Supplementary Information

CD8+ T cell-mediated endotheliopathy is a targetable mechanism of neuroinflammation in Susac syndrome, Gross *et al.* **2019**

Supplementary Figure 1. Gating strategies identifying immune-cell subsets. a. Gating strategy for detection of CD19⁺ B cells, CD138⁺ plasma cells, CD4⁺ T cells, CD8+ T cells CD4+HLADR+ T cells, and CD8+HLADR+ T cells in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF, top) and peripheral blood (PB, bottom) (Figure 1b, 3a-b, Supplementary Figure 2, 5a, 6). **b.** Gating strategy to detect CD45RA+CD62L+ naïve (T_{naïve}), CD45RA⁻CD62L⁺ central memory (T_{CM}), CD45RA⁻CD62L⁻ effector memory (T_{EM}) , and CD45RA⁺CD62L⁻ CD45RA re-expressing effector memory (TEMRA) cells constituting CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in the PB (Figure 1c, Supplementary Figure 3, 4a). **c**. Gating strategy to identify proportions of granzyme B (GrB⁺) and perforin (Perf⁺) expressing cells within distinct $CD8⁺$ Tcell subsets (Supplementary Figure 5b).

Plasma cells

Supplementary Figure 2. Absolute cell numbers and effect of cortisone. a. Graphs representing total cell numbers of $CD19⁺$ B cells (top left), $CD138⁺$ plasma cells (top right), CD8+ T cells (middle left), CD4+ T cells (middle right), HLA-DR⁺ CD8⁺ T cells (bottom left), and HLA-DR⁺ CD4⁺ T cells (bottom right) in the peripheral blood (PB; closed symbols, $SOD = 75$; $SUS = 32$; $MS = 225$) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF; open symbols; SoD = 75 ; SuS = 14 ; MS = 228) of somatic symptom disorders (SoD; closed blue circles), SuS (closed cayenne squares), and MS patients (closed red triangles). **b.** Graphs representing the proportions of CD8⁺ T cells (upper left), CD4⁺ T cells (top right), HLA-DR⁺CD8⁺ T cells (bottom left), and HLA-DR⁺CD4⁺ T cells (bottom right) among CD3⁺ T cells in the peripheral blood (PB) and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of treatment-naïve SuS patients (uniform squares, $n = 5$) and SuS patients on corticosteroids (divided squares, $n = 9$) at the time of blood/CSF withdrawal. Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-test (a) or Mann-Whitney test (b), respectively. Error bars indicate the mean \pm s.d.; $\dot{ }$: p <0.05; $\dot{ }$: p <0.01; ***: p <0.001; ****: p<0.0001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 3. Association of demographic features with CD8+ TEMRA cells. a. Correlation of the age of HD (left; closed blue circles, n = 20) and SuS patients (right; closed cayenne squares, $n = 20$) with the proportion of $CD8⁺$ TEMRA cells among peripheral CD8+ T cells. **b.** Correlation of the duration of disease in SuS patients (closed cayenne squares, $n = 20$) with the proportions of CD8+ TEMRA cells among peripheral CD8+ T cells. Linear regression was analyzed by Pearson test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 4. Clonal characteristics of T-cell repertoires of SuS patients. a. Correlation between repertoire clonality of total CD8⁺ T cells and the proportion of $CD8$ ⁺ T_{EMRA} cells in the blood of SuS patients (closed cayenne squares, $n = 11$). **b.** Clonality in the CD8⁺ T-cell repertoire of treatment-naïve SuS patients (closed cayenne squares, $n = 7$) and SuS patients on corticosteroids (divided cayenne squares, $n = 7$). **c.** Clonality of CD4⁺ T-cell repertoires of HD (closed blue circles, $n = 12$), SuS patients (closed cayenne squares, n = 14), and MS patients (closed red triangles, n = 12). **d.** Clonality of CD4+ T cell repertoire of SuS patients with clinically active disease (closed cayenne squares, $n = 6$) or in clinical remission (open cayenne squares, $n = 8$). **e.** *CDR3* length distribution of CD8⁺ T_{EMRA} cell repertoire in SuS patients (n = 6). **f.** *CDR3* length of SuS-specific and public clones constituting the ten most prevalent clones in CD8+ TEMRA cell repertoire of 6 SuS patients. **g.** Number of nucleotide insertions in the N1 and N2 regions of the CDR3 of SuS-specific private clones ($n = 42$ clones) and public clones ($n = 17$ clones). Linear regression was analyzed using the Pearson test (a). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-test (c), unpaired Student t test (f), or Mann-Whitney test (b, d, g), respectively. Error bars indicate the mean \pm s.d.; *: p <0.05; **: p <0.01; ***: p <0.001; ****: p <0.0001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 5. Cytotoxic potential of CD8⁺ T cells in SuS. a. Quantification of CD57 expressing CD8+ T cells circulating in the blood of HD (closed blue circles, $n = 14$), SuS patients (cayenne squares, $n = 14$) and MS patients (red triangles, n = 9). **b.** GrB (top) and perforin (bottom) expression in naïve and memory blood $CD8⁺$ T-cell subsets in HDs (n = 14), SuS (n = 10) and MS patients (n = 12). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-test. Error bars indicate the mean \pm s.d.; *: p < 0.05; **: p <0.01; ***: p <0.001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 6. Immune regulation in SuS. a. Density plot showing gating strategy and graphs representing proportions of CD25⁺CD127^{low} regulatory T cells (T_{reg}) in peripheral CD4⁺ T cells of HD (closed blue circles, $n =$ 20) and SuS patients (cayenne squares, n = 12). **b.** Middle: Experimental set-up of allogenic suppression assays to test the suppressive capacity of regulatory T cells. Left: Graphs representing the degree of suppression of proliferation of HD CD4⁺ T cells upon co-culture with titrated numbers of T_{reg} from HD, and SuS (n = 3). Right: Graphs representing the degree of suppression of HD (n = 7) and SuS patient ($n = 7$) CD8⁺ (middle) and CD4⁺ (bottom) T-cell proliferation upon coculture with titrated numbers of independent HD T_{reg}. Statistical analysis was performed using the unpaired Student t test (a), or two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test (b), respectively. Error bars indicate the mean \pm s.d.; *: p <0.05. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 7. Generation of EC-HA+ mice. a. Scheme of the transgenic mice used for this study. In the SIco1c1-CreER $T²$ mice, the transgene encodes for the Cre recombinase fused to the ligand-binding domain of the human estrogen receptor (ERT2) under the control of the Slco1c1 promoter. In the Rosa-Stop-HA mice, a LoxP-flanked Stop cassette followed by the *influenza* virus hemagglutinin (HA) sequence was introduced in the ubiquitously active Rosa26 locus by a knock-in approach. In double transgenic mice resulting from the crossing of Rosa-Stop-HA mice with Slco1c1-CreER^{T2} mice, upon tamoxifen injection, Cre-mediated recombination allows transcription of HA in brain microvascular endothelial cells as well as in retina and inner ear. These mice are named EC-HA⁺ mice. In the single transgenic littermate control mice tamoxifen injection does not result in HA expression in brain endothelial cells, retina, and inner ear. These mice are referred to as EC-HA- mice. **b**. Quantification of HA mRNA expression by qRT-PCR in different organs of EC-HA+ (closed cayenne diamonds) or $EC-HA^-$ (closed blue circles) mice (n = 2-9 per group, left). Detection of HA mRNA expression in mouse brain microvascular endothelial cells (MBMEC) from EC-HA- or EC-HA+ mice (right) (MBMEC originated from a pool of 5 mice/group in each of the 2 independent experiments; EC-HA- brain, n $= 3$), EC-HA⁺ brain, n = 4). The mean HA expression in EC-HA⁺ brain was set to 1. Error bars indicate the mean ± s.d. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 8. Characterization of EC-HA+ mice. a. Identification of CNS infiltrating (CD45⁺CD11b⁻) endogenous (CD45.1⁻) and transferred (CD45.1+) CD8 T cells (Thy1.2+CD8+) as well as their expression of CD107a as a marker for degranulation of cytolytic vesicles as shown in Figure 4B. **b.** Characterization of the HA-specific cytotoxic CD8+ T cells by flow cytometry prior to their adoptive transfer. Cytotoxic CD8⁺ T cells (black lines) and control naïve HA-specific CD8⁺ T cells (blue lines) originating from CL4-TCR transgenic mice were analyzed for CD44, CD28, β1-integrin, α4-integrin, and α4β7-integrin expression. Data are gated on Thy1.2+ CD45.1+ CD8+ T cells (top). Cytotoxic CD8+ T cells were stimulated (red lines) or not (black lines) with phorbol 12 myristate 13-acetate/ionomycin for 4 hours. Staining for surface CD107a and intracellular IFN-γ, TNF-α, and granzyme B is shown. Labeled isotype control antibodies delineate the background staining (dashed lines). One representative experiment out of four is shown. **c.** Representative histological sections documenting T-cell infiltration (CD3+, brown) in distinct regions of the brain (corpus callosum, hippocampus, cerebellum, and cortex) of EC-HA- and EC-HA+ mice 2, 4 or 7 days after adoptive transfer of cytotoxic CD8+ T cells (left). Scale bars 500 µm. Quantification of T-cell density in different regions of the CNS in EC-HA⁻ (closed blue circles) or EC-HA⁺ (cayenne diamonds) mice (right, $n = 6$). For EC-HA- mice, the data of the 3 time-points have been pooled. **d.** Quantification of CNS-infiltrating endogenous (Thy1.2+CD45.1-, left) and transferred (Thy1.2+CD45.1+, right) T cells on day 7 after adoptive transfer of either naïve (left graph) or cytotoxic (right graph) HA-specific CD8+ T cells in CD45.2+ EC-HA- (closed blue circles) or EC-HA+ recipient mice (cayenne diamonds) ($n = 4 - 8$ per group). **e.** Absolute numbers of Thy1.2⁺CD45.1⁺ cells expressing IFN-γ and/or TNF-α upon *ex vivo* stimulation with PMA/ionomycin (n = 7-8 per group, 2 independent experiments). Statistical analysis was performed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-test (c) or Mann-Whitney test (d, e), respectively. Error bars indicate the mean \pm s.d.; $\dot{ }$: p <0.05; $\dot{ }$: p <0.01; $\dot{ }$: **: p <0.001. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 9. Analysis of the endothelium in other organs. Representative histology sections of peripheral tissues 7 days after adoptive transfer of cytotoxic CD8 T cells in EC-HA⁺ mice. Staining of liver, heart, lung, and kidney with anti-CD31 antibodies. Data are from one representative mouse out of 3. Bar: 25µm.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1: Patient demographics.

- $(1.)$ According to the diagnostic criteria for SuS¹, diagnostic criteria for brain involvement are fulfilled, when the patient exhibits SuS typical findings on cranial MRI such as hyperintense, multifocal, round small lesions, at least one of them in the corpus callosum ("snowball") in T2 (or FLAIR) weighted sequences. Additionally, the patient needs to show cognitive impairment and/or focal neurological symptoms and/or headache.
- (2.) The diagnostic criteria for retinal involvement are fulfilled, when the patient shows branch retinal artery occlusions (BRAO) or AWH or retinal branch ischemia or SD-OCT lesion.
- (3.) The diagnostic criteria for vestibulocochlear involvement are fulfilled when the patient develops new tinnitus and/or hearing loss and/or peripheral

vertigo. The hearing loss must be confirmed by audiogram and the vestibular vertigo must be confirmed by specific diagnostics.

Patients fulfilling all three diagnostic criteria are definite-, patients fulfilling two criteria are probable-, and patient only fulfilling one criteria are possible SuS patients.

*1 Mean age at blood / biopsy withdrawal.

*2 Patient with no neurological disease.

*3 No angiography was performed for one patient. Another patient had visual symptoms, but BRAO was not confirmed at the time.

HD: healthy donors, MS: multiple sclerosis, n.a.: not applicable, NIC: noninflammatory control, SD: standard deviation, SoD: somatoform disorder, SuS: Susac syndrome.

Supplementary Table 2. Laboratory parameters of the cerebrospinal fluid.

CSF: cerebrospinal fluid, QGluc: glucose quotient

1Two patients showed a disturbance only 3 months after the first visit.

Supplementary Table 3. SuS-specific private CD8⁺ T-cell and CD8⁺ T_{EMRA} **clones.** Table summarizing the patient-specific private clones, their $V\beta$ -gene and $J\beta$ -gene usage, and their frequency in the CD8⁺ T-cell repertoire and CD8⁺ T_{EMRA} repertoire of the SuS patients.

Supplementary Table 4. HLA class-I typing of SuS-patients. Allele frequencies of *HLA-A*02*, *HLA-B*07* and *HLA-C*07* in SuS patients were 0.3929, 0.2500, and 0.4643, respectively. Allele frequencies of *HLA-A*02*, *HLA-B*07* and *HLA-C*07* in control cohort of 39689 German, Caucasian individuals http://allelfrequencies.net are 0.2826, 0.1253, and 0.3008, respectively.

Supplementary Table 5. Antibodies used during the study. AF: Alexa Fluor, APC: Allophycocyanin, BV: Brilliant Violet, ECD: Electron coupled dye, FITC: Fluorescein isothiocyanate, PE: Phycoerythrin, PerCP: Peridinin-chlorophyllprotein Complex Conjugate, KrO: Krome orange.

References

1. Kleffner I, Dörr J, Ringelstein M, Gross CC, Böckenfeld Y, Schwindt W*, et al.* Diagnostic criteria for Susac syndrome. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2016.