

Should therapy be initiated in suspected MS cases not having OCB?

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Today, the expediency of early treatment of MS with disease-modifying therapy (DMT) has been proven. However, the diagnosis of MS in the early stages is often difficult. This is especially true for CIS with the lack of clinical data on dissemination in time and space. Guided by the criteria of McDonald, you must look either for evidence of this data on an MRI, or expect the next exacerbation with the occurrence of clinically significant new lesions. The latest revision of the McDonald criteria (new update 2017) allows for more extensive use of Oligoclonal bands (OCB) indicators in the cerebrospinal fluid, not only for the diagnosis of primary progressive MS but also for the early diagnosis of relapsing-remitting MS. The presence of OCB in the cerebrospinal fluid in patients with CIS without convincing data of MS on an MRI makes it very likely definite MS and DMT can be prescribed. It remains an open question about the necessity of such treatment for patients with CIS without the presence of OCB in their cerebrospinal fluid.