

### Association of stiff-person syndrome with autoimmune endocrine diseases



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Stiff Person Syndrome (SPS) is a rare autoimmune neurologic disorder and is associated with anti-glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) antibodies. SPS has been reported in association with other autoimmune diseases such as insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, pernicious anemia, and vitiligo among others (1).

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Mar 12, 2018 · Stiff person syndrome (SPS) is a rare, progressive syndrome that affects the nervous system, specifically the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms may include extreme muscle stiffness, rigidity and painful spasms in the trunk and limbs, severely impairing mobility.

## Stiff Person Syndrome with Graves' disease: A rare association

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#### Abstract

#### BACKGROUND

Stiff person syndrome (SPS) and its subtype, stiff limb syndrome (SLS), are rare neurological disorders characterized by progressive muscular rigidity and spasms. Glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) is the enzyme that catalyzes the production of  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (GABA), a major inhibitory neurotransmitter of the central nervous system. SPS is an autoimmune disease triggered by anti-glutamic acid decarboxylase antibody (anti-GAD Ab). Clinically, anti-GAD Ab is associated with SPS, type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) and other autoimmune diseases.

#### AIM

To investigate the link of autoimmune endocrine disorders with anti-GAD Ab in SPS subjects.

# METHODS

This retrospective study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan. We collected the diagnosis with SPS from January 2001 to June 2018. Review of fourteen patients from medical records, we analyzed those clinical finding with coexisting autoimmunity, particularly diabetes mellitus and thyroid disease that is associated with anti-GAD antibodies titers or other immunological test results (anti-thyroid peroxidase and anti-nuclear antibodies). We also evaluated malignancy, major complication and reported treatment to improve symptoms. Anti-GAD antibodies were measured using radioimmunoassay and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The cut-off value of this test is < 1 U/mL and <

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The syndrome often occurs in association with other autoimmune diseases like insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, thyroiditis, myasthenia gravis, and pernicious anemia. About 37 percent of stiff-person syndrome patients have diabetes mellitus.

### Stiff Person Syndrome with Graves' disease: A rare association

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## Stiff-person syndrome

Rare Neurologic Disorder

Stiff-person syndrome, also known as stiff-man syndrome, is a rare neurologic disorder of unclear cause characterized by progressive rigidity and stiffness. The stiffness primarily affects the truncal muscles and is superimposed by spasms, resulting in postural deformities. Chronic pain, impaired mobility, and lumbar hyperlordosis are common symptoms.



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