

## **NMO immunosuppression should be withheld in pregnant patients**

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Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD) are severe autoimmune conditions of the CNS with predominant affection of the optic nerve, spinal cord and brain stem. In up to 80% of patients serum antibodies to the astrocyte water channel aquaporin-4 are detected that are associated with an increased risk of recurrent disease following the first attack. Thus, immediate initiation of immunosuppressive treatment following the first attack is warranted in seropositive patients. As NMOSD also affect women in fertile age, the question how an NMOSD diagnosis impacts the course of a pregnancy and vice versa is raised by many female patients, including the critical issue as to whether immunosuppression should be stopped before or during pregnancy in light of the potential risks. This presentation will summarize current knowledge on course and complications of pregnancy in patients with NMOSD and provide arguments in favor of withholding immunosuppression in pregnant women.