Published in final edited form as:

J Neurovirol. 2014 August ; 20(4): 380–387. doi:10.1007/s13365-014-0254-6.

Neurocognitive Impairment Associated with Predominantly Early Stage HIV infection in Abuja, Nigeria

Christopher Akolo¹, Walter Royal III¹, Mariana Cherner³, Kanayo Okwuasaba², Lindsay Eyzaguirre¹, Ruxton Adebisi², Anya Umlauf³, Terence Hendrix³, Joyce Johnson¹, Alashl'e Abimiku¹, and William A. Blattner¹

¹University of Maryland School of Medicine

²Institute of Human Virology-Nigeria

³The University of California San Diego School of Medicine

Abstract

Detailed neuropsychological testing was performed on 134 HIV seropositive (SP) and 77 HIV seronegative (SN) individuals, 86% with early stage HIV infection in Nigeria, to determine the frequency of HIV-related neurocognitive impairment among the HIV-infected group. Twenty-two tests were administered to assess the following seven ability domains: speed of information processing (SIP); attention/working memory (AWM); executive functioning (EF); learning (LN); memory (MEM); verbal fluency (VF); and motor speed/dexterity (MSD). Demographically corrected individual test scores and scores for each domain or reflecting a global deficit (a global deficit score, or GDS) were compared for the SP and SN groups. SP participants were older, had fewer years of education, were more likely to be married, differed in ethnicity and had higher depression scores than SN individuals. On the testing, SP performed worse than SN on four tests that individually assessed LN, VF and MSD (the timed gait). SP subjects, however, performed better than SN on the finger-tapping test, also a motor task. Within the seven ability domains, SP performed worse than SN with respect to SIP, EF, LN, MEM and VF and also on the global measure. SP were also more frequently impaired on tests of SIP, and there was a borderline increase in the frequency of global impairment. Performance by SP subjects was not associated with CD4 counts. However, there were significant correlations between viral load measurements and individual tests of SIP, EF, LN and VF and with overall EF and a borderline correlation with the GDS. Depression scores for SP were associated with impairment on only a single test of EF. These results demonstrate that the ability of these assessments to identify areas of impairment that

Conflict of Interest Statement:

Christopher Akolo, MBBS: no conflict of interest to declare.

Walter Royal, III, MD: no conflict of interest to declare.

Mariana Cherner, PhD: no conflict of interest to declare.

Kanayo Okwuasaba, MBBS: no conflict of interest to declare.

Lindsay Eyzaguirre, MS: no conflict of interest to declare.

Ruxton Adebisi, BS: no conflict of interest to declare.

Anya Umlauf, PhD: no conflict of interest to declare.

Terence Hendrix, BS: no conflict of interest to declare.

Alashl'e Abimiku, PhD: no conflict of interest to declare.

Joyce Johnson, MS: no conflict of interest to declare.

William A. Blattner, MD, MPH: no conflict of interest to declare.

may be specifically linked to a history of HIV infection among individuals in Nigeria. Confirmation of these findings awaits analyses using data from a larger number of control subjects.

Keywords

neuropsychological; AIDS; Africa

Introduction

At the end of 2011, 34.0 million people globally were reported to be living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection (UNAIDS, 2012). Among adults aged 15–49 years worldwide, an estimated 0.8% is living with HIV infection, with the numbers of infected individuals showing considerable variation between countries and regions. Africa currently accounts for 69.0% of people living with HIV infection worldwide (UNAIDS, 2012). In Nigeria, the number of people living with the infection increased over the twenty six year period beginning in 1986, when the first case of AIDS was reported in the country, through December 2011 to about 3.4 million ((NACA), 2012).

HIV affects virtually all body systems, and the nervous system is a frequent target of infection (Berger et al., 1987; Grant et al., 1987; Grant et al., 1995; McArthur, 1987; Snider et al., 1983). Involvement of the nervous system by HIV infection is associated with an increased risk for the development of neurocognitive impairment (NCI) that occurs in the context of HIV associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND) (Antinori et al., 2007). The occurrence of NCI in HIV infection can result from either direct mechanisms, for example, neurotoxicity induced by HIV proteins, or due to indirect involvement of the brain, as occurs with bystander damage induced by inflammatory mediators released by activated immune cells or astrocytes (Anderson et al., 2002; Nath, 2002). The impact of NCI on the ability of an individual to function can be severe and, untreated, is associated with an increased mortality (Ellis et al., 1997; Mayeux et al., 1993; McArthur et al., 1993). Therefore, NCI ranks as potentially one of the most devastating manifestations of HIV infection. With the introduction of effective combination antiretroviral therapy, the overall incidence on the most severe forms of NCI has decreased, an effect from treatment that has been observed worldwide, including in Sub-Saharan Africa (Joska JA, 2010). However, such treatment typically results in an incomplete clinical response, and this fact combined with the improved overall survival from HIV infection, has resulted in an increased overall prevalence of NCI (Dore et al., 1999; Dore et al., 2003; Heaton et al., 2011; Sacktor et al., 2001).

There is paucity information regarding the frequency of HIV-associated NCI in Nigeria, where there is a high burden of HIV infection. In this report are described the results of an analysis of neuropsychological test data from individuals in Abuja, Nigeria who were recruited into a longitudinal study that will examine factors that are associated with risk for developing neurocognitive impairment as a result of HIV infection.

Results

Demographic, Clinical, and Laboratory Characteristics of Study Participants

Baseline data available on 210 participants (133 SP and 77 SN) were analyzed. SP participants were overall older and had fewer years of education than SN individuals (table 1). SP participants were also more likely to be married, to be from different ethnic groups in Nigeria and to have higher depression scores than SN individuals. SP individuals had lower CD4+ T cell counts than SN, and approximately 86% of HIV infected individuals were asymptomatic for their HIV infection. The mean plasma viral load among the 117 SP subjects who were tested was approximately 27,000 copies/ml, and plasma virus was undetectable (<20 copies/ml) in three individuals.

Comparison of Domain-Specific and Overall Performance by SP and SN Participants on the Neuropsychological Tests

In order to link neuropsychological test performance to deficit, age and education-adjusted standardized T scores were converted to clinical deficit scores. The mean deficit scores for the seven ability domains and the GDS were then compared for the SP and SN participants (table 2). This analysis showed that mean scores for SIP, EF, LN, MEM and VF were higher for SP than for SN participants. Also, mean GDS was higher for SP than for SN participants.

Analysis of the Percentage of Individuals with Specific Ability Domain and with Global Impairment

The percentage individuals who showed evidence of impairment in any of the seven ability domains, indicated by a deficit score >0.5, and the presence of NCI, indicated by a GDS 0.5, was compared for the SP and SN groups (table 3). This analysis showed a statistically significant difference only with respect to speed of information processing, with a higher percentage of SP individuals demonstrating impairment than SN subjects. There was also a borderline increase in the frequency of global impairment among SP participants.

Comparison of SP and SN Participant Performance on the Individual Neuropsychological Tests

The means of the standardized T scores for the individual neuropsychological tests were compared for SP and SN participants (table 4). Analysis of the means of the demographically adjusted scores showed that SP participants performed worse on tests of learning (the Hopkins Total Learning Test and the Hopkins Verbal Learning Test), verbal fluency (the Letter (Word Sound) Fluency Test) and with motor speed and dexterity (the Timed Gait Test). SN participants performed worse than SP on the Finger-tapping Test, a test of motor speed and dexterity.

Neuropsychological Test Result Associations with HIV Infection Parameters and with Depression

Correlations analyses were performed to determine whether performance on the neuropsychological assessments were associated with CD4+ T cell counts (<200, 200–500 or >500 µl/dl), HIV clinical status or with depression. For CD4+ T cell counts, a correlation

was observed only with the timed gait and the correlation was only at a borderline level (Table 4). Viral load measures, however, inversely correlated with individual tests of speed of information processing (WAIS-III Digit Symbol and WAIS-III Symbol Search) and verbal fluency (Category Fluency: Nouns (animals) and Category Fluency: Verbs (actions)), whereas correlations of borderline significance were observed with Hopkins Verbal Total Learning and the Grooved Pegboard Test. Viral load measurements also showed a significant direct correlation with overall executive function and a borderline significant correlation with overall verbal fluency. There was a significant direct correlation between GDS and viral load measurements.

Correlations with depression scores were determined for both SN and SP individuals. Scores for SN showed a significant correlation only with the Timed Gait test. Depression scores for SP correlated inversely with performance on the Stroop Color and Word Test and, at a borderline level of significance, with overall motor function.

Discussion

This is one of several studies that have examined the frequency of neurocognitive impairment among HIV infected individuals in Nigeria. Previously, such studies have utilized either the Community Screening Interview for Dementia (CSI 'D') or, in studies that we previously reported, the International HIV Dementia Scale (IHDS) (Hall et al., 2000; Odiase et al., 2006; Royal, III et al., 2012; Salawu et al., 2008). Infected individuals studied using both approaches showed evidence of worse cognitive status as compared to SN subjects. However, these screens, though useful for identifying abnormalities that occur commonly in HIV infection and take relatively little time to administer, are less sensitive and specific than more detailed neuropsychological testing for detecting HIV-related cognitive impairment.

Preliminary studies performed on small numbers of patients established the feasibility of using for the studies that is described in this report (Royal, III et al., 2012). In the study reported here, we found that SP participants performed worse on the Hopkins Verbal Learning Total Learning, the Hopkins Verbal Learning Test-Revised, the Letter (Word-Sound) Fluency tests and the Timed Gait. Averaging the results of the individual test scores showed that the SP participants performed worse than SN in all of the associated domains, with the exception of that for motor function. Motor impairment can occur in the context of HIV-related cognitive impairment, and such impairment tends to be a later manifestation of HIV nervous system involvement (Antinori et al., 2007; Report of a Working Group of the American Academy of Neurology AIDS Task Force, 1991). The reason why SP would perform better on this test is unclear. Perhaps their performance may reflect an ability that is linked to an occupation or other activity that is more typical of individuals in the SP group.

In contrast to the relatively low frequency of impairment on the individual tests, a difference in mean disability scores was noted for five of the seven ability domains, and a significant difference was also noted for the mean GDS (table 3). In addition, there were increased frequencies of impairment in one domain and with respect to the GDS. Similar domain-specific and overall differences have been previously reported when comparing SP and SN

subjects in both African and Western cohorts (Heaton et al., 2011; Kanmogne et al., 2010). However, it is notable in our data that few individuals scored beyond the defined cut-offs for impairment for the domain scores and for the GDS. This is consistent with the fact that the SP participants were overall in the early stages of their HIV disease.

To determine whether measures of HIV disease status might have impacted performance of the testing, correlations between CD4+ T cell counts (<200, 200–500 or >500 cells per μ l) and viral load with individual neuropsychological test, domain and global scores were examined. The level of immunosuppression as indicated by the CD4+ T cell count appeared to have little impact on performance on the outcome of the testing. However, a higher viral load was associated with impaired performance on multiple tests, within several domains and with respect to global neurocognitive functioning. These findings suggest that more subtle viral effects on test performance may be observed even where there may be few individuals who perform in a range where they would be considered to be impaired. Such associations may in some individuals be potentially linked to the milder forms of HAND (i.e., asymptomatic neurocognitive impairment or minor neurocognitive disorder). Which SP individuals in the study met criteria for the various subtypes of HAND were not determined for this report; however, this will be the focus of future analyses. Of note is the fact that the presence of depressive symptoms among members of the cohort did not appear to have an impact on how well individuals performed in the testing.

Despite the several interesting observations described above, there are several limitations to our study. A significant limitation is the fact that, although scores were adjusted for age and education, the number of individuals in the control group is less than what is generally considered ideal to be able to adequately control for these factors. With respect to the reported number of years of education, it is the case that in some African communities much education occurs in the home with the elderly teaching the young. Therefore, the number of years of formal education may not accurately reflect the level of education that is actually achieved by an individual (Paddick et al., 2013). In addition, the education background of the participant will, to some extent, reflect the population of patients that seek care at the health care centers where the recruitment for the study took place. To some degree, the same limitation can be also stated for other participant demographic factors. However, regardless of the reasons for the differences noted, it is important to control for age and education in analyses such as those presented here. One approach to addressing this issue would have been to match the groups on these variables. While this can also be considered for future analyses, recruitment of SN subjects into the study has continued and repeat analyses are planned that will utilize a larger number of controls. Such studies should provide even more reliable normative data. Future studies using such norms may, indeed, yield findings that are different from what is reported here. However, the fact that our overall results are consistent with what has been previously reported gives confidence that it is unlikely that major differences from what we present here will emerge. It is also not always possible to control for certain factors that may be important, which is the case for the differences noted in the ethnicity of the SP and SN subjects. The major groups are represented in the categorization that is presented; however, a significant percentage falls outside of these groups. That reflects the fact that a large number of ethnic groups exist in Nigeria. To try to place each person in our study in a separate group would have yielded only one or two individuals in

some groups, and to exclude such individuals from the study would have resulted in the cohort not being reflective of the ethnic diversity of the general population. Other important issues that were not addressed in this report are the likely role of strains of HIV that are present in Nigeria and possible host factors may influence the expression and course of disease. Such information, combined with those from the studies described here, is likely to be valuable for understanding patterns of treatment responses and the overall effectiveness of such approaches as there continues to be a rapid scale up of treatment with antiretroviral agents in Nigeria.

Materials and methods

Study recruitment and participants

Study participants were recruited from two clinical sites, the National Hospital (NH) and the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital (UATH), in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria. These hospitals are within a network of sites supported by the Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria (IHVN) with funds from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program. SP subjects were recruited at the time of a regular clinical visit. SN controls were recruited from the HIV voluntary counseling and testing centers located at the clinical sites where HIV patients are recruited. At the time of standard posttest counseling, HIV negative subjects were individually and privately invited to speak with a study staff member who performed screening for eligibility employing the process described above. All individuals were 18 years of age, able to converse in English and antiretroviral naïve with no history of active tuberculosis, syphilis or other infections. The participants also had no evidence of the presence of a clinical problem that could impair their ability to participate in the testing, including active CNS or systemic disease, a history of significant head trauma, a history of alcohol abuse, use of other mind-altering substances, or if there was evidence of substance use on urine toxicology screening, a previous diagnosis of a learning disability or psychiatric disorder, or other disorders associated with the presence of focal neurological signs or deficits. Demographic information was obtained, and participants were administered standardized questionnaires, a thorough general medical assessment and neuropsychological testing (described below). Volunteers underwent phlebotomy and subsequent determination of HIV-1 serological status and measurement of CD4⁺ T cell count performed at the IHVN-supported Research Laboratory located in Asokoro, Abuja. Viral load measurements were performed using the Roche Amplicor Monitor Test v.1.5 (Roche; detection range = 400–750,000 copies/ml, or the COBAS® AmpliPrep/COBAS TaqMan HIV-1 Test (Roche; detection range = 20–10,000,000 copies/ml). Informed consent was obtained from the study participants independently or with the assistance of a family member. All study procedures were approved by the University of Maryland Baltimore, NH, and UATH Institutional Review Boards and by the Nigerian National Health Research Ethics Committee. The enrollment target for the study has been set at 100 SN and 200 SP individuals.

Neuropsychological testing

A detailed standardized neuropsychological battery was administered to all study participants in order to identify possible impairment within specific cognitive domains of

interest. The testing was administered at each of the testing site by either of two nurses who underwent training in Nigeria administered in-person by a University of California, San Diego (UCSD) neuropsychological testing technician. For quality control, the tests were double-scored, and completed forms on randomly-selected participants were assessed for accuracy and discussed at a monthly teleconference. The ability domains tested (followed by the individual tests within the domains in parentheses), were: Speed of Information Processing (WAIS-III Digit Symbol, WAIS-III Symbol Search, Color Trails Test 1 and Trail Making Test A); Attention/Working Memory (Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task, and WMS-III Spatial Span); Abstraction/Executive Functioning (Color Trails Test 2 and Stroop Color and Word Test), Learning and Delayed Recall (Hopkins Verbal Learning Test – Revised and Brief Visuospatial Memory Test – Revised); Verbal Fluency (Letter (Word Sound, Category Fluency: Nouns (animals) and Category Fluency: Verbs (actions)); Motor Speed and Dexterity (Grooved Pegboard Test, Finger Tapping Test and Timed Gait), and Screening for Effort (Hiscock Digit Memory Test). Raw scores from the neuropsychological tests were converted to standardized scores (T scores) that were adjusted for age, gender and education based on the SN sample. T-scores were then used to calculate a global deficit score (GDS), reflecting performance across the test battery, with a score 0.5 indicating NCI (Carey et al., 2004). In addition to recruiting only English speakers, to minimize the potential impact of language of cultural differences on performance on the testing, words were eliminated from verbal tests that were likely to be unfamiliar to individuals from the region and, after appropriate pilot testing, were replaced by more familiar terms.

Statistical Analysis

Demographic data and neuropsychological T scores and global deficit scores were compared for SP and SN participants using t-tests or the Mann-Whitney U test, as appropriate. The frequency of impairment and select categorical demographic and clinical data were compared for the two groups using the chi-square test. Neuropsychological test score associations with CD4+ T cell counts viral load and depression scores and GDS were examined using regression analysis. Correlations were examined by calculating the Pearson's correlation coefficient or Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, as appropriate.

Acknowledgments

Supported by: R01MH086356 NIMH/NIH (W. Royal and W.A. Blattner)

Reference List

- (NACA), National Agency for the Control of AIDS. Global AIDS Response, Country Progress Report. 2012
- Anderson E, Zink W, Xiong H, Gendelman HE. HIV-1-associated dementia: a metabolic encephalopathy perpetrated by virus-infected and immune-competent mononuclear phagocytes. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2002; 31(Suppl 2):S43–S54. [PubMed: 12394782]
- Antinori A, Arendt G, Becker JT, Brew BJ, Byrd DA, Cherner M, Clifford DB, Cinque P, Epstein LG, Goodkin K, Gisslen M, Grant I, Heaton RK, Joseph J, Marder K, Marra CM, McArthur JC, Nunn M, Price RW, Pulliam L, Robertson KR, Sacktor N, Valcour V, Wojna VE. Updated research nosology for HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders. *Neurology*. 2007; 69:1789–1799. [PubMed: 17914061]

- Berger JR, Moskowitz L, Fischl M, Kelley RE. Neurologic disease as the presenting manifestation of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. *South Med J*. 1987; 80:683–686. [PubMed: 3473692]
- Carey CL, Woods SP, Gonzalez R, Conover E, Marcotte TD, Grant I, Heaton RK. Predictive validity of global deficit scores in detecting neuropsychological impairment in HIV infection. *J Clin Exp Neuropsychol*. 2004; 26:307–319. [PubMed: 15512922]
- Dore GJ, Correll PK, Li Y, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA, Brew BJ. Changes to AIDS dementia complex in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy. *AIDS*. 1999; 13:1249–1253. [PubMed: 10416530]
- Dore GJ, McDonald A, Li Y, Kaldor JM, Brew BJ. Marked improvement in survival following AIDS dementia complex in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy. *AIDS*. 2003; 17:1539–1545. [PubMed: 12824792]
- Ellis RJ, Deutsch R, Heaton RK, Marcotte TD, McCutchan JA, Nelson JA, Abramson I, Thal LJ, Atkinson JH, Wallace MR, Grant I. San Diego HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center Group. Neurocognitive impairment is an independent risk factor for death in HIV infection. *Arch Neurol*. 1997; 54:416–424. [PubMed: 9109743]
- Grant I, Atkinson JH, Hesselink JR, Kennedy CJ, Richman DD, Spector SA, McCutchan JA. Evidence for early central nervous system involvement in the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and other human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections. Studies with neuropsychologic testing and magnetic resonance imaging. *Ann Intern Med*. 1987; 107:828–836. [PubMed: 3688675]
- Grant I, Heaton RK, Atkinson JH. HNRC Group HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center. Neurocognitive disorders in HIV-1 infection. *Curr Top Microbiol Immunol*. 1995; 202:11–32. [PubMed: 7587358]
- Hall KS, Gao S, Emsley CL, Ogunniyi AO, Morgan O, Hendrie HC. Community screening interview for dementia (CSI ‘D’); performance in five disparate study sites. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 2000; 15:521–531. [PubMed: 10861918]
- Heaton RK, Franklin DR, Ellis RJ, McCutchan JA, Letendre SL, Leblanc S, Corkran SH, Duarte NA, Clifford DB, Woods SP, Collier AC, Marra CM, Morgello S, Mindt MR, Taylor MJ, Marcotte TD, Atkinson JH, Wolfson T, Gelman BB, McArthur JC, Simpson DM, Abramson I, Gamst A, Fennema-Notestine C, Jernigan TL, Wong J, Grant I. HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders before and during the era of combination antiretroviral therapy: differences in rates, nature, and predictors. *J Neurovirol*. 2011; 17:3–16. [PubMed: 21174240]
- Joska JA. GHPRSDFA. Does highly active antiretroviral therapy improve neurocognitive function? A systematic review. 2010; 16
- Kanmogne GD, Kuate CT, Cysique LA, Fonsah JY, Eta S, Doh R, Njamnshi DM, Nchindap E, Franklin DR Jr, Ellis RJ, McCutchan JA, Binam F, Mbanya D, Heaton RK, Njamnshi AK. HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders in sub-Saharan Africa: a pilot study in Cameroon. *BMC Neurol*. 2010; 10:60. [PubMed: 20626870]
- Mayeux R, Stern Y, Tang MX, Todak G, Marder K, Sano M, Richards M, Stein Z, Ehrhardt AA, Gorman JM. Mortality risks in gay men with human immunodeficiency virus infection and cognitive impairment. *Neurology*. 1993; 43:176–182. [PubMed: 8093809]
- McArthur JC. Neurologic manifestations of AIDS. *Medicine (Baltimore)*. 1987; 66:407–437. [PubMed: 3316921]
- McArthur JC, Hoover DR, Bacellar H, Miller EN, Cohen BA, Becker JT, Graham NM, McArthur JH, Selnes OA, Jacobson LP. Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study. Dementia in AIDS patients: incidence and risk factors. *Neurology*. 1993; 43:2245–2252. [PubMed: 8232937]
- Nath A. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) proteins in neuropathogenesis of HIV dementia. *J Infect Dis*. 2002; 186(Suppl 2):S193–S198. [PubMed: 12424697]
- Odiase F, Ogunrin O, Ogunniyi A. Effect of progression of disease on cognitive performance in HIV/AIDS. *J Natl Med Assoc*. 2006; 98:1260–1262. [PubMed: 16916122]
- Paddick SM, Longdon AR, Kisoli A, Dotchin C, Gray WK, Dewhurst F, Chaote P, Kalaria R, Jusabani AM, Walker R. Dementia prevalence estimates in sub-Saharan Africa: comparison of two diagnostic criteria. *Glob Health Action*. 2013; 6:19646. [PubMed: 23561025]
- Report of a Working Group of the American Academy of Neurology AIDS Task Force. Nomenclature and research case definitions for neurologic manifestations of human immunodeficiency virus-type

- 1 (HIV-1) infection. Report of a Working Group of the American Academy of Neurology AIDS Task Force. *Neurology*. 1991; 41:778–785. [PubMed: 2046917]
- Royal W III, Cherner M, Carr J, Habib AG, Akomolafe A, Abimiku A, Charurat M, Farley J, Oluyemisi A, Mamadu I, Johnson J, Ellis R, McCutchan JA, Grant I, Blattner WA. Clinical features and preliminary studies of virological correlates of neurocognitive impairment among HIV-infected individuals in Nigeria. *J Neurovirol*. 2012; 18:191–199. [PubMed: 22528480]
- Sacktor N, Lyles RH, Skolasky R, Kleeberger C, Selnes OA, Miller EN, Becker JT, Cohen B, McArthur JC. HIV-associated neurologic disease incidence changes:: Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study, 1990–1998. *Neurology*. 2001; 56:257–260. [PubMed: 11160967]
- Salawu FK, Bwala SA, Wakil MA, Bani B, Bukbuk DN, Kida I. Cognitive function in HIV-seropositive Nigerians without AIDS. *J Neurol Sci*. 2008; 267:142–146. [PubMed: 18001772]
- Snider WD, Simpson DM, Nielsen S, Gold JW, Metroka CE, Posner JB. Neurological complications of acquired immune deficiency syndrome: analysis of 50 patients. *Ann Neurol*. 1983; 14:403–18. [PubMed: 6314874]
- UNAIDS. Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic. 2012

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics, WHO Stage and CD4 count for the HIV Seropositive and Seronegative Subjects

Group	HIV SN	HIV SP	P values
Number of subjects	77	133	
Age (years)			
Mean (SD)	29.48 (6.72)	33.59 (7.28)	<0.0001
Gender (%)			
Female	48 (62.34)	77 (57.89)	0.5
Mean years of education (SD)	14.32 (1.74)	12.39 (3.06)	<0.0001
Number of participants by			
Ethnicity (%)			
Hausa	1 (1.30)	9 (6.77)	0.01
Ibo	11 (14.29)	34 (25.56)	
Yoruba	16 (20.78)	12 (9.02)	
Others	49 (63.64)	78 (58.65)	
Marital status (%)			
Married	27 (35.06)	68 (51.13)	0.024
Single/widowed/divorced	50 (64.94)	66 (48.87)	
WHO Stage (%)			
Stage 1	-	86.47	<0.0001
Stage 4		8.27	
Stage 3		3.76	
Stage 4		1.50	
Median CD4 count (IQR)	754 [IQR 545–883]	348 (217–496.5)	<0.0001
CD4 group (%)			
350/μl	3 (3.90)	69 (51.88)	<0.0001
350 – 500/μl	13 (16.88)	32 (24.06)	
500/μl	61 (79.22)	32 (24.06)	
Log HIV viral load (N=117)		4.43 (0.98)	0.0004
Median HIV viral load (IQR)		4.56 (3.96–5.08)	
BDI	4.06 (4.42)	7.02 (7.37)	

SD = Standard Deviation; IQR = Interquartile Range

¹This category includes a total of 61 ethnic groups, 29 among SN and 32 among SP participants. Eight of the ethnic groups included both SN and SP individuals.

²Median [Interquartile Range]

Table 2

Comparison of Mean Ability Domain and Global Deficit Scores for HIV-1 Seropositive and Seronegative Subjects

	HIV SN	HIV SP	P-Value
Ability Domain Deficit Scores			
Speed of Information Processing	0.26 (0.39)^I	0.47 (0.54)	0.0008
Attention/Working Memory	0.26 (0.52)	0.26 (0.48)	1.0
Executive Functions	0.27 (0.46)	0.55 (0.79)	0.0014
Learning	0.25 (0.50)	0.47 (0.71)	0.0082
Memory	0.29 (0.48)	0.45 (0.71)	0.056
Verbal Fluency	0.25 (0.44)	0.40 (0.58)	0.029
Motor Function	0.25 (0.37)	0.26 (0.37)	0.85
Global Deficit Score	0.26 (0.23)	0.40 (0.35)	0.0007

^I Mean (SD)

Table 3

Frequency of Impairment in the Individual Ability Domains and Globally Among Study Participants

	HIV SN	HIV SP	P-Value
Ability Domain Deficit Scores			
Verbal Fluency	19 (24.68) ^I	44 (33.08)	0.20
Speed of Information Processing	13 (16.88)	52 (39.10)	0.0008
Delayed Recall	25 (32.47)	50 (37.59)	0.46
Attention/Working Memory	22 (28.57)	41 (30.83)	0.73
Executive Function	26 (33.77)	60 (45.11)	0.11
Learning	22 (28.57)	54 (40.60)	0.08
Motor Function	15 (19.48)	24 (18.05)	0.80
Global Deficit Score	15 (19.48)	41 (30.83)	0.073

^I Number impaired (percent)

Table 4

Neuropsychological Performance for HIV-1 SP Participants

	Mean T Score*	SD	P-value	Cohen's d
Speed of Information Processing				
WAIS-III Digit Symbol	47.99	10.80	0.18	0.19
WAIS-III Symbol Search	47.74	11.96	0.16	0.21
Color Trails Test 1 Trial	49.80	13.24	0.90	0.02
Trail Making Test A	48.80	14.02	0.47	0.10
Attention/Working Memory				
Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task	48.64	10.01	0.35	0.14
WMS-III Spatial Span	50.76	10.86	0.61	-0.07
Executive Functions				
Color Trails Test 2	49.44	12.20	0.73	0.05
Stroop Color and Word Test	48.18	11.07	0.24	0.17
Learning				
HVLT-R total learning	45.08	9.73	0.0006	0.50
BVMT-R total learning	49.82	12.04	0.91	0.02
Memory				
HVLT-R delayed recall	45.46	9.63	0.001	0.46
BVMT-R delayed recall	49.23	13.22	0.96	0.07
Verbal Fluency				
Letter (Word Sound) Fluency	45.43	10.26	0.001	0.45
Category Fluency: Nouns (animals)	48.40	10.23	0.28	0.16
Category Fluency: Verbs (actions)	48.71	10.54	0.38	0.13
Motor Speed and Dexterity				
Grooved Pegboard Test	51.92	11.01	0.21	-0.18
Finger tapping test	54.98	13.42	0.0025	-0.42
Timed gait	46.73	10.43	0.027	0.32

* All T scores are demographically corrected. T scores were also scaled to yield, for all tests for SN controls, a mean = 50 and a standard deviation (SD) = 10. A T score <50 indicates worse performance on the testing

HVLT-R: Hopkins Verbal Learning Test-Revised; BVMT-R: Brief Visuospatial Memory Test – Revised

Table 5a
Correlations for HIV Disease Parameters and Depression Scores with Neuropsychological Test Scores

I. Individual Neuropsychological Test T Scores	CD4		Viral Load		BDI	
	SP		SP		SN	SP
Speed of Information Processing						
WAIS-III Digit Symbol	0.03, 0.7		-0.203, 0.03		0.15, 0.2	0.06, 0.5
WAIS-III Symbol Search	-0.02, 0.8		-0.157, 0.10		0.03, 0.8	-0.12, 0.17
Color Trails Test I Trial	0.06, 0.5		-0.034, 0.72		0.219, 0.54	-0.02, 0.8
Trail Making Test A	0.06, 0.5		-0.062, 0.51		0.03, 0.8	-0.07, 0.4
Attention/Working Memory						
Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task	0.03, 0.8		-0.125, 0.19		-0.16, 0.15	-0.03, 0.7
WMS-III Spatial Span	0.03, 0.7		0.0003, 1.0		-0.04, 0.8	0.02, 0.8
Executive Functions						
Color Trails Test 2	-0.04, 0.7		-0.053, 0.58		0.15, 0.2	0.005, 0.95
Stroop Color and Word Test	-0.02, 0.8		-0.199, 0.03		-0.05, 0.6	-0.207, 0.017
Learning						
HVLT-R total learning	-0.01, 0.9		-0.212, 0.024		0.04, 0.7	-0.09, 0.3
BVMT-R total learning	-0.02, 0.8		-0.084, 38		-0.02, 0.9	-0.1, 0.3
Memory						
HVLT-R delayed recall	0.06, 0.5		-0.119, 0.21		-0.008, 0.9	0.09, 0.3
BVMT-R delayed recall	0.008, 0.9		-0.090, 0.34		0.04, 0.8	-0.05, 0.6
Verbal Fluency						
Letter (Word Sound) Fluency	0.13, 0.14		-0.204, 0.029		0.03, 0.8	0.07, 0.4
Category Fluency: Nouns (animals)	0.04, 0.7		-0.163, 0.08		0.06, 0.6	-0.09, 0.3
Category Fluency: Verbs (actions)	0.17, 0.2		-0.234, 0.012		-0.07, 0.5	-0.04, 0.6
Motor Speed and Dexterity						
Grooved Pegboard Test	-0.06, 0.5		-0.079, 0.40		0.20, 0.09	-0.14, 0.1
Finger tapping test	0.06, 0.5		-0.026, 0.78		-0.10, 0.4	-0.04, 0.6
Timed gait	0.162, 0.06		-0.113, 0.3		-0.367, 0.0013	-0.1, 0.3

¹Correlation coefficient, p-value; HVLT-R: Hopkins Verbal Learning Test-Revised; BVMT-R: Brief Visuospatial Memory Test – Revised

Table 5b
Correlations for HIV Disease Parameters and Depression Scores with Neuropsychological Test Scores

	CD4		Viral Load		BDI	
	SP		SP		SN	SP
I. Ability Domain Deficit Scores [/]						
Speed of Information Processing	-0.02, 0.8		0.114, 0.23		-0.19, 1.0	0.1, 0.3
Attention/Working Memory	-0.02, 0.8		0.073, 0.44		0.08, 0.5	0.004, 0.97
Executive Functions	0.03, 0.7		0.247, 0.008		0.08, 0.5	0.09, 0.3
Learning	-0.01, 0.9		0.84, 0.37		0.09, 0.4	0.12, 0.2
Memory	-0.05, 0.6		0.015, 0.88		-0.15, 0.2	0.08, 0.4
Verbal Fluency	-0.15, 0.08		0.137, 0.15		-0.20, 0.08	0.02, 0.8
Motor Function	-0.09, 0.3		0.062, 0.51		0.12, 0.3	0.156, 0.073
II. Global Deficit Score	-0.08, 0.3		0.172, 0.067		-0.05, 0.6	0.14, 0.11

[/]Correlation coefficient, p-value