Fat redistribution on ARVs: dogma versus data

Gary Maartens



"Half of what we are going to teach you is wrong, and half of it is right. Our problem is that we don't know which half is which."

GP Berry, Dean Harvard Medical School 1949-1965

Lipohypertrophy – fat accumulation





Lipoatrophy – fat loss



Fat redistribution

- Seen progressively more commonly with duration on ART
- Fat loss & fat accumulation may occur together or separately
 Term "lipedystrephy" pet elipically useful
 - Term "lipodystrophy" not clinically useful
- Assessed subjectively or on imaging (DEXA, CT, MRI)

Fat redistribution patterns

- Fat loss:
 - Subcutaneous fat everywhere
 - Most noticed face, buttocks, limbs
- Fat accumulation
 - Subcutaneous & visceral fat
 - Buffalo hump
 - Breasts

Lipodystrophy questions

- What is the pathogenesis?
- Are fat changes linked to specific ARVs?
- Does switching ARVs help?

Lipoatrophy - pathogenesis

- Biopsy of affected adipose tissue:
 - Mitochondrial depletion
 - Infiltration with macrophages
 - Pro-inflammatory cytokines
 - †apoptosis
- Associated with NRTIs that are most toxic to mitochondria (d4T, ddl, AZT)

Lipoatrophy – genetic predisposition

Hemochromatosis Gene Polymorphisms, Mitochondrial Haplogroups, and Peripheral Lipoatrophy during Antiretroviral Therapy

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Mitochondrial DNA Haplogroups Influence Lipoatrophy After Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

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> JID 2008;197:858 JAIDS 2009;51:111

Fat loss: RCTs of NRTIs



TDF vs d4T @ 96 weeks: total limb fat 7.9 kg vs 5.0 kg (P.001) TDF vs AZT @ 48 weeks: total limb fat 8.9 kg vs 6.9 kg (P.03)

> JAMA 2004;:292:191 JAIDS 2007;44:139 NEJM 2006;354:251

Fat loss: NRTIs ACTG5142 (fat loss >20% limbs from baseline)



Fat loss limbs >20% from baseline RCT: LPV/r vs EFV (+2 NRTIs) vs LPV/r + EFV



Increase in limb fat after switching d4T/AZT



Fat loss - summary

- Pathogenesis is mitochondrial depletion and inflammation – genetic component
- Caused by NRTIs that are toxic to mitochondria
- PIs less associated than NNRTIs (?due to PI's anti-apoptotic properties)
- Switch to less toxic NRTIs results in very slow improvement

Which ARVs cause fat accumulation?

Protease inhibitors implicated in initial studies

Metabolic sub-study FIRST trial: PI or NNRTI + 2NRTIs; or PI+NNRTI

- Anthropometry & bio-impedance used to measure fat redistribution
- 70% of PIs unboosted
- NNRTIS 63% EFV 37% NVP
- NRTIs about 50% AZT, 40% d4T

FIRST study – regional fat



No significant difference by strategy

Body fat EFV vs LPV with AZT+3TC (LPV alone if VL suppressed on 3 consecutive months)



JID 2008;198:234

Fat accumulation: LPV/r vs EFV (+2 NRTIs) vs LPV/r + EFV

- Trunk fat increased from a median of 8.2 kg (IQR 5.0–12.2) at entry to 10.4 kg (IQR 6.8–14.4) at week 96.
- There were no significant differences at weeks 48 or 96 by randomized treatment or NRTI selection

What about raltegravir & atazanavir?



JAIDS 2010;55:39

RCT ATV vs EFV (+AZT + 3TC)



- VAT visceral adipose tissue
- SAT subcutaneous adipose tissue
- TAT total adipose tissue

CID 2006;42:273

ATV/r vs EFV ACTG5224S

- Metabolic sub-study of RCT:
 - TDF+FTC vs ABC+3TC (no difference in fat changes)
 - ATV/r vs EFV
- Subcutaneous limb & abdominal fat gain greater with ATV/r
- No difference in increases in visceral fat

ATV/r vs ATV (d4T + 3TC)



≥20% limb fat loss @ 96 wk: ATV/r 29% vs ATV 49% P<0.05

Switch boosted PI to ATV/r

- ReAL study:
 - On boosted PI regimen; n=200
 - VL <400
 - waist >90cm
- Randomised to continue vs switch to ATV/r
- No change in fat distribution on DEXA or fat gain at week 48 & 96

Switch boosted PI to raltegravir

- Sub-study of SPIRAL
 - RCT switch to RAL or stay on PI/r
 - All VL suppressed at baseline
- N=73 (39 switch RAL, 34 stay on PI/r)
- "No differences were seen between treatment groups in the DXA-scan regarding body fat after 48 weeks"

Switching ARVs for fat accumulation

"we do not recommend switching antiretrovirals to combat lipohypertrophy"

"substitution of HIV medications to reduce regional fat accumulation cannot be advocated"

Effect of ART on pro-inflammatory cytokines causing wasting



Fat accumulation - summary

- All ART regimens, even ARVs with minimal metabolic effects, cause fat gain
- No regimen switch effective
- Is fat accumulation a consequence of treating HIV, which reduces immune activation?

Epidemiology of fat redistribution by HIV status

- FRAM studies HIV pos (on ART about 5 years at baseline) vs controls (from CARDIA cohort)
- Fat measured by MRI baseline & 5 years
- Ages well matched, ethnicity reasonable match, HIV+ men mostly MSM (unknown in CARDIA)

Fat distribution HIV+ vs control: women



Fat distribution HIV+ vs control: men



Change in fat - legs



Change in fat - visceral



FRAM 1 & 2 studies: summary

- Subcutaneous fat loss more common in HIV+
- HIV+ patients with fat loss at baseline worsened over time
- Visceral fat accumulation over time no difference by HIV status
- Fat accumulation similar in women irrespective of HIV status, but lower in HIV+ men than control men (?MSM factor)

MACS – change in waist circumference MSM



AIDS 2007;21:1731

Loss of subcutaneous fat (from some NRTIs) together with fat accumulation (due to ageing & lifestyle) results in unusual appearance

Atherosclerosis 208 (2010) 222-227



Lipodystrophy and anti-retroviral therapy as predictors of sub-clinical atherosclerosis in human immunodeficiency virus infected subjects

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Adjusted ORs for presence of coronary artery calciumLipoatrophy alone3.82 (95% CI: 1.11, 13.1)Fat accumulation alone 7.65 (95% CI: 1.71, 37.17)Mixed lipodystrophy4.36 (95% CI: 1.26, 15.01)

Lipodystrophy and mortality

- FRAM study
- Lipoatrophy not associated with [↑]mortality
- Visceral fat accumulation increased population attributable risk of mortality by 6.5%

Visceral fat & mortality HIV-



Kuk Obesity 2006;14:336-341



Gynaecomastia in HIV-infected men on highly active antiretroviral therapy: association with efavirenz and didanosine treatment

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Efavirenz and didanosine treatment are associated with the emergence of gynaecomastia. An underlying hypoandrogenism seems to contribute to the emergence of this disorder in these patients.

D01: 10.1111/j.1468-1293.2010.00831.x HIV Medicine (2010), 11, 603-607

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Efavirenz directly modulates the oestrogen receptor and induces breast cancer cell growth

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Conclusions

- Fat loss pathogenesis well understood
- Fat loss improves on switching to NRTIs that are less toxic to mitochondria
- Fat gain not linked to any ARV & not increased compared with controls
- Switching ARVs does not improve fat gain
- Check vascular risk factors with fat gain