

Table 1. Demographic and clinical variables of subjects

	Controls		MS patients			
		Total group	RR	SP	PP	CIS*
number of subjects	342	321	241	37	21	22
Gender (M:F)	127:215	114:207	85:156	11:26	11:10	7:15
Age, yrs	39.2±0.7	40.6±0.7	37.8±0.7	52.3±2.0	51.5±2.9	36.8±2.0
Age at onset, yrs		31.4±0.6	29.8±0.6	33.8±2.1	39.9±2.9	34.8±1.9
Disease duration, yrs		8.9±0.5	9.4±0.7	23.6±2.5	11.6±1.8	2.2±0.3
Time to SP conversion, yrs				11.5±1.2		
Time between the first and the second attack, yrs			3.2±0.4 (n=135)^			
Annual relapse rate [°]			1.0±0.1 (n=91)^			
EDSS		2.4±0.1 (n=186)^	1.8±0.1 (n=142)^	5.8±0.2 (n=26)^	5.9±0.4 (n=18)^	
Progression Index [°]		0.42±0.04 (n=186)^	0.32±0.03 (n=142)^	0.52±0.09 (n=26)^	0.89±0.16 (n=18)^	

Data are given as means ± S.E.M.; EDSS= Expanded Disability Status Scale; Progression Index =EDSS /disease duration (yrs); annual relapse rate=total amount of relapses/duration of disease

* Clinical Isolated Syndrome suggestive of MS with dissemination of lesions in time and in space at MRI, according to McDonald [11]

[°] calculated before any immunomodulatory treatment

[^] patient numbers available for respective analysis

Table 2. *VNTR* allele and genotype frequencies (%) in MS patients and healthy controls

<i>VNTR</i> frequencies	Controls	All MS	MS Subtypes			
	n=342	n=321	RR-MS n=241	SP-MS n=37	PP-MS n=21	CIS n=22
Allele						
<i>A</i>	576 (84.2)	523 (81.4)	392 (81.3)	61 (82.4)	34 (81)	36 (81.8)
<i>B</i>	102 (14.9)	107 (16.7)	81 (16.8)	13 (17.6)	5 (11.9)	8 (18.2)
<i>C</i>	6 (0.9)	12 (1.9)	9 (1.9)	0 (0)	3 (7.1)*	0 (0)
Genotype						
<i>A/A</i>	240 (70.2)	209 (65.1)	158 (65.6)	24 (64.9)	13 (61.9)	14 (63.6)
<i>A/B</i>	90 (26.3)	94 (29.3)	68 (28.2)	13 (35.1)	5 (23.8)	8 (36.4)
<i>A/C</i>	5 (1.5)	11 (3.4)	8 (3.3)	0 (0)	3 (14.3)	0 (0)
<i>B/B</i>	6 (1.7)	6 (1.9)	6 (2.5)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
<i>B/C</i>	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.4)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Values are expressed as n (%)

$P=0.011$, PP-MS versus controls. OR (95% CI) : 9.3 (2.2-40.4)

$P=0.036$, PP-MS versus bout onset MS OR (95% CI) : 5.4 (1.3-21.7)

