

M. pneumoniae infection linked to Guillain-Barre syndrome

August 16 2016



(HealthDay)—*Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection is associated with

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), according to a study published online Aug. 4 in the *Annals of Neurology*.

Patrick M. Meyer Sauter, M.D., from the University Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and colleagues examined the role of *M. pneumoniae* in GBS in a case-control study involving 189 [adults](#) and 24 [children](#) with GBS. Cases were compared to control cohorts for analysis of [serum antibodies](#) against *M. pneumoniae* (479 controls) and galactocerebroside (GalC; 198 controls).

The researchers found that 3 and 0 percent of adult GBS patients and healthy controls ($P = 0.16$) and 21 and 7 percent of children ($P = 0.03$), respectively, had anti-*M. pneumoniae* immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies. Four percent of adults and 25 percent of children with GBS had anti-GalC antibodies ($P = 0.001$). Patients who were positive for anti-GalC had more frequent preceding respiratory symptoms, cranial nerve involvement, and a better outcome. There was a correlation for anti-GalC antibodies with anti-*M. pneumoniae* antibodies ($P < 0.001$). Anti-GalC IgM antibodies were found in GBS patients with *M. pneumoniae* infection and in patients without neurological disease; anti-GalC IgG antibodies were only found in [patients](#) with GBS.

"*M. pneumoniae* infection is associated with GBS, more frequently in children than adults, and elicits anti-GalC [antibodies](#), of which specifically anti-GalC IgG may contribute to the pathogenesis of GBS," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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Citation: M. pneumoniae infection linked to Guillain-Barre syndrome (2016, August 16)
retrieved 9 July 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-08-pneumoniae-infection-linked-guillain-barre-syndrome.html>

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