

*21st Annual Meeting of the Swiss Stroke Society
Lausanne, 11 January 2018*



Vasculitis and stroke :

Acute and chronic treatments

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Disclosures

Code de santé publique. Article L 4113-13

Stocks

None

Studies (Drug trials / Registers) (< 5 years)

Sanofi	TAFI	(Investigator)
Servier	PERFORM	(Investigator)
Johnson & Johnson	GARFIELD	(Investigator)
Biogen	CHOLINE	(Investigator)
Pierre Fabre	LIFE	(Investigator)
Boehringer Ingelheimer	RESPECT-ESUS	(Investigator)

Advisory boards & speaker fees (< 3 years)

Bayer	Pfizer
Sanofi	Esai
BMS	Teva
Boehringer-Ingelheim	
Euthérapie	



CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Main questions

- When to start ?
- Best initial treatment ?
- Need for a maintenance therapy ?
- Antithrombotic therapies and acute revascularisation in patients with stroke ?
- Special treatments for specific conditions ?
 - Associated amyloid deposits
 - Pregnancy
 - Children

CNS vasculitis – Treatment

What is the evidence ?

■ Secondary CNS vasculitis

- Specific treatments
- CNS involvement → pejorative prognosis

*Vera-Lastra, Delgado, Cruz-Dominguez et al,
Clin Rheumatol 2015,34:729-38*

■ Primary CNS vasculitis

- Early reports : individual cases / limited series
- Recently : 2 large series
 - Mayo Clinic Cohort : N = 101 (2007) → N = 163 (2015)
 - French Cohort : N = 52 (2014) → N = 109 (2017)

*Salvarani, Brown, Calamia et al,
Ann Neurol 2007,62:442-51*

*Salvarani, Brown, Christianson et al,
Arthritis Rheum 2015, 67 : 1637-45*

*de Boysson, Zuber, Naggara et al,
Arthritis Rheum 2014, 66 : 1315-26*

*de Boysson, Parienti, Arquizan et al,
Rheumatology 2017, 56:439-44*



CNS vasculitis – Treatment

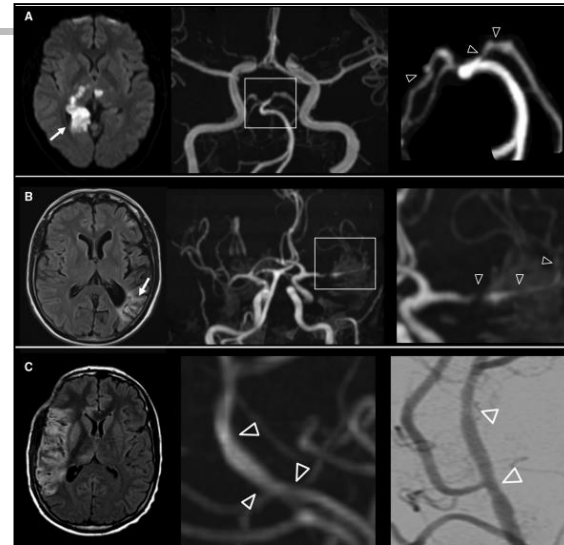
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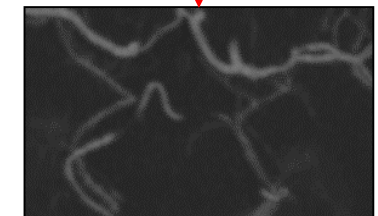
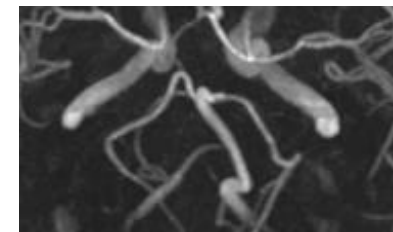
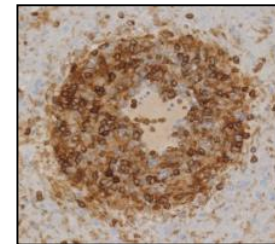
Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

When to start ? - 1

- Individual decision :
 - Highly probable diagnosis ?
 - Aggressive evolution ?
- Step by step diagnostic strategy :
 - Clinical arguments + MRIC++
 - Angiography+++
 - CSF analysis + other procedures
- In all cases, consider :
 - Benefit/risk balance of the brain biopsy (leptomeninges)
 - Usefulness of repeated diagnostic procedures at 4-6 W



Boulouis et al, Stroke 2017, 48:1248-55



Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

When to start ? - 2

Characteristics associated with increased mortality during follow-up

N = 163

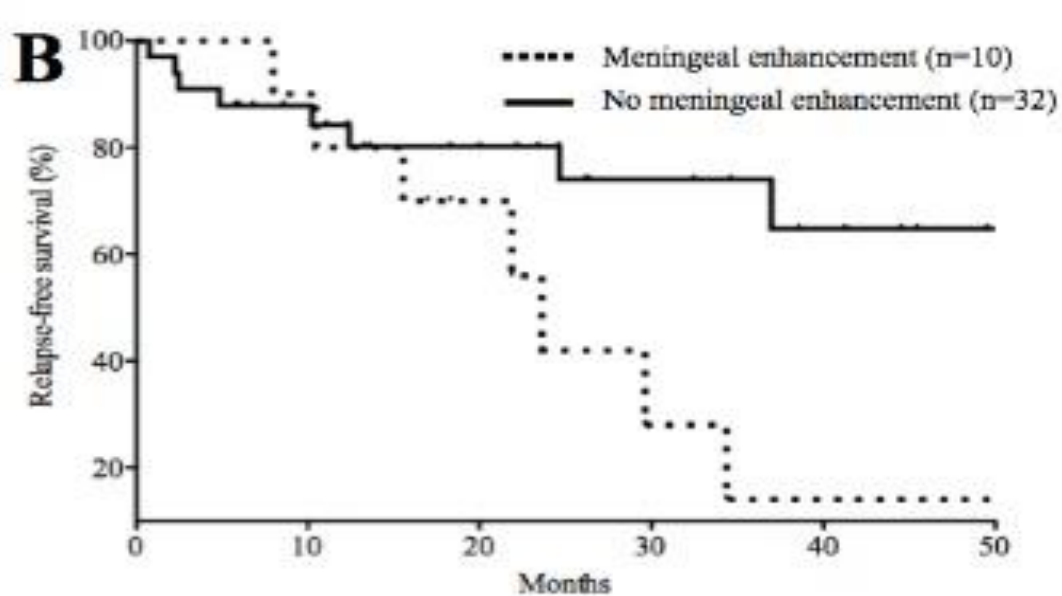
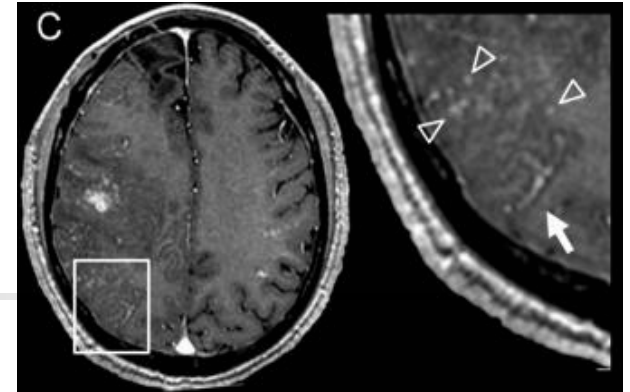
Characteristic	HR (95% CI)	Univariate P	Multivariate HR (95% CI)
Age, per 10-year difference	1.39 (1.05–1.85)	0.022	1.52 (1.10–2.09)
Male vs. female	0.80 (0.34–1.88)	0.61	–
Main symptom at presentation			
Headache or constitutional symptom	1.00		
Focal manifestation vs. headache or constitutional symptom	2.42 (0.69–8.52)	0.17	–
Cognitive disorder vs. headache or constitutional symptom	3.40 (0.82–14.0)	0.090	–
Diagnosis by angiography only vs. biopsy	3.28 (1.09–9.82)	0.034	–
MRI findings			
Infarct vs. no infarct	4.44 (1.61–12.2)	0.004	3.60 (1.31–9.90)
Gd-enhanced lesions or meninges vs. normal or minimal changes	0.20 (0.06–0.67)	0.009	0.24 (0.07–0.83)
Large vessel involvement vs. small vessel involvement†	4.98 (1.47–16.9)	0.01	–
Increased CSF protein level (>70 mg/dl)	1.29 (0.49–3.39)	0.61	–
Cerebral amyloid angiopathy, present vs. absent	0.17 (0.02–1.33)	0.092	–
Prednisone alone vs. cyclophosphamide and prednisone	1.03 (0.46–2.35)	0.94	–
Rapid (<1 month) vs. slow (>1 month) onset	1.27 (0.55–2.94)	0.57	–

* Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional hazards models were used for age-adjusted analysis. HR = hazard ratio; 95% CI = 95% confidence interval; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; Gd = gadolinium; CSF = cerebrospinal fluid.

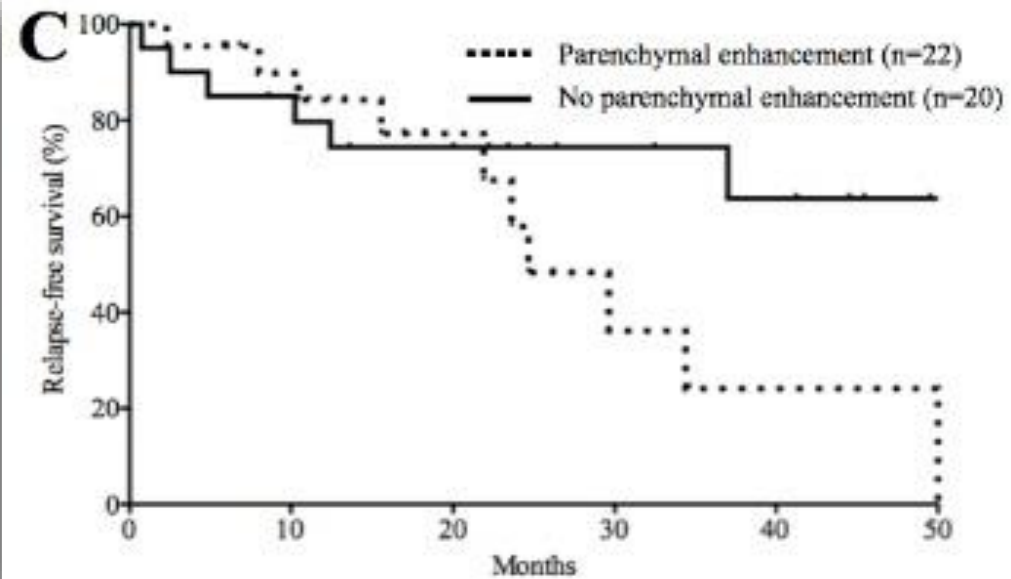
† Data were available for 129 patients.

Prognostic factors

Contrast enhancement



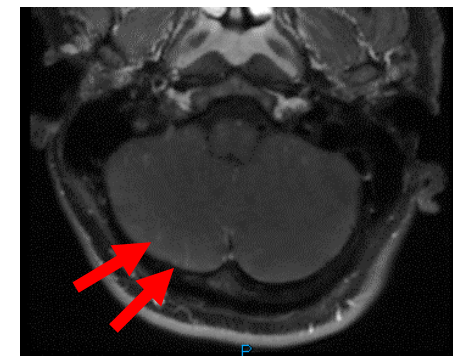
Relapse = 80% vs 16%, $p=0.0001$



Relapse = 45% vs 15%, $p=0.03$

Prognostic factors

Contrast enhancement



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Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Best initial treatment ? - 1

Calabrese et al, 1988

N = 46

- 19/20 non treated patients
→ death or severe sequelae
- 4/13 GC alone
- 10/13 GC + IS
→ favorable evolution

	Mayo Clinic Cohort (N = 163)	French Cohort (N = 97)	
Prednisone Initial pulse treatment	94%	98%	
	42%	72%	
Immunosuppressor	49%	84%	<i>< 0,0001</i>
• Cyclophosphamide	45%	82%	
• Others (MMF - Ritux)	4%	2%	
Median Follow-up	12 (0-13,7)	55 (5-198)	
Relapses	36%	27%	<i>0,20</i>
Mortality	15%	6%	<i>0,015</i>

Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Best initial treatment ? - 2

Diagnosis of Primary CNS Vasculitis

Favorable prognosis anticipated

- Distal vessel disease
- Meningeal enhancements
- No/few ischemic lesions

Unfavorable prognosis anticipated

- Proximal vessel disease
- Cerebral infarcts
- Rapidly progressive disease course

Methylprednisone pulse therapy (1000 mg 3 to 5 days)
then Oral prednisone 1 mg/kg

4-6 months

Association of Methylprednisone pulse therapy with IV CYC

Response

Progressive tapering

No response or insufficient

Addition of IV CYC 0,7 mg/m² each 3-4 w (or oral CYC 2mg/kg)

No response or insufficient

Consider switching to Rituximab (RTX) / Mycophenolate mofetil (MMF)



CNS vasculitis – Treatment

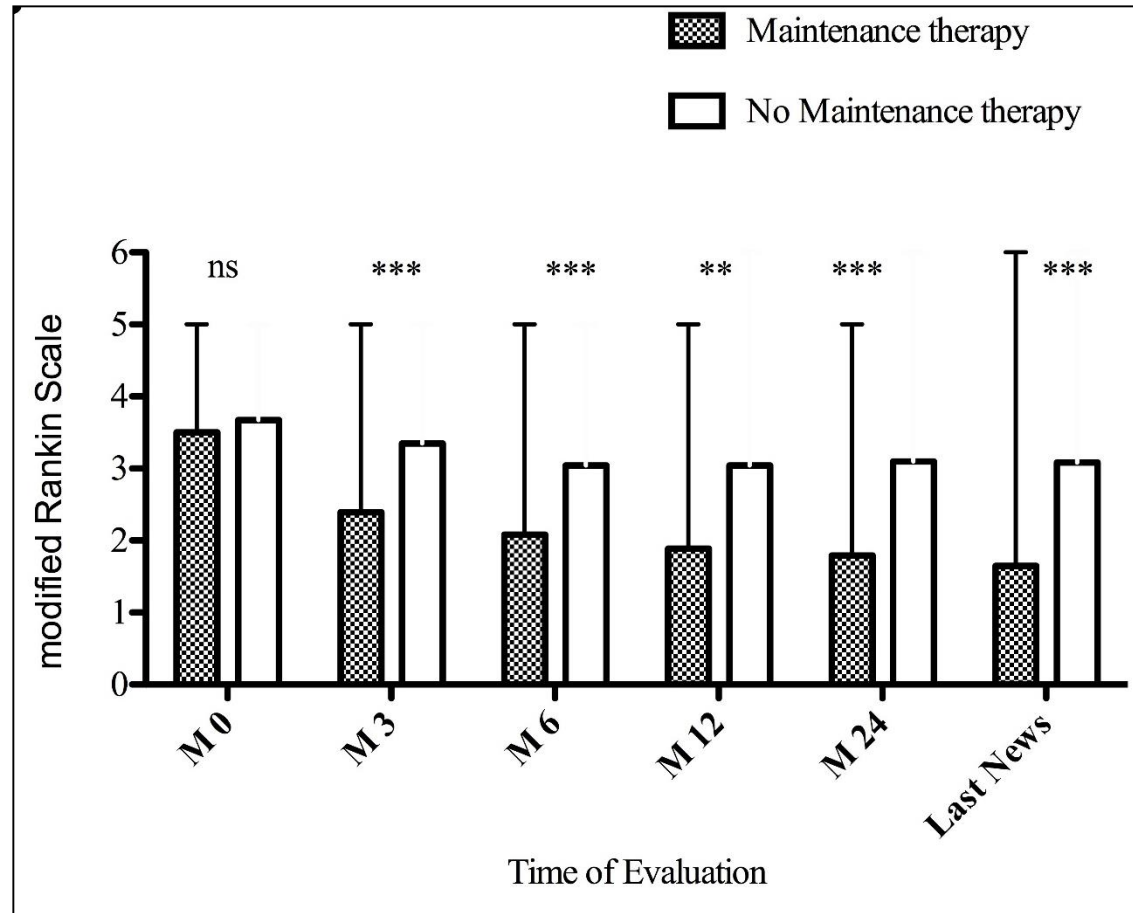
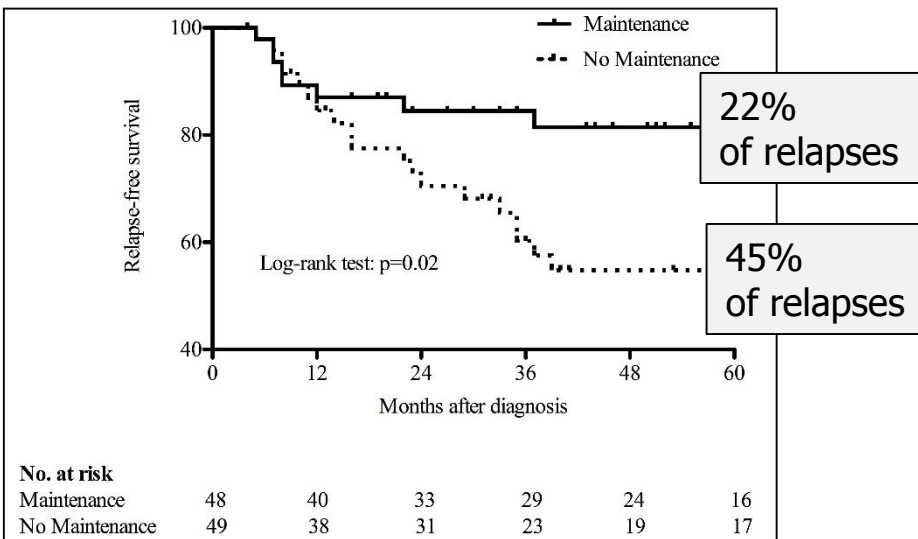
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Need for a maintenance therapy ?

The French Cohort experience

- N = 97, median follow-up 55 months [5-198]
- Maintenance therapy
 - N = 48 (49%)
 - AZA >> MMF, MTX
 - Mean starting delay of 4 months after CYC induction
 - Mean duration : 24 months [6-72]



When can we stop ?



- **Remember factors of relapse**
 - MRI : leptomeningeal enhancements

- **Consider targets of the treatment** (depending of initial status)
 - Clinical : no headache / evolutive neurological status
 - Biological : no inflammatory CSF
 - Radiological :
 - MRI : no gadolinium-enhancements
 - Angiography : no new vascular stenoses





CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Main questions

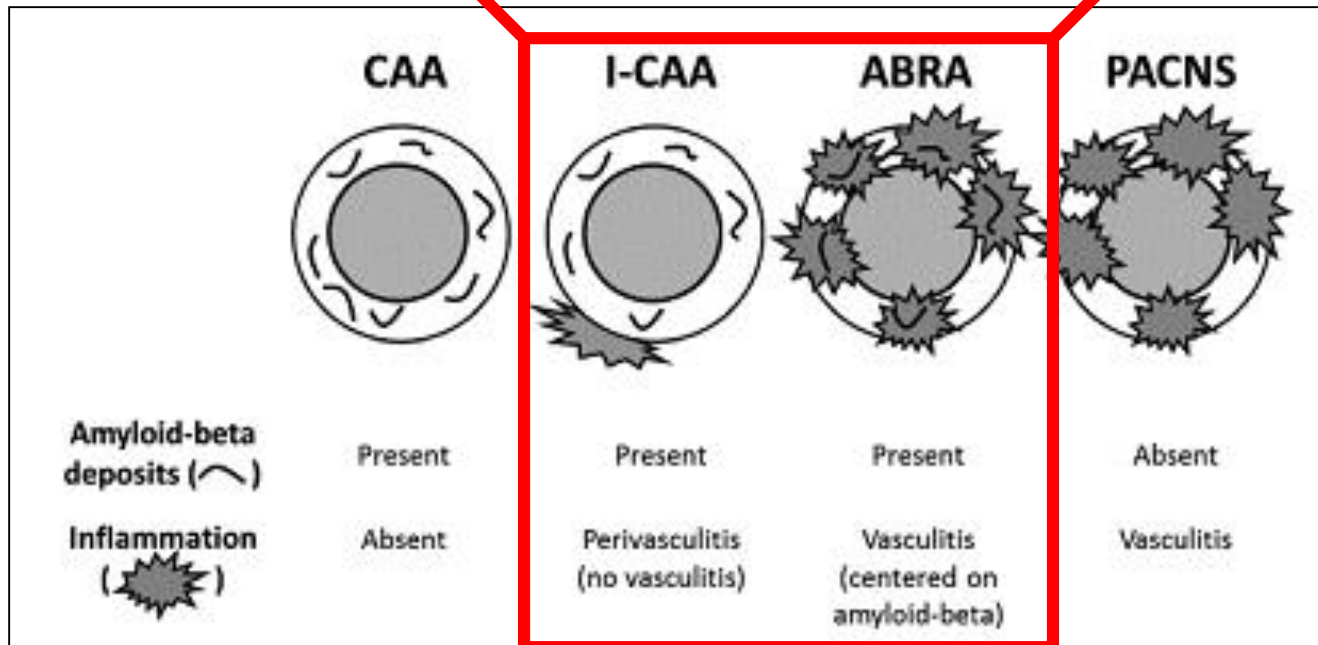
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Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy

– related inflammation

Inflammatory - CAA

Amyloid- β -related angiitis



Glucocorticoids : 74% vs 78%

Combination IS + GC : 12% vs 33%

Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Pregnancy & Child

■ Pregnancy :

- GC and AZA : possible
- CYC : cytotoxic and teratogenic (T1)
- RTX : precautionary principle
- MMF : strictly contraindicated

■ Children :

■ 2 types :

- Medium-large vessel disease (MLVD) → multiple strokes
- Small vessel disease (SVD) → microvascular inflammation (lymphocytic vasculitis)

■ More standardised treatments :

- MLVD : GC + CYC → ↓ GC + MMF
- SVD : GC + MMF → ↓ GC + MMF

Primary CNS vasculitis – Treatment

Take home messages

- Delay and intensity of treatment are individual decisions based on multiple criteria
- Importance of prognostic factors : vessel size involvement, leptomeningeal enhancement
- Induction : GC \pm IS (CYC) for 4-6 months
- Maintenance therapy : tapering dose GC + MMF (AZA, MTX) up to 2 years
- Future :
 - New drugs for dysimmune diseases : complement inhibition therapies, new recombinant humanized monoclonal antibodies, etc...
 - Controlled trials ?