Patient No.	Scanner, field strength	TR (s)	TE (s)	TI (s)	Flip angle	Voxel size (mm)
1	Philips, Ingenia, 3T	7.0	0.110	2.30	90	0.53*0.53*7.0
2, 3	GE, Discovery MR750, 3T	8.5	0.147	2.10	111	0.47*0.47*8.0
4, 7, 9	Siemens, Verio, 3T	8.0	0.102	2.37	150	0.45*0.45*8.0
5	Siemens, Prisma, 3T	8.0	0.083	20.37	150	0.75*0.75*8.0
6	GE, Discovery MR750w, 3T	6.5	0.110	2.12	160	0.47*0.47*8.0
8	Siemens, Verio, 3T	6.6	0.094	2.14	150	0.43*0.43*7.2
10	GE, Signa HDxt, 3T	9.0	0.158	2.25	90	0.47*0.47*8.0

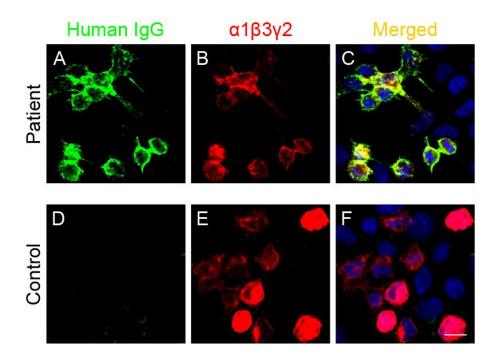
eTable 1 FLAIR parameters of patients with largest lesion volume

Abbreviations: TE = echo time; TI = inversion time; TR = repetition time.

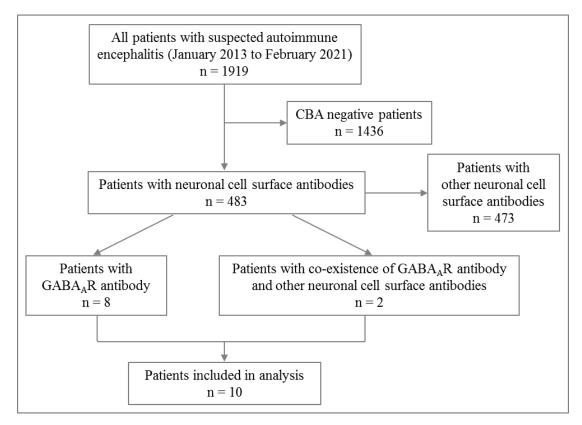
Defieur Ne	Lesion volume (cm <sup>3</sup> ); Interval from onset to MRI scan (days)							
Patient No.	MRI-1 <sup>a</sup>	MRI-2 <sup>a</sup>	MRI-3 <sup>a</sup>	MRI-4 <sup>a</sup>				
1	208.04; 8	270.57; 25	245.67; 50	no lesion; 1153				
2 <sup>b</sup>	7.91; 9	40.32; 72	3.94; 103	no lesion; 1188				
3	501.52; 44	416.7; 80	NA	NA				
4	273.89; 30	197.5; 81	NA	NA				
5	41.99; 2	175.85; 28	197.75; 70	140.16; 115				
6	320.62; 28	NA	NA	NA				
7	57.726; 23	NA	NA	NA				
8	31.08; 7	32.35; 53	70.23; 175	NA				
9	42.18; 7	101.42; 22	NA	NA				
10	31.08; 53	62.89; 68	89.48; 120	NA				

eTable 2 Lesion volumes on FLAIR scan at each time point

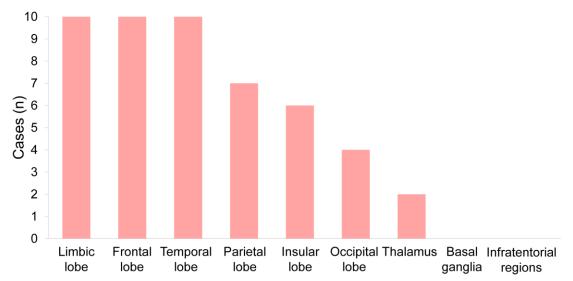
<sup>a</sup>MRI-1, 2, 3, 4 denotes the first, second, third, fourth MRI scan of each patient. <sup>b</sup>Patient #2 had MRI data only during relapse, not at first onset. Abbreviations: NA = not available.



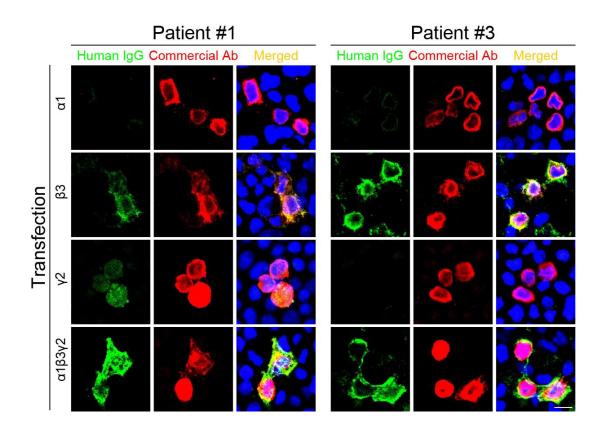
eFigure 1 Patient's serum contains autoantibodies that bind to  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid type A receptor (GABA<sub>A</sub>R) by live cell-based assays (CBA). HEK293T cells co-expressing  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\beta 3$  and  $\gamma 2$  subunits of GABA<sub>A</sub>R tagged with mRuby (red, B) are labeled with autoantibodies from patient (green, A) and merged signals (yellow, C), indicating co-localization of autoantibodies and GABA<sub>A</sub>R expressed on the surface of cells. Healthy control individual's serum has no reactivity using similar live CBA (D-F). The nuclei of the cells are labeled with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (blue). Scale bar = 10 µm.



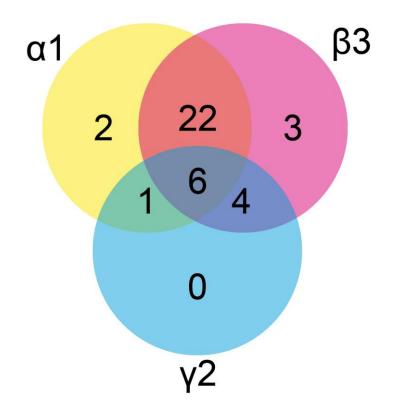
**eFigure 2** Flow diagram of included patients for analysis. CBA = cell-based assays; GABA<sub>A</sub>R =  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid type A receptor (GABA<sub>A</sub>R).



**eFigure 3** The number of patients with lesions in different brain regions. Nearly all patients' brain lesions in anti-GABA<sub>A</sub>R encephalitis distributed in supratentorial regions. The most frequently involved brain regions were limbic, frontal and temporal lobes; but no lesion in infratentorial region (cerebellum and brainstem) was found. GABA<sub>A</sub>R =  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid type A receptor (GABA<sub>A</sub>R).



**eFigure 4** Reactivity of autoantibodies from two representative cases (patient #1, 3) to  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\beta 3$  and  $\gamma 2$  subunits of GABA<sub>A</sub>R expressed individually or in combination ( $\alpha 1\beta 3\gamma 2$ ) in HEK293T cells. Patients' autoantibodies were labeled with green fluorescence, commercial antibodies against  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\beta 3$  and  $\gamma 2$  subunits were labeled with red fluorescence. Both patients had autoantibodies to  $\alpha 1$  and  $\beta 3$  subunits, patient #1 had autoantibodies to  $\gamma 2$  subunit. Note that patients' autoantibodies strongly reacted to  $\beta 3$  subunit, but only had weak reactivity to  $\alpha 1$  subunit. The nuclei of the cells are labeled with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (blue). Scale bar = 10 µm. Abbreviations: Ab = antibody.



eFigure 5 Distribution of autoantibody binding specificity to GABA<sub>A</sub>R subunits in 38 patients with anti-GABA<sub>A</sub>R encephalitis. Note that all patients had autoantibodies to  $\alpha 1$  or  $\beta 3$  subunit, and  $\beta 3$  subunit was most frequently recognized by autoantibodies from patients.