

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Re: Comment on "Parainfectious Anti-Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein-Associated Meningoencephalitis"

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Dear Editor,

We appreciate the interest of the author and colleagues in our case report. The authors suggested that our case could be considered as anti-glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) autoimmune encephalitis (AE) rather than 'parainfectious' AE.¹ Although the pathologic role of the anti-GFAP antibody is assumed in both conditions, the antibody plays a leading role from the initial phase in anti-GFAP AE, while delayed generation of antibodies is more emphasized in parainfectious anti-GFAP AE.

The key feature hinting at parainfectious anti-GFAP AE in our patient was the biphasic clinical course: initial acute meningoencephalitis and the later phase characterized by newly developed movement disorder after a lucid interval (between D10 and D14). In the previous cases of anti-GFAP AE, clinical courses were described as monophasic or relapsing.² However, it remains uncertain whether recurrent episodes presented with the same clinical features and whether lucid intervals were present in the relapsed cases.

As the authors pointed out, the failure to find infectious pathogens despite extensive diagnostic work-up casts doubt on the claim of parainfectious anti-GFAP AE. However, in many cases with acute encephalitis, the etiologies remain unknown (40%–60%), questioning a mandatory confirmation of the primary infectious agents to make a diagnosis of parainfectious AE.³

In conclusion, our case is more compatible with a parainfectious autoimmune anti-GFAP astrocytopathy provoked by precedent encephalitis than with anti-GFAP AE.⁴ Further studies with serial tests for anti-GFAP antibodies from the early phase and

more detailed clinical observation could shed light on the differentiation between parainfectious GFAP astrocytopathy and anti-GFAP AE.

Ethics Statement

Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

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Author Contributions

Conceptualization: Dallah Yoo, Tae-Beom Ahn. Writing—original draft: Dallah Yoo. Writing—review & editing: Dallah Yoo, Tae-Beom Ahn.

ORCID iDsDallah Yoo <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9736-6118>Tae-Beom Ahn <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7315-6298>**REFERENCES**

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