease, no cure is currently available ².

Nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich repeat containing protein family, pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3) and the IL-1 β pathway have show to be crucial for the development of EAE by participating in the neuroinflammation ^{3, 4}. Activation of NLRP3 comes from two ways, in which the first way is stimulation of pathogen recognition receptors that activate the nuclear factor ×B (NF-×B) pathways, and the second is activated by triggers such as lysosomal rupture, adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP), and reactive oxygen species (ROS)⁵. Upon activation, NLRP3 inflammasome led to production of cleaved caspase-1 which cleaves proIL-1 β /pro-IL-18 into mature IL-1 β /IL-18 that induces cell pyroptosis-related massive cytokine release and systemic inflammation ⁶. Potential mechanisms manipulated by NLRP3 to cause neuroinflammation include mediation of Th1 and Th17 responses ⁷ and induction of chemotactic immune cell migration to the CNS ⁸. NLRP3-depedent IL-1 β maturation was reported to be detected in the lesions and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of MS patients⁹, and its presence strictly correlates with cortical lesion load ¹⁰. Conversely, mice lacking IL-1 or with damaged IL-1 signaling showed compromised development and severity of EAE ¹¹. Only a few IL-1 targeted medicine are available for autoimmune disorders treatment ^{12, 13}. Among these, JAK-STAT

signaling is critical for T help cell polarization and autoimmune neuroinflammation ^{14, 15}. In fact, several JAK inhibitors have been used over the past decades targeting a specific or a wide range of JAKs, providing promising alternatives to traditional biological disease modifying antirheumatic drugs in several autoimmune diseases ^{16, 17}. Moreover, JAK mediate IL-4 receptor signals to prime Th2 response-dominant symptoms, like itch in atopic dermatitis ¹⁸, in which cytokine IL-4 production is closely regulated by function of thymic stromal lymphopoietin ¹⁹. Despite the high incidence and role of TSLP and JAK-STAT signaling, it is unclear whether TSLP functions via NLRP3 to induce autoimmune inflammation. If so, whether JAK is involved in this process is known.

Thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) is an interleukin (IL)-7 related cytokine acting on lineages, including macrophages, dendritic cells (DCs), and T cells ²⁰. By promoting expression of major histocompatibility complex (MHC)-II and co-stimulatory molecules such as CD40, CD80, and CD86, and the production of chemokines, TSLP strongly enhances DCs maturation and function ²¹. MS and EAE have been associated with single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in IL-7Ragene locus ²². Upon ligation by TSLP, TSLP receptor (TSLPR) initiates intracellular JAK/STAT signaling to induce production of IL-2, TNF and IL-6 to potentiate inflammatory responses. Targeting these cytokines has been shown to be effective in alleviating EAE or other autoimmune disease ^{23, 24, 25, 26}. Accordingly, direct blocking JAK/STAT signaling pathways with tofacitinib inhibited NLRP3 inflammasome and IL-1 β production in neutrophils ²⁷. However, whether TSLPR signaling is capable of controlling initiates inflammation and in EAE remains unclear.

In this study we show that $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice presented alleviated severity in myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein peptide (MOG₃₅₋₅₅)-induced experimental autoimmune encephalitis (EAE), resulting from decreased phosphorylation of JAK2 and expression of NLRP3. Inhibition of JAK by ruxolitinib reduced NLRP3 expression in brain of EAE mouse. In addition, using JAK inhibitor ruxolitinib or NLRP3 inhibitor MCC950 all reduced inflammatory cells and CD4⁺ cells infiltration, NLRP3 and myelin expression, and IL-1 β and TSLP in brain tissue of EAE mouse. Furthermore, patients with anti-N-methyl-D-aspartate-receptor (anti-NMDAR) encephalitis showed a significant increase inNLRP3 and IL-1 β in CSF when compared with that in healthy control. These findings reveal that TSLP plays an essential role in positive regulation of JAK2-NLRP3 axis-driven neuroinflammation in autoimmune disorders.

Materials and methods

Patients and Controls

We recruited 5 patients diagnosed of anti-NMDAR encephalitis (all patients with anti-NMDAR antibody positive) and 7 controls from Nanjing Brain Hospital. The anti-NMDAR encephalitis diagnosed criteria of 2016 were chosen as the inclusive criteria for the group of patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis ²⁸. These control subjects consisted of patients with 6 patients with hydrocephalus and 1 patient with acute head trauma and all of them have no autoimmune encephalitis. The baseline characteristics of patients (n = 5) and controls (n = 7) were shown in Table 1.

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Nanjing Brain Hospital, Nanjing Medical University.

EAE induction and scoring

 $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice and WT mice were bred under specific pathogen-free (SPF) conditions. $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice were purchased from Shanghai Biomodel Organism Science & Technology Development Co.,Ltd. Female $Tslpr^{-/-}$ and WT mice (10-12 weeks old) were immunized subcutaneously (s.c.) with MOG₃₅₋₅₅ (Beyotime, China) with 4 mg/ml heat-inactivated Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Ra (BD) at day 1 to induce EAE as described before ²⁹. 200 ng/mouse pertussis toxin (List Biological Laboratories Inc.) was injected i.p. at day 0 and day 2. Mice were sacrificed at day 15 and brain tissue was collected for western blot or immunohistochemistry. Symptoms of EAE paralysis in mice was scored as follows: 0, no disease; 1, tail weakness; 2, paraparesis; 3, paraplegia; 4, paraplegia with forelimb weakness; 5, moribund or dead animals. To evaluate the contribution of NLRP3 inflammasome or JAK to CNS inflammation, i.p. injection of 50 mg/kg MCC950 (dissolved in DMSO) ³⁰ or oral administration of ruxolitinib (90 mg/kg/d) ³¹after MOG₃₅₋₅₅ immunization were performed.

CNS inflammation

For determination of inflammation infiltrates, brains were harvested, fixed in 4% formalin stored at room temperature. Tissue histology, including HE, NLRP3 staining, CD4 staining, and Luxol Fast Blue (LFB) staining (Servicebio, China) of brain tissue sections was performed to determine the infiltrates of inflammatory cells, CD4⁺T cells and myelin sheath expression.

Western blot

Determination of NLRP3, JAK2 phosphorylation (CST, USA), basic meylin protein (MBP), β -actin, and GAPDH (Servicebio, China) in brain tissue of mice by western blot was performed as we previously described³².

ELISA

Determination of NLRP3 inflammasome (ELISAGenie, UK) and IL-1 β (DAKEWE, China) in human CSF, and IL-1 β and TSLP (Biolegend, USA) in mouse brain tissue homogenate was performed according to the manufacture's instruction.

Statistical analysis

Statistical significance was determined using unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test to perform statistical analysis of all data (GraphPad Prism version 5.0; GraphPad Software). p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Data are expressed as the mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM).

Results

Tslpr' mice show decreased neuroinflammation in EAE model

MOG₃₅₋₅₅ was used to induce EAE mice model (Fig. 1A). To investigate the role of TSLPR in CNS autoimmunity, the clinical score of EAE in $Tslpr^{-/-}$ and $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice was determined. After EAE induction, $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice developed into typical monophasic EAE symptoms manifested with ascending paralysis 10-12 days after MOG₃₅₋₅₅ imunization (Fig. 1B). By contrast, $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice show delayed onset of paralysis at 11-13 days and alleviated symptoms when compared to that in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice. Even though, EAE score of both group peaked at day 15 (Fig. 1B). In addition, immunohistochemistry analysis of brain tissues from $Tslpr^{+/+}$ and $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice displayed that at day 15 after EAE induction revealed significant reductions in the number of CD4⁺lymphocytes present as inflammatory infiltrates of the brain tissue of $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice when compared to that in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice (Fig. 1C). Importantly, results from western blot revealed that mice MOG₃₅₋₅₅ injection led to reduced expression of myelin basic protein (MBP) in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice when compared to that in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice (Fig. 1D).

TSLPR signals via JAK2 and NLRP3

It has been recently demonstrated that the development of EAE requires NLRP3⁸. As we found above that TSLPR deficiency results in reduced CD4⁺ T lymphocytes infiltration in EAE development, we determined to examine whether TSLPR signaling requires NLRP3 inflammasome activation in EAE. Results showed that MOG_{35-55} treatment resulted in increased phosphorylation of JAK2 and expression of NLRP3 when compared to that in control mice (Fig 2A). Immunohistochemistry analysis of brain tissues from $Tslpr^{+/+}$ and $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice showed that MOG_{35-55} injection led to remarkable increase in NLRP3⁺ cells in the brain in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice when compared to that without MOG_{35-55} injection while a significant reduction in NLRP3⁺ cells was observed in brain tissue of $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice when compared to that in $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice after EAE induction (Fig 2B).

NLRP3 is involved in JAK2-associated neuroinflammation

TSLPR ligation activates JAK, specifically JAK1 and JAK2 but not JAK3, in primary T cells ^{32, 33}. To further explore the role of JAK2 that mediates neuroinflammation, we applied JAK inhibitor, which is the selective and orally bioavailable JAK1/2 inhibitor widely used in myelofibrosis, to block JAK signaling. Treatment of ruxolitinib by oral administration in EAE mice resulted in significant reduction in inflammatory cells infiltration by HE staining (Fig 3A), CD4⁺ T cells infiltration (Fig 3B), and ultimate restoration of myelin sheath expression by Luxol Fast Blue staining (LFB) (Fig 3C) and MBP expression by western blot (Fig 3D). JAK inhibition by ruxolitinib also decreased expression of NLRP3 when compared to that without JAK inhibition in brain of EAE mice (Fig 3D). ELISA experiments show that JAK inhibition reduced IL-1 β level in the brain which confirms NLRP3 hyporeactivity (Fig 3E). ELISA experiments also show reduced TSLP in the brain after JAK inhibition in EAE mice when compared to that without JAK inhibition (Fig 3F). Together, our data demonstrate that JAK2 mediates neuroinflammation via NLRP3.

NLRP3 inhibition alleviates neuroinflammation

To evaluate the role of NLRP3 in the neuroinflammation of EAE, MCC950, a potent, selective, small-molecule inhibitor of NLRP3, was used to block canonical and noncanonical NLRP3 activation ³⁰. Treatment of MCC950 by i.p administration in EAE mice resulted in significant reduction in inflammatory cells infiltration by HE staining (Fig 4A), CD4⁺ cells infiltration (Fig 4B), and restoration of myelin sheath expression by LFB staining (Fig 4C) and MBP by western blot (Fig 4D). NLRP3 inhibition also reduced IL-1 β level (Fig 4E) and TSLP level (Fig 4F) in the brain of EAE mice when compared to that without NLRP3 inhibition.

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To verify NLRP3 activation in the brain, NLRP3 inflammasome and IL-1 β were detected in patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis and in control subjects. Clinical features of control subjects and patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis are present in Table 1. Results showed that levels of NLRP3 inflammasome (Fig 5A) and IL-1 β (Fig 5B) were remarkably increased in patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis when compared to that in controls.

Discussion

Activation of NLRP3 is a tightly regulated process and a key step in autoimmunity of CNS. In this study, we provide three advances that broaden our understanding of NLRP3-associated neuroinflammation. First, by using $Tslpr^{-/-}$ mice, we demonstrated that TSLP signaling regulates neuroinflammation and paralysis of mouse. Second, we show that TSLPR signals via JAK2 to activate NLRP3-associated neuroinflammation in EAE settings. Third, we show that patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis have increased levels of NLRP3 and IL-1 β in CSF. Taken together, the current study identifies novel functions of TSLP-dominant JAK pathways upstream of NLRP3 represent promising targets for the treatment of autoimmune disorders.

Generally, Th17 response in autoimmune disorders has been believed to cause neurons death or inflammatory response ^{34, 35}. Besides, previous studies also have shown that type 3 innate lymphoid cell (ILC3) produce IL-17 in autoimmune disorder such as ankylosing spondylitis ³⁶ and that ILC3 can maintains neuroinflammation by supporting T cell survival ³⁷. Thus, both neuroinflammation and demyelination were largely believed to be mediated by Th17- and ILC3- related responses. We and other have recently shown that TSLP primes dendritic cells (DCs) maturation^{21, 38} and that DCs determines status of activation and survival of ILC3 ³⁹. Based on our new data demonstrating that brain tissue TSLPR signaling critically mediates neuroinflammation, we speculate that innate immune cells, such as ILC3s, play important roles in promoting autoimmune inflammation-associated demyelination, in addition to Th17 cells. Identification of the precise role of TSLP in Th17 cells- and ILC3-mediated neuroinflammation and demyelination requires further investigation.

Despite previous observation that TSLP is reported to be critical for regulatory T cells formation in autoimmune disease, we found that, in contrast to decreased IL-7R expression on conventional T cells and reduced Treg function of MS in previous study ⁴⁰, deletion of *Tslpr* efficiently alleviated neuroinflammation displayed by decreased $CD4^+$ cells infiltration and restored myelin expression, which coincides with one previous study showing ameliorated EAE symptoms accompanied by reduced inflammatory infiltrates in the brain of Tslp $^{-/-}$ mice⁴¹. In fact, the epithelial cell-derived cytokine TSLP, GM-CSF, and IL-25 have been shown to be master initiators of type 3 inflammation via their effects on a variety of cells including Th17, ILC3, and mast cells $^{42, 43, 44}$. These cytokines are believed to rapidly bind to membrane receptor in order to generate innate immune response and therefore prime adaptive immune cells. Strikingly, two recent studies have demonstrated that TSLP directly activates neurons $^{45, 46}$. Additionally, our current data highly regulated TSLP in the brain in the settings of EAE coincides with previous study 47 and go beyond by demonstrating that TSLP receptor signals by phosphorylation of JAK2 to activate NLRP3-mediated inflammation in response to MOG₃₅₋₅₅ administration. Thus, we speculate that TSLP cytokine may act as master regulator of neuroinflammation in immune cells of brain.

In immune cells, cytokine signaling by the JAK-STAT pathway causes transcriptional changes to promote cellular activation. However, although JAK inhibitor has been reported to be an alternative immunotherapy in patients with autoimmune disorders such as neuromyelitis optica ⁴⁸, our data indicated that neuroin-flammation to MOG35-55 injection with additional JAK inhibition by ruxolitinib failed to induce typical neuroinflammation as observed in EAE mice brain. Also, these decreased neuroinflammation was accompanied by restored expression of myelin basic protein after treatment with ruxolitinib. Thus, we predict that alterations in classic JAK-mediated NLRP3 inflammasome activation is sufficient to explain how neuroinflammation and demyelination occur. One previous study has shown that JAK1 mediates sensory neuronal responsiveness which can be enhanced by cytokines such as IL-4 ¹⁸. Our data coincides with this study and further demonstrates that JAK proteins have novel functions in neurons and regulates meylination/demyelination balance at least by NLRP3-mediated pathways. However, we note that such alteration of myelin basic protein expression does not exclude the role of JAK2 or other pathways in modulating transcription or other post-transcription of myelin basic protein within CNS. Future studies will be required to better understand how changes of JAK-STAT pathway impact myelin expression and neuroinflammation in autoimmune disorders.

Clinical application for ruxolitinib, an non-selective JAK1/2 inhibitor, have been reported to induce improvement of neurologic disability in neuromyelitis optica⁴⁸. In fact, significant clinical efficacy of symptoms in autoimmune disorders has been observed in clinical trials employing other JAK inhibitor such as tofacitinib and barcitinib^{49, 50}. Previously, the changes in neuroinflammation observed with JAK inhibition have been attributed to the anti-inflammatory role of Th17 response ³⁵. Recently, study from others demonstrate that transient receptor potential (TRP) plays a critical role in EAE by mediating axonal and neuronal degeneration ⁵¹ and that JAK-STAT pathway determines TRP expression ^{52, 53}, which indicates involvement of TRP in JAK pathway-mediated neuroinflammation. Based on our and others' studies, we speculate that the improvement of neuroinflammation in EAE mice treated with ruxolitinib may be mediated, at least in part, by disruption of these signals in the CNS and that these therapies may alleviate neuroinflammation in autoimmune disorders. Strikingly, recent studies published experimental and clinical evidence for evobrutinib, the first Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibiting molecule being developed, also described reduced disease severity in clinical and mouse model of multiple sclerosis (MS) by impairment of encephalitogenic T cells ^{54, 55}. Given our current study demonstrating a direct role of JAK in neuroinflammation, whether combinations of TSLP-, JAK-, and BTK-blockade can lead to synergistic therapeutic improvements of neuroinflammation in autoimmune disorders such as MS demands further investigation.

In conclusion, our data establish and highlight the capability of TSLPR-JAK signaling inhibition to control disease-driving neuroinflamamtion of NLRP3 in inflammatory CNS demyelination. This is demonstrated here for ruxolitinib, a non-selective JAK inhibitor clinically tested in several autoimmune diseases, and the elucidated immunological effects may similar apply to other JAK inhibitors in clinical development. Based on this, the mechanistic data provided here will be instrumental in facilitate how this molecule is integrated into the current autoimmune disorder treatment.

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Abbreviations

NLRP3: nucleotide-binding domain, leucine-rich repeat containing protein family, pyrin domain containing 3; TSLPR: thymic stromal lymphopoietin; JAK: Janus Kinase; CNS: Central Nervous System; EAE: experimentally atoimmune encephalomyelitis; STAT: Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription; NMDAR: N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor; UVB: ultraviolet radiation b

Conflict of interests

All authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors contributions

Xueyuan Yu, Jiajia Lv, Jun Wu, and Yong Chen performed the experiments, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation and drafting the article. Fei Chen analyzed the data and critically revised the article. Li Wang designed the project and critically revised the article for the important intellectual content and final approval of the version to be published. All authors provided important review of the manuscript.

Ethical statement

This study was approved by the institutional research ethics committee of Nanjing Medical University affiliated Nanjing Brain Hospital.

Figure



Figure 1. TSLPR deficiency alleviates neuroinflammation in EAE model. A, Schematic diagram of EAE mice model induction by subcutaneously injection of MOG_{35-55} . B, EAE score in $Tslpr^{-/-}$ or $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice (n=5 each group). C, CD4 staining of brain tissue of $Tslpr^{-/-}$ and $Tslpr^{+/+}$ miceafter EAE induction (n=3 each group). D, Expression of myelin basic protein (MBP) in mouse brain (n=3 each group). Data were presented as mean±SEM (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001)



Figure 2. TSLPR signaling activates JAK2 and NLRP3 in EAE. A, Expression of NLRP3 and phosphorylation of JAK2 in brain tissues of $Tslpr^{-/-}$ and $Tslpr^{+/+}$ mice after EAE induction (n=3 each group). B, NLRP3 staining of brain tissue (n=3 each group). Red arrows indicate NLRP3⁺ cells. Data were presented as mean±SEM(n=3, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.05)



Figure 3. MOG₃₅₋₅₅-indcued neuroinflammation depends on JAK2 signaling. A, HE staining of mouse brain after induction of EAE in the absence or presence of ruxolitinibapplication. B, CD4 staining of

mouse brain (n=3 each group). C, LFB staining of mouse brain. D, Expression of NLRP3 and MBP of mouse brain (n=3 each group). E, Determination of IL-1 β in mouse brain (n=4 each group). F, Determination of TSLP in mouse brain (n=4 each group). Data were presented as mean±SEMin a high-power field (HPF) (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001)



Figure 4. NLRP3 determins neuroinflammation of EAE. A, HE staining of mouse brain after induction of EAE in the absence or presence of MCC950 application. B, CD4 staining of mouse brain (n=3 each group). C, LFB staining of mouse brain. D, Expression of MBP of mouse brain (n=3 each group). E, Determination of IL-1 β in mouse brain (n=4 each group). F, Determination of TSLP in mouse brain (n=4 each group). Data were presented as mean±SEMin a high-power field (HPF) (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001)

Fig 5



Φιγυρε 5. Πατιεντς ωιτη αντι-NMΔAP ενςεπηαλιτις ηαε ινςρεασεδ NAPH3 ανδ IA-1β ιν $\Sigma \Phi$. A, Determination of NLRP3 inflammasome in CSF of patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis (n=5) and control subjects (n=7) by ELISA. B, Determination of IL-1β inflammasome in CSF of patients with anti-NMDAR encephalitis (n=5) and control subjects (n=7) by ELISA. (*p < 0.05)

	Age (y)	Sex	Disease	CSF					
				karyocyte (×10 ⁶ /L)	Mononuclear cells (%)	Pro (g/L)	Glu (mmo1/ L)	chloride (mmo1/L)	Anti- NMDAR antibody
Patient 1	17	F	AE	51	99	0.35	3.2	121.7	+
Patient 2	19	F	AE	0	0	0. 4	3.18	116.5	+
Patient 3	25	F	AE	0	0	0.41	4.4	120.6	+
Patient 4	25	F	AE	7	0	0. <mark>5</mark> 1	3.18	119.1	+
Patient 5	16	М	AE	6	0	0.42	3. 37	117.2	+
Control 1	65	М	Acute head trauma	0	0	0.77	2.82	119.7	
Control 2	78	М	Hydrocephalus	1	0	0.56	3.14	119.3	-
Control 3	60	F	Hydrocephalus	2	0	0.36	2.63	117.7	
Control 4	51	F	Hydrocephalus	0	0	0. 19	3. <mark>5</mark> 1	125	
Control 5	34	М	Hydrocephalus	3	0	0.35	2.51	118.7	-1
Control 6	82	М	Hydrocephalus	2	0	0.38	3.9	118.3	
Control 7	75	М	Hydrocephalus	2	0	0.42	4.1	123	<u></u> 3

Table 1. Clinical and laboratory characteristics of patients with anti-NMDAR encephlomyelitis and control subjects

F, female; M, male; AE, autoimmune encephalitis; pro, protein; glu, glucose; CSF, cerebro-spinal fluid