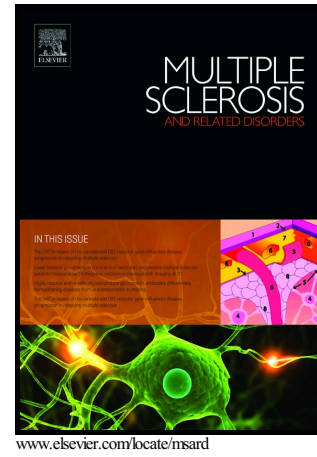


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Abstract

Background: The 2015 International Panel for neuromyelitis optica (NMO) spectrum disorders (NMOSD) diagnosis (IPND) criteria was recently proposed. However, because there are no studies evaluating application of the IPND criteria in Latin American populations, we aimed to assess whether these new criteria improve the diagnostic rate and reduce the time taken to make the diagnosis in a cohort of Latin American patients.

Methods: We reviewed medical records and applied both the 2006 and 2015 diagnostic criteria to all patients seen in four centers in Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela. Patients with multiple sclerosis (MS, n = 915) or other well-established central nervous system (CNS) inflammatory diseases were excluded. AQP4-ab status was measured using indirect immunofluorescence (23%) and cell-based assay (CBA, 77%). In addition, data on gender, ethnicity, age and symptoms at onset, relapses, neuroimaging and immunosuppressive therapy were collected.

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