

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an inflammatory demyelinating immuno-mediated disease of the central nervous system.

There is strong evidence that MS is caused by the interplay of different factors like genetic predisposition, infectious agents and environmental factors, which are only partially known.

In the last years, it has been suggested that an abnormal venous drainage due to stenosis or malformation of the internal jugular and/or azygous veins may play a pathogenetic role in MS. This abnormality called chronic cerebro-spinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI) could result in increased permeability of blood brain barrier, local iron deposition and secondary multifocal inflammation. Literature data in favour and against this hypothesis will be discuss and data from our multicenter study on CCSVI and its clinical correlations will be presented.