



**5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Academy of Neurology**

**Oslo, Norway, June 29 - July 2, 2019**

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**Teaching Course 1**

**Mitochondrial diseases for beginners (Level 1)**

**Mitochondrial diseases of the brain**

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ean congress Oslo 2019  
5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Academy of Neurology  
June 29 - July 2

TC Teaching Course 1  
🕒 14:45 - 18:15  
Mitochondrial diseases for beginners (Level 1)

## Mitochondrial diseases of the brain

SyNerg  
Munich Cluster for Systems Neurology

Thomas Klopstock

DZNE  
German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases  
within the Helmholtz Association

LMU KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN  
FRIEDRICH-BAUR-INSTITUT  
AN DER NEUROLOGISCHEN KLINIK UND POLIKLINIK

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## Disclosures

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ApoPharma Inc., CoA Therapeutics, Retrophin Inc.,  
GenSight Biologics and Santhera Pharmaceuticals

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## Mitochondrial diseases of the brain

**Neurological**

- Seizure related stroke/ metabolic stroke.
- Epilepsy
- Ataxia
- Migraine
- Dementia
- Parkinsonism
- Developmental delay
- Psychiatric or mood disorder
- Developmental regression

MELAS

MERRF

Leigh sy.

LHON

Gorman et al, 2016

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## MELAS - Mitochondriale Enzephalomyopathie, Lactic Acidosis and stroke-like episodes

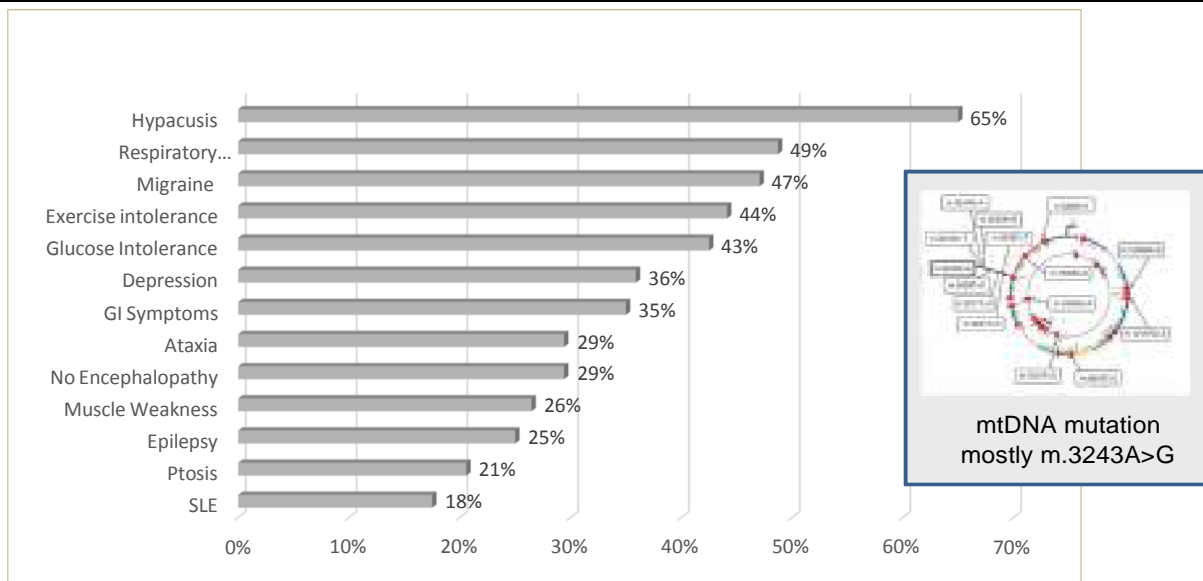
! Apraxia !

Frequency	Manifestations	Frequency	Manifestations
≥90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stroke-like episodes</li> <li>• Dementia</li> <li>• Epilepsy</li> <li>• Lactic acidemia</li> <li>• RRF on muscle biopsy</li> </ul>	25%-49%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basal ganglia calcification</li> <li>• Myoclonus</li> <li>• Ataxia</li> <li>• Episodic altered consciousness</li> <li>• Gait disturbance</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Psychotic disorders</li> <li>• Diabetes mellitus (type 1 or 2)</li> </ul>
7%-89%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hemiparesis</li> <li>• Cortical vision loss</li> <li>• Recurrent headaches</li> <li>• Hearing impairment</li> <li>• Muscle weakness</li> </ul>		<25%
50%-74%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peripheral neuropathy</li> <li>• Learning disability</li> <li>• Memory impairment</li> <li>• Recurrent vomiting</li> <li>• Short stature</li> </ul>		

El-Hattab et al, 2018

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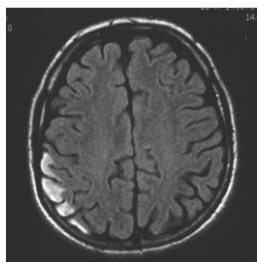
## The phenotypical spectrum of the m.3243A>G mutation



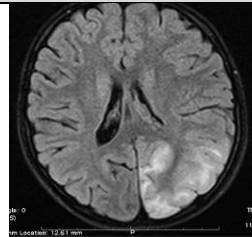
Radelfahr et al, Poster X

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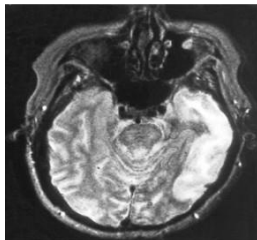
## MELAS - Imaging



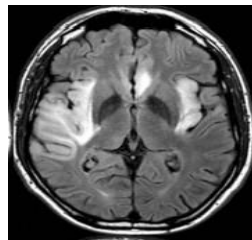
own patient, 29 yrs



Pauli et al, 2013



Sharfstein et al, 1999  
„A herpes not so simplex“



Gieraerts et al, 2013

- cortical pattern
- independent of vascular territories
- occipital, temporal > parietal >> frontal

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### MELAS - Imaging

#### Dynamic Lesion

**Day 4    9    14    29**  
 MELAS 47 yof, DWI,  
 expansion to posterior  
lizuka et al, 2003

**Patient with MELAS (40 yrs)**  
**A, B, C:** FLAIR at days 4, 9, 14  
 expansion and edema  
**D:** fettunterdrückte Bilder day 29  
 Cortical hyperintensity, cortical laminar necrosis  
**E, F:** HMPAO-SPECT  
 at days 5, 19: initial  
 hyperperfusion left  
 temporal lizuka et al, 2007

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### MELAS - Imaging

**MELAS, 29 yrs**  
 first stroke-like episode

**MELAS, 39 yrs**  
 After multiple stroke-like  
 episodes; severe dementia

#### Stroke-like episodes and lesions

- may recover completely or incompletely
- but after multiple episodes predominantly occipital atrophy

#### Pathophysiological hypothesis

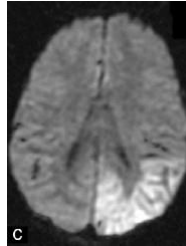
Neuronal energy deficiency  
 ↓  
 Neuronale Hyperexcitability  
 ↓  
 Epileptic Activity  
 ↓  
 Cortical Edema  
 ↓  
 Neuronal Loss

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## Stroke-like lesions beyond MELAS

- **Alpers-Syndrom**

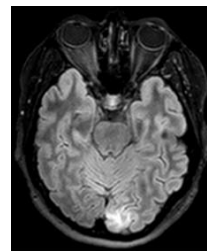
with mutations in the mitochondrial Polymerase gamma gene (POLG)



3 yrs old patient (Sofou et al, 2013)

- **SCAE (spinocerebellar ataxia and epilepsy)**

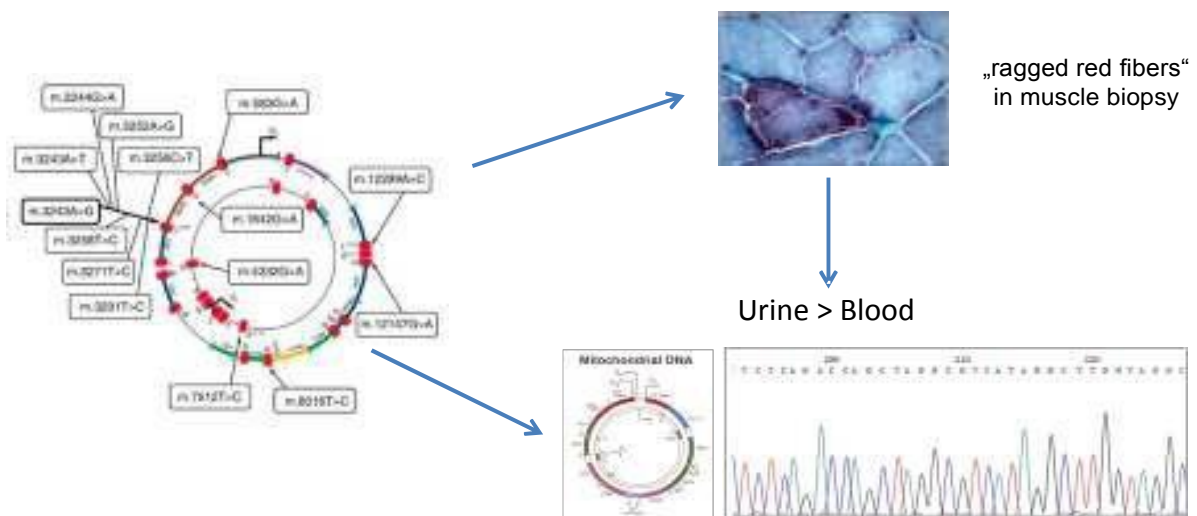
with mutations in the mitochondrial Polymerase gamma gene (POLG)



own patient, 30 yrs

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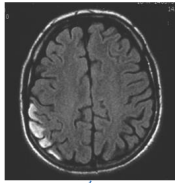
## Diagnostics of MELAS resp. its associated mutations



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## Therapy of MELAS



Ng et al, in preparation **Consensus-based Guidance for The Management of Mitochondrial Stroke-like Episodes**

We do not advocate the use of L-arginine in the treatment of stroke-like episodes. There is no robust scientific evidence. RCT needed.

### Antiepileptic Tx Acute i.v.:

- Levetiracetam
- Phenytoin
- Phenobarbital
- Lacosamide
- Midazolam

### Later p.o.:

- Levetiracetam
- Topiramate
- Lamotrigine

### Cave:

- Valproate

Autoren	Jahr	Medikament	Patienten	Design	Effekt
Tarnopolsky	1997	Kreatin	6 MELAS 1 MiMy	crossover 21-x-21	↑ Laktat ⇒ klinisch
Glover	2010	Coenzym Q	15 MELAS 11 CPEO 1 LHON 3 diverse	crossover 60-67-60	↑ Laktat ⇒ klinisch ⇒ MRS Gehirn
Kaufmann	2006	Dichloroacetat	30 MELAS	crossover 90-x-90	⇒ MRS Gehirn ⇒ Klinik <b>!!! Abbruch wg. Neuropathie !!!</b>

### The KHENERGY Study: Safety and Efficacy of KH176 in Mitochondrial m.3243A>G Spectrum Disorders

Miriam C.H. Jansen<sup>1,2</sup>, Saskia Koene<sup>3</sup>, Paul de Laat<sup>1</sup>, Pleun Hemelaar<sup>3</sup>, Peter Pickkers<sup>1</sup>, Edwin Spaans<sup>4</sup>, Ryzko Beukema<sup>5</sup>, Jolien Beyrath<sup>6</sup>, Jan Grootenbois<sup>6</sup>, Chris Verhaak<sup>6</sup> and Jan Struittink<sup>4</sup>

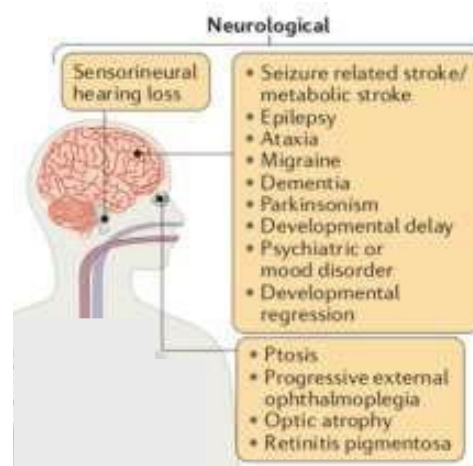
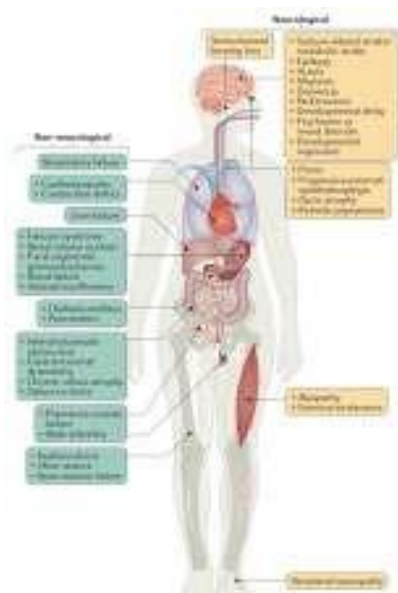
Phase IIa



Phase IIb

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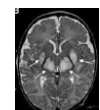
## Mitochondrial diseases of the brain



MELAS



MERRF



Leigh sy.



LHON

Gorman et al, 2016

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## MERRF - myoclonic epilepsy and ragged-red fibres

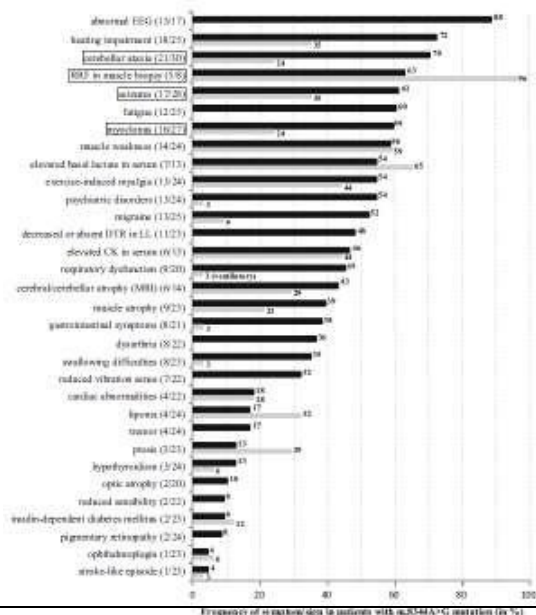
- a multisystemic mitochondrial disease that is characterised by myoclonus, seizures, cerebellar ataxia, and mitochondrial myopathy with ragged-red fibres.
- 80–90 % of cases caused by the m.8344A>G mutation of the mtDNA



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## The phenotypical spectrum of the m.8344A>G mutation

German mitoNET cohort N = 34; black bars  
Italian MITOCON cohort N= 34; grey bars

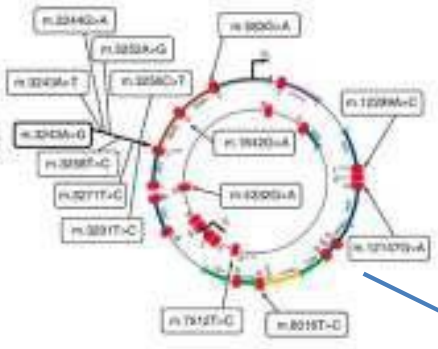
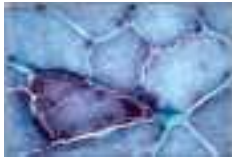


Mancuso et al, 2013; Altmann et al, 2016

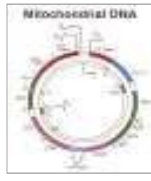
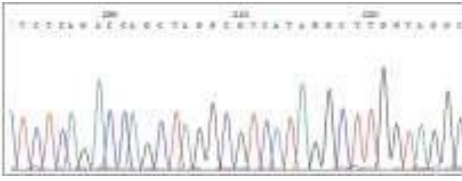
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### Diagnostics of MERRF resp. its associated mutations

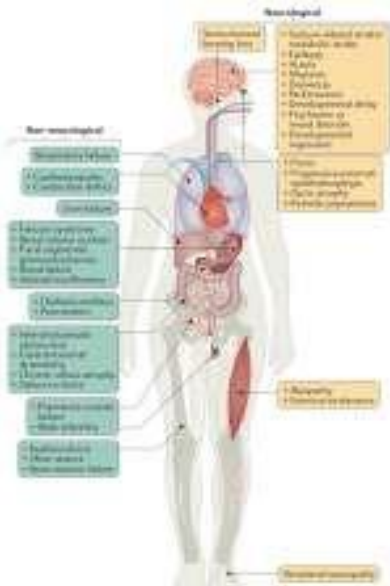



„ragged red fibers“  
in muscle biopsy


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### Mitochondrial diseases of the brain




#### Neurological


**Sensorineural hearing loss**



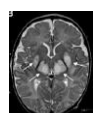
- Seizure related stroke/ metabolic stroke.
- Epilepsy
- Ataxia
- Migraine
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- Parkinsonism
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- Psychiatric or mood disorder.
- Developmental regression




MELAS



MERRF



Leigh sy.



LHON

Gorman et al, 2016

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## Leigh syndrome: infantile subacute necrotizing encephalomyelopathy

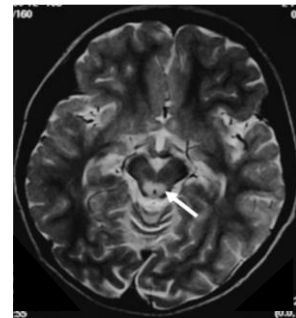
- fatal disorder of early childhood
- showing psychomotor regression, movement disorders and brain stem dysfunction
- symmetrical lesions in basal ganglia and brain stem in imaging and pathologically
- Caused by many different mitochondrial defects, both mtDNA- and nuclear-encoded

### Biochemistry

Complex I  
Complex II  
Complex III  
Complex IV  
Complex V  
PDHC

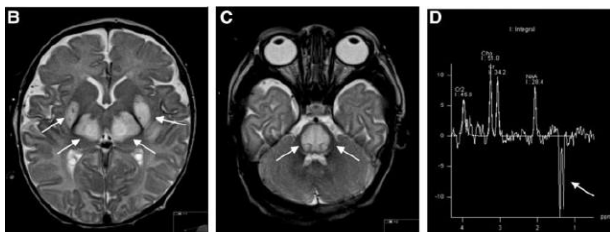
### Genetics

nuclear and mtDNA subunits  
nuclear subunits *SDHA*  
nuclear assembly factor  
nuclear assembly factors  
mtDNA  
X-chromosomal subunit

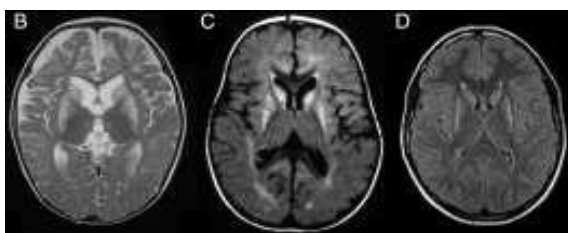


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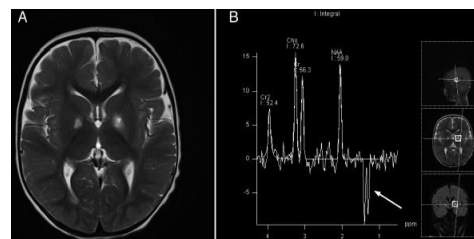
## Leigh syndrome imaging



SLC19A3 mutation, neonatal onset, died at 2 months (Haack et al, 2014)

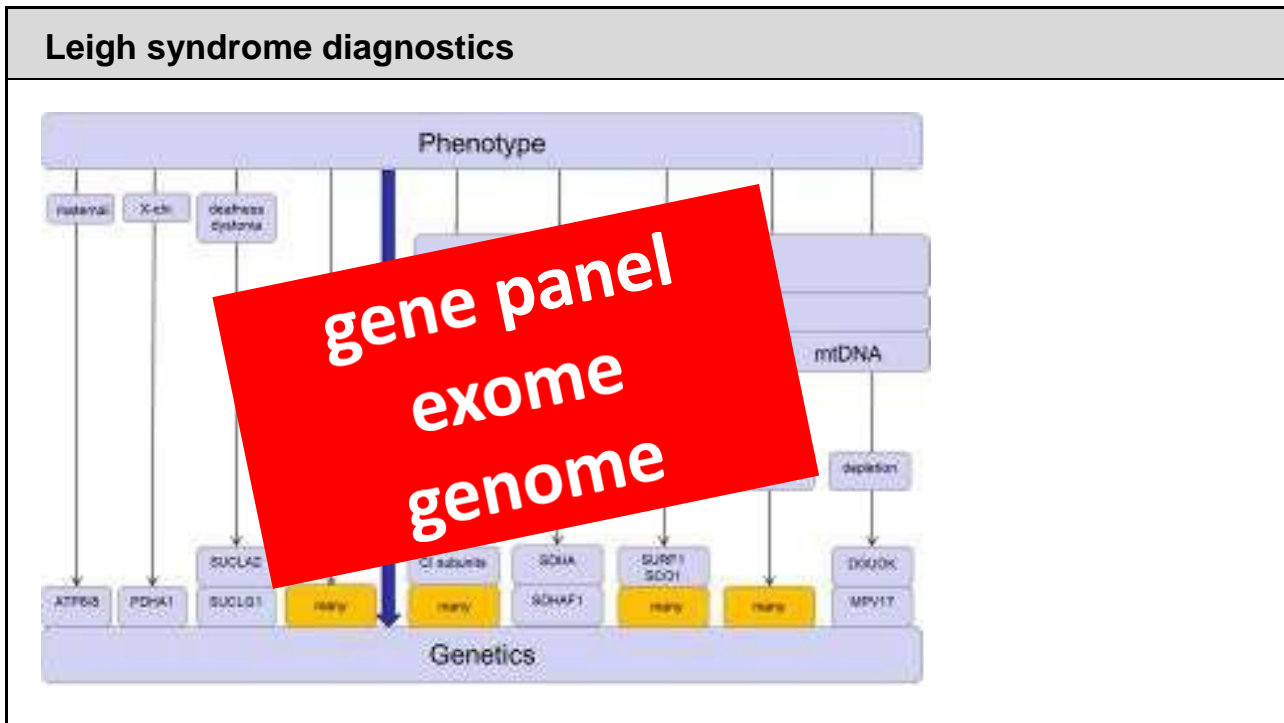


ECHS1 mutations, 3 patients aged 1, 2, and 15 yrs (Haack et al, 2015)



Complex III defect, 1 yof, dystonia (Baertling et al, 2014)

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### MRI imaging patterns in mitochondrial diseases

**Two pathognomic patterns**

- **Cortical hyperintensity (stroke-like lesion)** eg in MELAS, POLG
- **Hyperintensity basal ganglia and brain stem** eg in Leigh syndrome

**Two unspezific patterns**

- **Leukenzephalthie** eg in MNGIE, KSS
- **Cerebral atrophy** eg in CPEO, KSS

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## Mitochondrial diseases of the brain

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- Dementia
- Parkinsonism
- Developmental delay
- Psychiatric or mood disorder
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**Sensorineural hearing loss**

- Ptosis
- Progressive external ophthalmoplegia
- Optic atrophy
- Retinitis pigmentosa

MELAS

MERRF

Leigh sy.

LHON

Gorman et al, 2016

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## Leber`s Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON)

- Estimated as the most frequent mitochondrial disease
- Minimum prevalence:
  - 1 in 31.000: North of the UK
  - 1 in 39.000: Netherlands
  - 1 in 50.000: Finland
- mtDNA mutation relative frequencies:
  - ~90% m.11778, m.3460, m.14484
  - Most frequent: ~70% m.11778G>A
    - Exception!!! ~90% m.14484T>C in patients of French-Canadian descent (due to founder event)

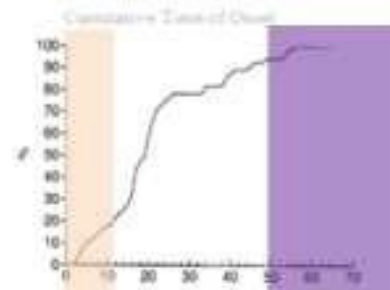
m.11778G>A	ND4	~70%
m.3460G>A	ND1	~14%
m.14484T>C	ND6	~12%
Rare Mutations	mtDNA	~5-10%

Fraser et al., 2010  
Macmillan et al., 2000  
Man et al., 2003  
Spruijt et al., 2006  
Puomila et al., 2007  
Yu-Wai-Man et al., 2011

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## Leber`s Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON)

- Predominantly affects young adult males
- M>F
- Age at onset: range 4 – 82 yrs
  - peak of onset: 2nd and 3rd decades
  - early-onset LHON (< 12yrs)
  - late-onset LHON (> 50 yrs)



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## LHON: Clinical manifestations

- Painless acute/ subacute progressive vision loss
- Sequential affection of 1st and 2nd eye (after a median of 6-8 weeks) (~75%)  
or
- both eyes affected from onset (~25%)
- Progression in days/weeks/months, then stability

### Off-chart (ETDRS)

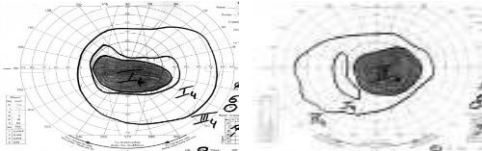
F N P R Z  
E Z H P Y  
D P N F R  
R D F U V  
U R Z V H  
H N D R U  
Z V U D N  
V P H D E  
P V E H R  
R V E H R  
R V E H R

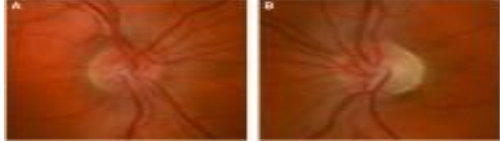
V R S K D R  
N H C S O K  
S C N O Z V  
O N H N O K  
N O O V H R  
H O N V H R

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### LHON: Clinical manifestations

- Fundoscopy: Papilledema in the acute phase, later optic atrophy, temporal predominant
- Visual fields: Bilateral central scotoma

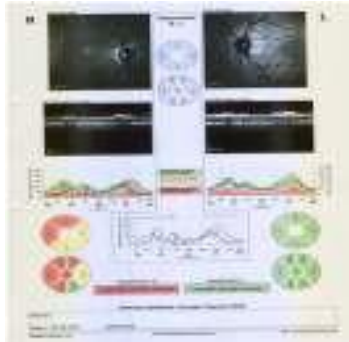




Mild hyperemia of the disc (acute vision loss of the second eye)

Prominent temporal optic nerve pallor (first eye affected 6 months before)

- OCT: Reduced temporal circumpapillary RNFL thickness



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### LHON: Pathogenesis & „window of opportunity“

RGCs may remain viable for prolonged periods of time<sup>1</sup>

Asymptomatic phase<sup>2</sup>

Subacute phase<sup>2</sup>

Dynamic phase<sup>2</sup>

Chronic phase<sup>2</sup>

Primary mtDNA mutation<sup>3</sup>

Secondary etiologic factors<sup>3</sup>

Mitochondrial dysfunction

Reduced RGC function<sup>3</sup>

Loss of RGCs<sup>3</sup>

Loss of vision

Terminal vision loss

- In the acute/subacute phase, RGCs are inactive but are still viable<sup>3,4</sup>
- In some patients, this is reversible and vision may be recovered<sup>3,4</sup>

Recovery of vision<sup>4</sup>

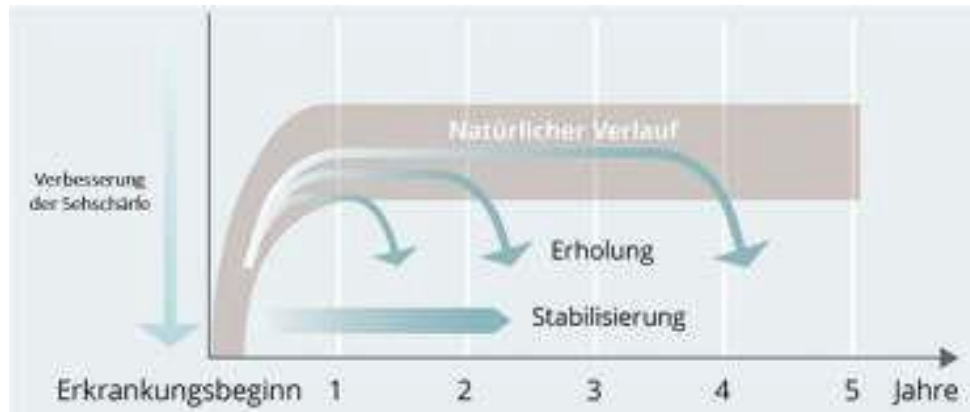
Spontaneous or drug-induced recovery of RGC function

1. Stone EM et al. *J Clin Neuroophthalmol.* 1992; 12:10–4; 2. Carelli V et al. *Acta Ophthalmologica.* 2016; 94:S256; 3. Howell N. *Vision Res.*1998; 38:1495–504; 4. Gueven N. *Biol Med.* 2014; 1:1–6.

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## LHON: Natural history & goals of therapy



### goals of therapy

Clinically Relevant Recovery (CRR)  
Clinically Relevant Stabilization (CRS)

Quelle: 1. Hasham S et al. ARVO 2016, Seattle, USA. Poster 5085.; Bild: Santhera pharmaceuticals.

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## RHODOS (Rescue Of Hereditary Optic Disease Outpatient Study)

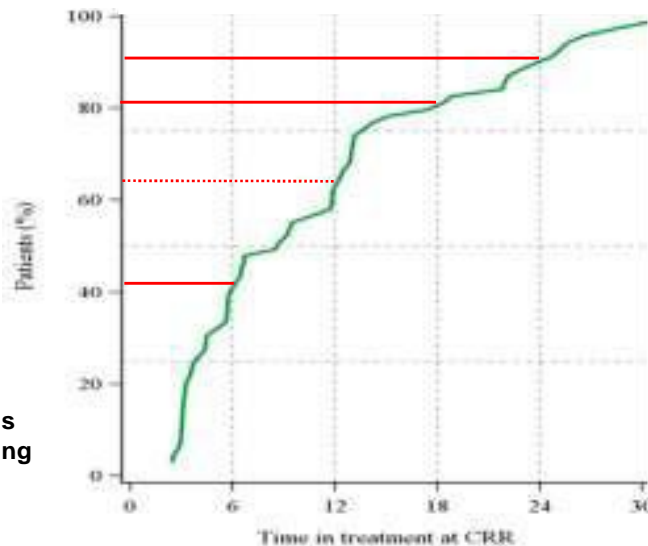
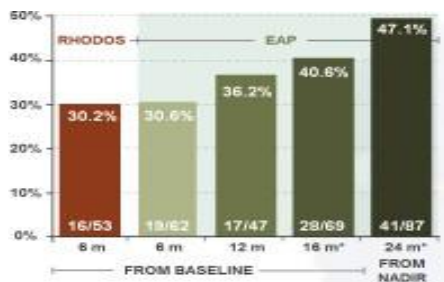


- double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel group trial
- 85 LHON patients in 3 centers (Munich, Newcastle, Montreal)
- largest trial to date in an mtDNA-associated disease

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### EAP-CRR: Time to first recovery



Total patients with CRR=41 patients (100%)

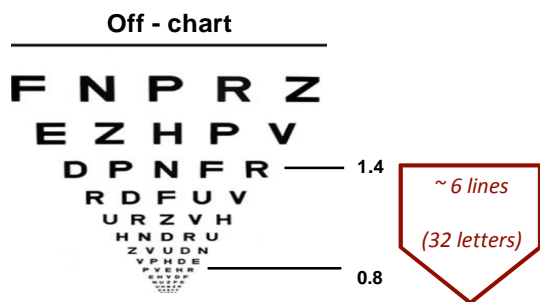
Treatment duration of at least 18-24 months is needed to maximize the probability of observing an initial CRR

Catarino et al, submitted

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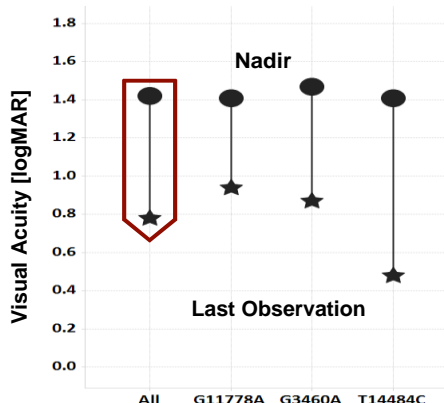
### EAP: Average magnitude of VA recovery

Mean effect size of ~6 lines in responders after 16 month



n=34/69 responders with CRR at last assessment

Average visual acuity at nadir and last observation in patients CRR by mutation



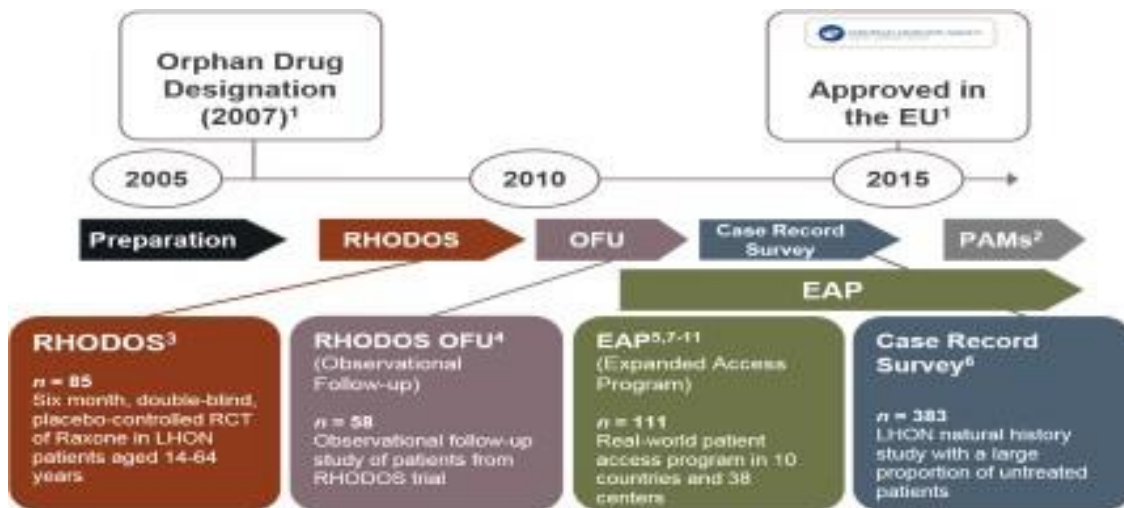
In patients with recovery in both eyes, the eye with the best recovery is reported

Catarino et al, submitted

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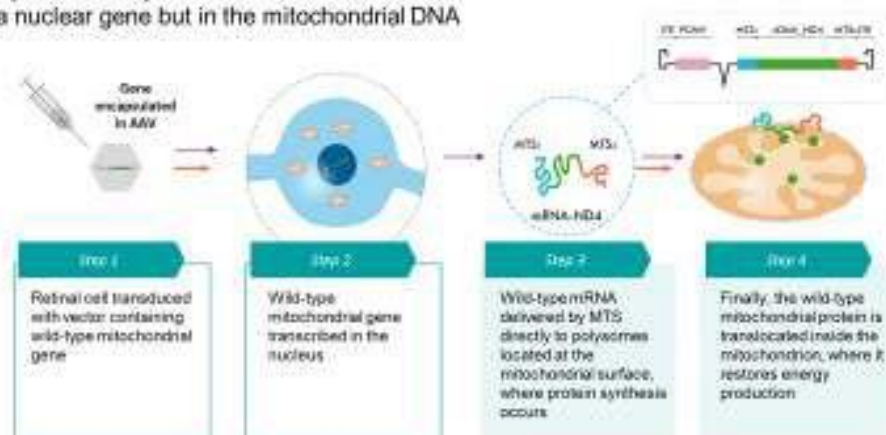
## Idebenone development program in LHON



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## LHON – Gene therapy

- unmet need at least for idebenone non-responders
- the eye as an ideal organ for gene therapy
  - Immune-privileged, closed system
  - Intravitreal injections introduce genetic material close to target cells
  - Slow turnover of retinal cells support long-term expression of transduced genes
- AAV vector has proven safety and efficacy for transduction of retinal cells
- BUT; the mutation is not in a nuclear gene but in the mitochondrial DNA
  - allotopic expression



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## LHON – Gene therapy „from bench to bedside“

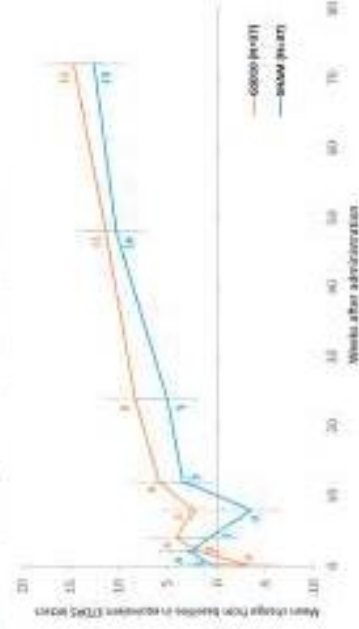
- GS010 restores respiratory chain complex I in patients fibroblasts Dimitroff et al. 2008
- GS010 prevents optic atrophy and visual loss in LHON rats Cohen-Cory/Thibault et al. 2016
- Phase 1 trial demonstrates safety, tolerability and trends of efficacy Nguyen et al. 2018
- Phase 3 trials



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## LHON – Gene therapy - Results

- well tolerated, frequent intraocular inflammation responsive to conventional treatment and without sequelae
- change in retinal ganglion cell macular volume from baseline to week 72  
 Treated eyes: no loss  
 Untreated eyes:  $-0.044\text{mm}^3$   $p=0.000$  (ANCOVA analysis)
- change in thickness of the papillo-macular bundle from baseline to week 72  
 Treated eyes:  $-1.6 \mu\text{m}$   $p=0.0002$  (ANCOVA analysis)  
 Untreated eyes:  $-3.6 \mu\text{m}$



- clinically meaningful improvement of +15 ETDRS letters in treated eyes but similar in untreated eyes

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## Mitochondrial diseases of the brain

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**MELAS**

**MERRF**

**Leigh sy.**

**LHON**

Gorman et al, 2016

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## Networks

Antragstellung für die Fördermaßnahme  
**Translationsorientierte Verbundvorhaben  
 im Bereich der seltenen Erkrankungen**



### mitoNET

#### German Network for mitochondrial disorders

No.	Principal investigator	Institution	Title of Subproject	Function in the consortium
1	Dr. Klopstock Dr. Prokisch Dr. Komblum	LMU München TU München Univ. of Bonn	Coordination of the consortium	Coordination, Monitoring, Processing of results
2 <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Prokisch Dr. Freisinger	TU München Children Hospital Reutlingen	mitoGENE	Molecular diagnostics by whole genome and RNA sequencing
2 <sup>2</sup>	Dr. Kremer Dr. Prokisch	TU München TU München	mitoVALID	Validation platform for variants of uncertain significance by functional complementation
2 <sup>3</sup>	Dr. Pletzner Dr. Kastenmüller	Univ. Greifswald TU München	mitoMETABO	Biomarker discovery for disease, progression and treatment by metabolomics
2 <sup>4</sup>	Dr. Wittig Dr. Meierhofer	Univ. of Frankfurt MPI Berlin	mitoPROT	Investigate molecular pathomechanisms and treatment effects by proteomics and complexomics
4 <sup>1</sup>	Dr. Klopstock Dr. Böchner Dr. Gagneur	LMU München LMU München TU München	mitoREGISTRY	Clinical registry (cross-sectional and longitudinal)
4 <sup>2</sup>	Dr. Schweinmetz Dr. Komblum Dr. Klopstock	EMBL Heidelberg Univ. of Bonn LMU München	mitoWEAR	eHealth project to evaluate utility of wearable activity monitors as possible new endpoints for future clinical trials
5	Dr. Meisinger	TU München	mitoSAMPLE	To collect biological materials and make them available for mitochondrial research



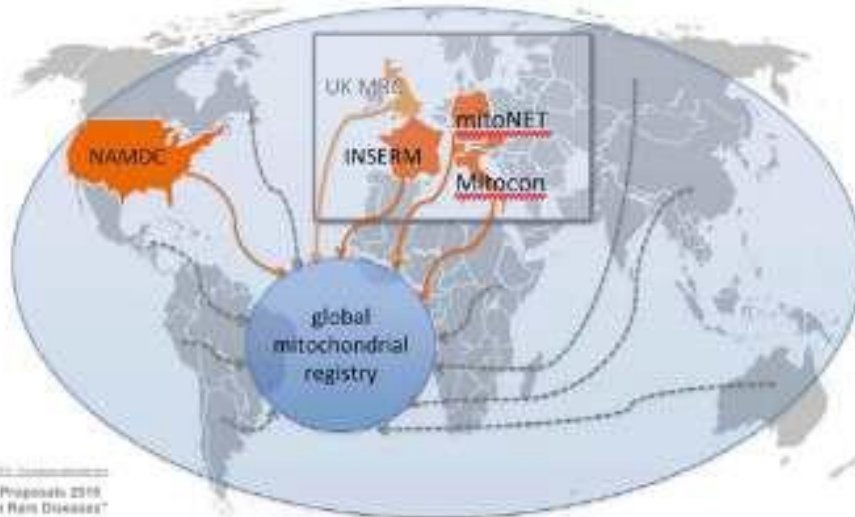
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## Global Networks

**GENOMIT**

Mitochondrial Disorders:  
from a world-wide registry to medical genomics, toward molecular mechanisms and new therapies



E. Rane, Joint Transnational Call for Proposals 2018  
"Transnational Research Projects on Rare Diseases"

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