

E-Pearl of the Week

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Amphiphysin antibody-associated stiff-person syndrome

Stiff-person syndrome (SPS), associated with amphiphysin antibodies, has been established as a unique clinical syndrome. Most patients are female and have breast cancer. Muscle stiffness has a tendency to be widely distributed. This syndrome differs from SPS associated with glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD) autoantibodies in several ways:

1. Amphiphysin antibody-associated SPS is much more often paraneoplastic.
2. It tends to more commonly involve the musculature of the neck and arms.
3. It is rare, accounting for only about 10% of cases of SPS.
4. It may be less likely to respond to intravenous immunoglobulin.
5. It is typically steroid responsive and may benefit from cancer treatment.

[Listen \(http://www.aan.com/rss/index.cfm/getfile/AAN_1832.mp3\)](http://www.aan.com/rss/index.cfm/getfile/AAN_1832.mp3) to a *Neurology*® podcast on the topic of amphiphysin antibody-associated stiff-person syndrome.

[Read more on SPS and amphiphysin antibodies.](http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/abstract/71/24/1955)
(<http://www.neurology.org/cgi/content/abstract/71/24/1955>)

Reference

Murinson BB, Guarnaccia JB. Stiff-person syndrome with amphiphysin antibodies: Distinctive features of a rare disease. *Neurology* 2008;71: 1955-1958.