**TÍTULO**

**NEUROLOGIC DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH HIV/AIDS**

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**RESUMO**

**Introduction:** First diagnosed in the 80s the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has become a pandemic challenge to public health. AIDS is caused by HIV-1 and HIV-2 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) and has as hallmark progressive fall of T-cells CD4+ leading to profound immunosuppression that predisposes the patient to opportunistic infections and neoplastic diseases. HIV is most likely to infect the immune system but it can also reach the Central Nervous System (CNS). Therefore, the relevance of this study consists in to identify the neurologic disorders associated with the HIV infection and their impacts on the quality of patients’ lives and to highlight the need of more researches in this area.

**Objective:** To present concepts and discussion about neurologic disorders associated with HIV/AIDS infection. **Material and methods:** This study was based in published articles in the database of Medline, PubMed and Scielo in English and Portuguese languages that discussed about HIV and neurologic disorders. **Results:** A study made with 653 HIV-infected patients indicated that 26% showed symptoms related to neurological disturbs. The main neurological symptoms were motor deficit, headache, mental confusion, convulsive crises, behavior changing and memory disturb. Another study involving 1.651 HIV-infected patients, presented 24,5% with at least one neurologic disorder, whereas 41% patients with AIDS presented neurologic disorders associated with HIV/AIDS infection. **Discussion:** HIV - associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND) have many clinical manifestations, since the asymptomatic form until serious cognitive changes, as the dementia. Its pathogenesis starts with the virus infection in the cerebral parenchyma through infected monocytes that cross the blood-brain barrier (“Trojan horse”). Consequently, there will be the immune system activation, occasioning the neuroinflammation that will predispose to neurodegeneration. For the HAND development is necessary the interaction between viral and host factors. Factors related to the host include genetic predisposition, metabolic disorders (insulin resistance), aging, vascular disease, anaemia, malnutrition, hepatitis C virus infection and patient behavioral habits (use of psychoactive substances like cocaine, for example) which can potentize the infection. On the other hand, HIV associated factors are AIDS, immune system activation, HIV subtypes, neuro-adaptation and resistance to drugs. HAND is a subdiagnosed problem in HIV+ population. Several tests are available in the clinical practice in order to evaluate cognitive function, some of them are simple and quick, like MOS-HIV and PAOF. Despite the therapy progress there isn’t enough research to prove the best therapeutic approach, although antiretroviral drugs and combination therapy with high CPE (Central Nervous System Penetration-effectiveness Score) drugs must be considered, while pharmacological therapies and other alternatives are being studied. **Conclusion:** It is crucial to the well-being of the patient in treatment of HIV the precise and early diagnosis of neurologic complications, besides a therapeutic intervention capable of relieving the symptoms and promote quality of life.
References


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