

4th International Symposium on



Barcelona, May 5th and 6th 2011

Pathogenesis of Neurocognitive Impairment in HIV-infected persons

Paola Cinque

Dipartimento di Malattie Infettive

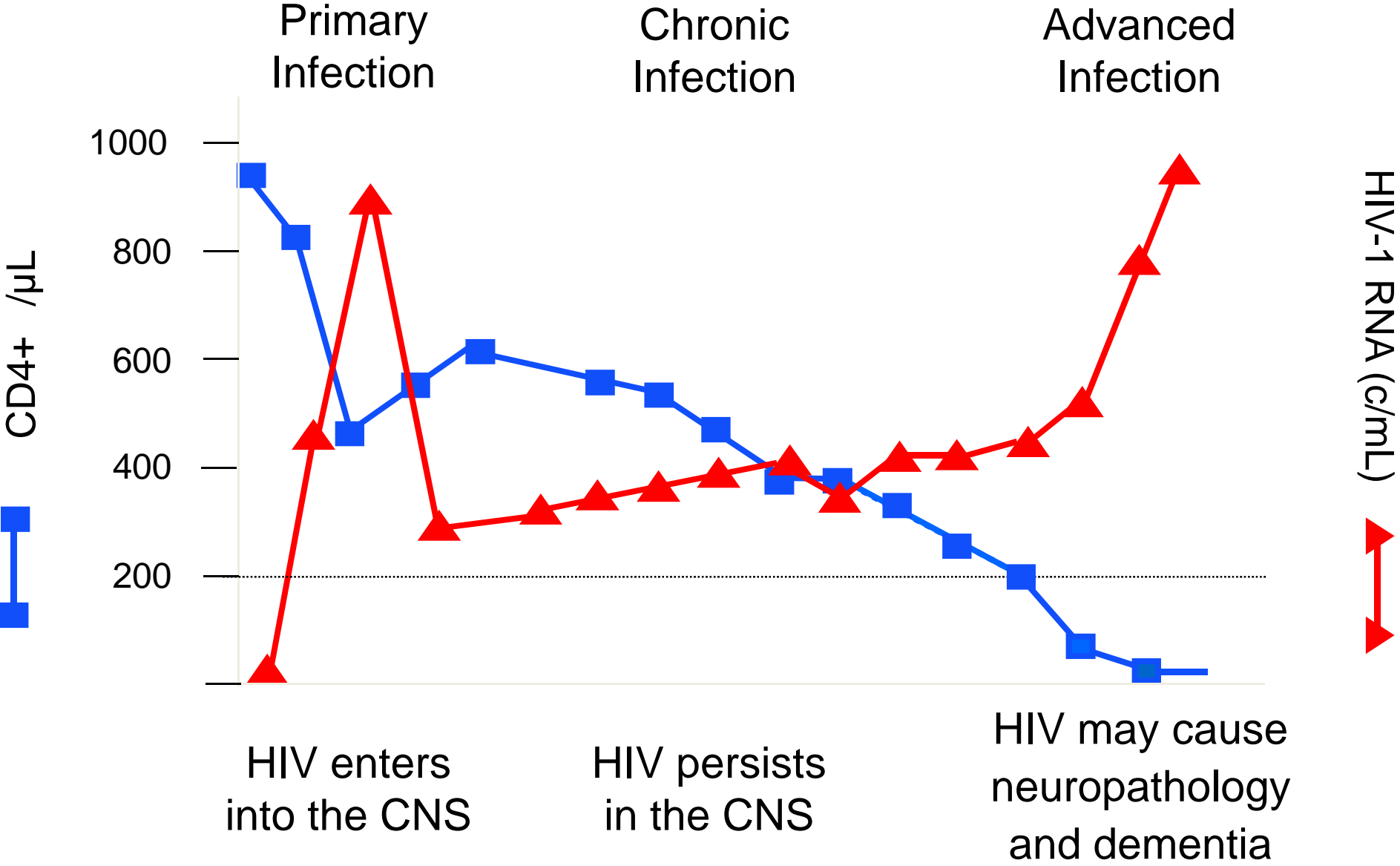
Istituto Scientifico San Raffaele

Milano

NCI Pathogenesis

- In untreated HIV infection
- In treated HIV infection

HIV and the CNS - Natural History

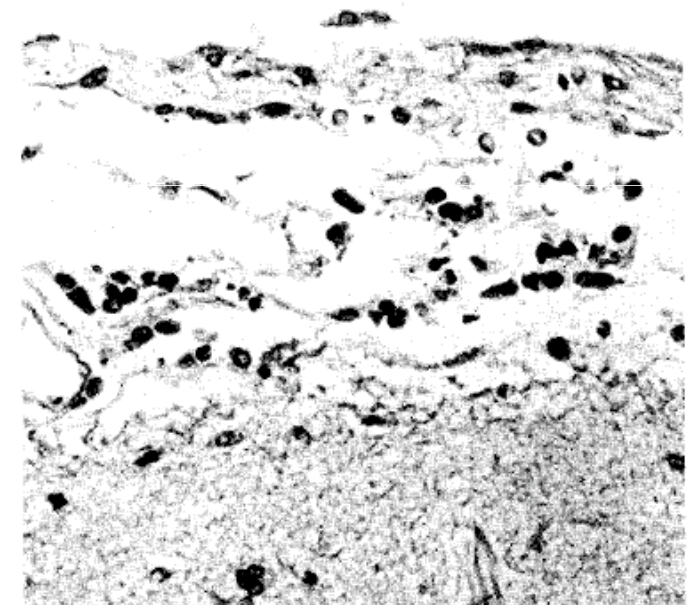
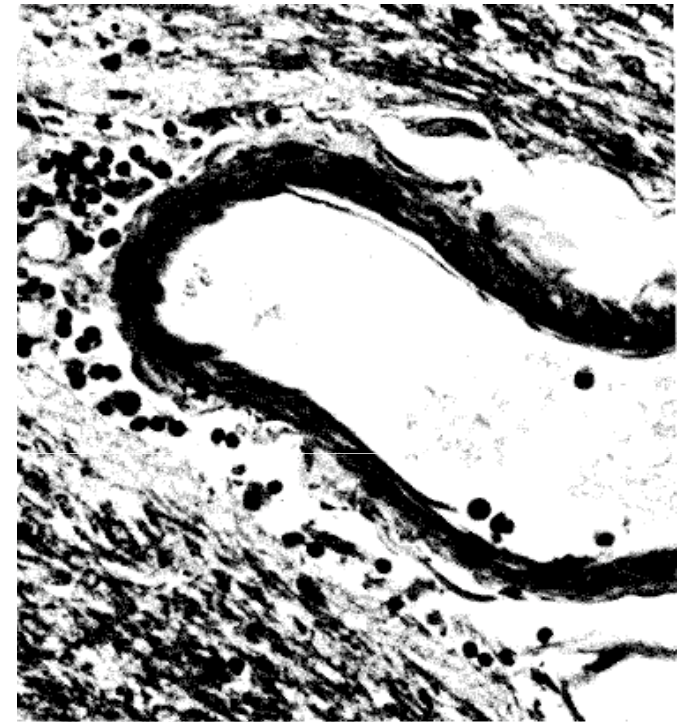


Early viral invasion of the brain in iatrogenic HIV infection

Table. HIV isolation and PCR studies of HIV-1-infected WBC infusion recipient

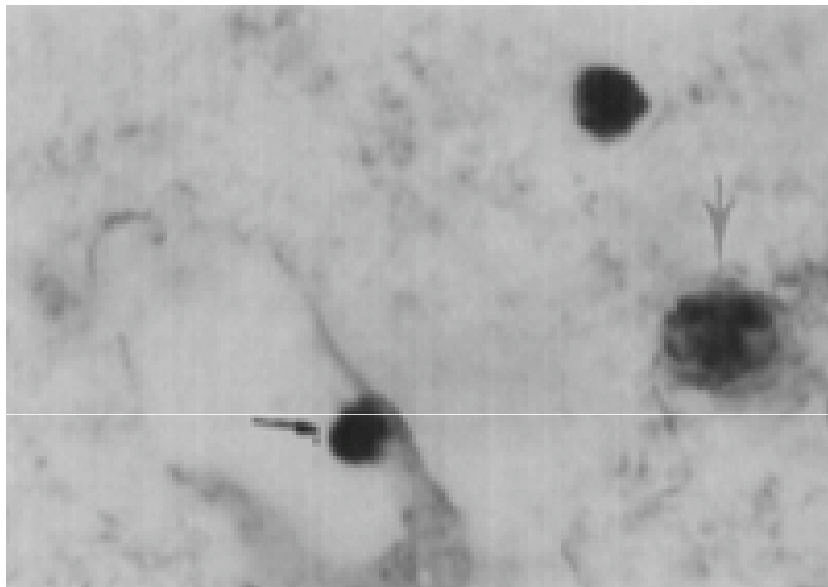
HIV-1 detection method	Days after HIV-1-infected WBC infusion				
	0	1	8	14	15 autopsy
Blood					
Virus isolation	Neg	Neg	Neg	Pos	ND
Proviral DNA by PCR	Neg	Neg	Pos	Pos	ND
Brain					
Virus isolation					Pos
Proviral DNA by PCR					Pos

ND Not done.

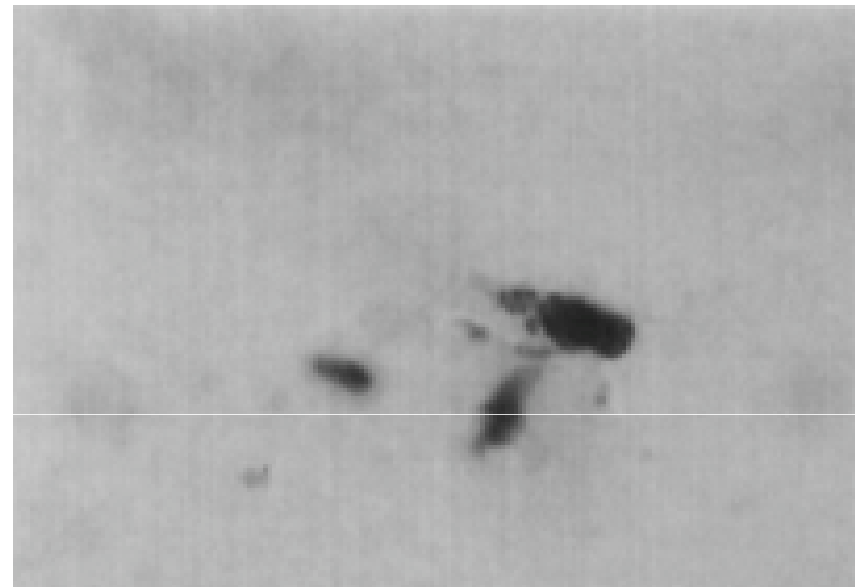


HIV-1 DNA in the CNS in untreated asymptomatic HIV infection: cell localization by in situ-PCR

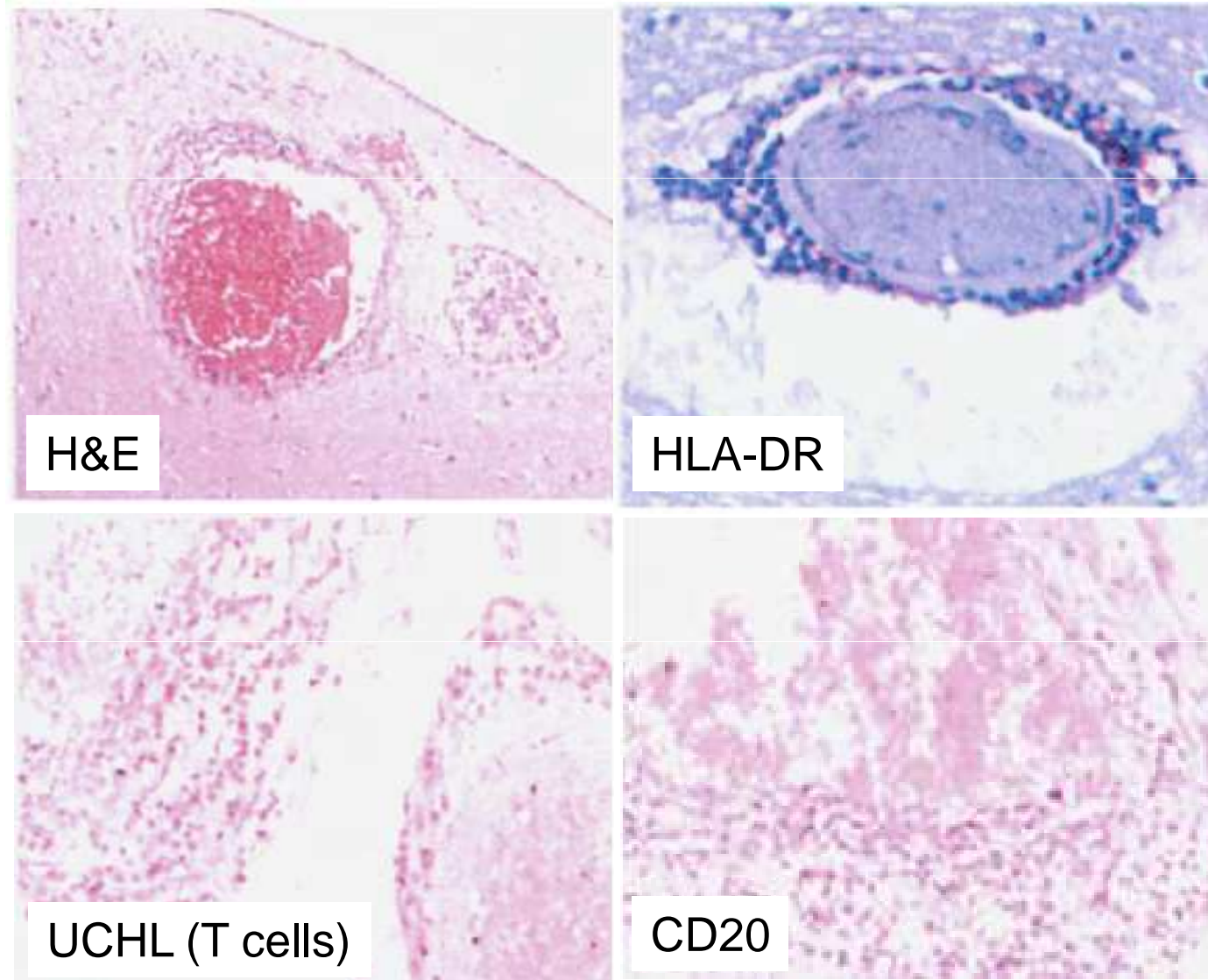
HIV DNA in microglial cells



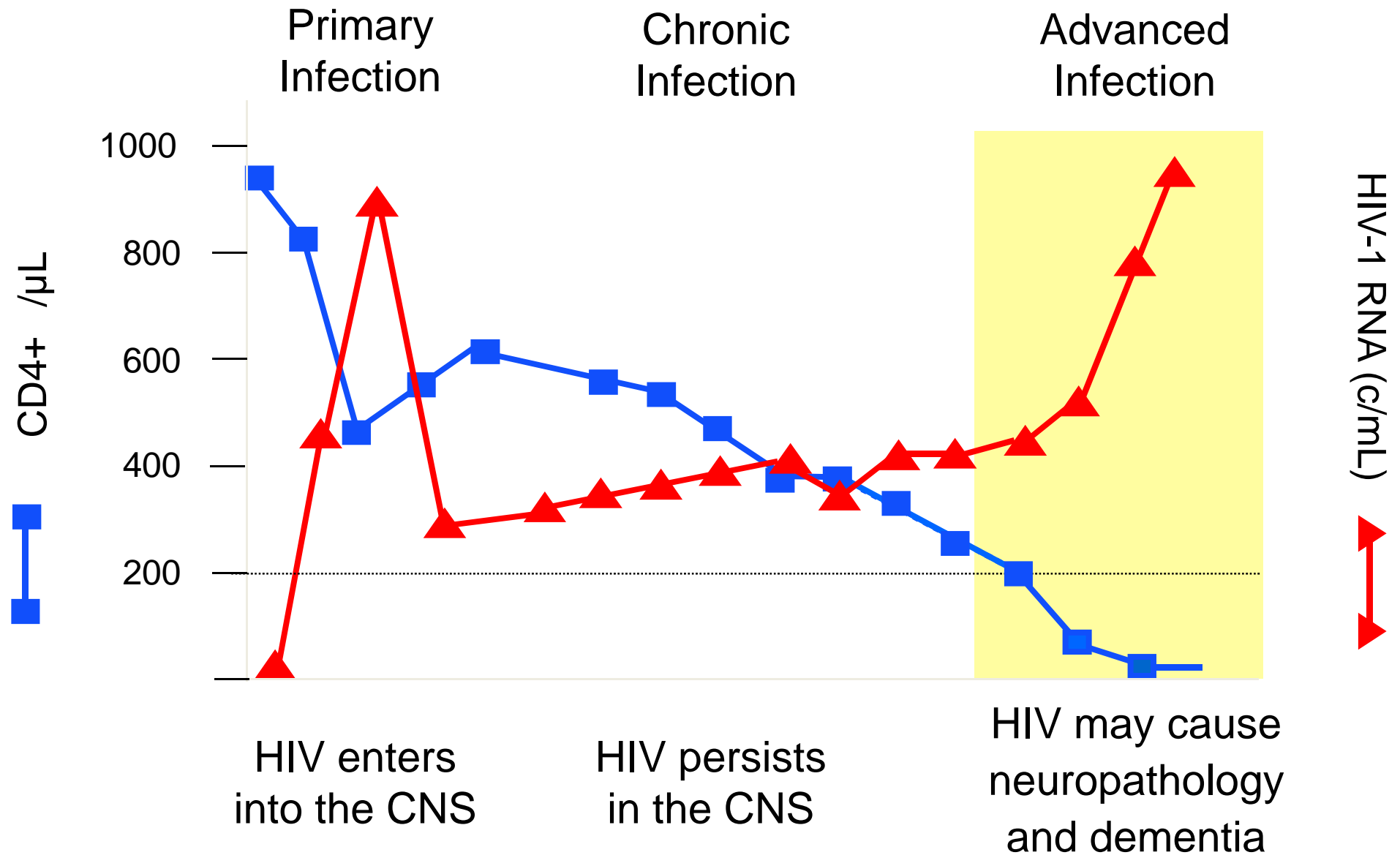
HIV DNA in astrocytes and endothelial cells



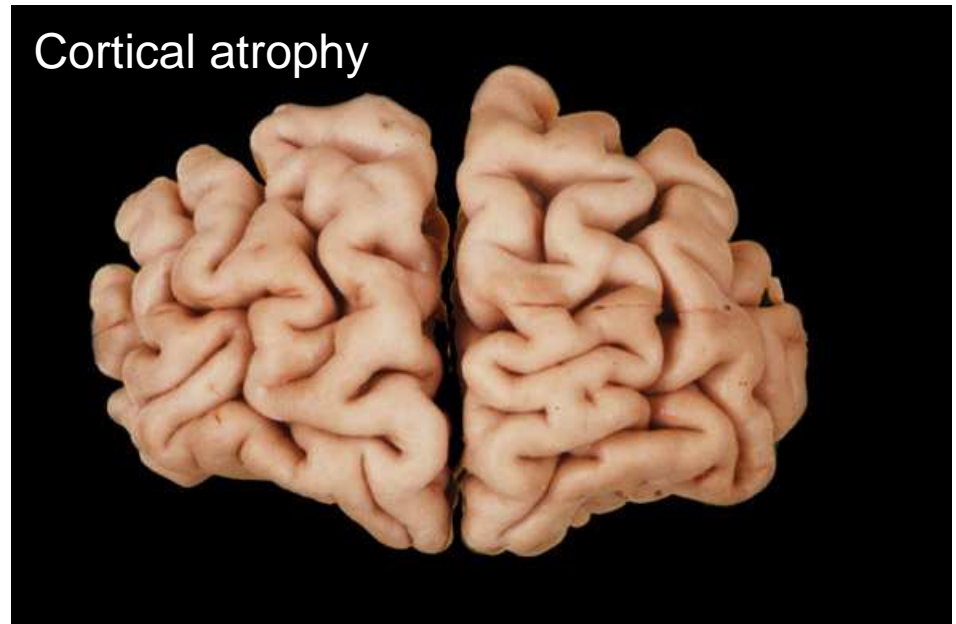
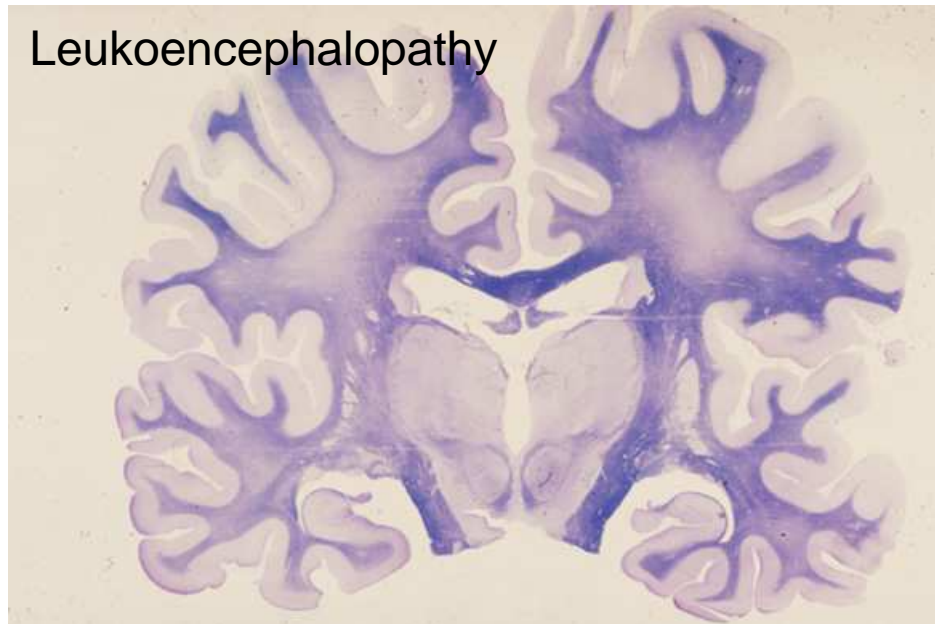
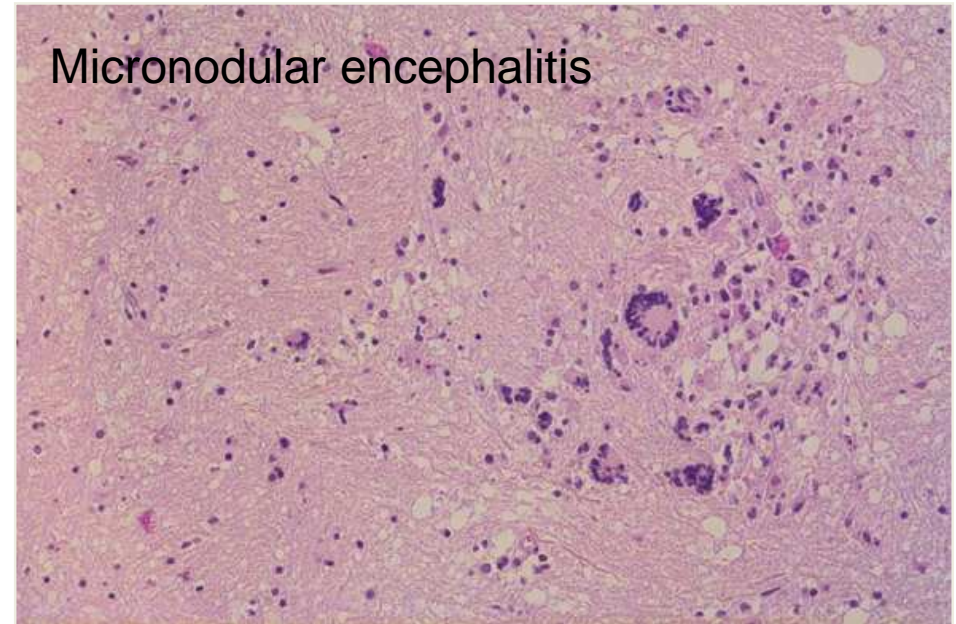
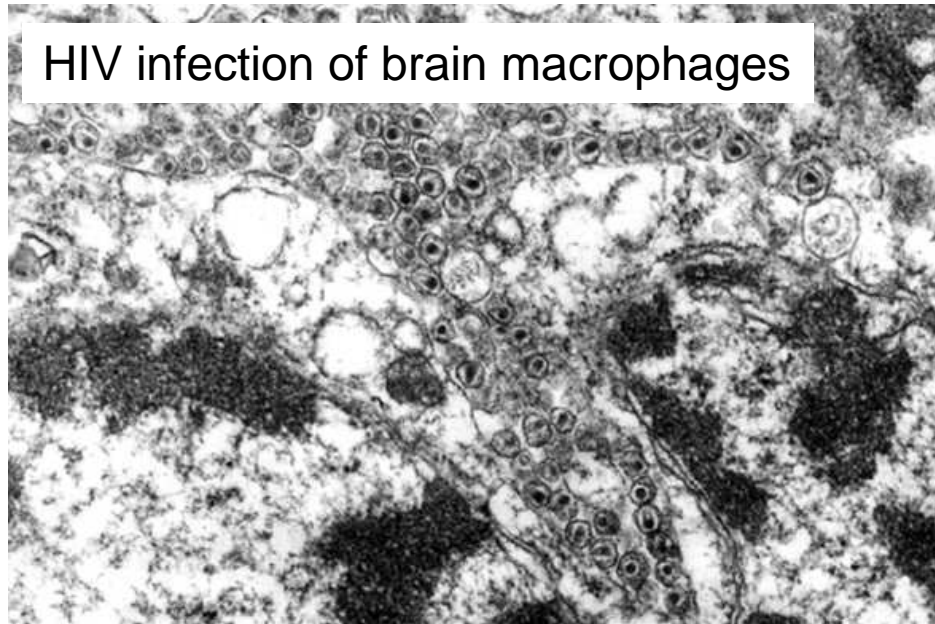
Inflammatory changes in the brain of untreated asymptomatic HIV-1 infection



HIV and the CNS - Natural History



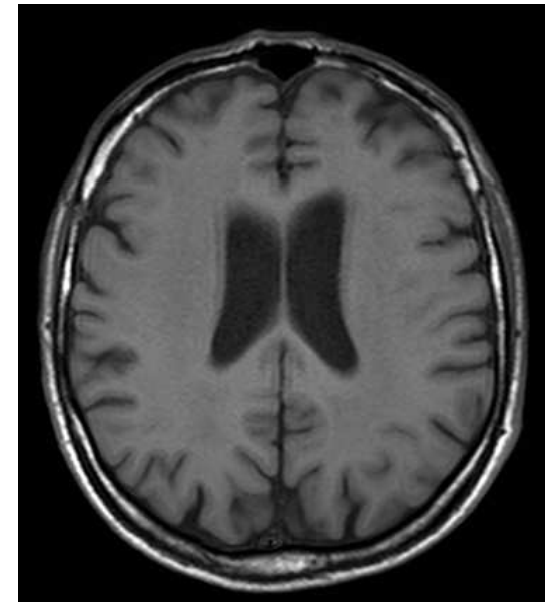
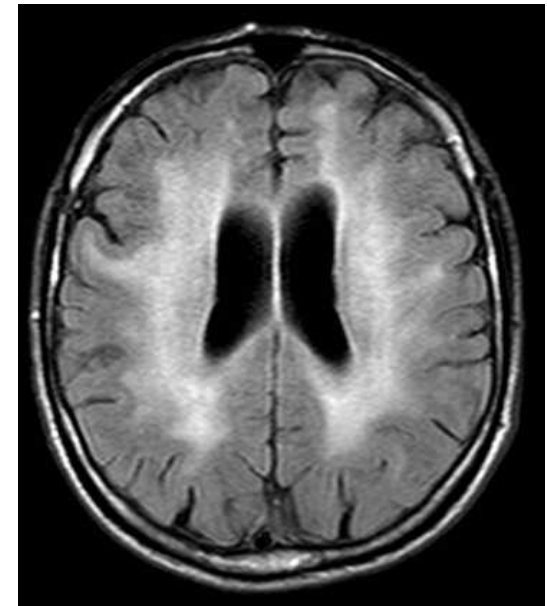
HIV neuropathology



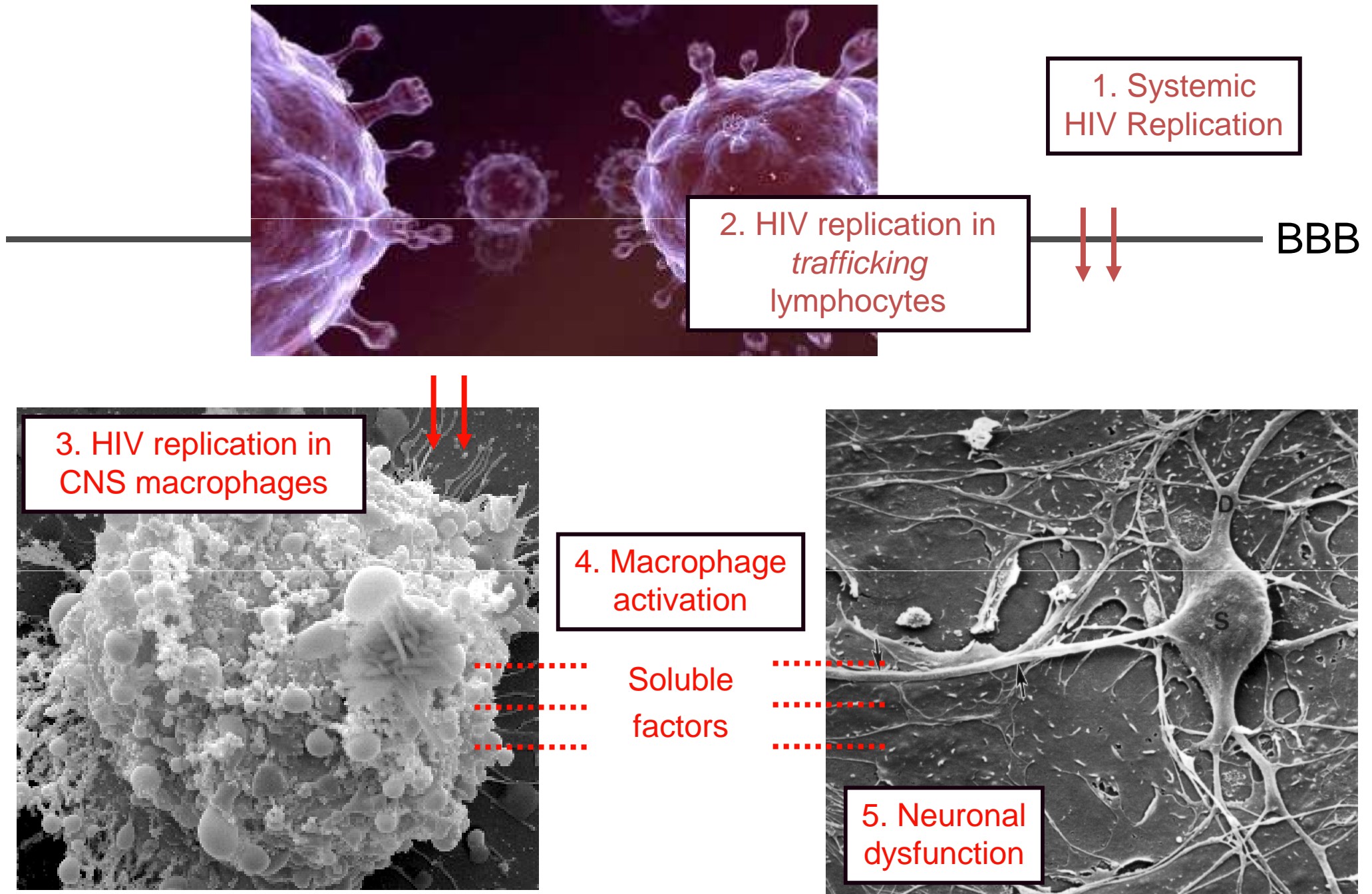
The AIDS dementia complex (ADC)

AAN definition criteria (1991)

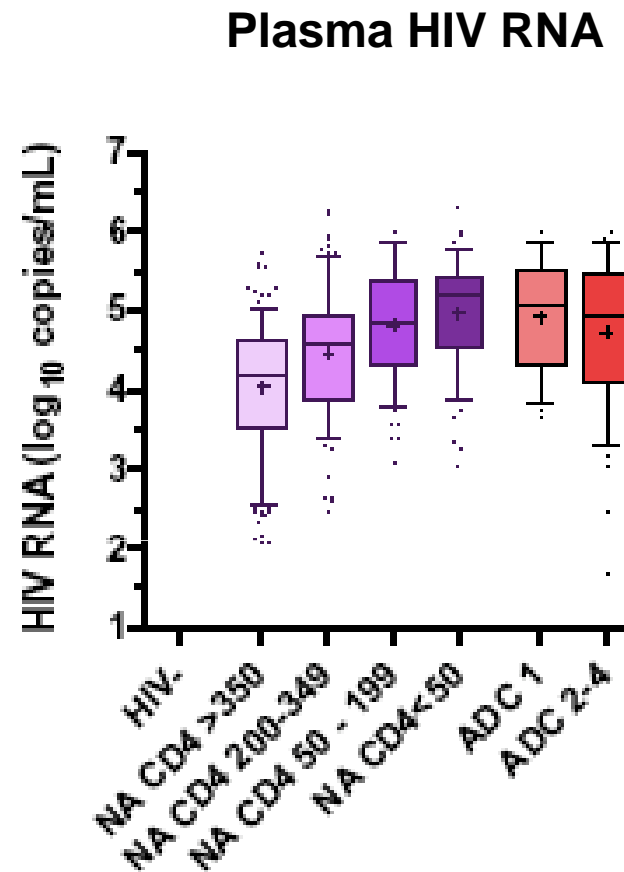
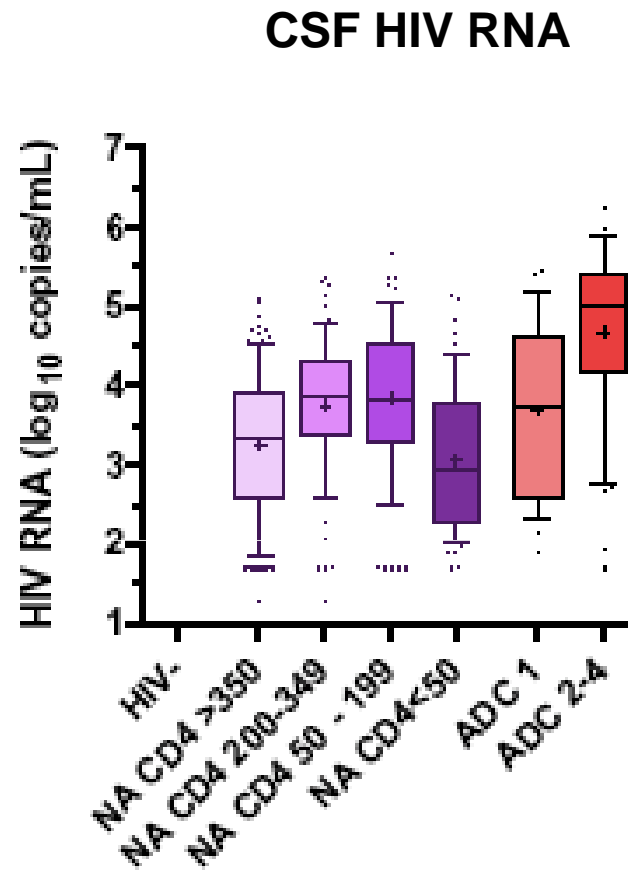
1. Acquired abnormality in at least two of the following cognitive abilities:
 - Attention/concentration
 - Speed of processing of information
 - Abstraction/reasoning
 - Visuospatial skills
 - Memory/learning
 - Speech/language
2. At least one of the following:
 - Acquired abnormality in motor function or performance
 - Decline in motivation or emotional control or change in social behavior
3. Absence of clouding of consciousness
4. Absence of evidence of other etiology



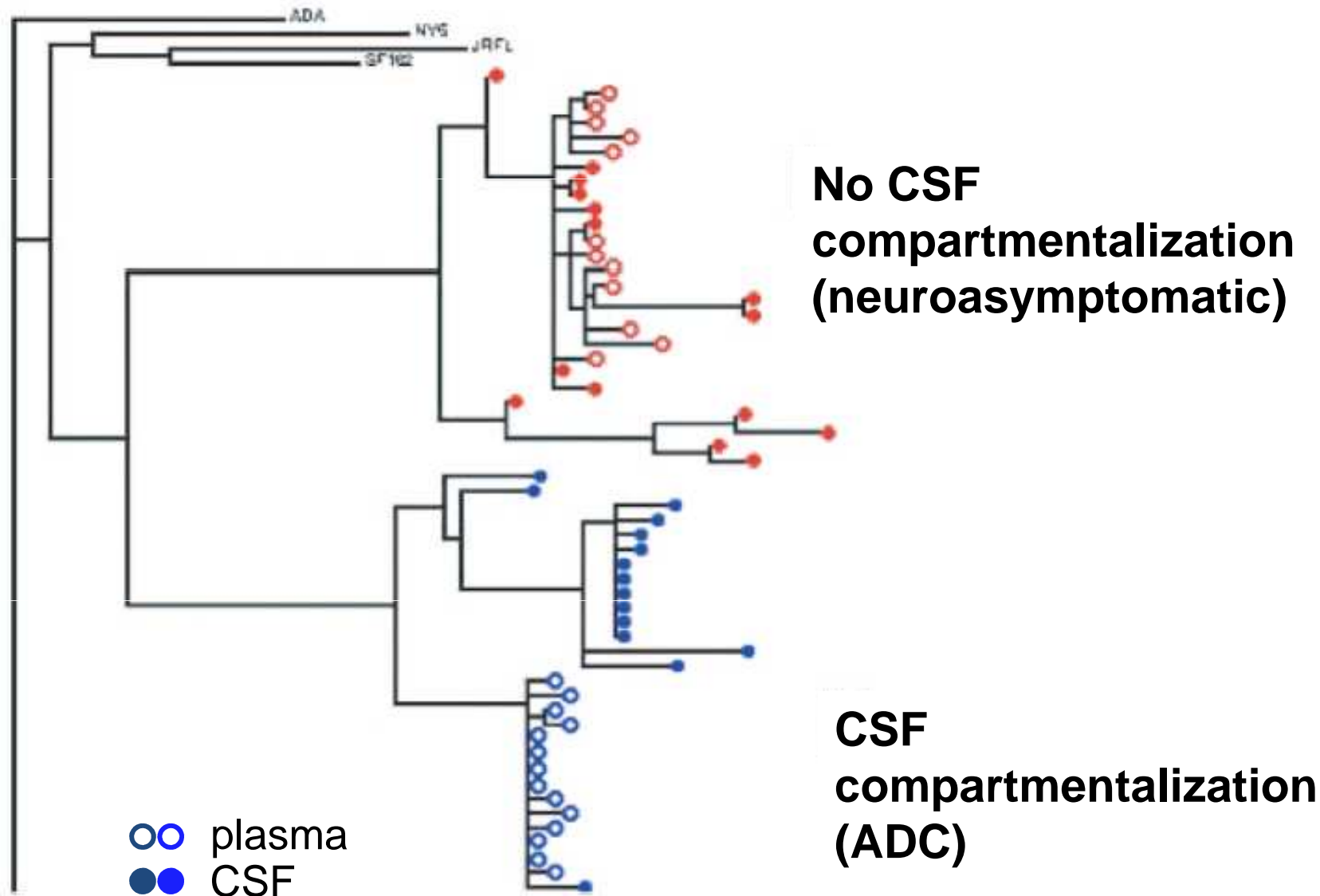
Model for HIV-induced NCI in untreated infection



CSF markers of HIV replication in untreated patients

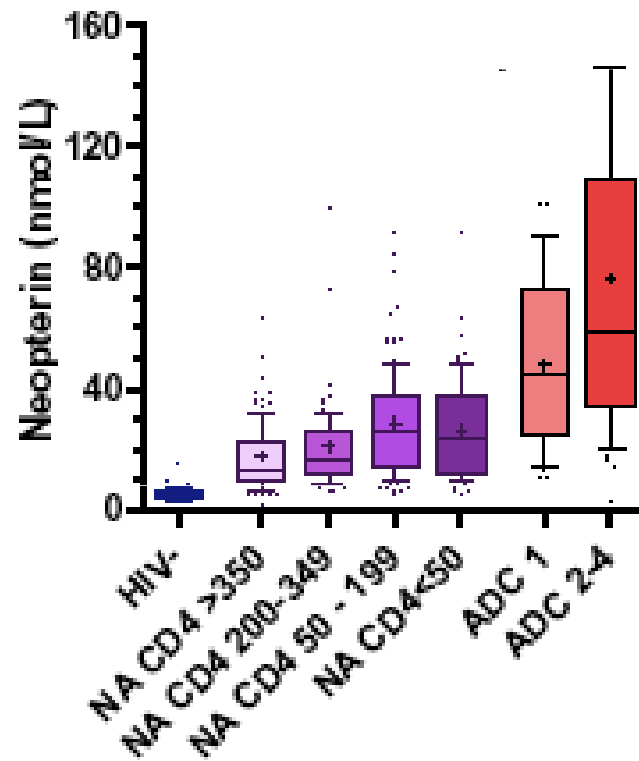


HIV strains are usually non compartmentalized in CSF of neuroasymptomatic patients

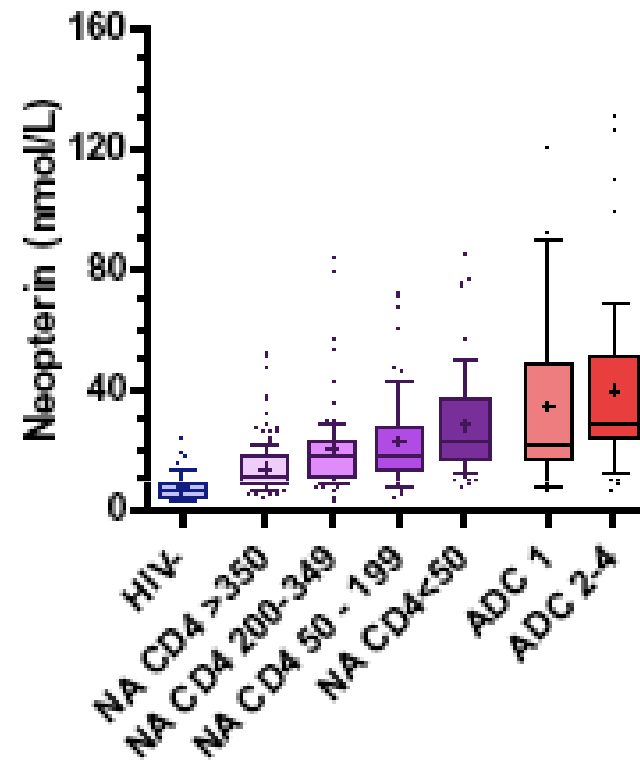


CSF markers of immune activation in untreated patients

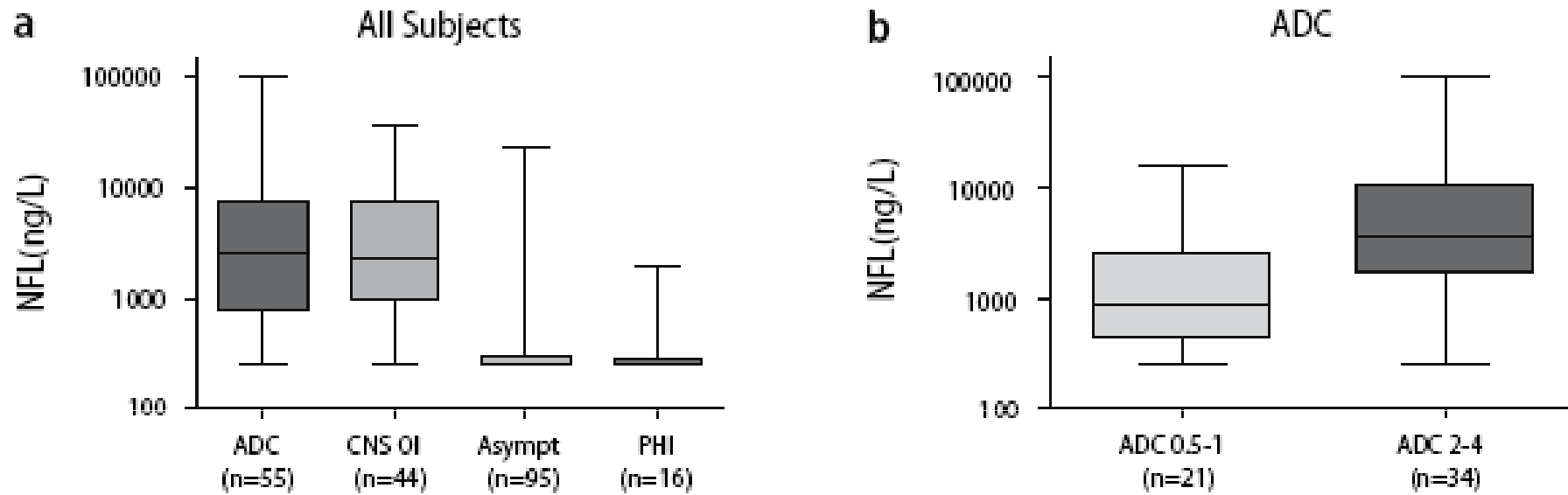
CSF Neopterin



Plasma Neopterin



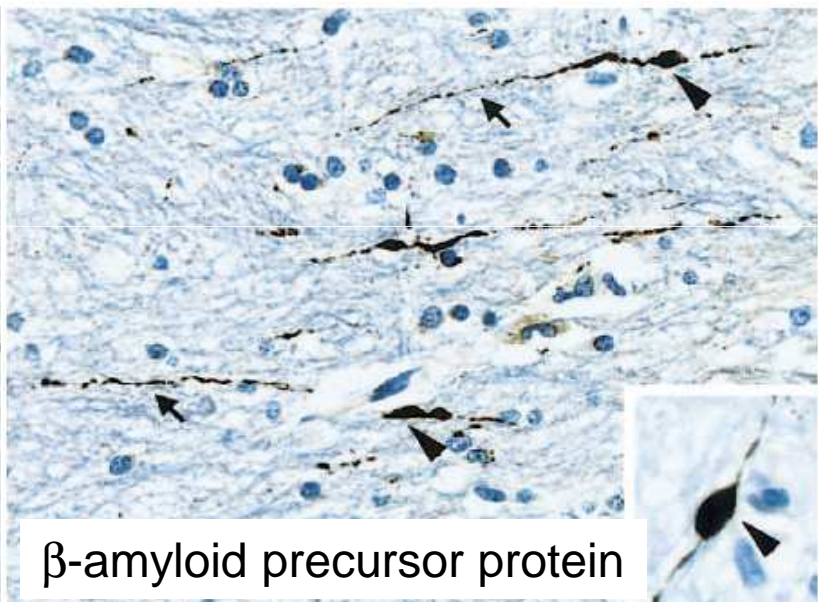
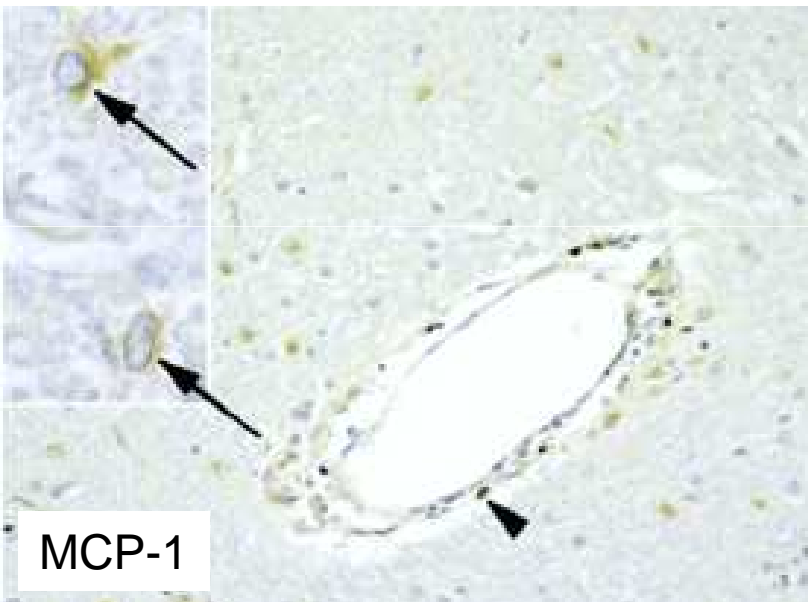
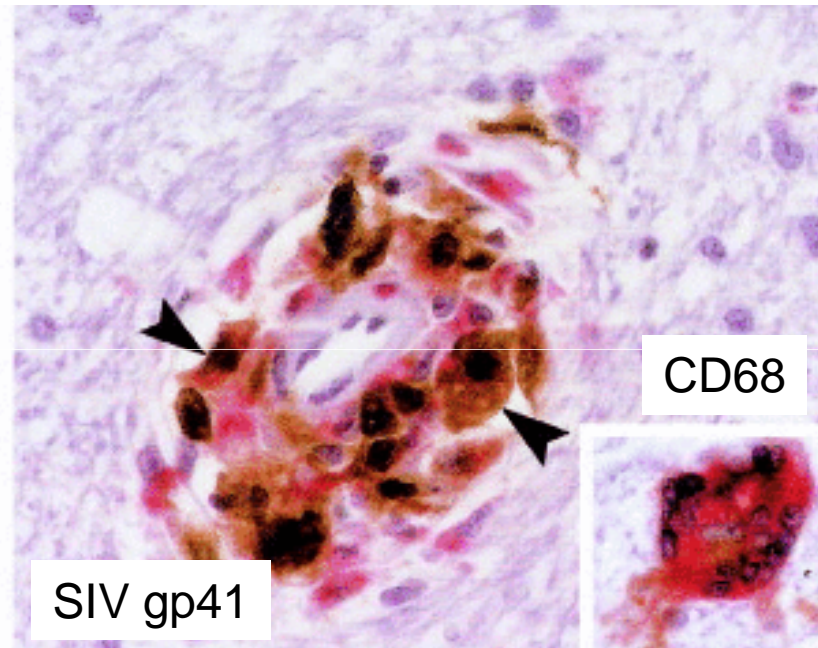
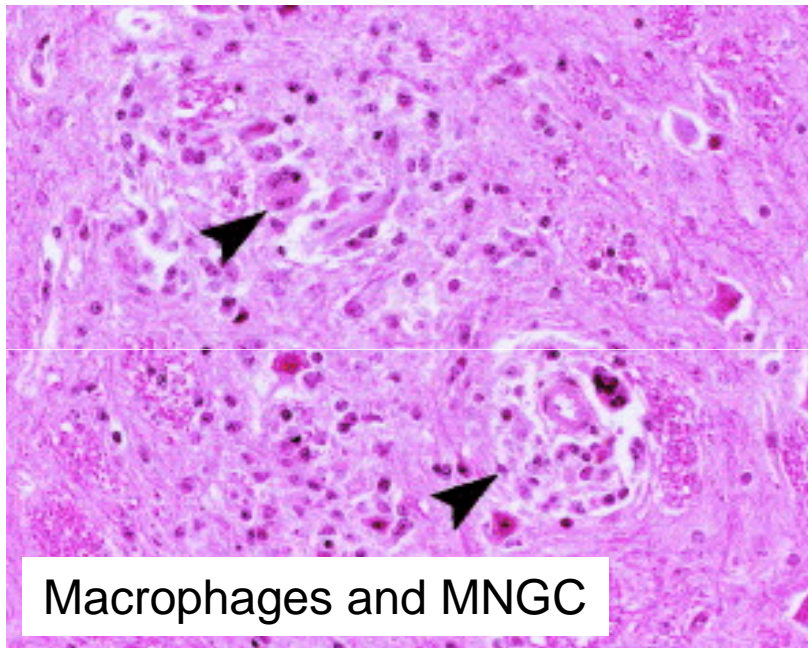
CSF NFL as marker of neuronal damage in untreated patients



The SIV-encephalitis macaque model

QuickTime™ e un
decompressore
sono necessari per visualizzare quest'immagine.

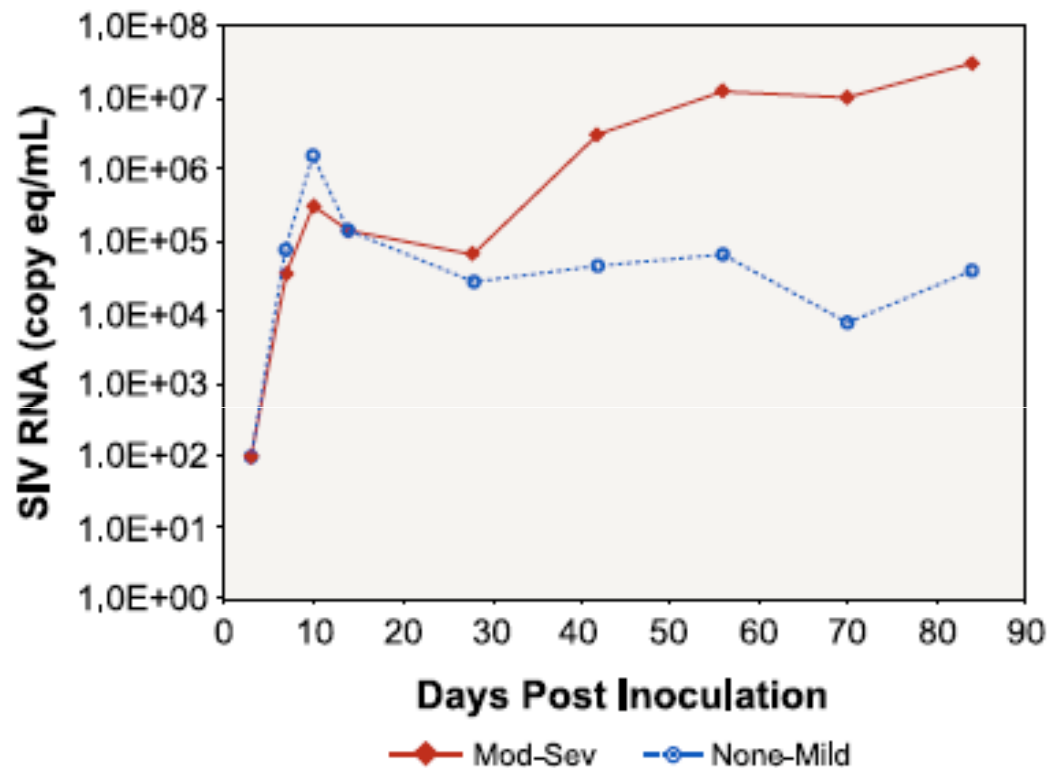
SIV-encephalitis in macaques



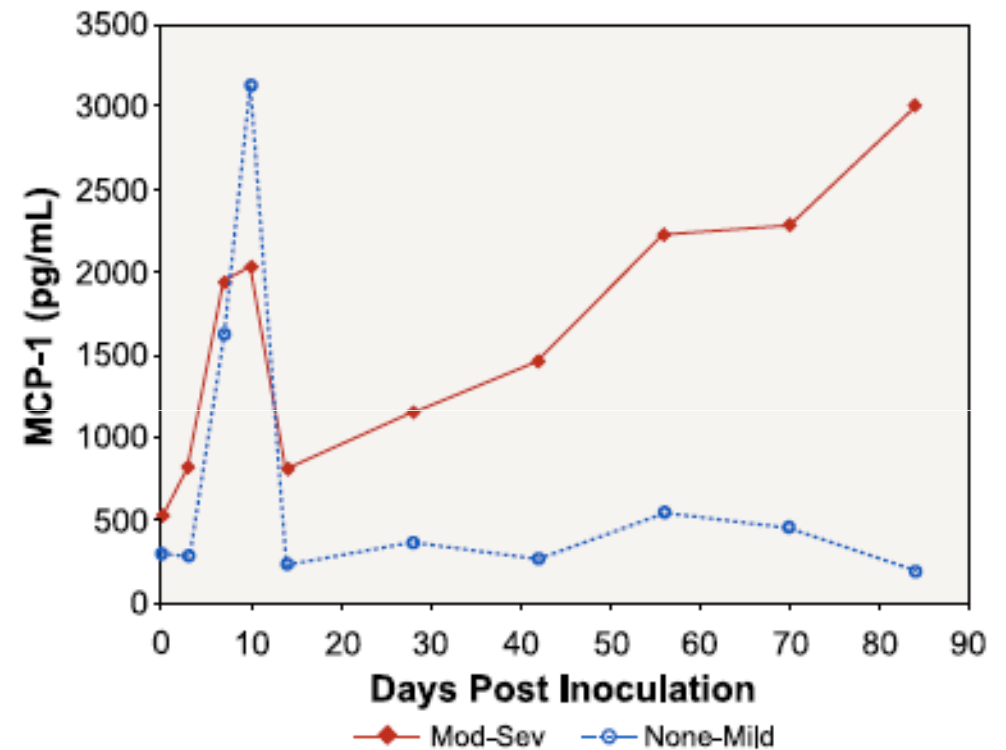
CSF markers of encephalitis in SIV-infected macaques

Accelerated model of SIV encephalitis: inoculation with both neurovirulent and highly pathogenic virus causes moderate/severe SIV-E in 84 days in 14/18 animals

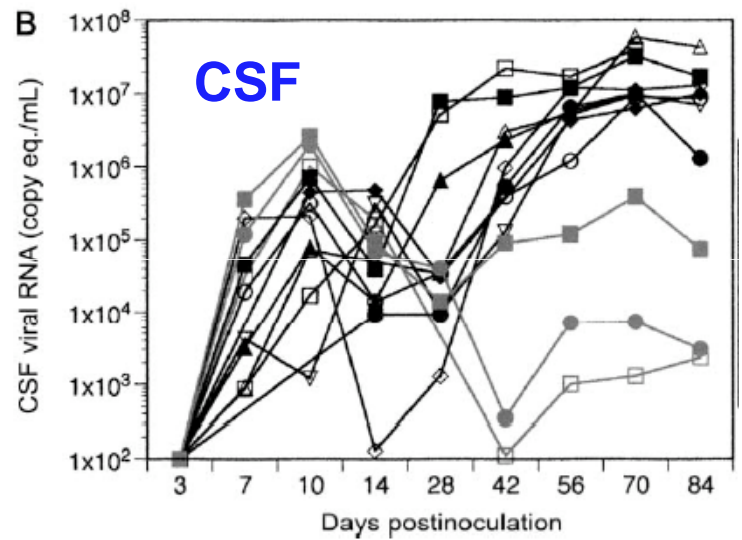
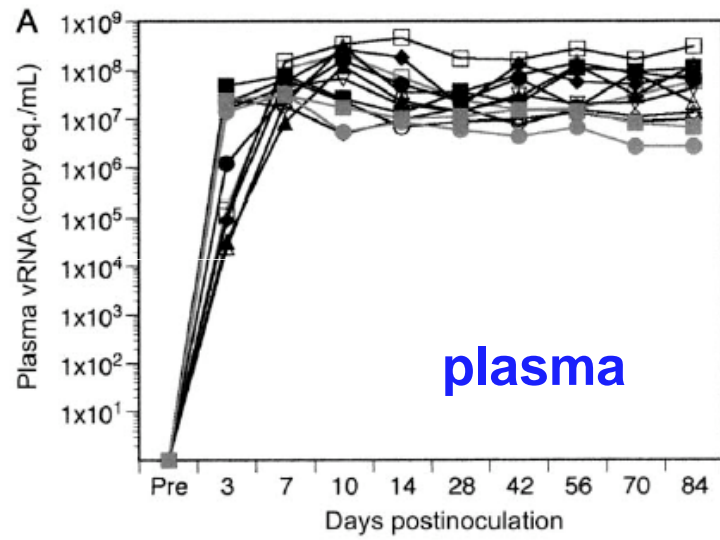
CSF SIV-RNA



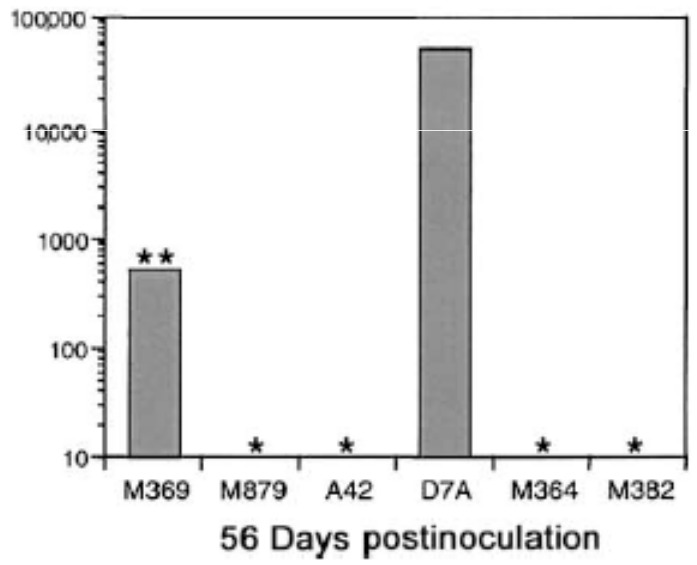
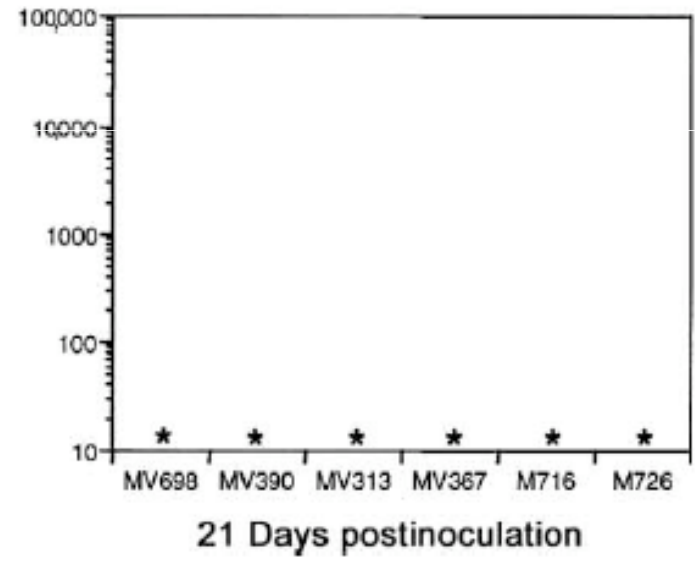
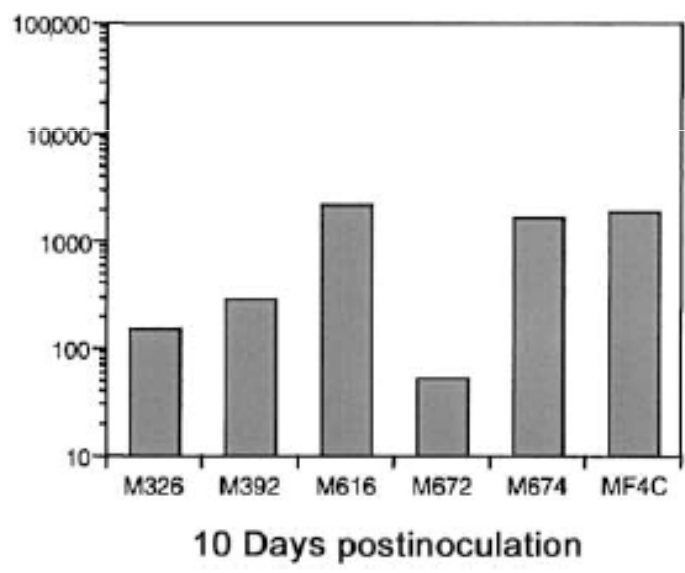
CSF MCP-1



Early phases of SIV replication (SIV-RNA) in CSF and brain in a macaque model of accelerated HIV brain infection



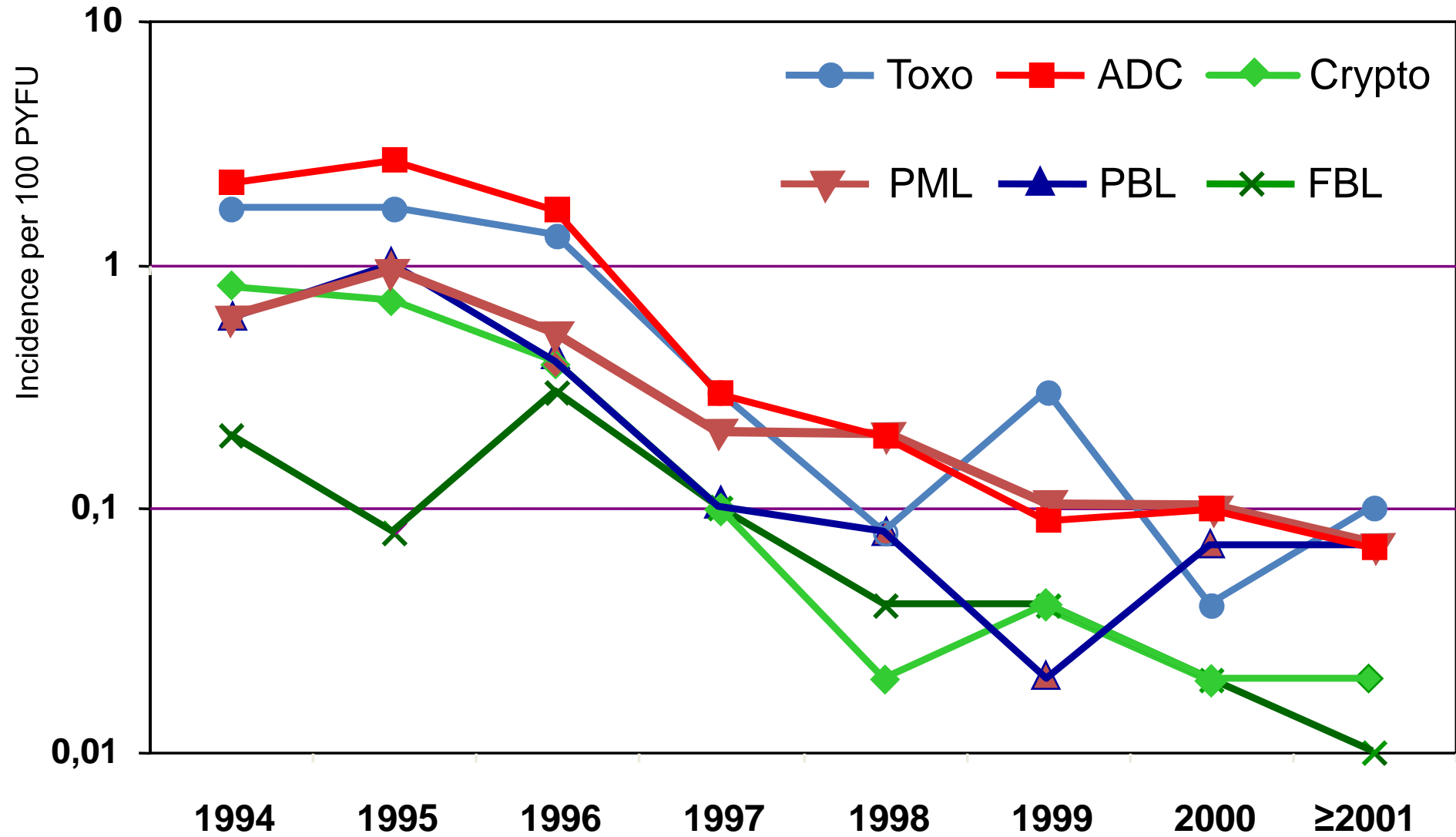
Brain tissue (copies/2 µg total RNA)



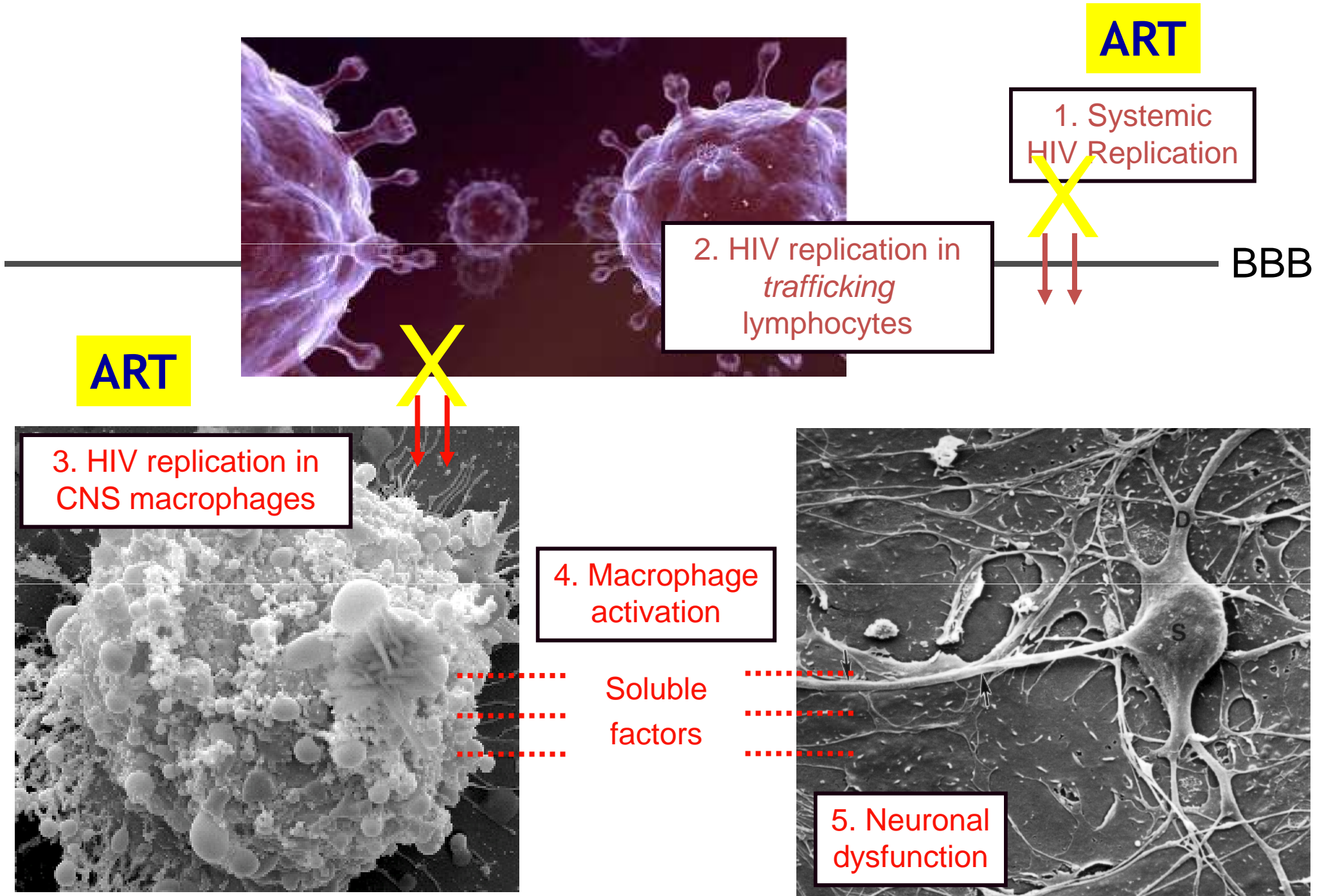
NCI Pathogenesis

- In untreated HIV infection
- In treated HIV infection

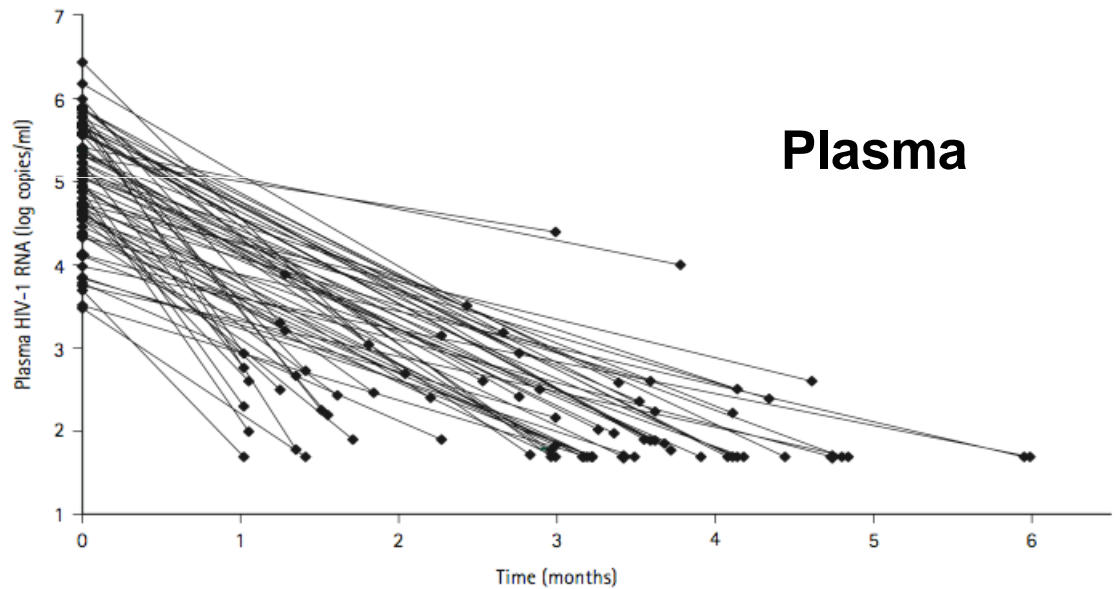
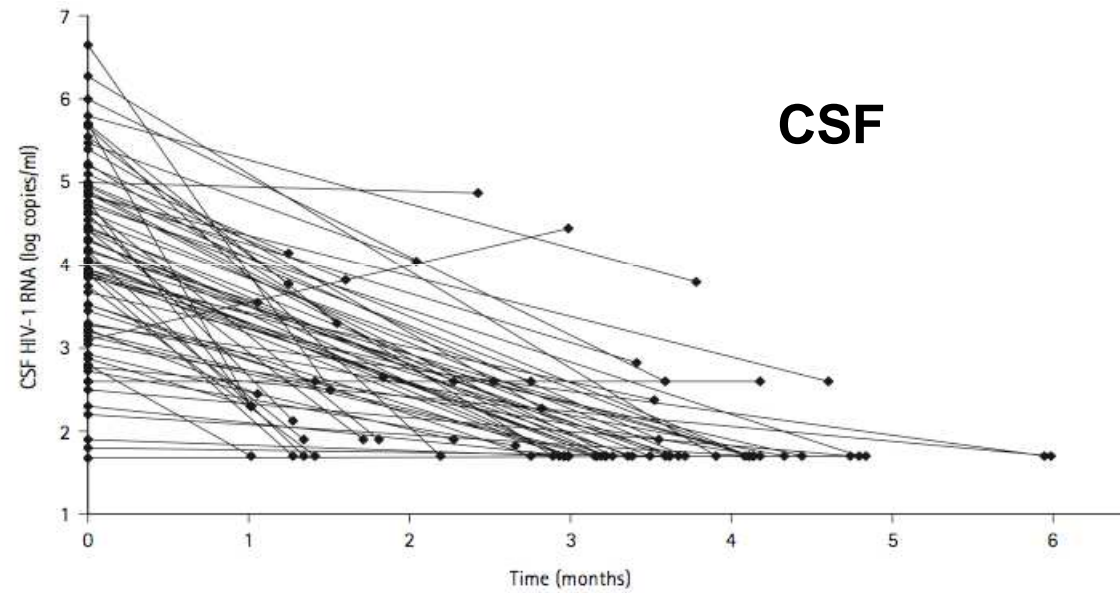
Reduced incidence of CNS-D in the EuroSIDA cohort



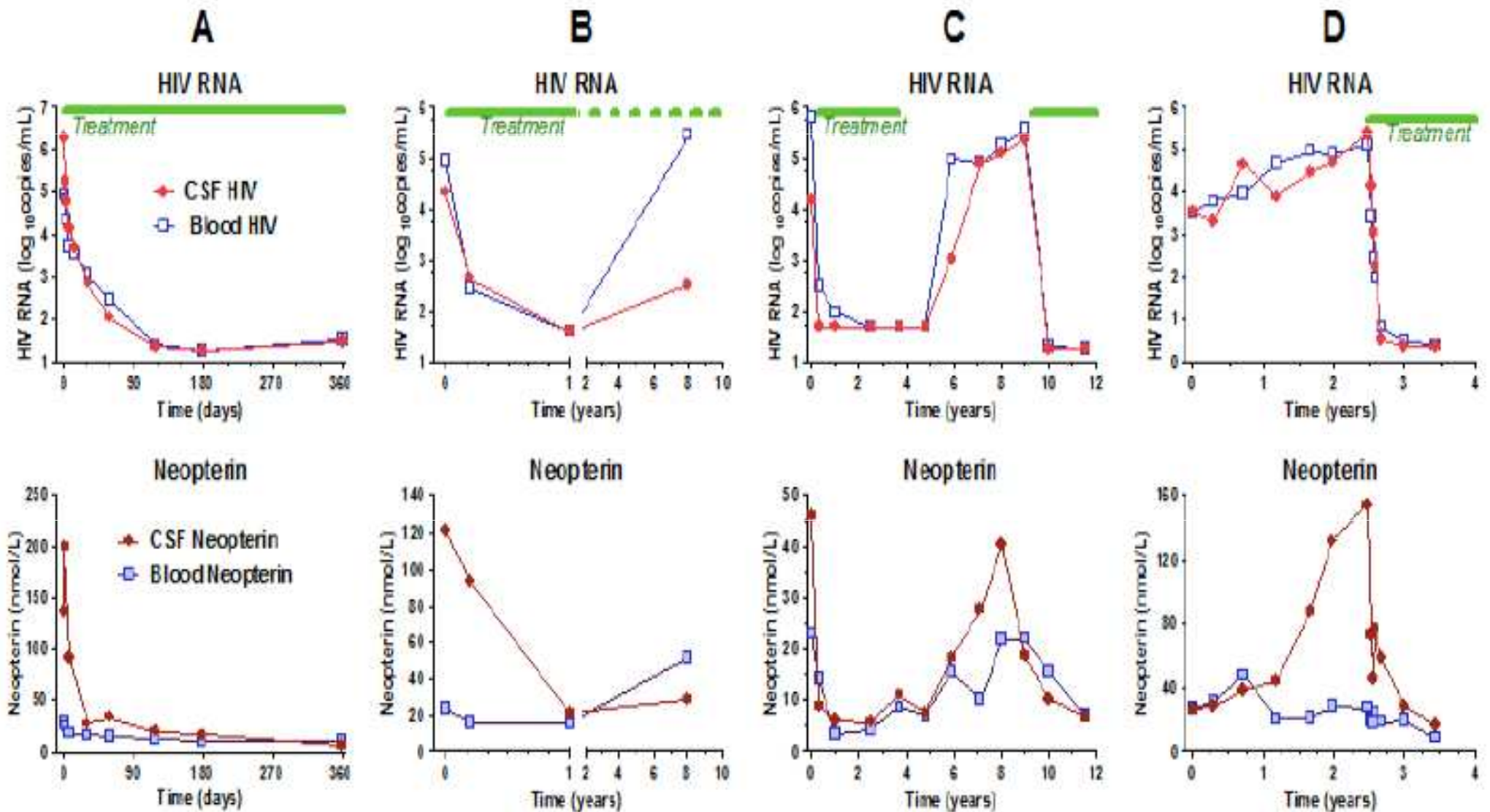
The effect of cART on HIV infection of the CNS



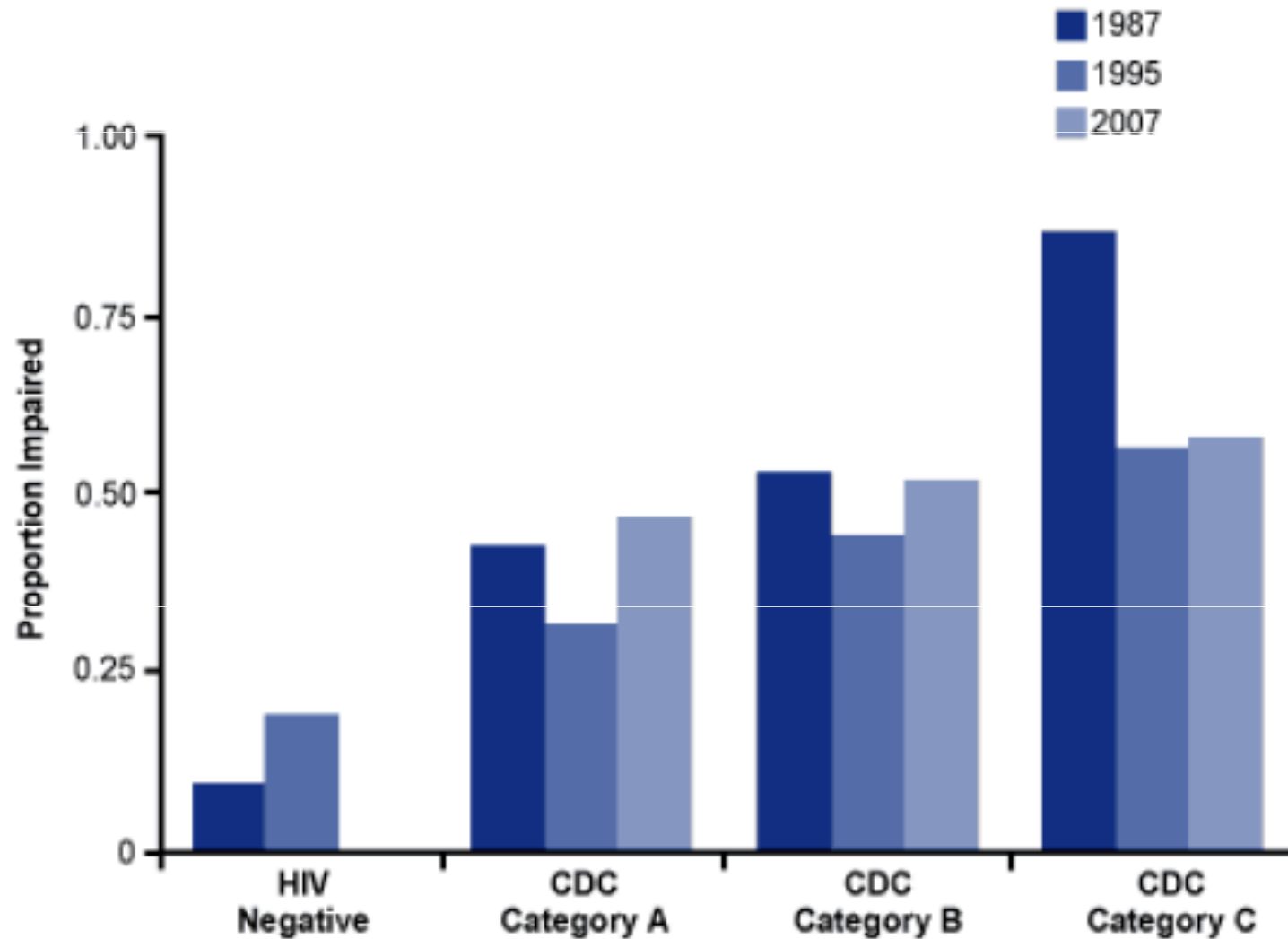
cART is followed by reduction of CSF HIV RNA level



cART induces changes of CSF markers of HIV replication and immuneactivation



Prevalence of HIV-associated Neurocognitive Impairment (HAND) is not substantially reduced after the introduction of cART



Possible causes of neurocognitive impairment in HIV-infected patients

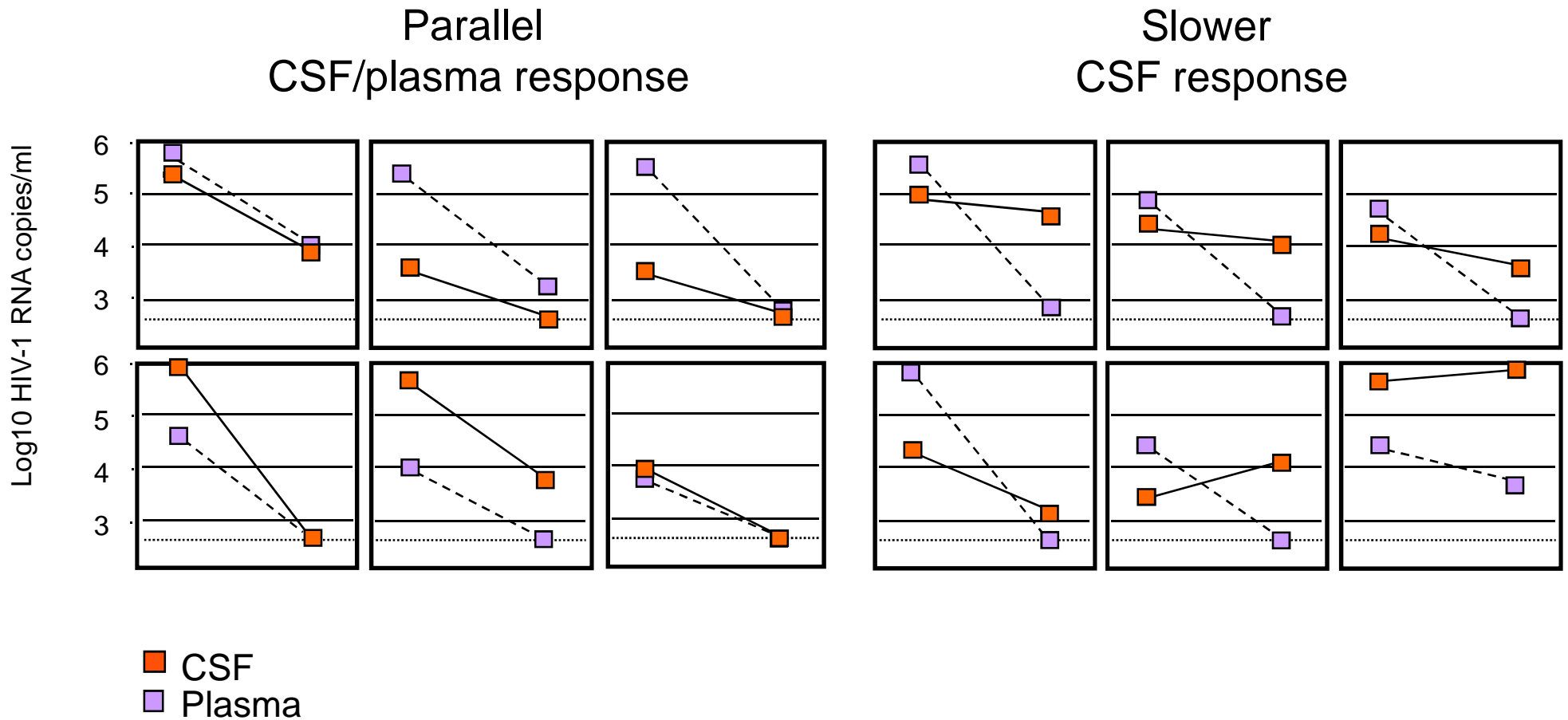
- HIV
- Other causes?
 - Psychiatric disorders
 - Drugs, alcohol
 - “Physiological” aging
 - Forms of age-related dementia (Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases, cerebrovascular disorders)
 - Cerebro-vascular disease
 - HCV infection
 - Drug toxicity

HIV in the CNS

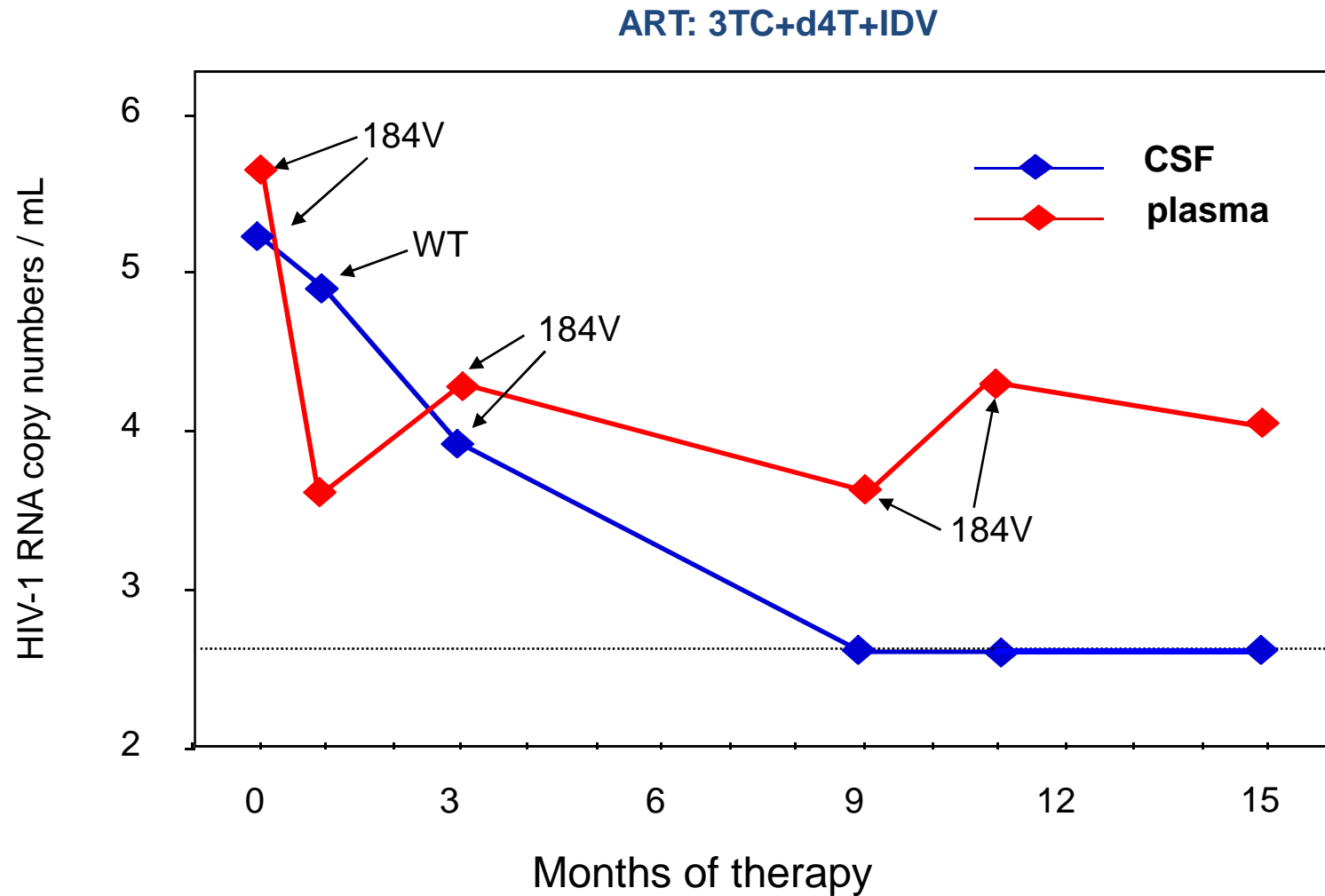
as main cause of NCI in treated patients

- Active low-level replication
 - “CSF (or CNS) escape”
 - Below detection limit
- Established irreversible tissue damage, e.g., of neurons, astrocytes

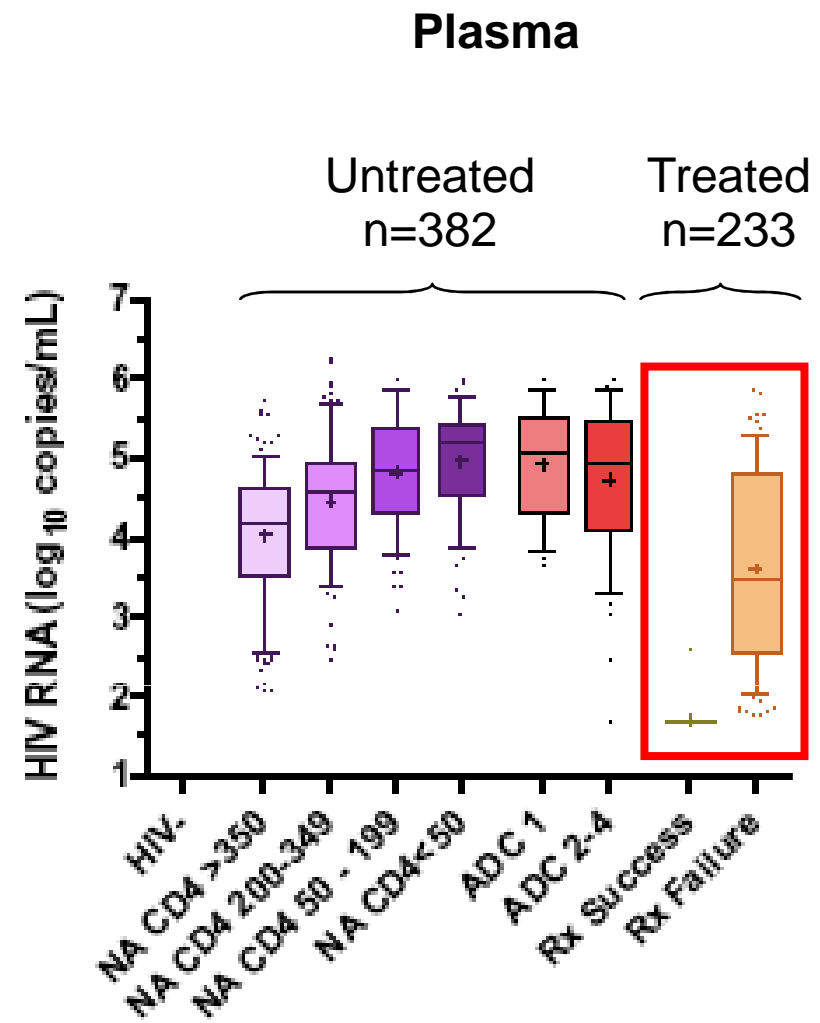
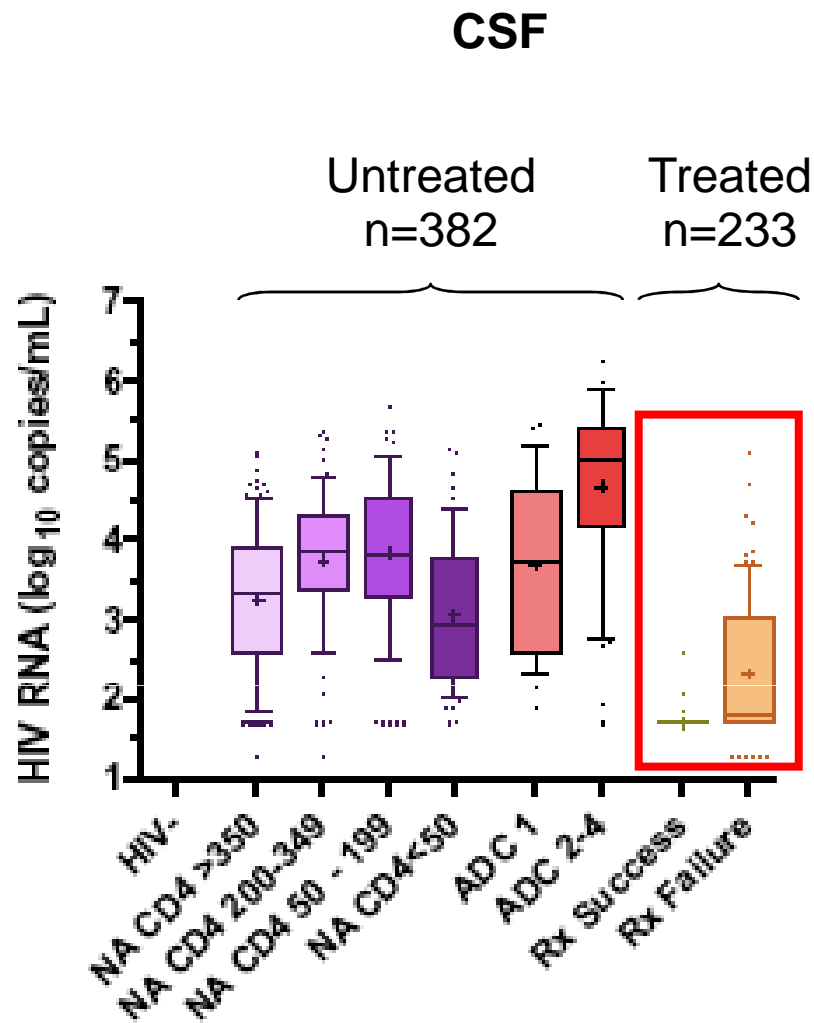
Different short-term kinetics of virological response in CSF and plasma of ART-treated patients



Long-term virological response in CSF despite plasma failure in a patient with ADC



Relatively low rate of HIV replication in CSF of treated failing patients



“CSF escape” and chronic HIV encephalopathy

1991: Start ART

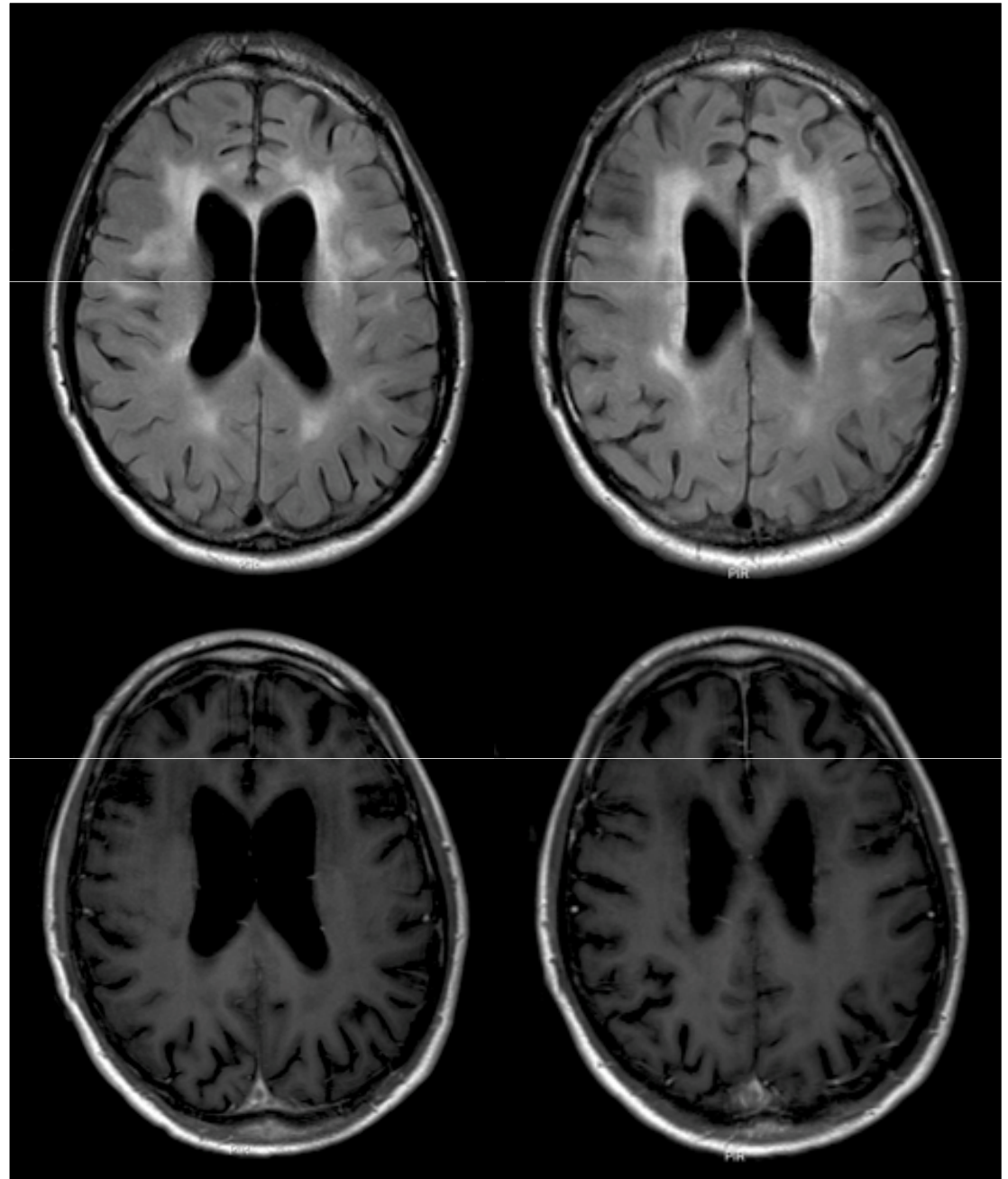
Since 2005: FTC,TDF,LPV/r

Since 2000:

- Initially mild but progressing cognitive deficit
- HIV-RNA between 50-1000 c/mL

January 2008

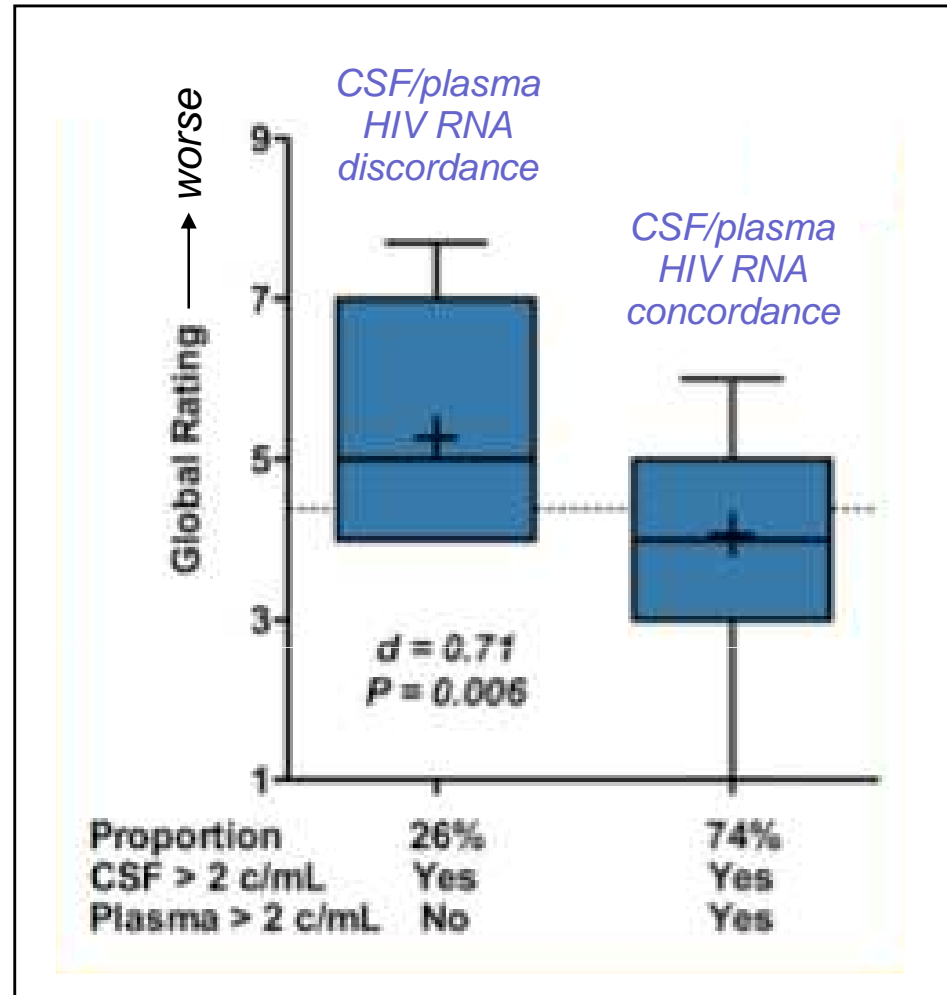
- Severe NCI
- Leukoencephalopathy at MRI
- CD4: 632
- Plasma VL: 200 c/mL
- CSF VL: 750 c/mL



HIV may persist in CSF below 50 c/mL during cART

CHARTER cohort (UCSD)

- 300 patients with CSF HIV RNA < 50 c/mL
- CSF HIV RNA >2 c/mL in 122/300 (41%)



HIV in the CNS

as main cause of NCI in treated patients

- Active low-level replication
 - “CSF (or CNS) escape”
 - Below detection limit
- Established irreversible tissue damage, e.g., of neurons, astrocytes

Risk factors for NC impairment in HIV-infected persons

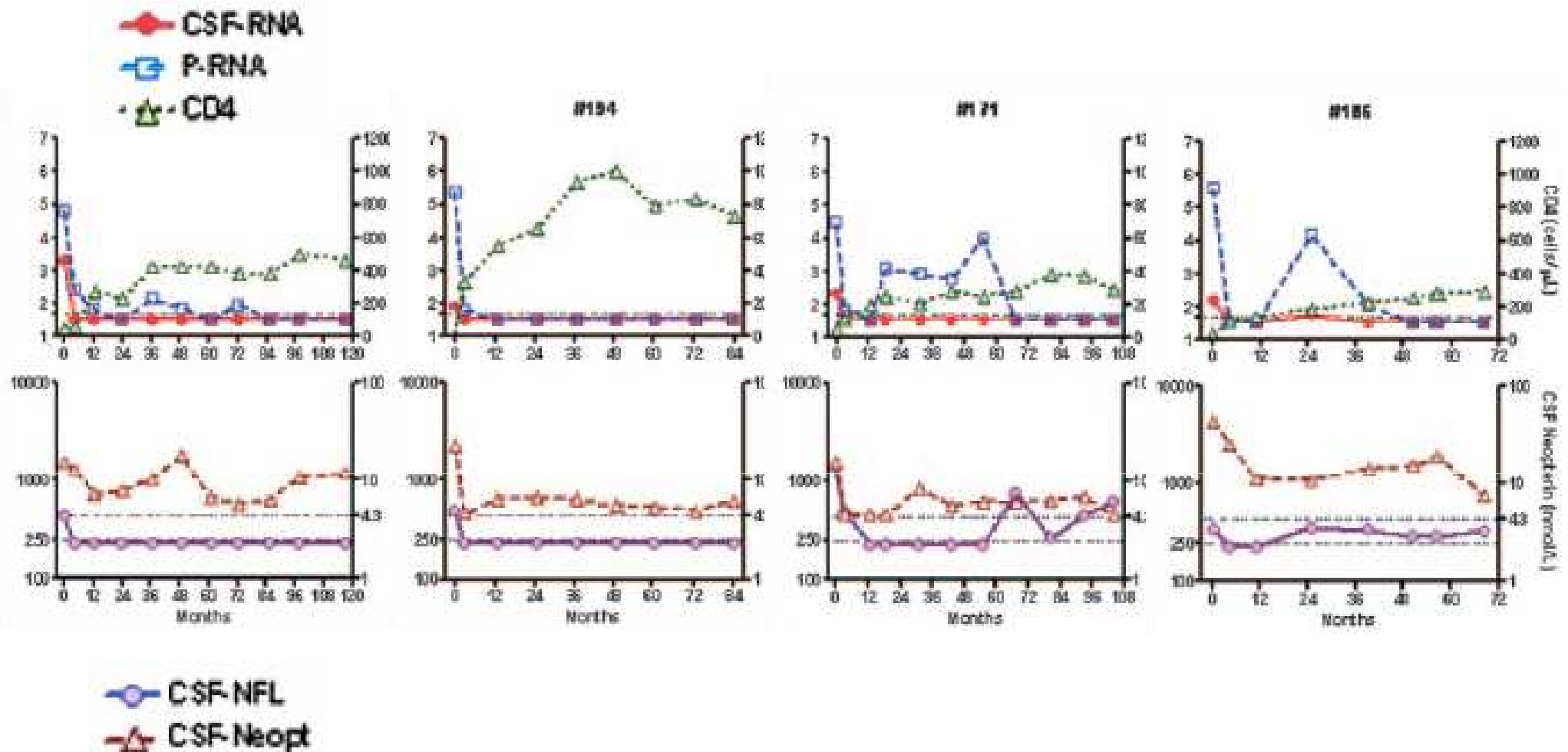
- Nadir CD4 < 200/ μ L
- Older age
- Metabolic problems
- Host genetic factors ?
- Viral genetic factors ?
- Others...?

HIV in the CNS

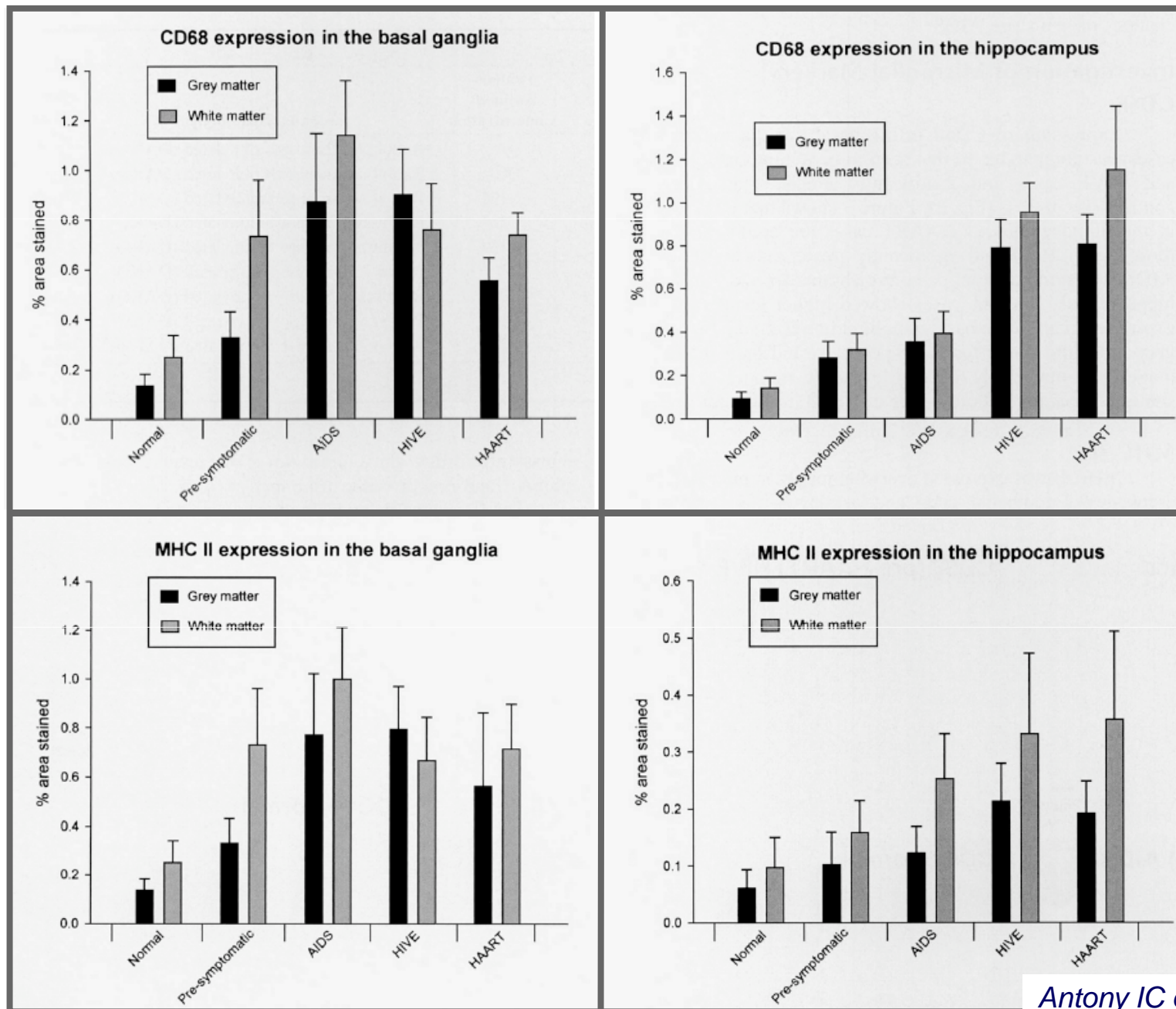
as main cause of NCI in treated patients

- Active low-level replication
 - “CSF (or CNS) escape”
 - Below detection limit
 - Established irreversible tissue damage, e.g., of neurons, astrocytes
- Intrathecal immuneactivation may persist in both cases

Persistent intrathecal immuneactivation despite cART



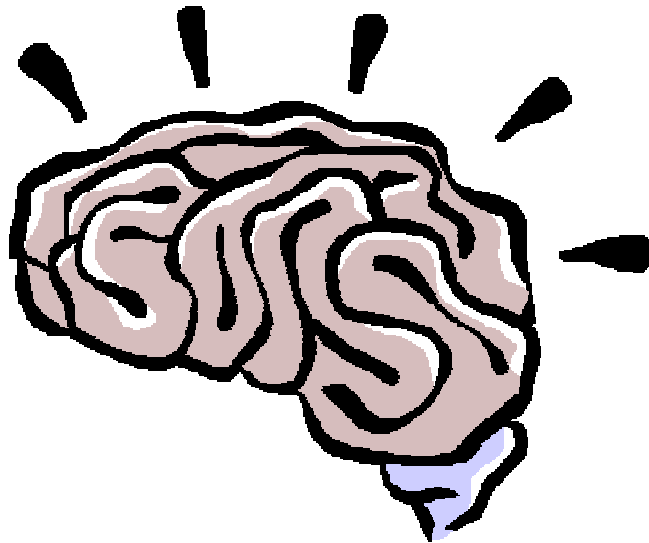
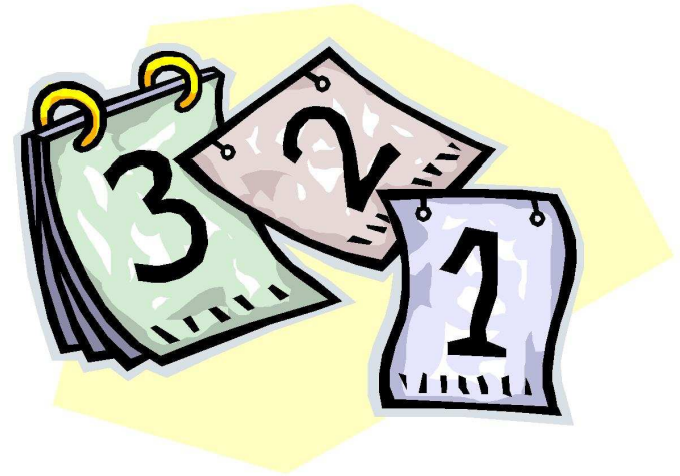
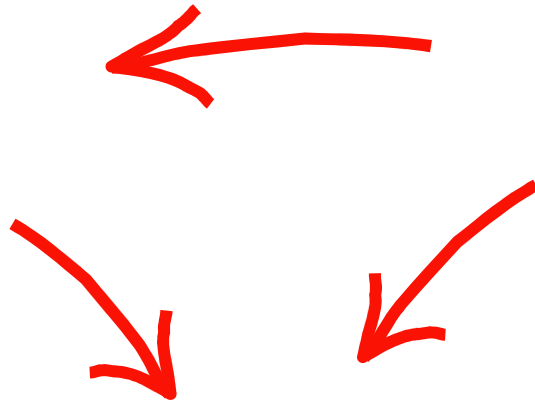
High degree immune activation in the brain of cART-treated patients



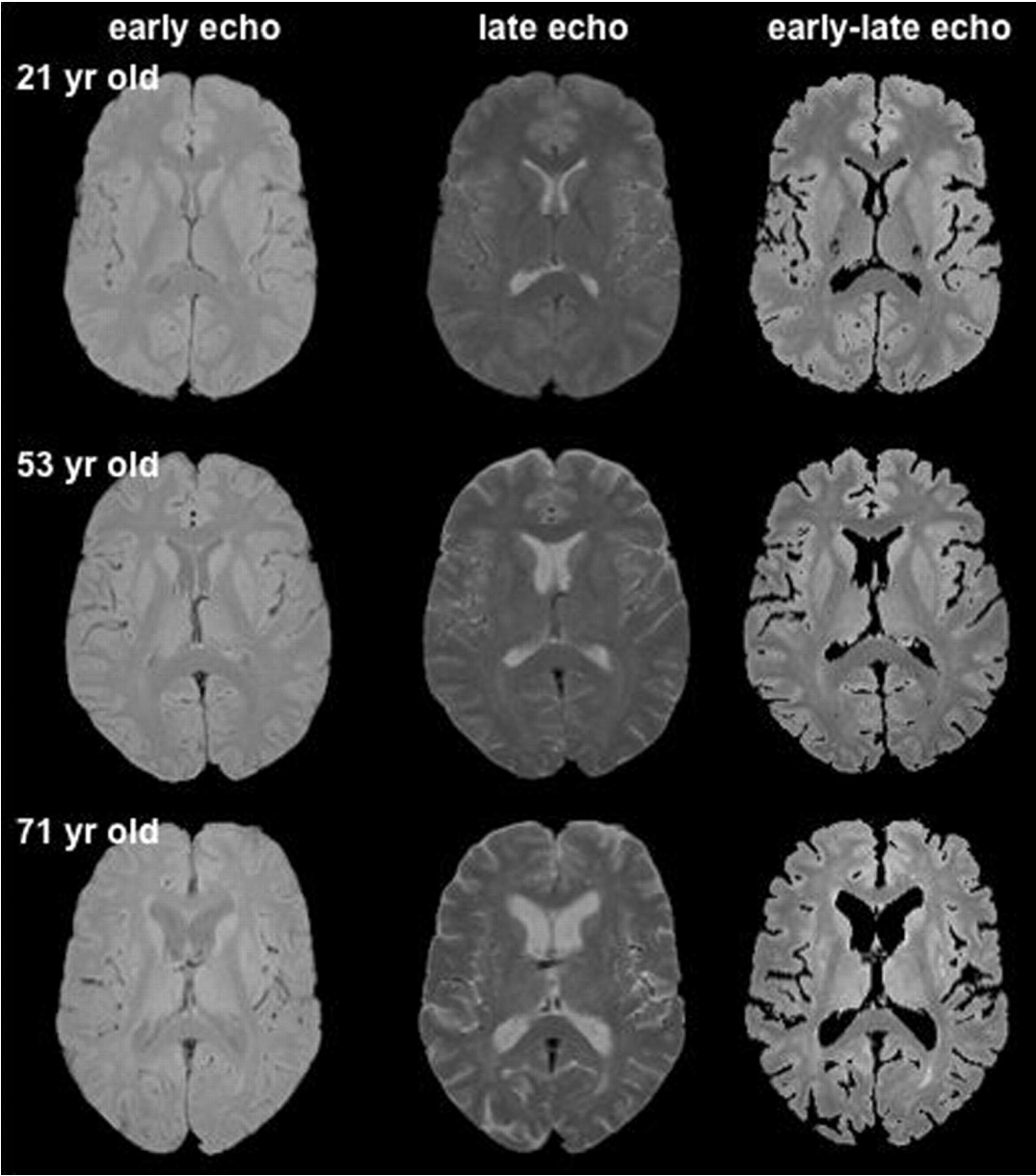
Risk factors and/or contributors of NCI in HIV-infected persons

- Nadir CD4 < 200/ μ L
 - “Physiological” aging
 - Psychiatric disorders
 - Drugs, alcohol
 - Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative disease
 - Cerebro-vascular disease
 - HCV infection
 - Others...
- Again, intrathecal immuneactivation may mediate NCI in most of these cases

The brain, the virus and the advancing age



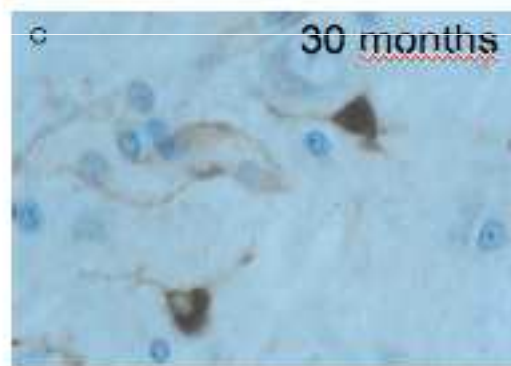
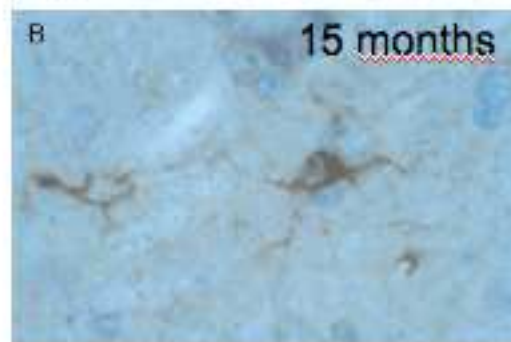
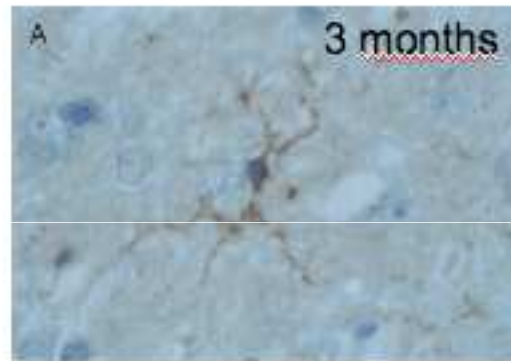
The aging brain: decrease of weight and volume



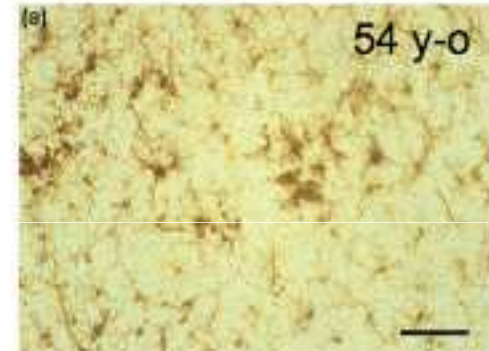
The aging brain: structural changes

- Loss of neurons and demyelinated axons
- Increase of glial cells
 - Astrocytes
 - Microglial cells
- Deposition of proteic structures (neurofibrillary tangles, senile plaques)

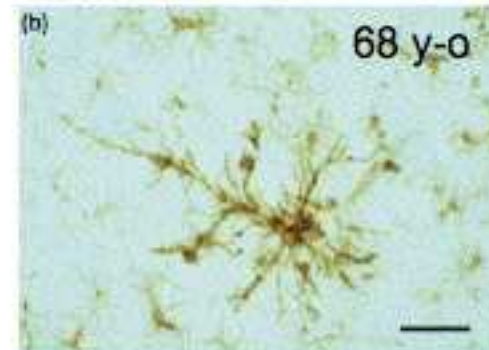
The aging brain: morphological changes in microglial cells



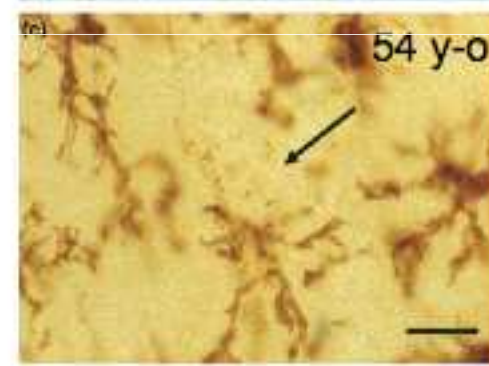
rat



Dystrophy



Spheroid swelling

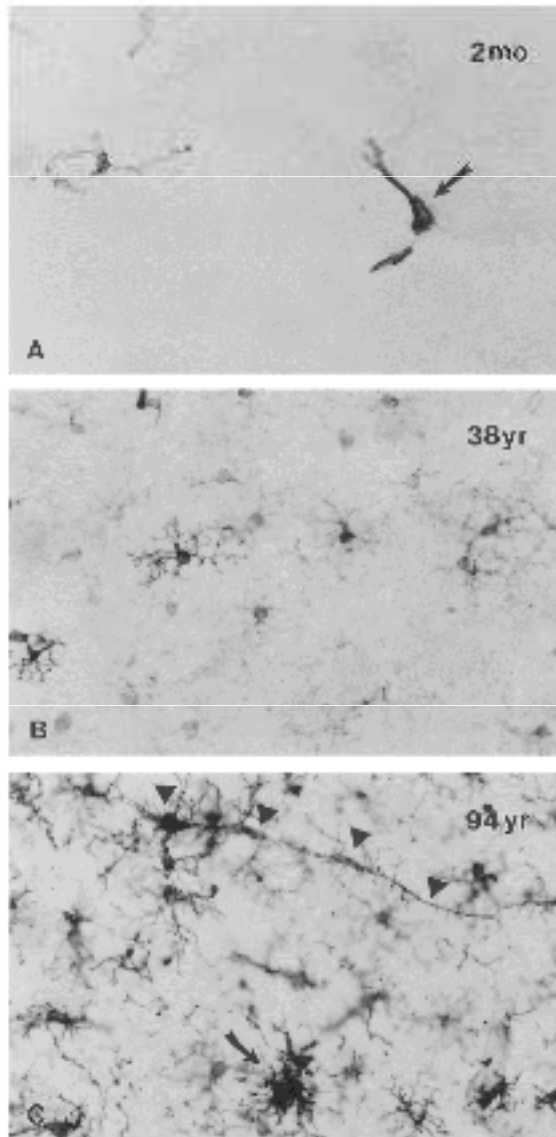


Segmentation

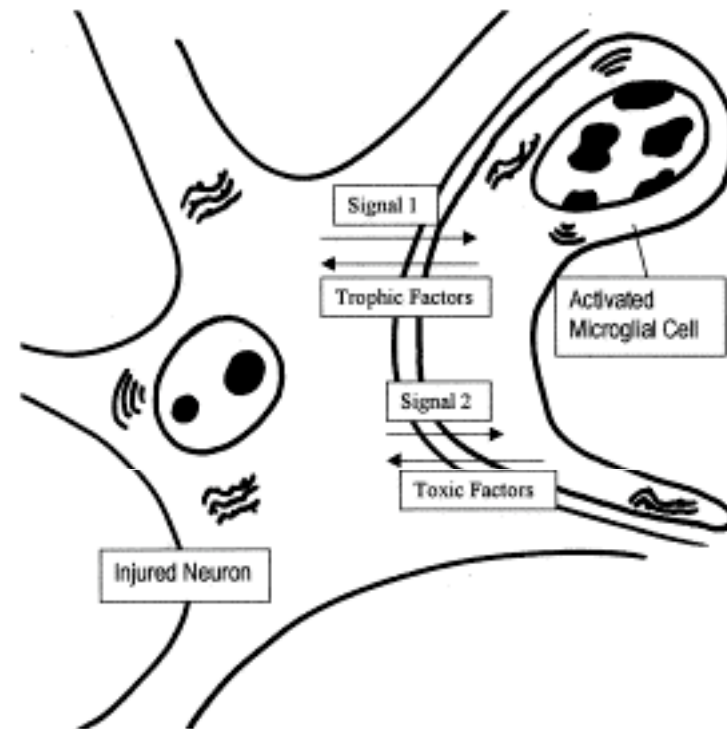
human

The aging brain: phenotypic changes in microglial cells

MHC-II expression

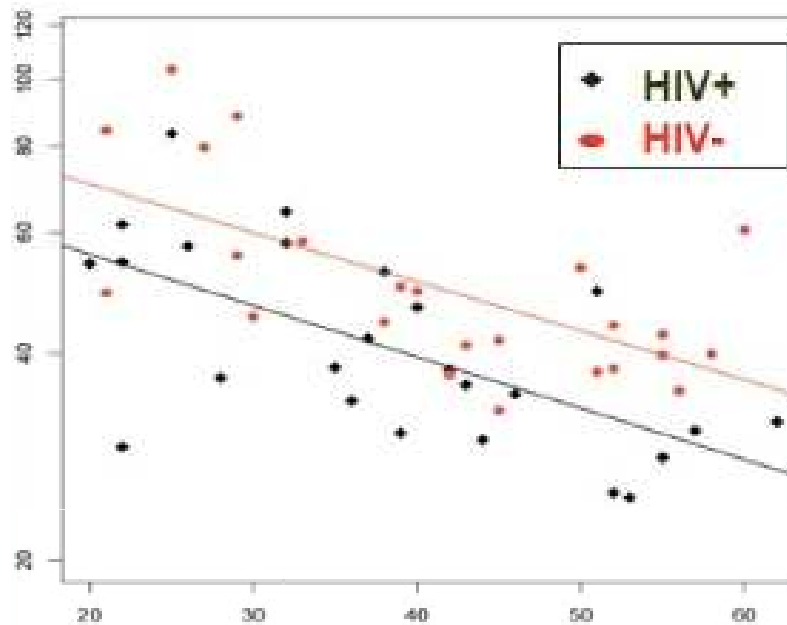


Neuronal-microglial interaction



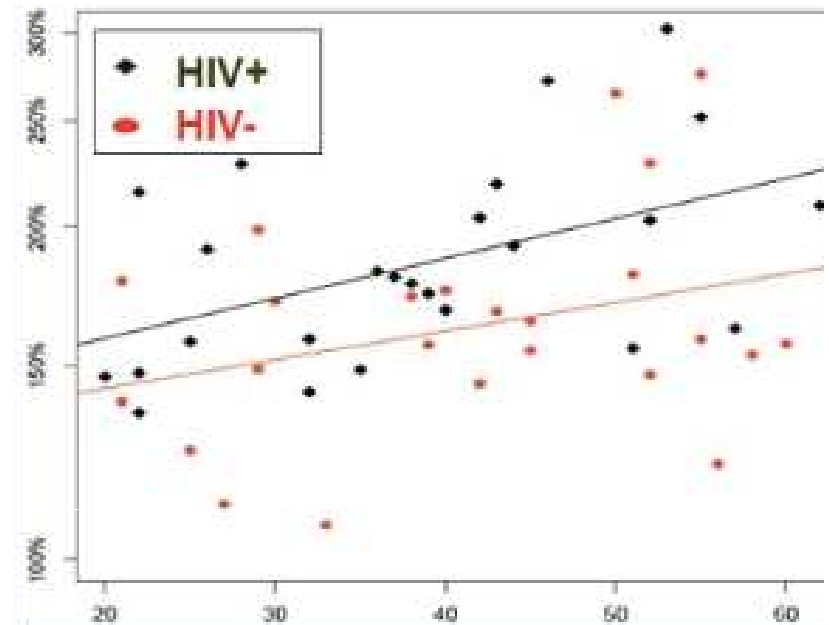
Additive effect of aging and HIV serostatus on cerebral blood flow (CBF)

- Baseline CBF



$P < 0.0001$ (age)
 $P = 0.0001$ (HIV)

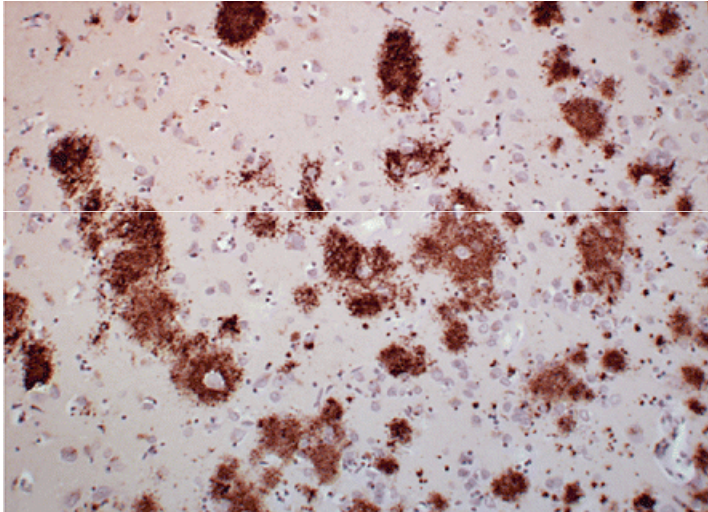
- Functional CBF



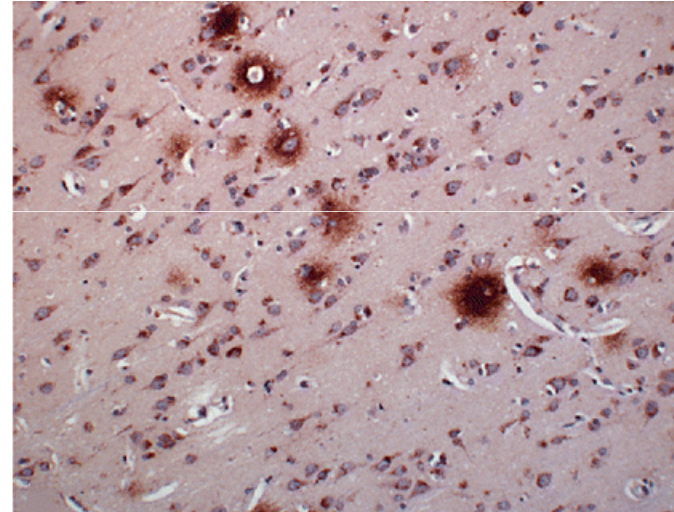
$P = 0.005$ (age)
 $P = 0.013$ (HIV)

β -amyloid deposition in AD and AIDS brain

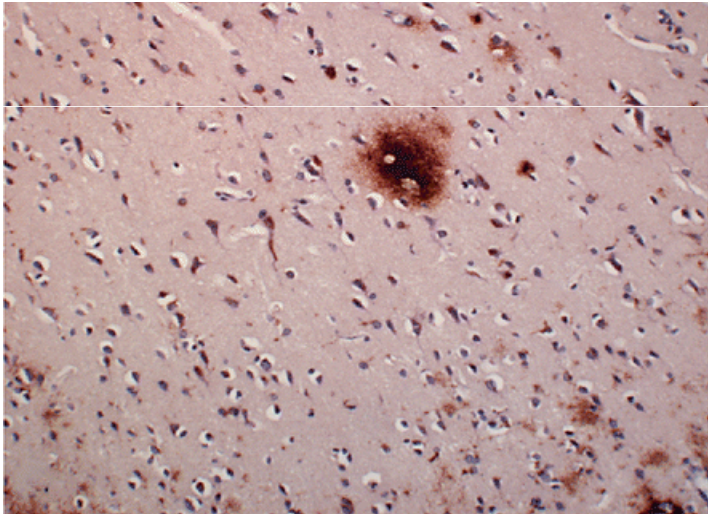
AD (extracellular plaques)



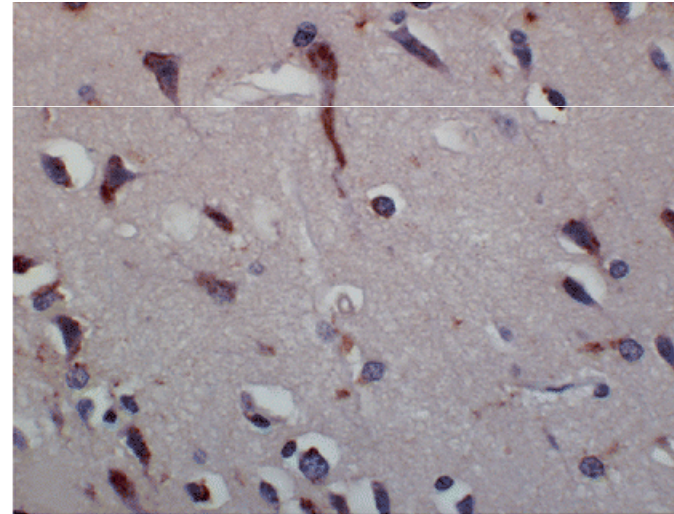
AIDS (extracellular plaques)



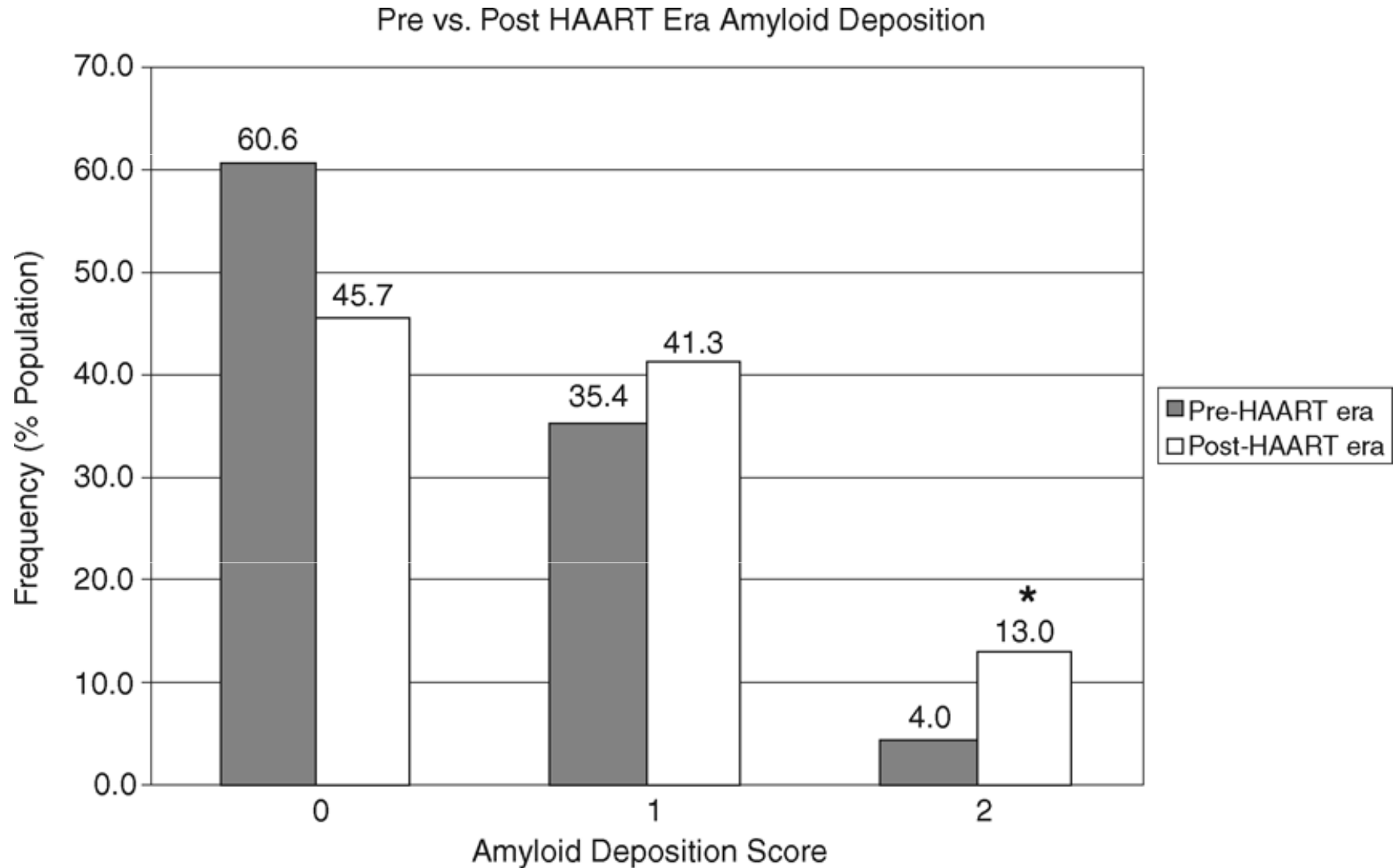
AIDS (extracellular and neuronal)



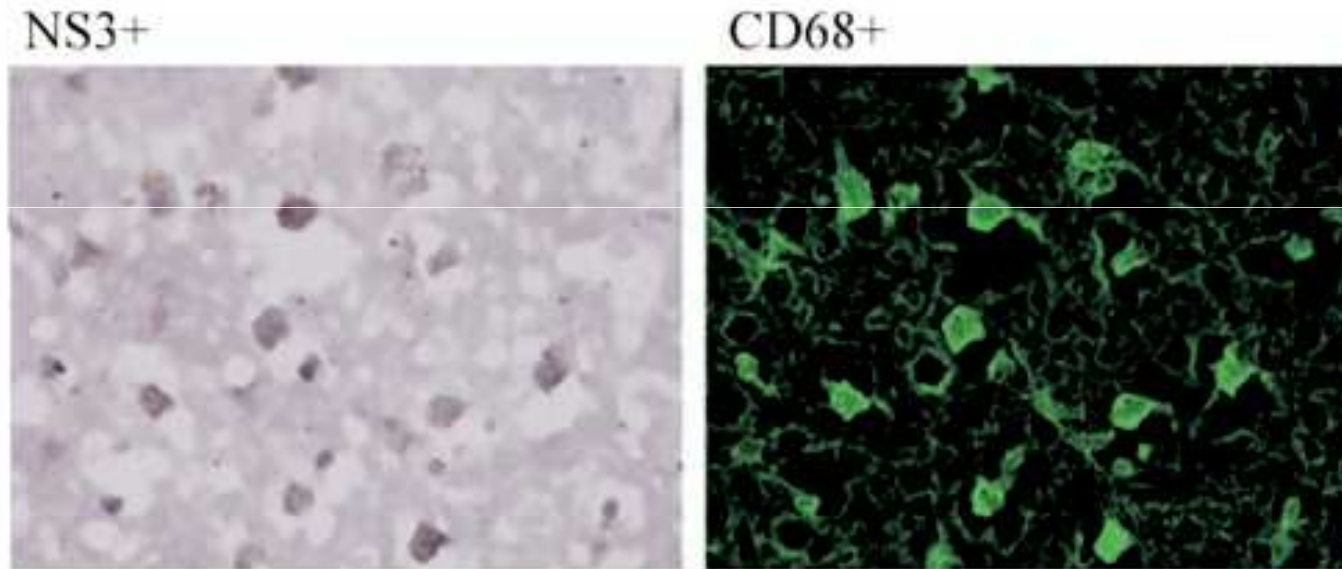
AIDS (neuronal)



β -amyloid deposition is increased in HAART-treated and older persons



HCV infection, brain microglia and neurocognitive function



Wilkinson J et al., JV 2009

Neuropsychiatric symptoms reported in HCV and HIV-HCV co-infected patients, independently from decompensated liver functioning (*Clifford 2005*)

Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy shows abnormal cerebral metabolism and cognitive impairment in HCV-positive patients (*Forton 2008*)

Conclusions

- Pathogenesis of NCI likely different and even more complex in treated than untreated infection
- Important role of **co-factors** in treated infection
 - which may contribute to HIV-related NCI
- Important role of **co-morbidities** in treated infection
 - which may contribute to NCI
 - but confound recognition of HIV-related NCI

Thanks to colleagues and collaborators

- Arabella Bestetti, Simona Bossolasco, Francesca Ferretti, Adriano Lazzarin; ID Dept. HSR, Milano
- Magnus Gisslen, Lars Hagberg; University of Goteborg, Sweden
- Serena Spudich, Dick Price; University of San Francisco, California
- Manuela Nebuloni; Pathology Dept., L. Sacco University, Milano

**FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL
MEETING**

Treating the Brain
in the HAART Era

**on HIV Infection
and the Central
Nervous System**

Frascati (Rome), Italy

July, 15-16 2011

