

**Supplementary Table 3.** Demographic and clinical characteristics upon initial admission between MG patients with and without recurrent infection (full version).

|                                        | <b>Total</b>        | <b>Non-recurrent</b> | <b>Recurrent</b>    | <b><i>P-value</i></b> |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Number of patients</b>              | 272/272 (100%)      | 176/272 (64.7%)      | 96/272 (35.3%)      | NA                    |
| <b>Male</b>                            | 115/272 (42.3%)     | 72/176 (40.9%)       | 43/96 (44.8%)       | 0.536                 |
| <b>Age, year</b>                       | 53.0 (39.3-67.9)    | 52.0 (35.3-66.0)     | 58.5 (44.0-71.0)    | 0.024*                |
| <b>Respiratory and bulbar function</b> |                     |                      |                     |                       |
| V5                                     | 232/272 (85.3%)     | 159/176 (90.3%)      | 73/96 (76.0%)       | 0.001**               |
| V4                                     | 6/272 (2.2%)        | 4/176 (2.3%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)         | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| V3                                     | 0/272 (0.0%)        | 0/176 (0.0%)         | 0/96 (0.0%)         | NA                    |
| V2                                     | 1/272 (0.4%)        | 1/176 (0.6%)         | 0/96 (0.0%)         | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| V1                                     | 3/272 (1.1%)        | 0/176 (0.0%)         | 3/96 (3.1%)         | 0.043 <sup>a*</sup>   |
| VA                                     | 1/272 (0.4%)        | 1/176 (0.6)          | 0/96 (0.0%)         | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| VE                                     | 27/272 (9.9%)       | 10/176 (5.7%)        | 17/96 (17.7%)       | 0.002**               |
| VT                                     | 2/272 (0.7%)        | 1/176 (0.6%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)         | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| <b>Motor scale (MRC)</b>               |                     |                      |                     |                       |
| Right deltoid                          | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 5.00 (4.25-5.00)     | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 0.018*                |
| Left deltoid                           | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)     | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 0.017*                |
| Right iliopsoas                        | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 5.00 (5.00-5.00)     | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 0.005**               |
| Left iliopsoas                         | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 5.00 (4.25-5.00)     | 5.00 (4.00-5.00)    | 0.004**               |
| Right deltoid and iliopsoas            | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 10.00 (9.00-10.00)   | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 0.005**               |
| Left deltoid and iliopsoas             | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 10.00 (9.00-10.00)   | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 0.007**               |
| Bilateral deltoid                      | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 10.00 (9.00-10.00)   | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 0.009**               |
| Bilateral iliopsoas                    | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 10.00 (9.00-10.00)   | 10.00 (8.00-10.00)  | 0.002**               |
| Bilateral deltoid and iliopsoas        | 20.00 (16.00-20.00) | 20.00 (18.00-20.00)  | 19.50 (16.00-20.00) | 0.003**               |
| <b>Concomitant diseases</b>            |                     |                      |                     |                       |
| Hypertension                           | 72/272 (26.5%)      | 44/176 (25.0%)       | 28/96 (29.2%)       | 0.457                 |

|                                       | <b>Total</b>   | <b>Non-recurrent</b> | <b>Recurrent</b> | <b><i>P-value</i></b> |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Diabetes mellitus                     | 49/272 (14.7%) | 18/176 (10.2%)       | 22/96 (22.9%)    | 0.005**               |
| Dyslipidemia                          | 13/272 (4.8%)  | 8/176 (4.5%)         | 5/96 (5.2%)      | 0.775 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Congestive heart failure              | 9/272 (3.3%)   | 7/176 (4.0%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 0.500 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Coronary artery disease               | 7/272 (2.6%)   | 5/176 (2.8%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Atrial fibrillation                   | 6/272 (2.2%)   | 4/176 (2.3%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Deep vein thrombosis                  | 6/272 (2.2%)   | 1/176 (0.6%)         | 5/96 (5.2%)      | 0.022 <sup>a*</sup>   |
| Asthma                                | 5/272 (1.8%)   | 2/176 (1.1%)         | 3/96 (3.1%)      | 0.349 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 3/272 (1.1%)   | 2/176 (1.1%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Interstitial lung disease             | 1/272 (0.4%)   | 0/176 (0.0%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 0.353 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Gastroesophageal reflux disease       | 7/272 (2.6%)   | 5/176 (2.8%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Peptic ulcer disease                  | 16/272 (5.9%)  | 8/176 (4.5%)         | 8/96 (8.3%)      | 0.205                 |
| Hepatitis B                           | 5/272 (1.8%)   | 4/176 (2.3%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 0.659 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Hepatitis C                           | 3/272 (1.1%)   | 3/176 (1.7%)         | 0/96 (0.0%)      | 0.554 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Liver cirrhosis                       | 6/272 (2.2%)   | 3/176 (1.7%)         | 3/96 (3.1%)      | 0.669 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Acute kidney injury                   | 3/272 (1.1%)   | 2/176 (1.1%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Chronic kidney disease                | 7/272 (2.6%)   | 5/176 (2.8%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| End stage renal disease               | 1/272 (0.4%)   | 1/176 (0.6%)         | 0/96 (0.0%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia          | 6/272 (2.2%)   | 4/176 (2.3%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Hyperthyroidism                       | 14/272 (5.1%)  | 11/176 (6.3%)        | 3/96 (3.1%)      | 0.391 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Hypothyroidism                        | 3/272 (1.1%)   | 1/176 (0.6%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 0.285 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Cushing syndrome                      | 4/272 (1.5%)   | 3/176 (1.7%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Addison's disease                     | 7/272 (2.6%)   | 2/176 (1.1%)         | 5/96 (5.2%)      | 0.101 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Gout                                  | 5/272 (1.8%)   | 4/176 (2.3%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 0.659 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Myositis                              | 3/272 (1.1%)   | 2/176 (1.1%)         | 1/96 (1.0%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Systemic lupus erythematosus          | 5/272 (1.8%)   | 3/176 (1.7%)         | 2/96 (2.1%)      | 1.000 <sup>a</sup>    |

|                                         | <b>Total</b>           | <b>Non-recurrent</b>   | <b>Recurrent</b>       | <b><i>P-value</i></b> |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Iron deficiency anemia                  | 6/272 (2.2%)           | 2/176 (1.1%)           | 4/96 (4.2%)            | 0.189 <sup>a</sup>    |
| Thymic cancer                           | 47/272 (17.3%)         | 23/176 (13.1%)         | 24/96 (25.0%)          | 0.013*                |
| <b>Duration of hospitalization, day</b> | 15.0 (9.0-23.0)        | 14.0 (8.0-21.0)        | 16.5 (12.0-28.0)       | 0.004**               |
| <b>Foley catheterization</b>            | 96/272 (35.3%)         | 69/176 (39.2%)         | 27/96 (28.1%)          | 0.068                 |
| <b>Ventilator dependency</b>            | 74/272 (27.2%)         | 51/176 (29.0%)         | 23/96 (24.0%)          | 0.374                 |
| <b>Nasogastric tube</b>                 | 82/272 (30.1%)         | 55/176 (31.3%)         | 27/96 (28.1%)          | 0.591                 |
| <b>Central venous catheter</b>          | 63/272 (23.2%)         | 46/176 (26.1%)         | 17/96 (17.7%)          | 0.115                 |
| <b>Plasmapheresis</b>                   | 58/272 (21.3%)         | 31/176 (17.6%)         | 27/96 (28.1%)          | 0.043*                |
| <b>Seropositivity of AChR antibody</b>  | 215/272 (79.0%)        | 133/176 (75.6%)        | 82/96 (85.4%)          | 0.056                 |
| <b>Laboratory data</b>                  |                        |                        |                        |                       |
| WBC, 1000/uL                            | 8.80 (6.80-11.90)      | 8.40 (6.80-11.45)      | 9.70 (6.60-12.90)      | 0.227                 |
| Neutrocyte, %                           | 73.00 (60.85-83.40)    | 72.00 (60.00-82.00)    | 74.50 (63.43-86.00)    | 0.084                 |
| Lymphocyte, %                           | 18.00 (10.85-29.40)    | 19.10 (12.00-31.00)    | 16.95 (8.08-26.25)     | 0.061                 |
| Monocyte, %                             | 5.10 (3.80-6.90)       | 5.10 (3.90-6.70)       | 5.10 (3.00-7.00)       | 0.651                 |
| Eosinophil, %                           | 1.00 (0.10-2.00)       | 1.00 (0.20-2.00)       | 1.00 (0.10-1.85)       | 0.308                 |
| Basophil, %                             | 0.20 (0.10-0.40)       | 0.20 (0.10-0.50)       | 0.20 (0.10-0.40)       | 0.381                 |
| RBC, million/uL                         | 4.55 (4.20-4.97)       | 4.61 (4.24-5.02)       | 4.49 (4.12-4.91)       | 0.106                 |
| Hct, %                                  | 40.10 (36.80-43.40)    | 40.60 (37.33-43.50)    | 39.30 (35.30-43.20)    | 0.097                 |
| Hb, g/dL                                | 13.30 (12.20-14.60)    | 13.55 (12.43-14.88)    | 13.10 (11.60-14.10)    | 0.051                 |
| MCH, pg/Cell                            | 29.70 (28.30-30.80)    | 29.70 (28.50-30.68)    | 29.80 (28.10-30.80)    | 0.772                 |
| MCHC, gHb/dL                            | 33.30 (32.50-33.90)    | 33.30 (32.60-34.00)    | 33.00 (32.30-33.80)    | 0.142                 |
| MCV, fL                                 | 88.90 (85.30-91.90)    | 88.85 (85.30-91.48)    | 89.00 (85.20-93.10)    | 0.500                 |
| RDW, %                                  | 13.20 (12.80-14.30)    | 13.20 (12.70-14.20)    | 13.30 (12.80-14.90)    | 0.194                 |
| Platelet, 1000/uL                       | 237.00 (193.00-283.00) | 239.00 (198.00-288.00) | 232.00 (177.00-270.00) | 0.104                 |
| BUN, mg/dL                              | 13.95 (10.18-18.00)    | 13.00 (10.43-17.00)    | 14.15 (10.00-18.15)    | 0.373                 |

|                         | <b>Total</b>             | <b>Non-recurrent</b>     | <b>Recurrent</b>         | <b><i>P-value</i></b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Creatinine, mg/dL       | 0.75 (0.60-1.00)         | 0.73 (0.59-0.92)         | 0.80 (0.65-1.04)         | 0.014*                |
| Na, mEq/L               | 140.00 (138.00-142.00)   | 140.00 (138.00-142.00)   | 140.00 (138.00-141.75)   | 0.233                 |
| K, mEq/L                | 3.90 (3.50-4.20)         | 3.90 (3.60-4.20)         | 3.80 (3.50-4.10)         | 0.021*                |
| Ca, mg/dL               | 8.80 (8.40-9.10)         | 8.90 (8.40-9.20)         | 8.70 (8.18-9.10)         | 0.085                 |
| P, mg/dL                | 3.50 (3.00-4.10)         | 3.60 (3.10-4.10)         | 3.35 (2.70-4.30)         | 0.290                 |
| Mg, mEq/L               | 1.80 (1.60-1.90)         | 1.80 (1.60-2.00)         | 1.70 (1.50-1.85)         | 0.032 <sup>b</sup> *  |
| CL, mEq/L               | 104.50 (102.00-108.00)   | 104.00 (101.00-107.25)   | 105.50 (102.75-108.00)   | 0.114 <sup>b</sup>    |
| AST, U/L                | 22.00 (17.00-29.00)      | 22.00 (17.25-29.75)      | 22.00 (16.00-27.00)      | 0.598                 |
| Bilirubin total, mg/dL  | 0.60 (0.40-0.73)         | 0.60 (0.40-0.78)         | 0.60 (0.40-0.73)         | 0.917                 |
| Bilirubin direct, mg/dL | 0.30. (0.20-0.40)        | 0.30. (0.20-0.40)        | 0.30. (0.20-0.55)        | 0.320                 |
| ALP, U/L                | 63.00 (50.25-82.50)      | 63.00 (49.75-80.75)      | 65.00 (51.75-84.50)      | 0.665                 |
| r-GT, U/L               | 57.50 (27.50-99.00)      | 57.00 (24.00-87.00)      | 59.00 (28.50-152.50)     | 0.618                 |
| Albumin, g/dL           | 4.00 (3.30-4.40)         | 4.10 (3.41-4.42)         | 3.89 (3.19-4.30)         | 0.037*                |
| PT/INR                  | 1.00 (1.00-1.10)         | 1.00 (1.00-1.10)         | 1.10 (1.00-1.10)         | 0.114                 |
| APTT, sec               | 26.50 (23.88-29.23)      | 26.50 (23.85-28.55)      | 26.50 (24.25-31.10)      | 0.158                 |
| D-dimer, FEU ng/mL      | 1252.00 (499.50-2629.00) | 1653.83 (499.50-3323.00) | 1225.00 (443.50-1675.00) | 0.521                 |
| TG, mg/dL               | 119.00 (85.00-172.00)    | 119.00 (85.00-171.00)    | 116.50 (83.75-175.75)    | 0.968                 |
| Cholesterol, mg/dL      | 179.00 (161.00-206.00)   | 179.00 (161.00-206.00)   | 180.50 (156.50-202.00)   | 0.936                 |
| LDL, mg/dL              | 107.00 (92.50-132.75)    | 103.50 (88.00-135.25)    | 108.00 (95.50-127.50)    | 0.403                 |
| VLDL, mg/dL             | 25.50 (16.00-34.75)      | 25.00 (15.00-42.00)      | 28.00 (16.50-34.50)      | 0.878                 |
| HDL, mg/dL              | 47.00 (37.00-55.00)      | 47.50 (36.75-54.25)      | 45.00 (36.50-58.00)      | 0.346 <sup>b</sup>    |
| Lupus anticoagulant     | 14.60 (9.00-19.90)       | 14.60 (8.70-19.90)       | 12.35 (9.00-21.98)       | 0.930                 |
| CK, U/L                 | 64.00 (37.50-133.00)     | 71.00 (40.00-131.00)     | 60.50 (36.25-134.00)     | 0.618                 |
| LDH, U/L                | 214.00 (158.00-422.00)   | 242.00 (142.00-480.00)   | 214.00 (179.75-347.25)   | 0.580                 |
| CRP, mg/L               | 12.14 (2.16-50.30)       | 12.60 (2.15-54.83)       | 11.80 (2.09-45.20)       | 0.914                 |

|                            | <b>Total</b>           | <b>Non-recurrent</b>   | <b>Recurrent</b>       | <b><i>P-value</i></b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ANA                        | 0.00 (0.00-0.00)       | 0.00 (0.00-0.00)       | 0.00 (0.00-0.00)       | 0.901                 |
| C3, mg/dL                  | 102.00 (84.95-115.00)  | 103.50 (87.13-124.25)  | 100.00 (84.25-109.00)  | 0.219 <sup>b</sup>    |
| C4, mg/dL                  | 22.30 (16.95-27.30)    | 22.00 (17.08-29.45)    | 22.50 (16.90-25.75)    | 0.768                 |
| Fe, µg/dL                  | 48.00 (25.75-64.75)    | 41.00 (18.25-105.75)   | 48.00 (26.50-64.75)    | 0.633 <sup>b</sup>    |
| Ferritin, ng/mL            | 78.70 (15.90-220.50)   | 15.90 (6.70-541.25)    | 84.95 (33.95-151.05)   | 0.806                 |
| TIBC, µg/dL                | 280.50 (209.50-326.00) | 307.50 (202.75-383.75) | 276.00 (195.50-320.00) | 0.647 <sup>b</sup>    |
| HbA1c, %                   | 6.40 (5.70-7.45)       | 6.20 (5.70-7.00)       | 6.50 (5.95-7.90)       | 0.178                 |
| Glucose, mg/dL             | 105.00 (91.00-135.25)  | 105.00 (92.00-135.75)  | 106.00 (90.00-135.25)  | 0.829                 |
| TSH, µIU/mL                | 1.26 (0.65-2.06)       | 1.15 (0.69-1.94)       | 1.37 (0.61-2.27)       | 0.395                 |
| Free T4, ng/dL             | 1.18 (1.04-1.34)       | 1.19 (1.06-1.35)       | 1.18 (1.02-1.32)       | 0.537                 |
| T3, ng/dL                  | 95.35 (72.83-115.57)   | 96.60 (72.85-117.64)   | 93.90 (62.10-114.60)   | 0.906 <sup>b</sup>    |
| T4, µg/dL                  | 7.90 (6.75-9.58)       | 7.90 (6.90-9.55)       | 7.40 (5.40-10.10)      | 0.661 <sup>b</sup>    |
| Cortisol, µg/dL            | 12.80 (5.40-18.00)     | 14.00 (8.85-18.5)      | 9.94 (3.20-17.56)      | 0.079                 |
| UA, mg/dL                  | 5.40 (4.55-6.50)       | 5.40 (4.38-6.63)       | 5.30 (4.60-6.40)       | 0.795                 |
| <b>Pneumonia</b>           | 49/272 (18.0%)         | 25/176 (14.2%)         | 24/96 (25.0%)          | 0.027*                |
| <b>UTI</b>                 | 25/272 (9.2%)          | 11/176 (6.3%)          | 14/96 (14.6%)          | 0.023*                |
| <b>Bacteremia</b>          | 17/272 (6.3%)          | 11/176 (6.3%)          | 6/96 (6.3%)            | 1.000                 |
| <b>Multiple infections</b> | 18/272 (6.6%)          | 10/176 (5.7%)          | 8/96 (8.3%)            | 0.401                 |

AChR, acetylcholine receptor; ALP, alkaline phosphatase; ANA, antinuclear antibody; APTT, activated partial thromboplastin time; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; BUN, blood urea nitrogen; Ca, calcium; CK, creatine kinase; CL, chloride; CRP, C-reactive protein; Fe, iron; Free T4, free thyroxine; GCS, Glasgow coma scale; Hb, hemoglobin; HbA1c, glycohemoglobin; Hct, hematocrit; HDL, high density lipoprotein; K, potassium; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; LDL, low density lipoprotein; MCH, mean corpuscular hemoglobin; MCHC, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration; MCV, mean corpuscular volume; MG, myasthenia gravis; Mg, magnesium; MRC, Medical Research Council scale; NA, not applicable; Na, sodium; P, phosphorus; PT/INR, prothrombin ratio/international normalized ratio; RBC, red blood cell; RDW, red cell distribution width; r-GT, r-glutamyltransferase; T3, triiodothyronine; T4, thyroxine; TG, triglyceride; TIBC, total iron binding capacity; TSH, thyroid-

stimulating hormone; UA, uric acid; UTI, urinary tract infection; V5, oriented to verbal response of GCS and no significant respiratory distress and bulbar impairment ; VE, difficulty in evaluating GCS due to endotracheal intubation indicating severe bulbar impairment or respiratory distress; VLDL, very low density lipoprotein; VT, difficulty in evaluating GCS due to tracheostomy indicating severe bulbar impairment or respiratory distress; WBC, white blood cell. A *p*-value below 0.05 was considered statistically significant. \**p* < 0.05; \*\**p* < 0.01; <sup>a</sup>Fisher's exact test; <sup>b</sup>Two-Sample t test. Unless otherwise reported, qualitative values were expressed as percentage (n/total, %), quantitative values were median (interquartile range IQR).