

Special Issue

Update on HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorders (HAND)

Message from the Guest Editor

Effective combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) has led to a significant reduction in the prevalence and incidence of central nervous system (CNS) HIV-associated brain disease, particularly, opportunistic CNS infections and HIV encephalitis. Despite this, cognitive deficits in people living with HIV (PLWH) have become more apparent in recent years. The term HAND (HIV-associated neurocognitive impairment) has been defined as cognitive impairment associated exclusively with HIV infection. However, defining if cognitive disorders in PLWH are due to HAND or other causes can be cumbersome on an individual basis. The development of HAND has been associated with antiretroviral therapy and low-level CNS HIV replication, but more recently the role of brain immuneactivation in the development of HAND is taking central stage and could pave the way for the development of new anti-inflammatory therapeutics for the management of HAND.

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