



## **TITLE:** Stiff Person Syndrome of Paraneoplastic Cause. Diagnostic Keys in A Rare Entity

**Name:** Braulio Martínez

**Affiliation:** Neurologist, Hospital of Specialties Carlos Andrade Marín, Department of Neurology. Quito, Ecuador. Professor at Equinoccial Technological University

**Country:** Ecuador

**Email ID:** brauliomart@yahoo.com

### **ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)**

**Introduction:** Paraneoplastic disorders exert their effect through immunological mechanisms and not by direct invasion of the tumor; in this way tumors located outside the nervous system induce the production of antibodies against antigens: on the neuronal surface, intracellular or synaptic and affect distant sites from its location to either the central or peripheral nervous system, thus producing various clinical manifestations. One of these syndromes is the Stiff Person syndrome, which, apart from being a rare entity, occurs as a paraneoplastic syndrome in only 5% of cases.

**Clinical Case:** A 72-year-old male patient, a 2-month evolution that began with painful muscle spasms in the dorsal and lumbar region, evolved to rigidity with posture in axial and appendicular hyperextension, pseudospastic gait, hyperreflexia; due to the suspicion of Stiff Person syndrome a diagnostic work-up was begun finding high levels of Ab anti GAD65 and later a Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma was discovered through imaging studies. The patient received immunotherapy and cancer treatment.

**Conclusion:** Paraneoplastic syndromes must be identified according to the clinical phenotype and the determination of antineuronal antibodies. Anti-GAD65 antibodies are frequently associated with autoimmune causes and are present in many neurological syndromes, these antibodies in turn constitute part of the diagnostic criteria for Stiff Person syndrome as one of the minor criteria, confirming the diagnosis according to the phenotype correct, the next step is to discover the etiology, the oncological cause requires a high suspicion since the entire panel of antibodies is not available, but anti-GAD65 antibody levels > 2000 U/ml together with male patients and older patients

demonstrates an increased risk of having an underlying cancer.

### **BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)**

Braulio Martínez, is an Ecuadorian neurologist graduated from the San Francisco de Quito University, currently works as a specialist doctor and teaching coordinator of the Neurology department at the Carlos Andrade Marín Specialty Hospital, he is also a professor at the Equinoccial Technological University of the chair of Neurology. He has several publications in scientific journals, on various research topics such as autoimmune neurological diseases, paraneoplastic diseases, cerebrovascular diseases and neurointensive diseases for which he has several citations.



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✉ [neuroscience@scientexconferences.com](mailto:neuroscience@scientexconferences.com)

☎ +1-346-348-1205

**Presenter Name:** Braulio Martínez.  
**Mode of Presentation:** Oral.  
**Contact number:** +1 (593) 9 97813887



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