

Keywords: HIV; Symptomatic neurocognitive disorders; Mortality; Survival; Systematic review; Meta-analysis

Abbreviations: AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; AAN 1991 criteria was developed to provide a consensus nomenclature for both clinical and epidemiological purposes [1]. Subsequently it was reviewed in 2007 incorporating severity, functional impairment and effect of confounders to develop an algorithm for identifying HAND [2]. Most notable change was recognition of ANI.

ADC: AIDS Dementia Complex; AAN: American Academy of Neurology; ANI: Asymptomatic Neurocognitive Impairment; ART: Antiretroviral therapy; CNS: Central Nervous System; CPE: CNS Penetration Effectiveness; CSF: Cerebrospinal Fluid; COWAT: controlled word association test; CD4: Cluster of Differentiation; CI: Confidence Interval; ddi: Didanosine; ddC: Zalcitabine; d4T: Stavudine; FEM: Fixed Effect Model; HAART: Highly active Antiretroviral therapy; HCV: Hepatitis C virus; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus; HIV+-HIV Seropositive; HAND: HIV-associated Neurocognitive Disorders; HAD: HIV-associated Dementia; HIVD: HIV Dementia; HIVE: HIV Encephalopathy; HR: Hazard Ratio; NCI: Neurocognitive Impairment; MeSH: Medical Subject Heading; MND: Mild Neurocognitive Disorder; MCMD: Minor Cognitive Motor disorder; PRISMA: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis; REM: Random Effects Model; RR: Relative Risk; SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa; SNCD: Symptomatic Neurocognitive Disorders; SE: Standard Error; 3TC: Lamivudine; WAIS: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale; WMS: Wechsler Memory Scale; ZDV: Zidovudine

*Corresponding author: Yakasai AM, Public Health and Diagnostic Institute, College of Medical Sciences, Northwest University, Kano, Nigeria, Tel: +234 806 541 9097; E-mail: mailto:ahmadmaifada@gmail.com

Received October 20, 2014; Accepted December 18, 2014; Published December 23, 2014

Citation: Ahmad et al. (2014)

Introduction

Neurocognitive alterations in HIV-1 infection have been recognized since the beginning of HIV epidemic. Several terminologies were

importance of SNCD in relation to mortality [6]. In that classification effect measures derived from subgroup analyses were compared for statistical significance using test of interaction [11]. We assessed clinical and methodological heterogeneity via subgroup analyses while statistical heterogeneity was explored using Cochran's Q test and I^2 statistic. Between-study heterogeneity was considered substantial when I^2 is greater than 50%. Begg's and Egger's tests were employed to assess small study effect and publication bias [14,15]. Funnel plot derived from these tests and Galbraith plot were also used to visually assess publication bias. When heterogeneity is significant a REM is used to derive pooled estimates otherwise a FEM is used. The relationship between study-level covariates (CD4 count, age, proportion of female subjects, follow-up duration, sample size and proportion of subjects with AIDS and risk of death) was analyzed using univariable weighted random effects meta-regression. Quality of included studies was also assessed. Statistical analysis was done with Stata version 10.0 (StataCorp., College Station, TX, USA).

Methodology

Relevant English language publications on HIV- related SNCD and risk of mortality were searched for electronically in data bases. These included MEDLINE, Google scholar, the Cochrane data base, PsycINFO and EMBASE. Manual search of the references of relevant articles identified, systematic reviews and dissertations was also done. MeSH terms used in electronic search included 'HIV', 'Neurocognitive disorders', 'HIV-associated Neurocognitive disorders', 'HIV-associated Dementia', 'Mild Neurocognitive Disorder', 'Minor Cognitive Motor Disorder', 'HIV Dementia', 'AIDS dementia complex', 'HIV-encephalopathy', 'Subacute encephalitis', 'Neurocognitive impairment', 'Dementia', 'Neurocognitive dysfunction', 'Neuropsychological impairment', 'Psychological characteristics', 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome', 'mortality', 'death' and 'survival'. These MeSH terms were applied in different combinations to search for relevant publications up to April 2014. This meta-analysis adhered to the guidelines of PRISMA statements [11].

Characteristics of Included Studies

As shown in Figure 1, thirteen studies (including 2 sub-studies) met the inclusion criteria and their sociodemographic, clinical and neurological characteristics are given in Tables 1 and 2 [3-10,13,14,16]. They all had satisfactory quality as indicated in Table 3. One study provided data for subjects with and without virological failure [11] and another study provided data for pre- HAART and post- HAART era [19]. All the studies were conducted in Europe and America. The

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

All the studies identified for possible inclusion in the meta-analysis were reviewed independently by two assessors. Whenever disagreement was encountered a third reviewer was consulted for clarification. Studies were included if they satisfied the following criteria.

1) HIV- related SNCD was reported.

2) Effect measure of mortality risk was reported or could be calculated from available data. For studies that provided risk of death for each neurocognitive domain without overall risk, data for psychomotor speed was extracted [5]. This is because psychomotor speed is commonly and consistently altered in HIV+ patients early in the disease and has been shown to predict development of dementia, AIDS and death [10]. Studies were excluded if they involved adolescents, had no required data or not meeting any of the inclusion criteria.

Extraction of Data

Information from relevant studies was collected on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Subsequently relevant data was extracted for the meta-analysis.

Data Analysis

Hazard Ratios (HR) or Relative Risk (RR) of mortality among HIV+ subjects with SNCD were obtained from included studies. Log HR, log RR, SE of log HR and SE of log RR were computed for all the included studies. One study provided adjusted RR without confidence intervals hence unadjusted RR with 95% CI was calculated from the raw data available [10]. For studies that provided adjusted and unadjusted HR or RR, the adjusted effect measure is selected. Two parallel meta-analyses [12] were done to derive pooled estimates of HR and RR of mortality among patients with HIV-related SNCD. The probability of subjects with SNCD dying first as compared to those without SNCD was derived from the estimated HR using appropriate formula [13]. Ef-



HIVE or ADC) the REM pooled estimate of HR (95% CI) of mortality among HIV+ subjects was 2.50 (2.07-3.03) [3,6,17,19,20]. The FEM estimate of HR (95% CI) of mortality pooled from 2 studies that assessed both mild and severe forms of SNCD (MCMD and HAD) was 2.83 (1.81-4.42) [7,8].

Studies that used age-, sex- and education-adjusted normative data to rate and classify neuropsychological test scores yielded mortality HR (95% CI) of 3.16 (2.09-4.78) [3,4,7,8]. Those studies that did not use demographically adjusted normative scores for establishing the diagnosis of SNCD yielded HR (95%) of mortality of 2.44 (2.02-2.94) [5,6,10,17,20]. Comparison of these estimates via test of interaction yielded ratio of HR=1.3, 95% CI=0.675-1.670, p=0.887.

Meta-regression

Figure 4 shows the significant relationship between risk of death and declining CD4 count. Other study-level parameters including proportion of female subjects, age, sample size and duration of follow-up were not associated with risk of mortality (respective p-values were 0.273, 0.445, 0.724 and 0.266).

Discussion

These meta-analyses involved 84 421 HIV+ individuals across 21 countries from Europe and America. In the absence of publication bias we found both HR and RR of mortality among HIV+ subjects with

SNCD to be more than twice that of neurocognitively unimpaired HIV+ subjects. These two effect measures should be interpreted with caution as differences exist between them. A HR of 2.1 means that at any point in time HIV+ subjects with SNCD have more than twice chance of dying as compared to unimpaired HIV+ subjects. On the other hand RR of 2.46 indicates that among HIV+ subjects the risk of mortality among those with SNCD is more than twice that of subjects without SNCD. Nonetheless, a relationship does exist between HR and RR. The similarity or differences between these two effect measures is determined by a combination of 3 factors; duration of follow-up, risk of exposed group relative to unexposed group and rate of occurrence of desired event/outcome. When the follow-up duration is short and rate at which events occur is small, these two effect measures tend to approximate each other and their convergence increases with reducing product of the 3 determining factors [21].

The course of HIV- related neurocognitive disorders has been modified by HAART. Following the introduction of HAART in 1996 the incidence of ADC has reduced while its prevalence has increased due to prolonged survival after diagnosis. At CD4 count <100 cells/ml in pre-HAART era subjects with ADC had 5 months median survival duration. However, at the same CD4 count in post- HAART era the median survival duration was 38 months [22]. In Australia 4 fold survival benefit was reported for ADC as against 2 fold for other NeuroAIDS diseases [23]. Despite the documented benefits of HAART in management of NeuroAIDS, patients with SNCD still had higher risk

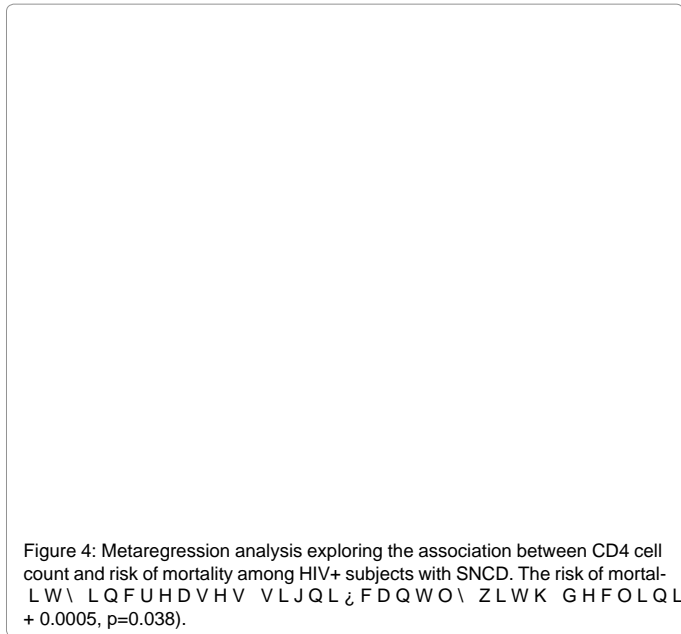
Author/ publication year	Neurocognitive syndrome as- sessed	Criteria	Neurocognitive domains assessed							
			SIP	Motor	Attention/ WM	Memory	9 H U E D ency	Executive function	Learning	Visuospatial construction
Vivithanaporn 2010 [20]	MCMD/ HAD	AAN 1991	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
Seigny 2007 [5]	HIV-D	AAN 2007	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
Tozzi 2005 [19]a	MCMD/ HIV-D	AAN 1991	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-
Tozzi 2005 [19]b	MCMD/ HIV-D	AAN 1991	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-
Chaisson 1998 [14]	ADC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
Conti 2000 [15]a	HIVE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
Conti 2000 [15]b	HIVE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
Mocroft 1997 [17]	ADC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
ART-CC 2009 [4]	ADC	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ellis et al. 1997 [16]	MCMD	AAN 1991	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Mayeux 1993 [6]	MCMD	AAN 1991	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sacktor 1996 [9]	NCI*	AAN 1991	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wilkie 1998 [7]	NCI*	NA	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+
Hutchinson 1997 [21]	ADC	NA	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
Petruckevitch 1998 [18]	ADC	NA	NAA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

ART-CC- Antiretroviral therapy Cohort Collaboration, SIP- Speed of information processing, ADC- AIDS dementia complex, HIVE- HIV encephalopathy, MCMD- Minor cognitive motor disorder, HIV-D- HIV dementia, HAD- HIV-associated dementia, NA- not available, HR- Hazard Ratio, RR- Relative Risk, AAN- American Academy of Neurology

Table 2: Neuropsychological characteristics of included studies.



Citation: Yakasai AM, Muhammad H, Ibrahim A, Owolabi LF, Dalhat MM (2014) Impact of Symptomatic HIV- Related Neurocognitive Disorders in Survival of HIV- Infected Individuals: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analyses. *J Neuroinfect Dis* 5: 166. doi:10.4172/2314-7326.1000166



acterize the pattern and magnitude of neurocognitive deficits in HIV+ patients with increased risk of mortality.

Our findings should be interpreted within the limits of the meta-analyses. The effect of clade diversity has been mentioned above.

17. Mocroft AJ, Lundgren JD, Monforte AD, Ledergerber B, Barton SE, et al. (1997) For the AIDS in Europe study group. Survival of AIDS patients according to WHO stage in the HAART era. *AIDS* 11: 1177-1180.
18. Petrukevitch A, Del Amo J, Phillips AN, Johnson AM, Stephenson J, et al. (2003) A retrospective cohort study of 2048 HIV-infected persons in London. *AIDS* 17: 1007-1013.
19. Conti S, Masocco M, Pezzotti P, Toccaceli V, Vichi M, et al. (2000) Differential impact of combined antiretroviral therapy on the survival of Italian patients with AIDS. *AIDS* 14: 451-458.
20. Chaisson RE, Gallant JE, Keruly JC, Moore RD (1998) Impact of opportunistic disease on survival in patients with HIV infection. *AIDS* 12: 29-33.
21. Symons MJ, Moore DT (2002) Hazard rate ratio and prospective epidemiological studies. *J Clin Epidemiol* 55: 893-899.
22. Dore GJ, McDonald A, Li Y, Kaldor JM, Brew BJ, for the national HIV surveillance committee. (2003) Marked improvement in survival following AIDS dementia complex in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy. *AIDS* 17:1539-1545.
23. Dore GJ, Li Y, McDonald A, Ree H, Kaldor JM, for the national HIV surveillance committee. (2002) Impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy on individual survival in the HAART era. *AIDS* 16: 597-603.
24. &KULVWR 33 *UHFR '% \$OHL[R \$: /LYUDPHQWR -\$ FHUHEURVSLQDO AXLG DQG SODVPD +,9 51\$ GHWHFWLRQ UDWLH LQ SDWLHQWV ZLWK DQG without opportunistic neurological disease during the HAART era. *BMC Infectious Diseases* 7:147.
25. Baeten JM, Chohan B, Lavreys L, Chohan V, McClelland RS, et al. (2007) HIV-1 subtype D infection is associated with faster disease progression than subtype A in spite of similar plasma HIV-1 loads. *J Infect Dis* 195: 1177-1180.
26. Kiwanuka N, Laeyendecker O, Robb M, Kigozi G, Arroyo M, et al. (2008) Effect of HIV-1 subtype on disease progression in persons from Rakai, Uganda, with incident HIV-1 infection. *J Infect Dis* 197: 707-713.
27. Sacktor N, Nakasujja N, Skolasky RL, Rezapour M, Robertson K, et al. (2009) HIV subtype D is associated with dementia, compared with subtype A, in immunosuppressed individuals at risk of cognitive impairment in Kampala, Uganda. *Clin Infect Dis* 49: 780-786.
28. Price RW, Yiannoutsos CT, Clifford DB, Zaboriski L, Tselis A, et al. (1999) Neurological outcomes in late HIV infection: adverse impact of neurological impairment on survival and protective effect of antiviral therapy. AIDS Clinical Trial Group and Neurological AIDS Research Consortium study team. *AIDS* 13: 1677-1685.
29. Altman DG, Bland JM (2003) Interaction revisited: the difference between two estimates. *BMJ* 326: 219.
30. Staehelin C, Rickenbach M, Low N, Egger M, Ledergerber B, et al. (2003) Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa in the Swiss HIV Cohort Study: access to antiretroviral therapy, disease progression and survival. *AIDS* 17: 2237-2244.
31. Morgan D, Mwanuzi M, Mwaanga B, Opondo J, Lubega R, et al. (2002) HIV-1 infection in rural Africa: is there a difference in median time to AIDS and survival compared with that in industrialized countries? *AIDS* 16: 597-603.

Submit your next manuscript and get advantages of OMICS Group submissions

Unique features:

- † 24 hours online journal
- † 24 hours online article
- † 24 hours online abstract

Special features:

- † 24 hours online journal
- † 24 hours online article
- † 24 hours online abstract
- † 24 hours online review
- † 24 hours online comment
- † 24 hours online discussion

