HIV ASSOCIATED NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDERS

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From Research to the Real World: Sharing Science Symposium
September 28, 2015
Why We Did this Study

• HIV associated neurocognitive disorders are commonly affecting our patients.
• Problems in memory are associated with lack of adherence in taking antiretrovirals and is associated with functional impairment in activities of daily living.
• Lack of retention in care is associated with noncompliance with HAART and death.
• A study associating problems in memory with retention in care has not been done previously.
What We Did

• We evaluated 138 newly diagnosed HIV patients that presented at Thomas Street Health Science Center for the first time between August 2010 and April 2013.
• We performed a complete neuropsychological assessment to determine if patients had memory problems.
• We then followed patients to see if they were retained in care (participants who attended two clinic appointments separated by more than 90 days during a 12-month follow-up period).
What We Found

• The majority of patients were men (70.3%), African American (74.6%), unemployed (60.1%), and having less than 12 years of education (59.4%).

• Among them, 23.9% of patients had an AIDS diagnosis and 32.6% of patients had a serum HIV viral load of greater than 100,000 copies/ml.

• Common coinfections included hepatitis B (28.7%), hepatitis C (13.1%), and syphilis (22.6%). Active drug use was exhibited by 31.1% of the patients, and 42% of the patients had moderate to severe depression.
What we found

1) 75% of patients had memory problems.

1) 45% of the participants were not retained in care over the study observation period.

2) Older patients (age >50 yrs) that had memory problems were more likely not to be retained in care.
What Our Results Mean and Why this Matters

- Memory problems in the clinic are very common.
- Screening for memory problems at Thomas Street is not currently being done.
- Memory problems especially in those older than 50 years of age are associated with lack of retention in care.
Acknowledgments

UT Health
- Amy Jacks, Lucrecia Salazar, Richard Grimes, D’Arcy Wainwright

Baylor College of Medicine
- Adriana Strutt, Michele York, Tom Giordiano, Lokesh Shahani

University of Houston
- Steven P Woods

Funding: Baylor–UT Houston Center for AIDS Research Core Support Grant number AI36211 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.