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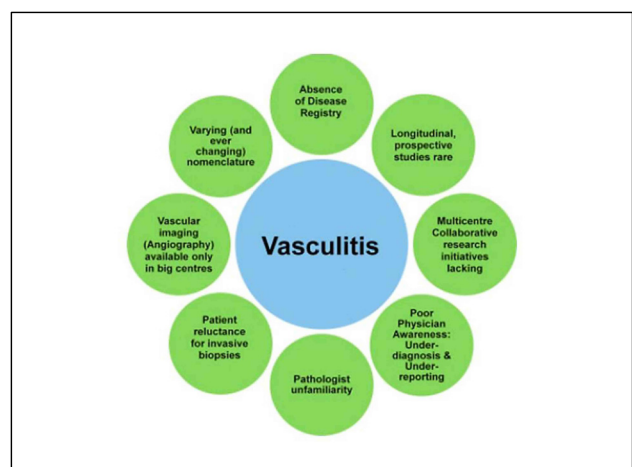
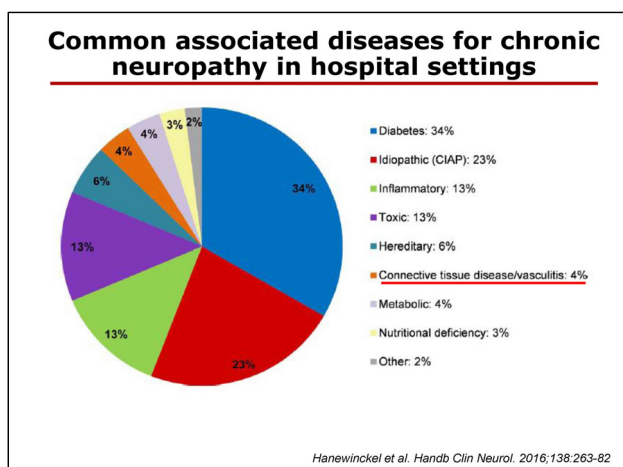
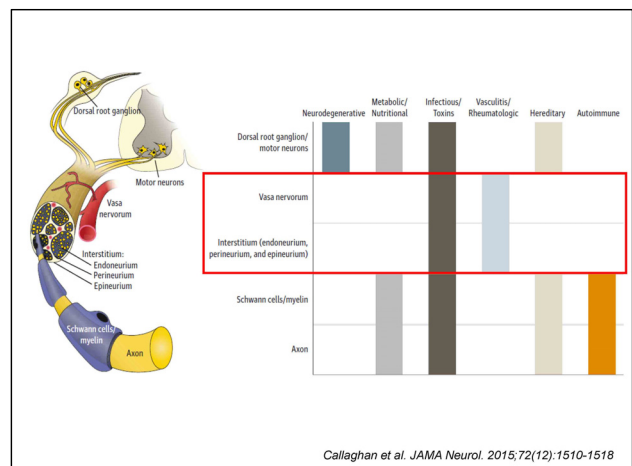
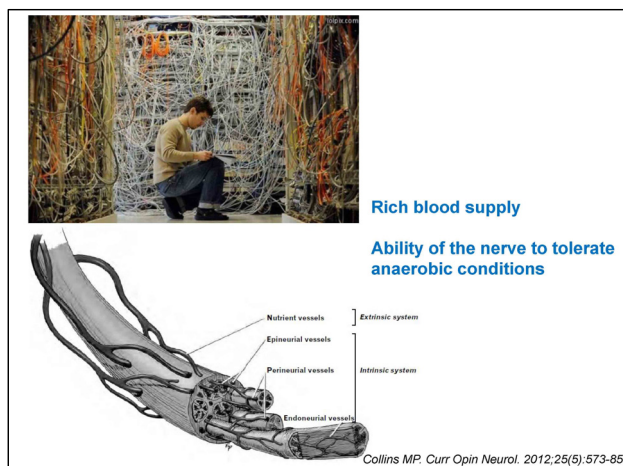
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Peripheral neuropathies associated with systemic vasculitis

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PNS NSVN GUIDELINE

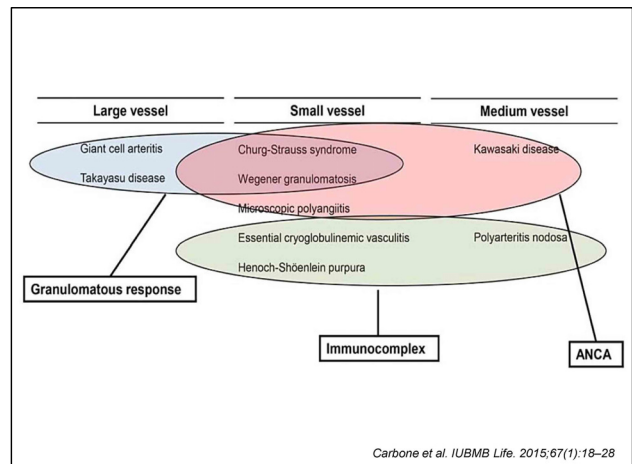
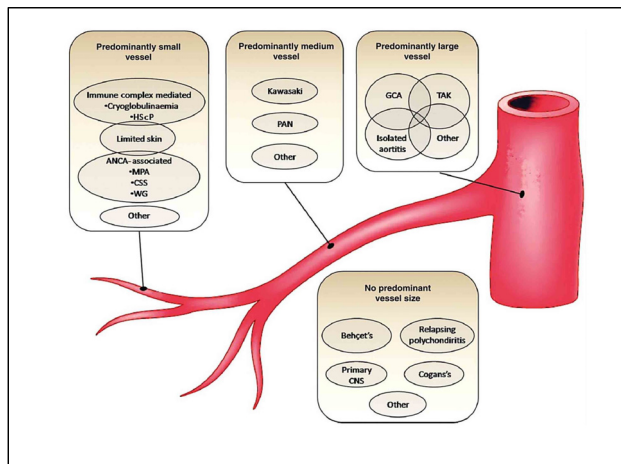
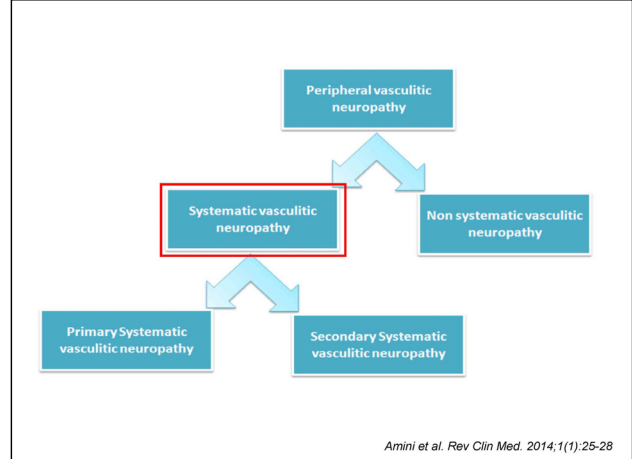
Peripheral Nerve Society Guideline* on the classification, diagnosis, investigation, and immunosuppressive therapy of non-systemic vasculitic neuropathy: executive summary

Michael P. Collins (Chair), USA; P. James B. Dyck, USA; Gary S. Gronseth, USA; Loïc Goullivier, France; Robert D. M. Hadden, UK; Dieter Heuss, Germany; Jean-Marc Leger, France; N.C. Notermans, The Netherlands; John D. Pollard, Australia; Gerard Said, France; Gen Sobue, Japan; A.F.J.E. Vrancken, The Netherlands; John T. Kissel (Co-Chair), USA.

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Table 1. Classification of vasculitides associated with neuropathy.

- I. Primary systemic vasculitides**
 - Predominantly small vessel vasculitis
 - Microscopic polyangiitis*
 - Churg–Strauss syndrome*
 - Wegener’s granulomatosis*
 - Essential mixed cryoglobulinemia (non-HCV)
 - Henoch–Schönlein purpura
 - Predominantly medium vessel vasculitis
 - Polyarteritis nodosa (PAN)
 - Predominantly large vessel vasculitis
 - Giant cell arteritis
- II. Secondary systemic vasculitides associated with one of the following**
 - Connective tissue diseases
 - Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Systemic lupus erythematosus
 - Sjögren’s syndrome
 - Systemic sclerosis
 - Dermatomyositis
 - Mixed connective tissue disease
 - Sarcoidosis
 - Behcet’s disease
 - Infection (such as HBV, HCV, HIV, CMV, leprosy, Lyme disease, HTLV-I)
 - Drugs
 - Malignancy
 - Inflammatory bowel disease
 - Hypocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis syndrome
- III. Non-systemic/localized vasculitis**
 - Non-systemic vasculitic neuropathy (includes non-diabetic radiculoplexus neuropathy and some cases of Wartenberg’s migrant sensory neuritis)
 - Diabetic radiculoplexus neuropathy
 - Localized cutaneous/neuropathic vasculitis
 - Cutaneous PAN
 - Others



Frequency of peripheral nerve involvement in systemic vasculitis

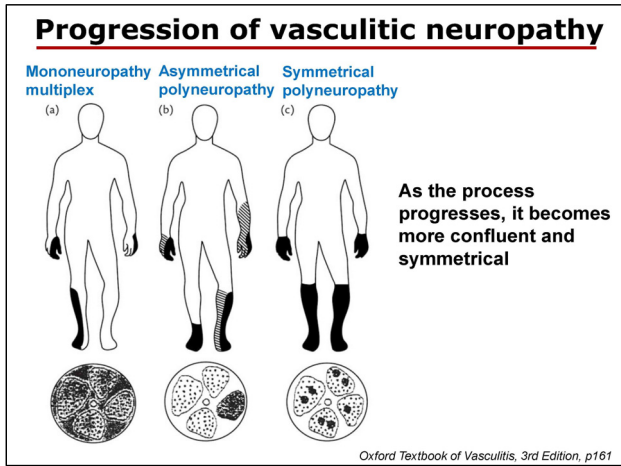
Disorder	FPI	Reference
Systemic vasculitis		
A. Primary		
Giant cell arteritis	Rare	(Pfeiderer et al., 2007; Fieles and Arnold, 2007)
Classical panarteritis nodosa	35–75%	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Kostina-O’Neil et al., 2007)
Thrombangiitis obliterans (Buerger disease)	Rare	(Vincent et al., 1985)
Kawasaki syndrome	1 patient	(Hicks et al., 1982)
Churg–Strauss syndrome	65–80%	(Zwerina et al., 2008; Djukic et al., 2008)
Wegener granulomatosis	14–50%	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Feuerlein et al., 2008)
Cryoglobulinemia	30–70%	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Cacoub et al., 2008)
M. Behcet	20%	(Gulturk et al., 2008)
Microscopic polyangiitis	6–70%	(Schaublin et al., 2005)
Schönlein–Henoch purpura	Rare	(Bulun et al., 2001; Ohnuma et al., 2008)
B. Secondary		
1. Mixed connective tissue disease	27%	(Servoli et al., 2007; Shostary et al., 2005)
Systemic lupus erythematosus	50%	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Muramatsu et al., 2008)
Rheumatoid arthritis	45%	(Terrier et al., 2007; Iopate Lopate et al., 2006)
2. Infection		
Hepatitis C	Unknown	(Said and Lacroix, 2005; Cacoub et al., 2008)
Streptococcal infection	Unknown	(Traverso et al., 1997)
HIV	< 1%	(Schaublin et al., 2005)
Cytomegalovirus	Rare	(Schaublin et al., 2005)
Human herpesvirus 8	Rare	(Berry et al., 1999)
Lues	Rare	(Mathew et al., 2007)
3. Sarcoidosis	47%	(Said and Lacroix, 2005; Vital, 2008; Allen et al., 2003)
4. Medication	Rare	(Schapira et al., 2008)
5. Malignancy	32%	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Fain et al., 2007)
6. Radiation	1 patient	(Rubin et al., 2001)
7. Diabetic/non-diabetic plexopathy	Not applicable	(Schaublin et al., 2005; Said and Lacroix, 2005)
Non-systemic vasculitis	Not applicable	(Said and Lacroix, 2005)

FPI: frequency of PNS involvement.

Finsterer J. Acta Neurol Belg. 2009;109(2):100-13

Disease	Frequency	Reference
Primary systemic vasculitis		
Giant cell arteritis	Rare	[Chia et al. 1996; Koike et al. 2013]
Polyarteritis nodosa	65–85%	[Schaublin et al. 2005; Ohya et al. 2013b]
Churg–Strauss syndrome	65–80%	[Hattori et al. 1999; Zwerina, 2008]
Granulomatosis with polyangiitis	5–50%	[Schaublin et al. 2005; De Souza et al. 2010]
Microscopic polyangiitis	6–75%	[Hattori et al. 2002; Schaublin et al. 2005]
Cryoglobulinemia	30–70%	[Cacoub et al. 2008; Collins and Periquet, 2008]
Secondary systemic vasculitis		
1. Connective tissue diseases		
Systemic lupus erythematosus	20–27%	[Vital et al. 2006; Servoli et al. 2007]
Rheumatoid arthritis	15–70%	[Voskuyt et al. 2003; Agarwal et al. 2008; Muramatsu et al. 2008]
Sjögren’s syndrome	30–45%	[Delalande et al. 2004; Terrier et al. 2007]
Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma)	5–30%	[Dyck et al. 1997; Collins and Periquet, 2008]
2. Others		
Infections (hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus [HCV], HIV)	5–70%	[Said and Lacroix, 2005; Schaublin et al. 2005; Cacoub et al. 2008; Collins and Periquet, 2008; Ohya et al. 2013b]
Sarcoidosis	5–10%	[Chen and McLeod, 1989; Allen et al. 2003; Vital et al. 2008]
Malignancy	Rare*	[Oh et al. 1991; Fain et al. 2007]
Drugs	Rare	[Schapira et al. 2000; Thaisethawatkul et al. 2011]

Blaes F. Ther Adv Musculoskelet Dis. 2015;7(2):45-55



Neuropathy patterns in vasculitic neuropathy

	1981 Wees et al. SNV	1985 Kissel et al. SNV	1991 Hawkes et al. SNV	1986 Bouche et al. SNV	1995 Midroni and Billao et al. SNV	2000 Clausen et al. SNV	2002 Collins et al. S/NSNVc	1987 Dyck et al. NSVN	1996 Davies et al. NSVN	2003 Collins et al. NSDN	2005 Kazantzou et al. NSVN	Total SNV	Total NSVN	Total
Mononeuropathy multiplex	3	2	16	9	12	10	3 ^d	12	10	6	9	55 (29%)	37 (32%)	92 (30%)
Mononeuropathy	(2) ^b					(5)						(7)	(7)	(14)
Asymmetrical polyneuropathy	4	8	10	7	5	4	18 ^d	4	7	37	4	56 (30%)	52 (45%)	108 (36%)
Symmetrical polyneuropathy	3	6	8	3	14	21	1	4	8	5	8	56 (30%)	25 (22%)	81 (27%)
Sensory			(1)					(8)	(2)	(1)		(11)	(1)	(13)
Asymptomatic neuropathy	7	0	3	1	9							20 (12%)	0	20 (7%)
Myopathy	(2)					(3)						(5)	0	(5)
Total cases	17	16	34	22	32	44	22	20	25	48	22	187	115	302

Oxford Textbook of Vasculitis, 3rd Edition, p165

	smPNP	MonMP	MoNP	CN	sNP	aNP	Plexopathy
GCA	X						X
PAN	X	X	X	X			
Thrombocytopenia				X		X	
Kawasaki	X						
CSS	X	X	X	X	X		
Wegener	X	X		X		(X)	
Cryoglobulinaemia	X	X		X	X	X	
Behcet	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Microscopic polyangiitis	X	X	X	X			
Schoenlein Henoch	X	X	X				

GCA: giant cell arteritis, PAN: classical panarteritis nodosa, smPNP: sensorimotor polyneuropathy, MonMP: mononeuritis multiplex, MoNP: mononeuropathy, CN: cranial nerve involvement, sNP: sensory neuropathy, aNP: autonomic neuropathy.

Finsterer J. Acta Neurol Belg. 2009;109(2):100-13

Nerve involvement in vasculitic neuropathy

Frequency of nerve involvement by clinical neurological evaluation*

Study	N	Peroneal	Sural	Tibial	Femoral	Median	Ulnar	Radial	Other nerves	Cranial (n)
De la Rosa et al., 2002	19	73%	27%	36%	—	9%	18%	—	—	2nd (1), 7th (2)
Guillemin et al., 1999a	96	84%	—	41%	—	55%	29%	—	—	3rd (1), 6th (1), 7th (2)
Guillemin et al., 1999b	85	77%	—	—	—	37%	20%	—	—	unspecified (6)
Guillemin et al., 2003	65	70%	—	—	—	41%	19%	—	—	none
Guillemin et al., 2005	115	85%	—	—	—	26%	13%	—	—	—
Nishino et al., 1993	324	95%	—	55%	9%	36%	45%	14%	—	2nd (10), 3rd (2), 4th (2), 5th (5), 6th (8), 7th (8), 8th (2), 9th (1), 10th (1), 12th (2)
Wolf et al., 2010	14	63%*	69%*	50%*	6%*	50%*	33%*	35%*	—	2nd (1), 5th (1), 7th (1), 8th (1)

Vrancken et al. Handb Clin Neurol. 2013;115:463-83

Frequency of nerve involvement by clinical neurological evaluation*

Study	N	Peroneal	Sural	Tibial	Femoral	Median	Ulnar	Radial	Other nerves	Cranial (n)
Biopsy-supported vasculitic neuropathy										
Bennett et al., 2008	53	86%*	—	51%	32%	58%	63%	35%	9%, 9%*	3rd (1), 5th (2), 6th (1)
Chang et al., 1984	19	89%	54%	68%	—	26%	42%	36%	—	—
Collins et al., 2000#	36	79%	72%	61%	—	54%	68%	50%	—	3rd (1), 6th (1), 7th (8), 10th (1)
Collins et al., 2003#	48	90%	—	81%	63%	48%	65%	44%	52%, 49%*	7th (4)
Dyck et al., 1987	65	58%	8%	17%	8%	50%	75%	33%	40%, 38%*	5th (1), 8th (1)
Hattori et al., 1999	28	96%	57%	57%	—	46%	57%	—	19% Thoracic, 8% Lateral femoral cutaneous, 17% Ischiadic/lumbar plexus, 8% Thoracic, 8% Obturator, 8% Axillary, 17% Digital hands	7th (2)
Oka et al., 2011	22	91%	77%	86%	—	27%	49%	18%	—	—
Putschal et al., 1999#	32	91%	—	52%	—	13%	35%	4%	—	3rd (1), 5th (1)
Said et al., 1988#	100	76%	—	11%	9%	9%	28%	9%	—	—
Said, 1997#	200	96%	—	33%	6%	25%	34%	10%	2% Ischiadic	5th (1), 7th (1)
Said and Lacroix, 2005#	425	57%	—	33%	—	—	25%	—	—	—
Catano et al., 2007	64	52%	—	37%	—	19%	15%	11%	7%, 4%*	3rd (1), 4th (1), 7th (1), 12th (1)
de Groot et al., 2001	128	92%	8%	24%	—	12%	24%	8%	—	2nd (4), 3rd (2), 5th (1), 7th (1)

Vrancken et al. Handb Clin Neurol. 2013;115:463-83

TABLE 2. Individual Nerves and Their Frequency of Involvement by Vasculitis

Nerve	Frequency of Involvement
Peroneal	90%
Sural	84%
Tibial	11–81%
Ulnar	28–65%
Median	9–48%
Radial	12–44%
Femoral	6–63%
Sciatic	3%

Lacomis et al. J Clin Neuromuscul Dis. 2007;9(1):265-76

Table 5. Case definition of clinically probable vasculitic neuropathy.

- I. Nerve/muscle biopsy evidence of probable or possible vasculitic neuropathy (see Table 3) OR established diagnosis of systemic vasculitis (clinical or pathological in other tissues).
- II. **Clinical presentation typical for vasculitic neuropathy:**
 1. Sensory-motor or sensory;
 2. Asymmetric/multifocal (non-length-dependent);
 3. Lower limb-predominant;
 4. Distal-predominant;
 5. Painful;
 6. **Course characterized by one or more acute attacks**
- III. Electrodiagnostic evidence of an axonal, sensory-motor or sensory neuropathy.
- IV. None of the following:
 1. Purely motor signs and symptoms;
 2. Entirely proximal signs and symptoms;
 3. Perfectly symmetric by history, examination, and EMG;
 4. CSF pleocytosis (NSVN);
 5. **CSF protein >110 mg/dl (NSVN).**
- V. For systemic vasculitic neuropathy, should also have:
 1. At least one of the following abnormal laboratory markers: $\uparrow$ ESR, $\uparrow$ CRP, $\uparrow$ RF, MPO- or PR3-ANCA, $\uparrow$ β 2-microglobulin, $\uparrow$ VEGF, $\downarrow$ complement (some of these can also be found in NSVN: See classification criteria for NSVN); AND
 2. At least one of the following:
 - a. Concurrent condition known or suspected to predispose to vasculitis (connective tissue disease, sarcoidosis, certain infections, active cancer, mixed cryoglobulins);
 - b. Clinical evidence or laboratory surrogates of multiorgan involvement;
 - c. **Define vasculitis in other tissues.**

Collins et al. J Peripher Nerv Syst. 2010;15(3):176-84

Definition of vasculitic neuropathy

Systemic vasculitic neuropathy

Criteria to distinguish nonsystemic vasculitic neuropathy (NSVN) from systemic vasculitis in a patient meeting case definition (level 1, 2 or 3) for vasculitic peripheral neuropathy. If none of the following is present, then diagnosis is NSVN.⁴

1. Biopsy evidence of vasculitis in tissue other than peripheral nerve, or (by convention) muscle;
2. Signs, symptoms, or laboratory evidence of involvement of organ(s) other than peripheral nerve (or, by convention, muscle) likely due to vasculitis⁵;
3. Meets Brighton case definition for any form of vasculitis other than nerve or muscle;
4. Laboratory markers of systemic inflammatory state:
 - a. PR3- or MPO-ANCA;
 - b. Mixed cryoglobulins (>trace);
 - c. ESR $\geq$ 100 mm/h;
5. Specific infection associated with vasculitis (such as Hepatitis B and C, HIV, CMV, leprosy, Lyme disease, HTLV-1, parvovirus B19);
6. Predisposing conditions or factors:
 - a. Connective tissue disease;
 - b. Sarcoidosis;
 - c. Inflammatory bowel disease;
 - d. Active malignancy;
 - e. Drug likely to be causing vasculitis.

Hadden et al. Vaccine. 2017;35(11):1567-1578

SVN vs NSNV

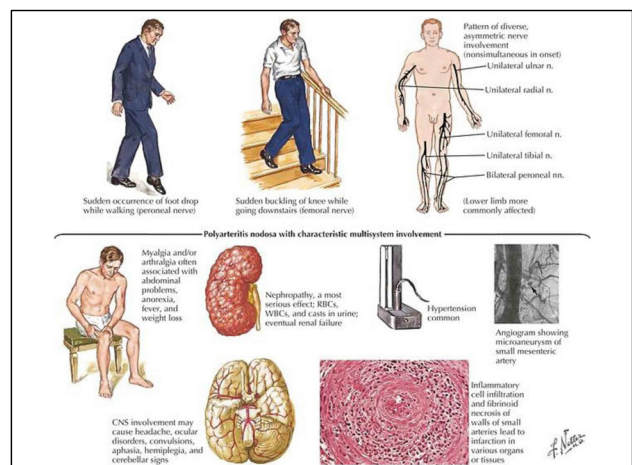
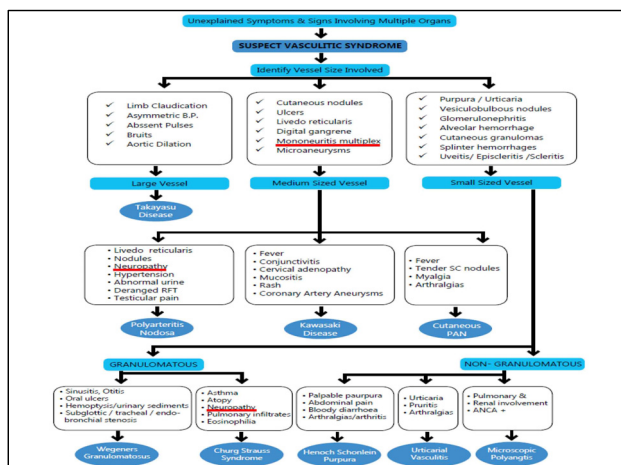
	SNV	NSNV
Pathological differences^a		
Commonly involved	Epineurial arteriole	Perineurial smaller arteriole
Types	More often definite	More common probable
Severity	More severe	Less severe
Axonal degeneration	No difference	No difference
Ischaemic change	No difference	No difference
Clinical features^a	Essentially the same	Essentially the same
Laboratory features^a		
High ESR	Common	Rare
High ANA	Common	Extremely rare
High RF	Common	Extremely rare
Hepatitis B antigen	20%	None
ANCA	47%*	None
Prognosis	Serious	Benign
Diagnosis	Can be diagnosed from Other tissue	Nerve biopsy: sine qua non
Duration of disease	Weeks to months	Months to years
Treatment	Cyclophosphamide	Steroid alone?

Oxford Textbook of Vasculitis, 3rd Edition, p171

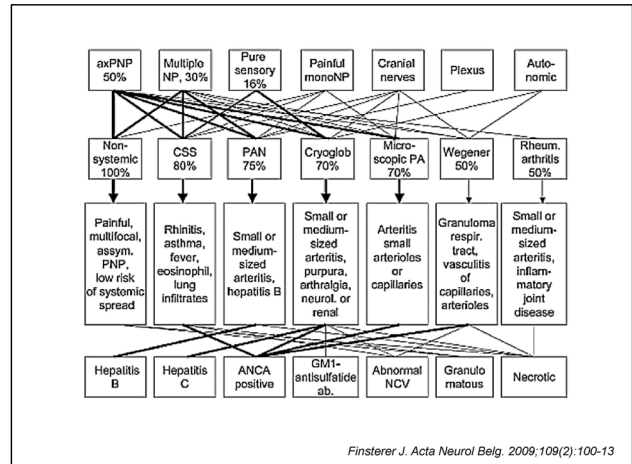
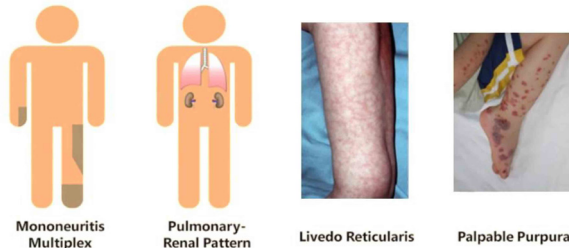
	Histopathology	Vessels affected	Other organs clinically involved (%)	Laboratory studies (%)	PNS, CNS changes
Polyarteritis nodosa	Necrotizing vasculitis; mixed infiltrate; sparse immune deposits	Small and medium arteries	Skin (55-60%), joints (50%), kidneys (40-50%), GI (30%), testes (2-20%), heart (10-15%), ENT (rare), lungs (rare)	TESR (-85%), TWBC (-70%), haemoglobin (-60%), platelets (-60%), RF (-30%), Hep B (20-30%), Comp (-25%), ANA (-55%), Hep C (-5-10%), angio (angiogram abnormal in 70%, evidence of aneurysm)	PNS (65-67%), CNS (5-6%), CNS (-5%)
Microscopic polyangiitis	Necrotizing vasculitis; mixed infiltrate; sparse immune deposits; LCV in skin	Arterioles, capillaries, venules, veins, vessels affected more than small and medium arteries	Kidney (75-90%), joints (40-60%), skin (30-60%), lungs (35-50%), GI (30-40%), ENT (20%), heart (10-20%), testes (rare)	TESR (-90%), ANCA (75-85%), MPO-PR3, RF (25-50%), ANA (20-30%), Comp (rare), Hep B/C negative, angio (angiogram abnormal in 70%)	PNS (40-50%), CNS (10-15%)
Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Churg-Strauss syndrome)	Necrotizing vasculitis; mixed infiltrate with eosinophils; granulomas; sparse immune deposits; LCV in skin	Small and medium arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules, veins	Lungs (100%), asthma (40-75%), infiltrates; ENT (sinusitis, rhinitis, 60-80%), skin (50-70%), GI (35-50%), joints (30-50%), heart (30-50%), heart (M), kidney (15-30%)	T eosinophils (100%), TESR (-85%), IgE (-75%), ANCA (30-40%), MPO-PR3, RF (40-50%), ANA (-10%), Comp (rare), Hep B/C negative, angio (angiogram abnormal in 30%)	PNS (65%), CNS (-5%), CNS (10-15%)
Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's granulomatosis)	Necrotizing vasculitis; granulomas; collagen necrosis; sparse immune deposits; LCV in skin	Small and medium arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules	ENT (90-100%), lungs (85-90%), kidney (60-75%), eyes (50-60%), skin (25-50%), joints (25-75%), heart (20-30%), heart (C), GI (5-70%)	ANCA (80-90%), PR3-MPO, TESR (-85%), haemoglobin (-75%), platelets (55%), RF (50-60%), TWBC (-35%), ANA (-25%)	PNS (20-25%), CNS (5-10%), CNS (15%)
IgA vasculitis (Henoch-Schönlein purpura)	LCV in skin; IgA vascular deposits	Arterioles, capillaries, venules	Skin (100%), joints (65-70%), GI (-60%), heart (-40-45%), testis (-20-40%), testes (-15%), lungs (rare)	TESR (50-60%), IgA (-50%), TWBC (-50%), TASO (20-50%), cryoglobulins (5-15%), RF (-5%), ANA (-5%), ANCA (-5%)	PNS (rare), CNS (rare)
Cryoglobulinemic vasculitis	Necrotizing vasculitis; microangiopathy; non-IgA immune deposits; LCV in skin	Small arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules	Skin (-95%), joints (70-90%), GI (-30%), salivary glands (sicca -30%), Raynaud's (75-90%), GI (rare, 10-20%)	TESR (50-60%), TWBC (-50%), TASO (20-50%), cryoglobulins (5-15%), RF (-5%), ANA (-5%), ANCA (-5%)	PNS (-65%), CNS (rare)
Giant cell arteritis	Necrotizing vasculitis; mononuclear infiltrate; granulomas and giant cells (-50%)	Medium-large arteries	PMR (-50%), liver (-30%), abnormal LFTs, subclavian-sulci brachial (6-8%), aorta (15-20%), superficial femoral popliteal (2-7%), kidney (GN) (-10%)	ESR (98-100%), TESR (85-100%), haemoglobin (70-90%), TWBC (20-30%), ANA (-5%), RF negative, ANA negative, angio (angiogram abnormal in 100%)	Orological (60-90%), optic nerve (15-20%), PNS (-5%), CNS (-5%)
Non-systemic, vasculitic neuropathy	Necrotizing and non-necrotizing vasculitis in epineurium and perineurium much more than endoneurium; mononuclear infiltrate; immune deposits	Small arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules	Muscle (25%)	TESR (-50%), ANCA (-25%), haemoglobin (-20%), TWBC (-15%), RF (-10%), Comp (-5%)	PNS (100%), CNS (0%)

Gwathmey et al. *Lancet Neurol*. 2014;13(1):67-82

Gwathmey et al. Lancet Neurol. 2014;13(1):67-82



Clinical features highly suggestive vasculitis



Finsterer J. Acta Neurol Belg. 2009;109(2):100-13

History, Exam Consistent with Neuropathy

NCS/EMG

Non-length dependent axon loss, asymmetries, Intra limb amplitude disparities

yes

no → Routine PN Work-up; If CTD or systemic vasculitis

Screening tests*: ESR, CRP, CBC with diff, chemistry panel with glucose, renal and liver function, SPEP, UA, Chest X-ray
Consider: ANCA, Hep B & C Ab, cryoglobulins, ANA, dsDNA, SS-A/B Abs, RF, C3, C4, HIV-Ab, Lyme titer, anti-Hu. If PAN suspect: consider mesenteric angiography
*With known CTD or systemic vasculitides, may skip screening tests

Depending on Above, Consider

Nerve/Muscle Biopsy

Follow and consider

Lacomis et al. J Clin Neuromuscul Dis. 2007;9(1):265-76

Panel 2: Consensus recommendations for laboratory investigation of suspected vasculitic neuropathy

- 1 Routinely indicated studies: Complete blood count, eosinophil count, chemistry panel (electrolytes, renal function, and liver function), urinalysis, glycated haemoglobin, and/or 2-h glucose tolerance test, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, antinuclear antibodies, rheumatoid factor, antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, serum protein immunofixation electrophoresis, complement (C3, C4, total), cryoglobulins, hepatitis B surface antigen, hepatitis C antibodies, and chest x-ray.
- 2 Occasionally indicated studies: SSA or SSB antibodies, other antibodies against extractable nuclear antigens, double-stranded DNA antibodies, cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, angiotensin converting enzyme, lysozyme, vascular endothelial growth factor, β_2 -microglobulin, HIV antibodies, Lyme antibodies, hepatitis C RNA, cytomegalovirus antigen or DNA, paraneoplastic autoantibodies, lactate dehydrogenase, HDL cholesterol, porphyria screen, DNA for PMP22 deletion associated with hereditary neuropathy with liability to pressure palsies, DNA for transthyretin gene, chest CT, gallium-67 scan, visceral angiography, salivary gland biopsy, lumbar puncture, and other body imaging for malignancy.

Gwathmey et al. Lancet Neurol. 2014;13(1):67-82

Diagnostic sensitivity

Authors	Patients	No. cases	Nerve biopsy	Muscle biopsy	Comments
Dyck et al. (1987)	SNV, Biopsy proven VN	45	58% (26/45)	25% (11/22)	Sural/gastrocnemius
Said et al. (1988)	SNV, Biopsy proven VN	83	51%	75%	Superficial fibular (peroneal)/peroneus brevis
Said (1995)	SNV, Biopsy proven VN	?	62%	54%	Same as above?
Clausen et al. (2000)	SNV, suspected ^a	115	39%	17%	Sural in all/anterior tibials in 2/3 of cases
Collins et al. (2000)	SNV, suspected	70	27%	16%	Superficial fibular (peroneal)/peroneus brevis
Said (2005)	SNV, biopsy proven VN	22	90%	50%	Superficial fibular (peroneal)/peroneus brevis
Maxeiner et al. (1952)	SNV, suspected	136 ^a	13%		
	SNV, biopsy proven	26	35%		
Dahlberg et al. (1989)	SNV, suspected	26 ^b	1	9%	
Rapport (1993)	SNV, suspected	29	20%		Sural nerve biopsy
Cruz Martinez et al. (1988)	SNV, biopsy proven VN	14	86%	79%	
Dyck et al. (1987)	NSV, biopsy proven VN	20	100%		All by the sural nerve biopsy
Davies et al. (1996)	NSV, biopsy proven VN	25	100%		All by the sural nerve biopsy
Collins et al. (2003)	NSV, biopsy proven VN	48	100%		Sural in 30; SP/P8 in 19; Sup radial in 2
Karanova (2004)	NSV, biopsy proven VN	22	100%		All by the sural nerve biopsy
Vital (2006)	CV, suspected	178 ^c	62%		Superficial fibular (peroneal)/peroneus brevis
	Biopsy proven VN ^d	85	73%	59%	

Oxford Textbook of Vasculitis, 3rd Edition, p.163

Ultrasound of the peripheral nerves in systemic vasculitic neuropathies

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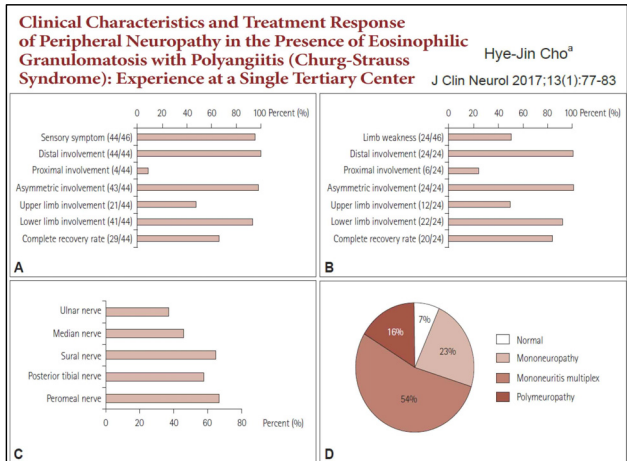
Journal of the Neurological Sciences 347 (2014) 44–49

Ultrasonic measurements.

Mean CSA in mm ²	Vasculitic neuropathies	Control	ANOVA
Median nerve, proximal	11.0 ± 2.5	9.0 ± 1.6	p = 0.028
Median nerve, middle	11.6 ± 2.5	9.6 ± 2.1	p = 0.044
Median nerve, distal	8.4 ± 1.4	7.5 ± 1.7	p = 0.165
Ulnar nerve, proximal	8.5 ± 2.1	6.9 ± 2.2	p = 0.039
Ulnar nerve, distal	7.1 ± 1.8	6.3 ± 1.5	p = 0.152
Fibular nerve	10.7 ± 2.4	8.0 ± 1.8	p = 0.006
Tibial nerve, proximal	21.9 ± 5.7	21.0 ± 3.9	p < 0.001
Tibial nerve, distal	11.9 ± 2.6	8.8 ± 2.3	p = 0.008
Sural nerve	3.3 ± 1.4	2.1 ± 0.7	p = 0.043
Vagal nerve	2.0 ± 0.4	2.2 ± 0.7	p = 0.785
CG in mm	3.1 ± 0.6	3.1 ± 0.4	p = 0.989

Ultrasonic measurements in comparison to demyelinating and axonal neuropathies.

Mean CSA in mm ²	Vasculitic neuropathies	Demyelinating neuropathies (CIDP, MMN, MADSAM)	Axonal neuropathies (diabetes, alcohol, critical illness)	ANOVA
N	14	22	26	
Mean age in years ± SD	62.0 ± 15.0	56.1 ± 12.2	63.8 ± 13.2	p = 0.128
Disease duration in month ± SD	28.2 ± 25.2	21.1 ± 23.0	14.7 ± 20.7	p = 0.231
Gender m/f	5/9	20/2	17/9	p = 0.002
Mean Height in cm	168.8 ± 3.6	175.9 ± 8.6	175.2 ± 8.9	p = 0.057
Mean Weight in kg	64.1 ± 10.6	71.0 ± 8.3	73.5 ± 15.5	p = 0.163
Enlargement in motor nerves of arms and legs	2.9 ± 1.9	5.4 ± 2.3	1.9 ± 2.0	p < 0.001
Median nerve, proximal	11.0 ± 2.5	20.0 ± 11.3	10.5 ± 0.3	p = 0.013
Median nerve, middle	11.6 ± 2.5	19.6 ± 2.1	10.6 ± 0.3	p = 0.048
Median nerve, distal	8.4 ± 0.4	15.5 ± 1.7	8.2 ± 0.01	p = 0.038
Ulnar nerve, proximal	8.5 ± 2.1	14.9 ± 2.2	8.4 ± 0.2	p = 0.012
Ulnar nerve, distal	7.1 ± 1.8	10.3 ± 1.5	6.7 ± 0.1	p = 0.001
Fibular nerve	10.7 ± 2.4	12.0 ± 1.8	9.2 ± 0.4	p = 0.031
Tibial nerve, proximal	31.9 ± 5.7	38.3 ± 13.9	28.3 ± 6.9	p = 0.033
Tibial nerve, distal	11.9 ± 2.6	15.4 ± 5.3	8.5 ± 0.3	p < 0.001
Sural nerve	3.3 ± 1.4	3.6 ± 0.7	2.0 ± 0.9	p = 0.015
Vagal nerve	2.0 ± 0.4	4.7 ± 1.7	2.7 ± 0.7	p < 0.001
C6 in mm	3.1 ± 0.6	4.4 ± 0.4	3.8 ± 0.9	p = 0.021



Treatment

Steroids
1-2 mg/kg/d prednisone (mild cases) or 1 g/d methyl-prednisolone iv for 5 d (severe cases) followed by 1-2 mg/kg/d prednisone until effect (6-8 w), afterwards every second day (same dosage or half dosage)

Cyclophosphamide
If steroids are ineffective or multi-system involvement either 2 mg/kg during 3-12 m or pulse therapy intravenously with 500 mg/m² once every 4-6 w during 1 a

Methotrexate
Indicated if cyclophosphamide is ineffective or as long-term therapy after remission under steroids plus cyclophosphamide, start with 0.3 mg/kg (maximally 15 mg) once a week and increase to 15-25 mg/week thereafter

Azathioprine
Indicated if cyclophosphamide is ineffective or as long-term therapy after remission under steroids plus cyclophosphamide, at the beginning 1 mg/kg/d later on 2-2.5 mg/kg/d

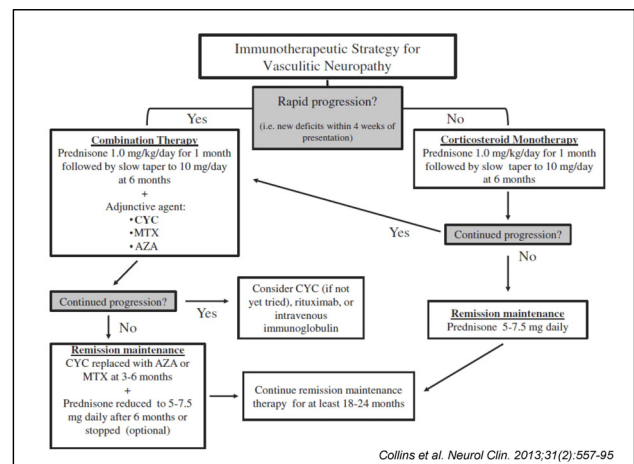
Mycophenolate mofetil
Only pilot studies available, possibly effective in Wegener's granulomatosis

Leflunomide
Only pilot studies available, possibly effective in Wegener's granulomatosis

Rituximab
Only pilot studies available, particularly effective in ANCA-positive vasculitis

Immunoglobulins
Open-label studies suggest clinical benefit and reduction of inflammatory markers

Finsterer J. Acta Neurol Belg. 2009;109(2):100-13



Collins et al. Neurol Clin. 2013;31(2):557-95

Conclusion

- A high index of suspicion is required to identify this relatively rare condition, which is often highly responsive to immunosuppressant therapy
- Vasculitic neuropathy is typically painful
- Although the most suggestive pattern of involvement is mononeuritis multiplex, whether multifocal, asymmetric, or symmetrical patterns of nerve involvement may occur
- Sensory-only neuropathy may occur, but motor-only presentation is distinctly rare
- Steroids are first-line therapy, but combination immunosuppressive therapy, most commonly with cyclophosphamide, is often necessary to induce remission, particularly in aggressive or systemic disease

Thank you for your attention