

# HIV ASSOCIATED NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDERS

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# 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.

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