

MOOD DISTURBANCE AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL PERFORMANCE IN HIV-1 INFECTED POPULATION: THE IMPACT OF AGING, GENDER, IDU, AND EDUCATION

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The impacts of age, injection drug user (IDU), gender difference and education level on the neuropsychological (NP) impairment and depression symptom and total mood disturbance in HIV-1 infected populations are largely unknown. In a cross-sectional observation study, we compared the NP impairment and mood disturbance in a group of 301 HIV-infected participants. Participants received comprehensive neuropsychological test battery and completed the Profile of Mood States (POMS). On the POMS subscales, univariate tests showed that participants with higher education reported significantly higher vigor ($P<0.01$), and IDUs and women had higher confusion with p values of 0.03 and 0.06, respectively. Overall, women, higher educated, and IDUs had slightly higher total mood disturbance level. The results also indicated that women had higher proportion of NP impairment compared to men (44% vs. 22%, $p=0.002$), participants with less education had higher proportion of NP impairment compared to those with higher education (66% vs. 21%, $p<0.001$), and IDUs had higher proportion of NP impairment compare those never used (44% vs. 22%, $p=0.003$). Total mood disturbance was significantly associated with NP impairment. Age was not observed to be a significant predictor for NP impairment and mood disturbance in this study. Conclusion: This investigation suggests that women, IDUs and lower educated may be at greater risk of HIV-associated neuropsychological impairment and mood disturbance.