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HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders

Igor Grant, MD, FRCP(C)

Mary Gilman Marston Distinguished Professor Chair, Department of Psychiatry University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA



Learning Objective

Describe the epidemiology and pathogenesis of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND).





Recognize the clinical manifestations and the use of biomarkers in the diagnosis of HAND.



Learning **3** Objective

Evaluate the recent advances in the management of HAND.





HIV-associated Neurocognitive Disorders (HAND)

Emotional & Other Behavioral

Primary HAND

- Asymptomatic neurocognitive impairment
- Mild neurocognitive disorder
- HIV-associated dementia

Secondary HAND

- Infection
- Neoplasia
- Cerebrovascular
- Nutritional
- Treatment related

New Onset

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Adjustment disorders
- HIV mania
- HIV psychosis

Pre-existing / recurrent / comorbid

- Mood disorders
- Substance use disorders
- · Other mental disorders

HAND: Frascati Criteria

HIV-Associated Dementia Marked cognitive impairment with marked functional impairment Mild Neurocognitive Disorder Cognitive impairment with mild functional impairment Asymptomatic Neuropsychological Impairment Abnormality in two or more cognitive abilities

Antinori A, et al. Neurology. 2007;69(18):1789-1799.

Prevalence of Specific HAND Diagnoses in CHARTER (N = 1,555 HIV+)



ANI = asymptomatic neurocognitive impairment; HAD = HIV-associated dementia; MND = mild neurocognitive disorder; NPN = neurocognitive normal. Heaton RK, et al. *Neurology*. 2010;75(23):2087-2096.

How Does Neurocognition Change Over Time?

Neurocognition Change Status in CHARTER Sample with \geq 4 Semi-Annual Visits (N = 436)



Loss of Synapses and Dendrites in HIV+



Courtesy Eliezer Masliah. UCSD HNRP.

Injury to Synapses and Dendrites May Form a Basis of HIV Neurocognitive Impairment

Progressive Dendritic Loss from No HAND (A) to Severe HAND (D)



Greater Cognitive Impairment Before Death Corresponds to Greater Dendritic Loss



Masliah E,, et al. Ann Neurol. 1997;42(6):963-972.

Biomarkers of HAND

- Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) viral load
- Monocyte biomarkers
 - -CD16+
 - -CD163
 - -sCD14
- Tat
- •CCR5
- HIV RNA expression in CSF
 CSF neurofilament light chain

Carroll A, Brew B. F1000Res. 2017;6:312.

Does HAND Matter? Yes, It Affects Everyday Function and Health

- Worse work-related function
- Twice as likely to be unemployed
- May impair driving
- Worse medication adherence
- ? May be associated with impaired risk assessment and/or impulsivity: more risk behavior
- ? May benefit less from interventions to reduce risk
- Independently predicts earlier mortality

Heaton RK, et al. Psychosom Med. 1994;56:8-17.

Neurocognitive Impairment Matters

It can lead to problems in everyday functioning such as work inefficiency, driving impairment, and worse adherence to treatment



NP = neuropsychological.

Marcotte TD, et al. Neurology. 2004;63(8):1417-1422.



Persistence of Neurocognitive Complications May Be Driven Partly by Comorbid Factors

- Aging
- Metabolic syndrome
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Coinfections (e.g., hepatitis C, cytomegalovirus, toxoplasma, tuberculosis)
- Neurotoxicity of treatments
- History of neurologic insults (e.g., head injury that may increase vulnerability to neuroAIDS)

Neurocognitive Performance Declines Faster with Age in HIV+ Compared to HIV-





Age Effect: p < .0001HIV Effect: p < .0001Interaction: p < .0001

Data from UCSD HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program.

Example of HIV and Medical Morbidity Interaction on Cognitive Performance: Attentional Function Worsens with Greater Insulin Resistance in HIV+ but Not HIV-



The homeostatic model assessment (HOMA) is a method used to quantify insulin resistance and beta-cell function. LNS = letter-number sequencing. Valcour V. *J Neurovirol*. 2015;21:415-421. Increased Neuritic α-Synuclein Expression in the Brains of Patients Age 55-65; Accelerated Age-Related "Protein Mismanagement" in the Brains of Patients Who Are HIV+?

 Neuritic α-synuclein expression (arrows) was found in 16% of the substantia nigra studied (12/73)



Khanlou N, et al. J Neurovirol. 2009;15(2):131-138.

Do Drugs of Abuse Cause Brain Damage? Do These Drugs Potentiate NeuroAIDS?

Drug	Evidence for Brain Damage? Neurocognitive Impairment (NCI)?	HIV X Drug?
Alcohol	Well documented in long-term alcoholics	Maybe
Methamphetamine	Well documented in extensive users	Yes
Cocaine	Data are mixed	Uncertain
Heroin/opioids	Contradictory findings; no systematic evidence for neurocognitive impairment	Unknown
Sedative/hypnotics	NCI in chronic heavy users	Unknown
Hallucinogens	Data too fragmentary	Unknown
Cannabis	Mixed neuroimaging findings; meta-analyses report weak to null NCI in those who are not using at time of testing	No effect or possibly protective?

Rosenblom MJ, et al. *Alcohol Res Health*. 2010;33(3):247-257; Chana G, et al. *Neurology*. 2006;67(8); Martin-Thormeyer EM, Paul RH. *Neuropsychol Rev*. 2009;19(2):215-231; Meyer VJ, et al. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2013;63(1):67-76; Grant I, et al. *J Int Neuropsychol Soc*. 2003;9(5):679-689; Chang I, et al. *J Neuroimmune Pharmacol*. 2006;1(1):65-76.

HIV and METH Enhance Each Other's Neurotoxicity



Rippeth JD, et al. J Int Neuropsychol Soc. 2004;10:1-14; Chana G, et al. Neurology. 2006;67(8).

Have Modern ARV Regimens Affected HAND?

- Yes: CNS opportunistic disease markedly reduced (e.g., toxoplasmosis, progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy)
- Yes: Severe dementia has dropped from estimated 15% pre combination ART to < 5% now
- BUT: Moderate and mild forms of neurocognitive impairment remain prevalent

Heaton RK, et al. Neurology. 2010;75(23):2087-2096.

Pharmacological Management: Are We There Yet?

Trials of various antioxidants, anti-inflammatory drugs, etc, have been largely negative.

Drug	Report	Finding
Selegiline	Schifitto, et al. 2007	+/-
Thioctic Acid	Dana Consortium. 1998	No effect
Peptide T	Heseltine. Arch Neurol. 1998	-/+
Lithium	Letendre. AIDS. 2006	+
Memantine	Schifitto. AIDS. 2007	No effect
Minocycline	Nakasujja. <i>Neurology</i> . 2013	No effect
Rivastigmine	Simioni. <i>Neurology</i> . 2013	No effect

Emerging Therapies: Nitromemantine (N-methyl-D-aspartate–type glutamate receptor antagonist) Sunitinib (CDK5 inhibitor)

Schifitto G, et al. *Neurology*. 2007;69(13):1314-1321; Dana Consortium. *Neurology*. 1998;50(3):645-651; Heseltine PN, et al. *Arch Neurol*. 1998;55(1):41-51; Letendre SL, et al. *AIDS*. 2006;20(14):1885-1888; Schifitto G, et al. *AIDS*. 2007;21(14):1877-1886; Nakasujja N, et al. *Neurology*. 2013;80(2):196-202; Simioni S, et al. *Neurology*. 2013;80(6):553-560.

Non-Pharmacological Management of HAND

- Behavioral techniques
 - Cognitive retraining
 - Exercise-based interventions

Summary



- HAND persists despite combination antiretroviral therapy (CART)
- HAND causes a decline in everyday function and health
- Synaptodendritic injury is one of the substrates of HAND
- Comorbidities may increase the risk of HAND and its progression
- No currently approved neurotherapeutics; nonpharmacologic strategies may have promise

SMART Goals Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely

- Accurately diagnose patients with HAND
- Stay up-to-date with emerging therapies for the treatment of HAND

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