

Clinical usage of CSF biomarkers in HIV

Magnus Gisslén

Case 1

- ▶ 43 y old man
- ▶ HIV+
- ▶ CD4-cells 460 / μ L
- ▶ P HIV-RNA 21 400 copies/mL = 4.3 log

- ▶ Chronic headache
- ▶ Problem with concentration

- ▶ NP-testing (Cogstate): normal

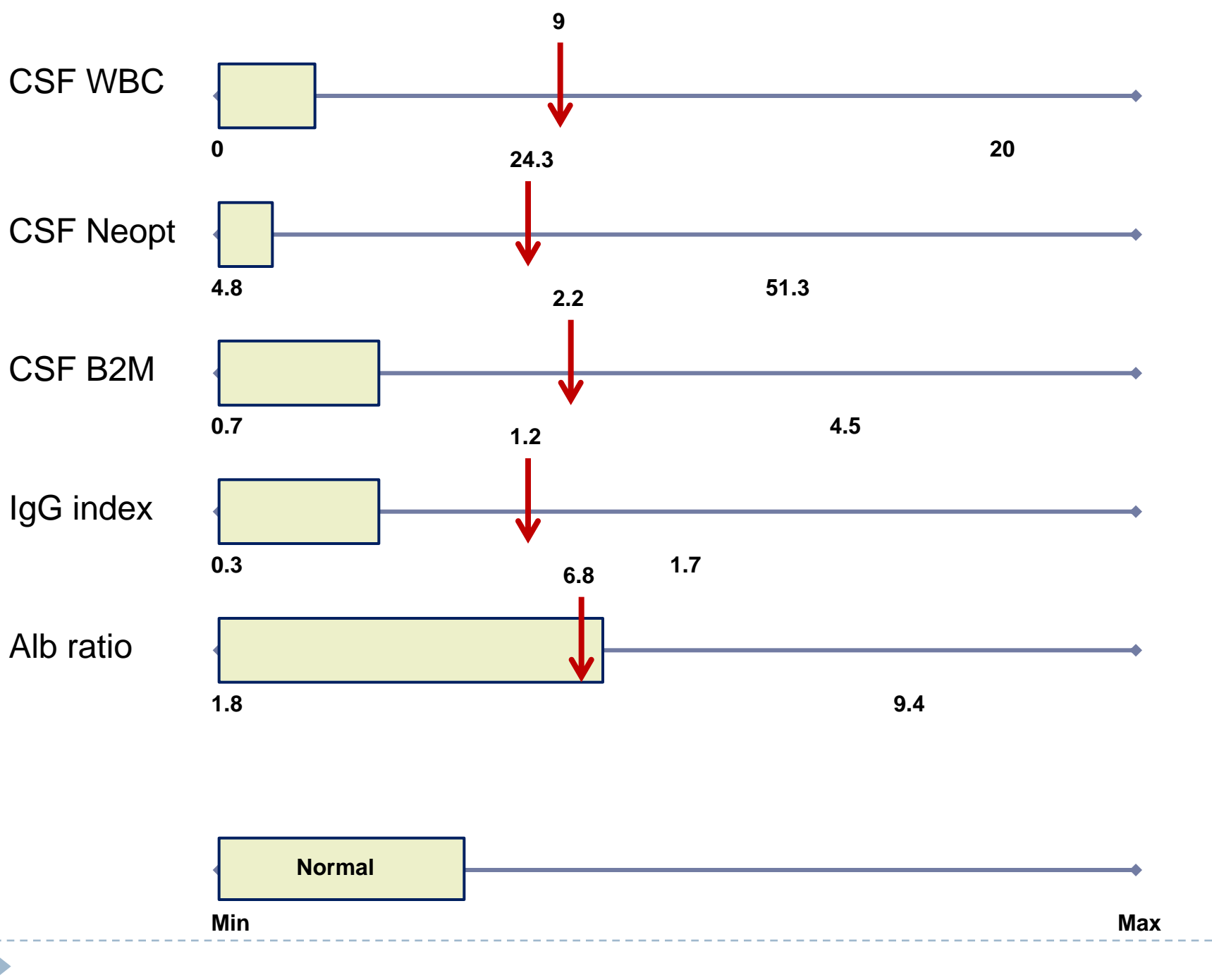


Case 1

▶ LP

- ▶ CSF HIV RNA 39 500 copies/mL = 4.6 log
- ▶ CSF WBC 9 / μ L (≤ 3)
- ▶ IgG index 1.2 (<0.7)
- ▶ CSF beta2-microglob 2.2 mg/L (<1.2)
- ▶ CSF neopterin 24.3 nmol/L (<5.8)
- ▶ CSF/P Albumin ratio 6.8 (<7.0)

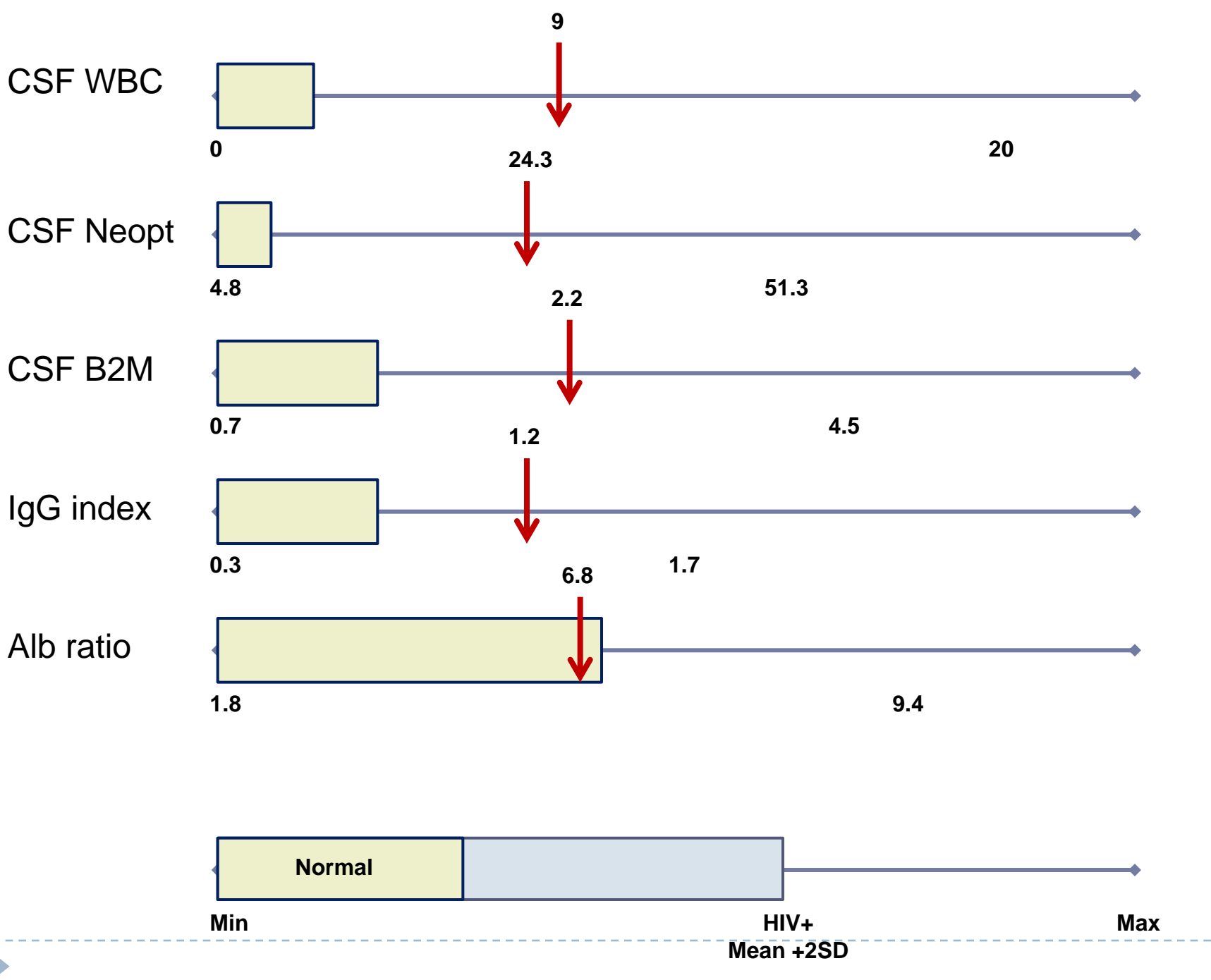


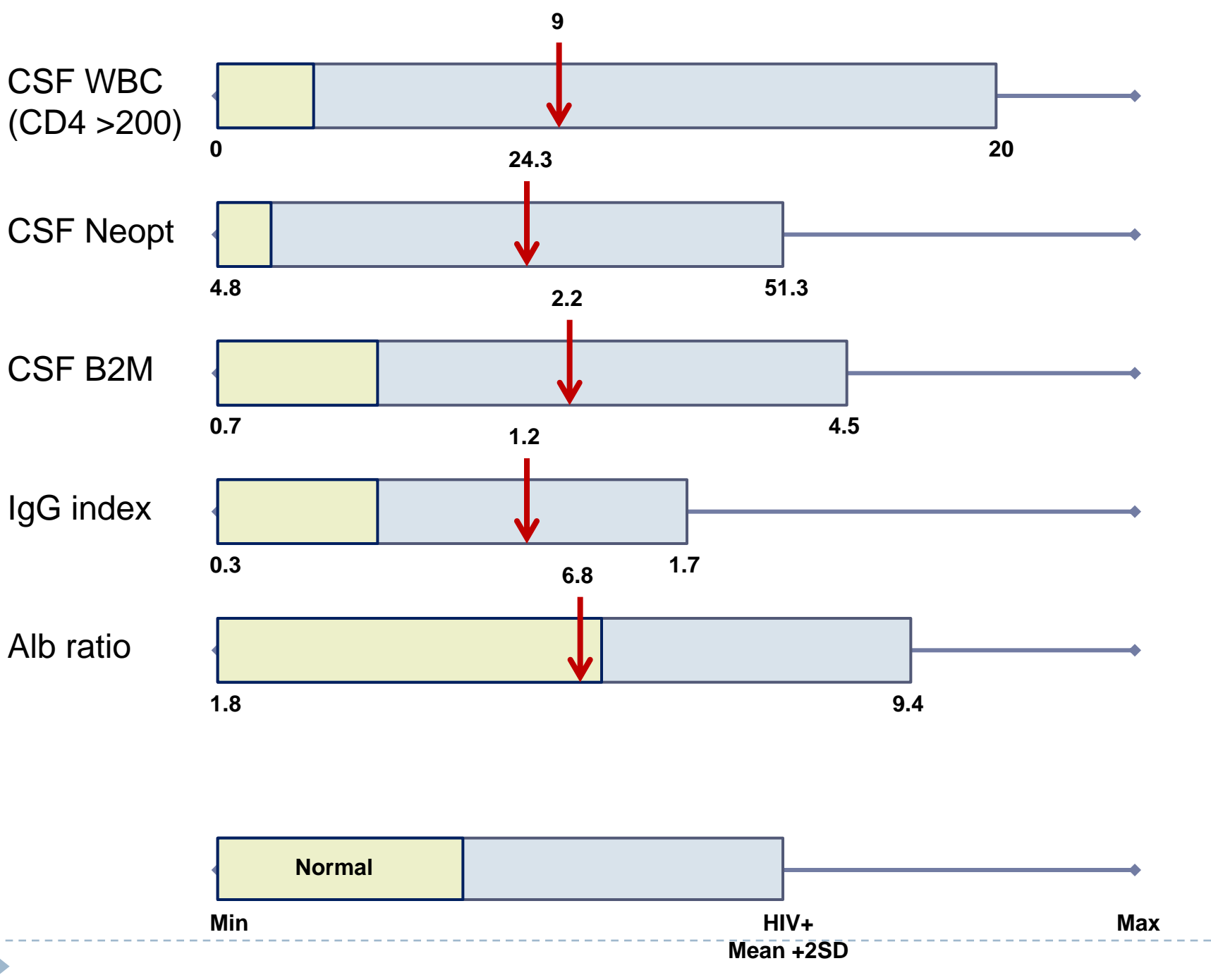


CSF Biomarkers

- ▶ Not only important with knowledge about normal levels of CSF biomarkers, but also about common levels in asymptomatic HIV







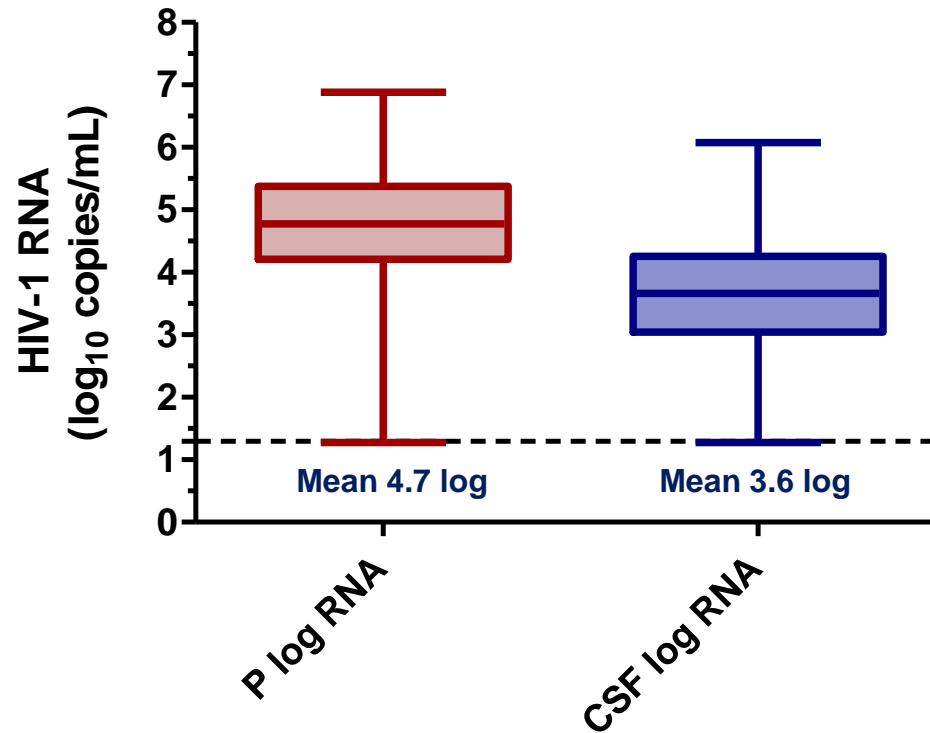
CSF Biomarkers

- ▶ **Viral**
- ▶ Immunoactivation
- ▶ Blood-brain barrier integrity
- ▶ Neuronal injury



CSF findings in HIV

- ▶ I. Untreated HIV - neuroasymptomatic
 - ▶ HIV-RNA

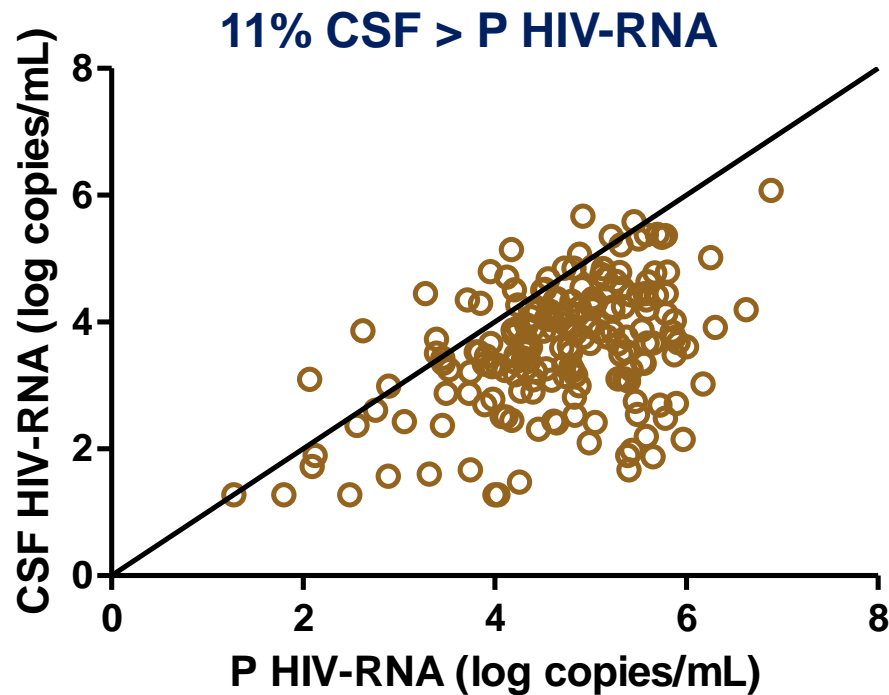


Data on file (n = 198)



CSF findings in HIV

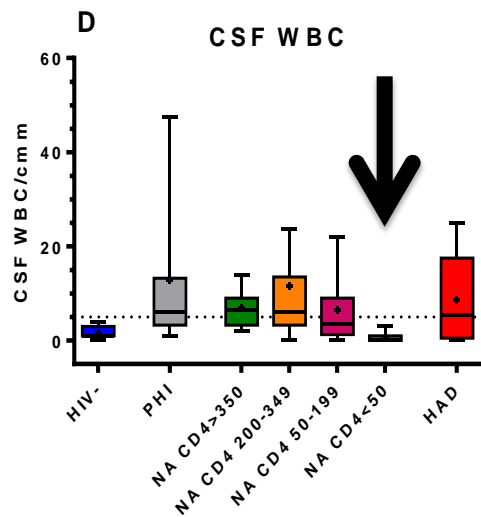
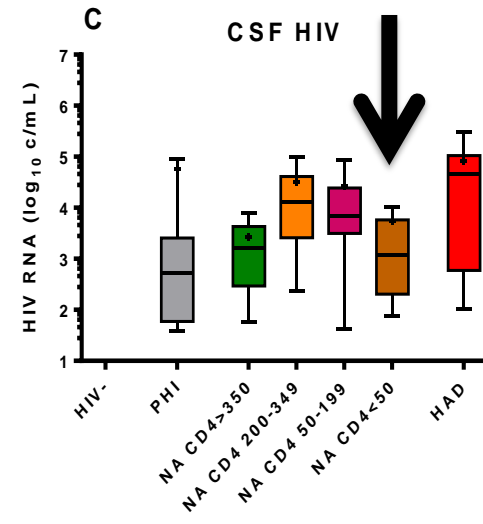
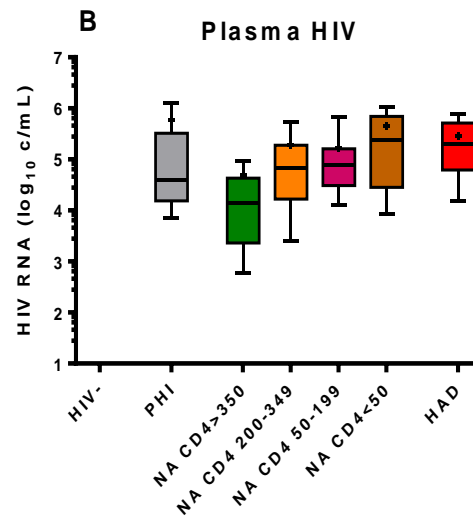
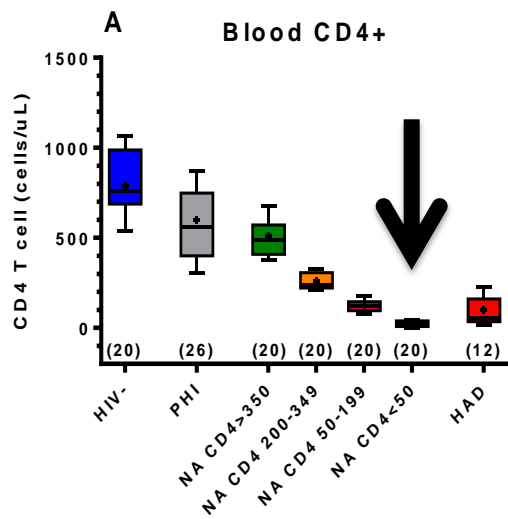
- ▶ I. Untreated HIV - neuroasymptomatic
 - ▶ HIV-RNA



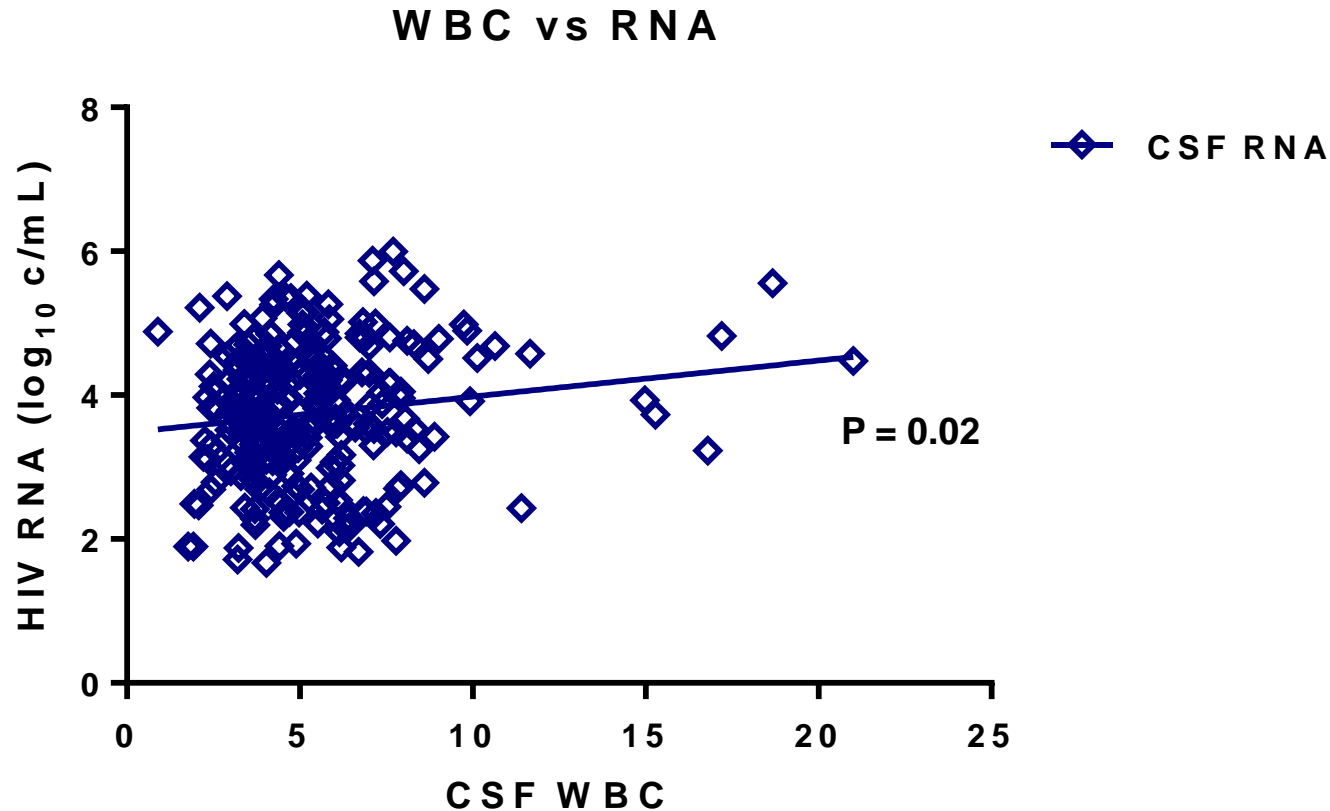
Data on file (n = 198)



Biomarkers Over the Entire Range of Infection



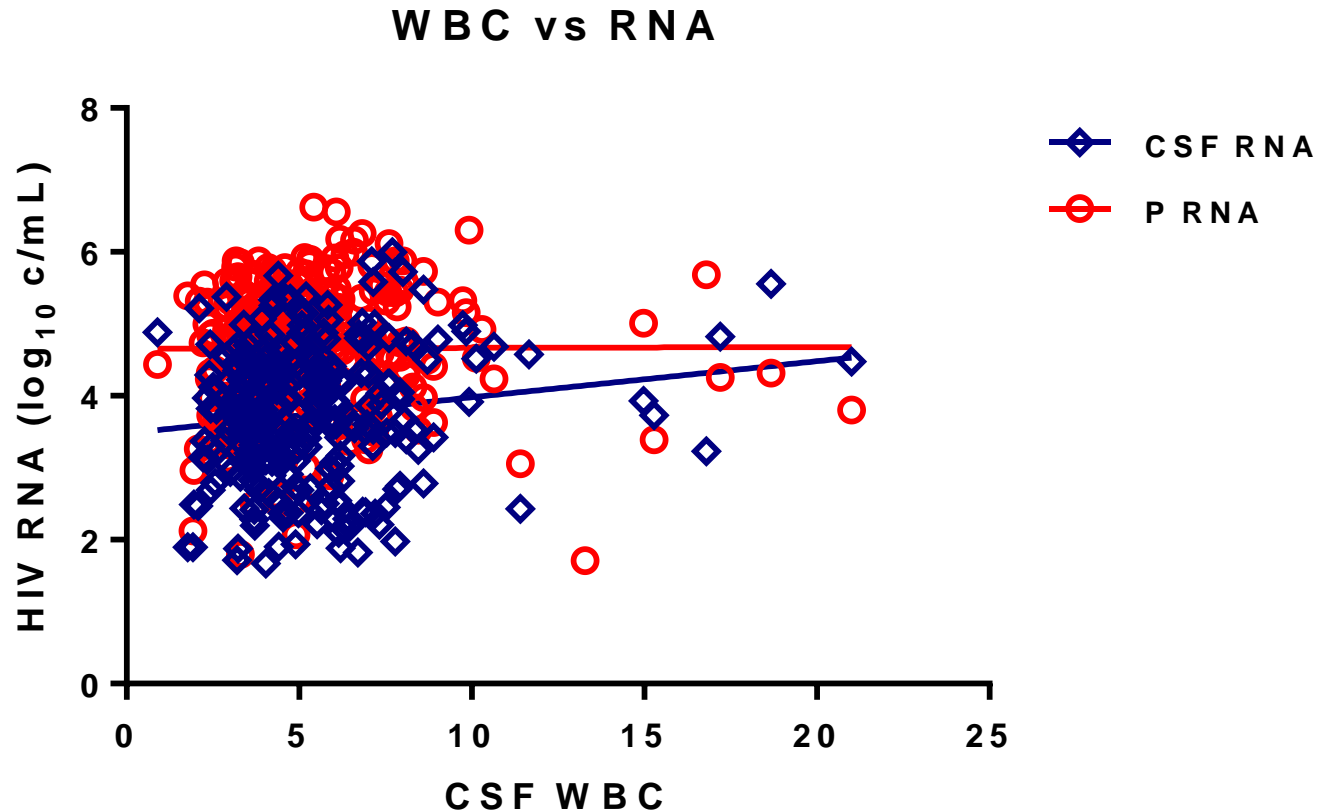
CSF cells correlates with CSF RNA



Data on file (n = 301)



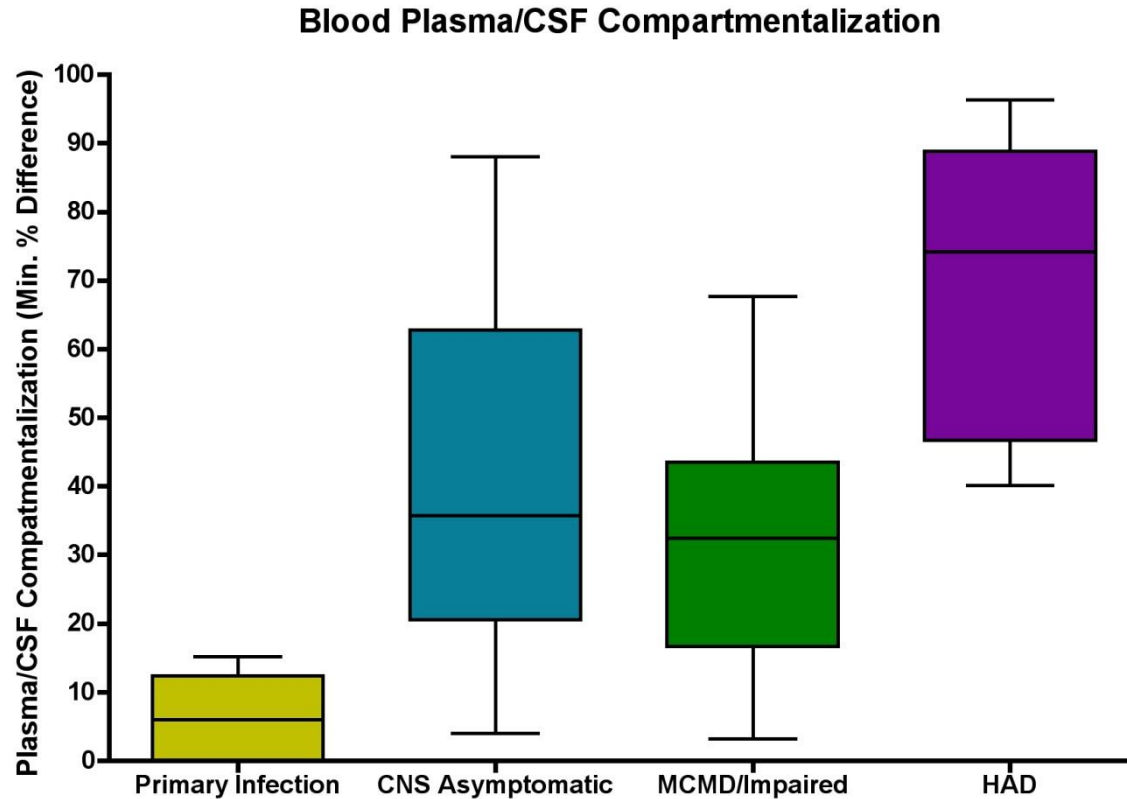
CSF cells correlates with CSF RNA



Data on file (n = 301)



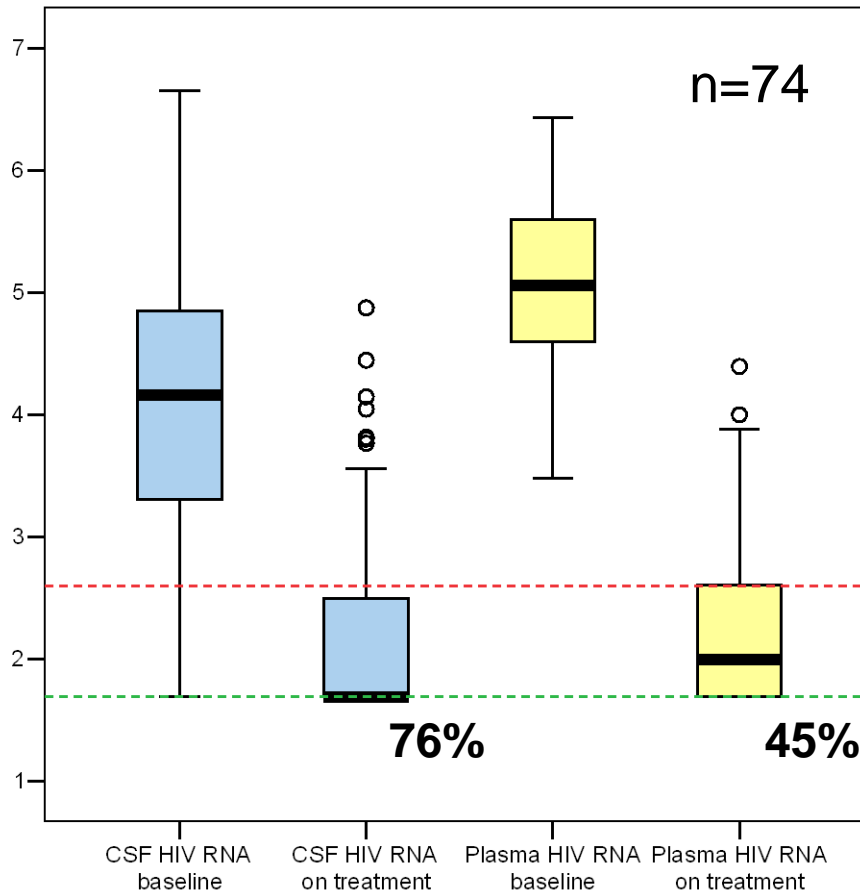
Analysis of CSF HIV-1 Compartmentalization across Spectrum of Disease by env HTA



PI vs. Asx $p=0.002$
Asx vs. MCMD/Imp $p=0.2787$
MCMD/Imp vs. HAD $p=0.0004$



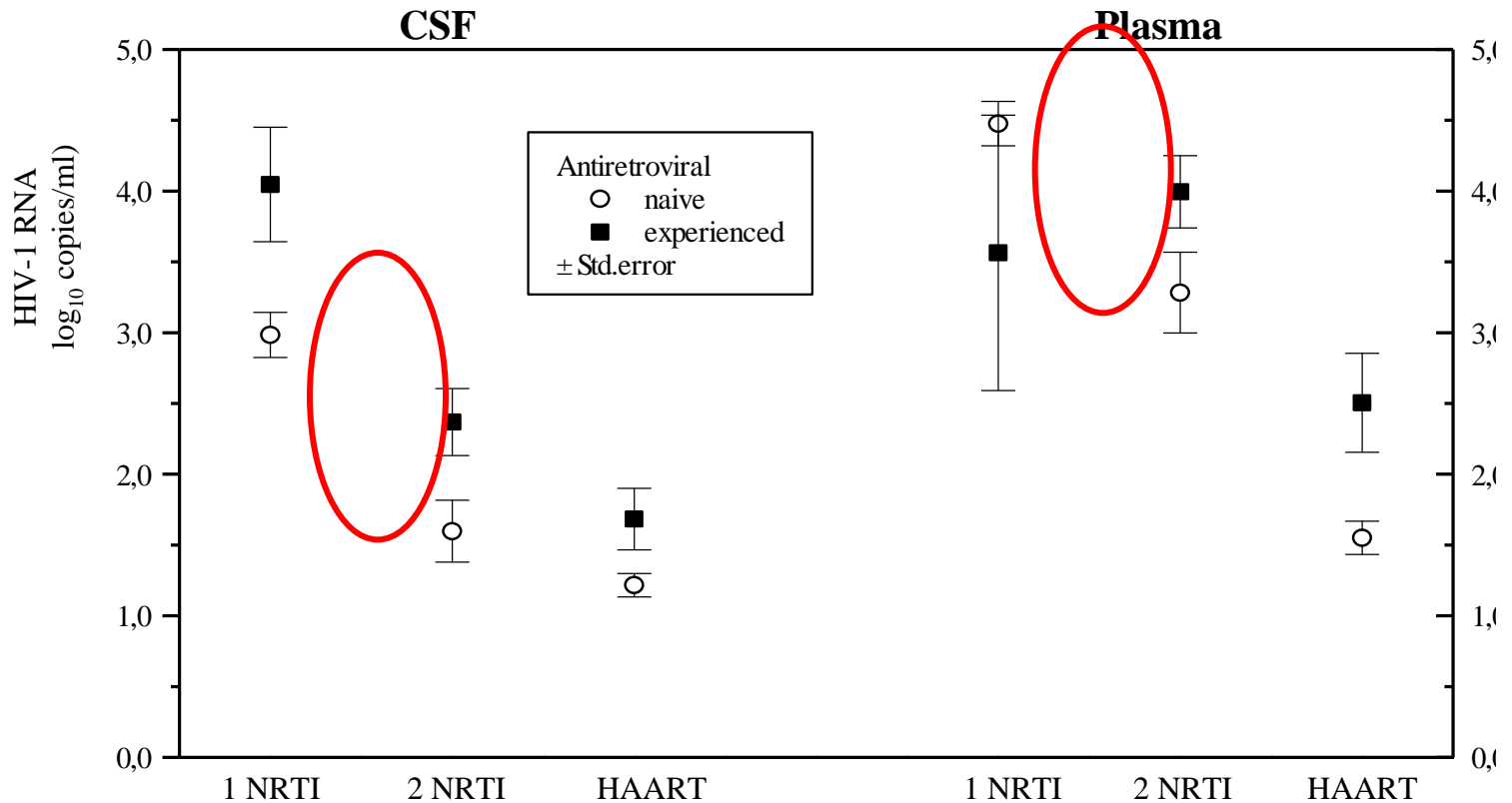
Normally excellent effect on CSF HIV RNA by cART



CSF and plasma HIV RNA before and after three months on HAART. Bars show median values and boxes show IQR. Hinges show range. Outliers are indicated as circles. Red dotted line shows detection limit of 400 copies/mL and green dotted line shows detection limit of 50 copies/mL.

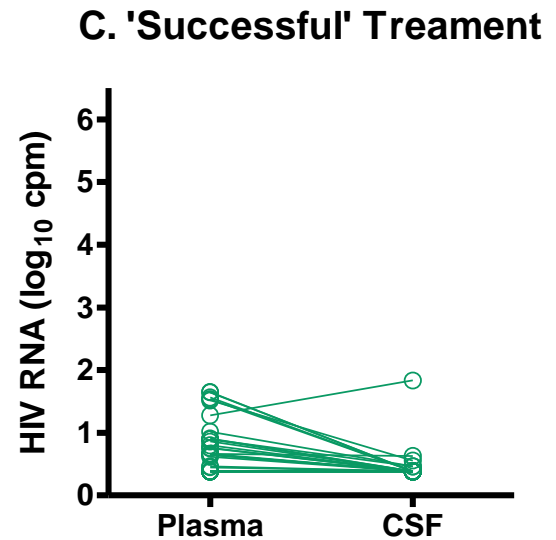
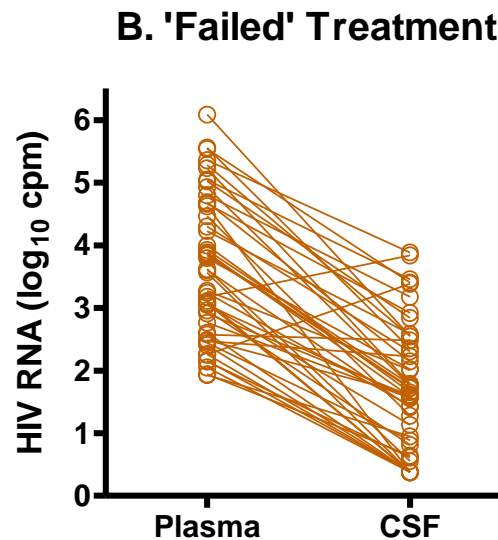
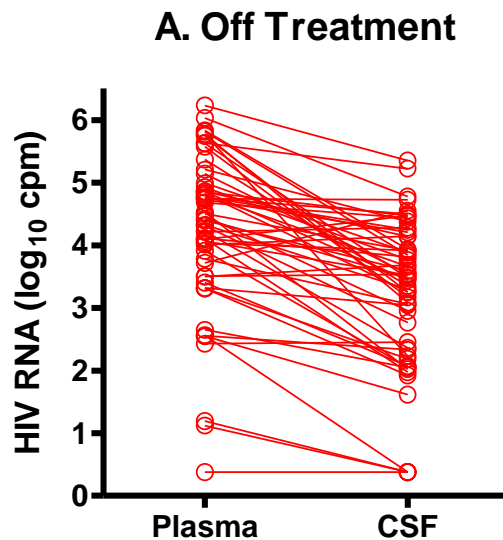


Better effect in CSF than in blood?



CSF HIV Responses to Treatment:

Relation of CSF to Plasma HIV-1 RNA in Individual Subjects



Symptomatic CSF viral escape

Cognitive and/or neurological symptoms

Undetectable (or low) plasma viral load

High CSF viral load with drug resistance mutations

- ▶ Canestri A et al. Clin Infect Dis 2010;50:773–77
 - ▶ 11 cases
- ▶ Peluso M et al. AIDS 2012;26(14):1765-74
 - ▶ 10 cases
- ▶ Several case reports



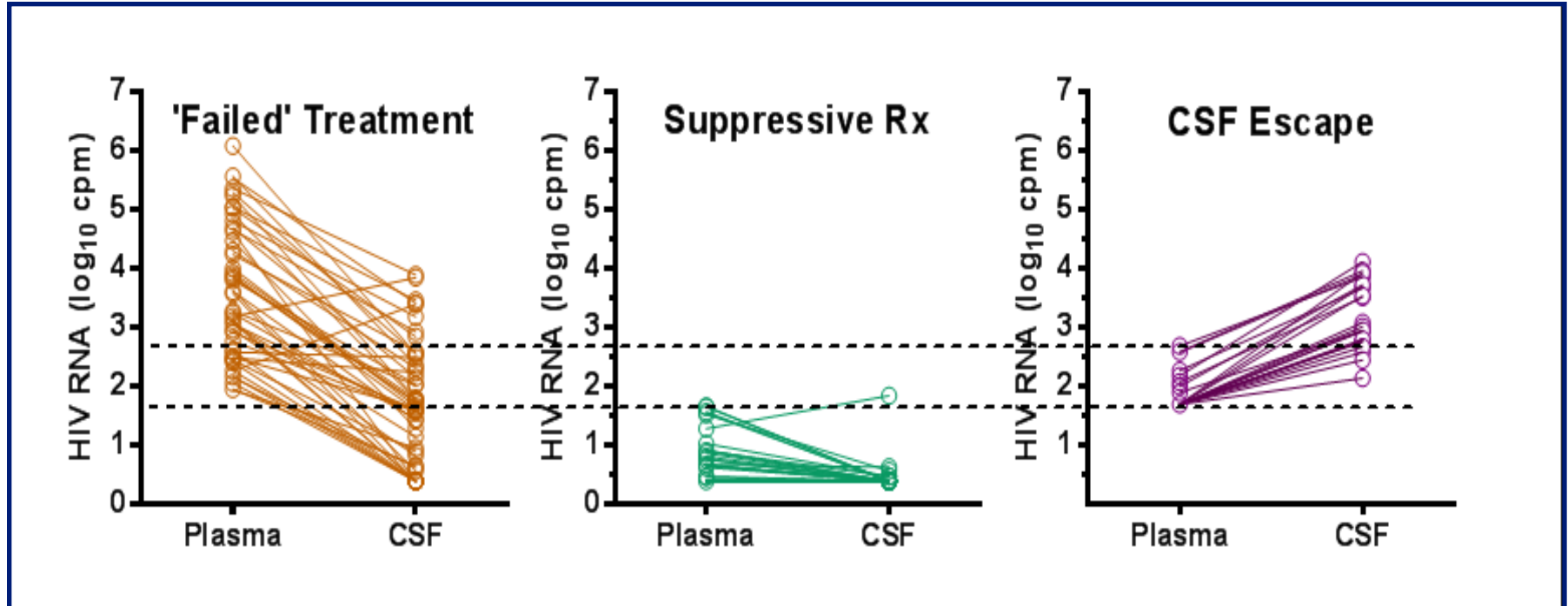
CSF Escape: Canestri & Peluso Series

| Variable | Median (IQR) | Range |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| <i>Blood CD4 (mean, SD, range)</i> | 520 (308 - 592) | 107 - 660 |
| <i>Nadir Blood CD4 (mean, SD)</i> | 55 (12 - 145) | 2 - 250 |
| <i>CSF WBC (median, range)*</i> | 22 (10 - 55) | 0 - 200 |
| <i>Plasma HIV (\log_{10}; median, IQR)</i> | 1.69 (1.69 - 2.68) | 1.69 - 2.68 |
| <i>CSF HIV (\log_{10}; median, IQR)</i> | 3.01 (2.76 - 3.72) | 2.13 - 4.11 |
| <i>CSF:Plasma Difference (\log_{10}; median, IQR)</i> | 1.25 (1.06 - 1.44) | 0.44 - 2.23 |
| <i>Significant Resistance (% tested)</i> | 14/16 (70.6%) | |

* Peluso only; Canestri median 31, range 6-270

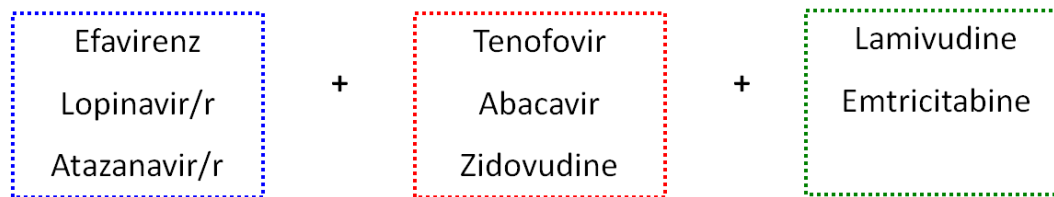
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CSF Escape: Canestri & Peluso Series



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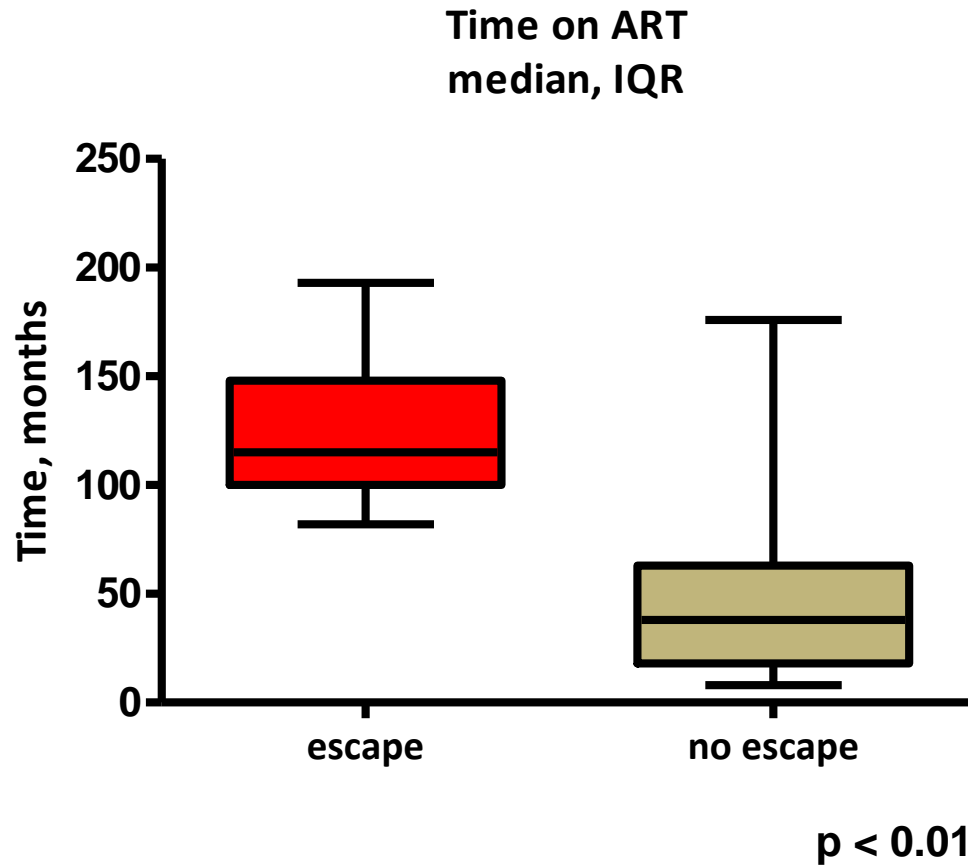
CSF HIV RNA >50 in 10% of asymptomatic subjects with plasma RNA <50 copies/mL



| Characteristic | CSF escape (n=7) | CSF suppressed (n=60) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Age, years | | |
| median (range) | 46 (36-64) | 45 (22-71) |
| CD4 cell count, x106 cells/l | | |
| median (IQR) | 620 (400-810) | 525 (393-633) |
| CD4 nadir, x106 cells/l | | |
| median (IQR) | 125 (33-213) | 146 (54-200) |
| CSF HIV-1 RNA, copies/ml | | |
| median (IQR) | 121 (52-860) | <40 |
| CPE-rank | | |
| median (IQR) | 2 (1-2) | 1.75 (1-2) |
| CSF-neopterin, nmol/l | | |
| median (IQR) | 9.2 (6.6-16.2)* | 4.9 (4.4-8.3) |
| P-neopterin, nmol/l | | |
| median (IQR) | 7.2 (6.1-8.0) | 7.6 (4.9-9.7) |
| WBC, x106 cells/l | | |
| median (IQR) | 2.5 (1-9.5) | 1 (1-3) |
| Total time on ART, months | | |
| median (IQR) | 131 (96-159)*** | 39 (18-64) |



Patients with CSF escape had been longer time on ART

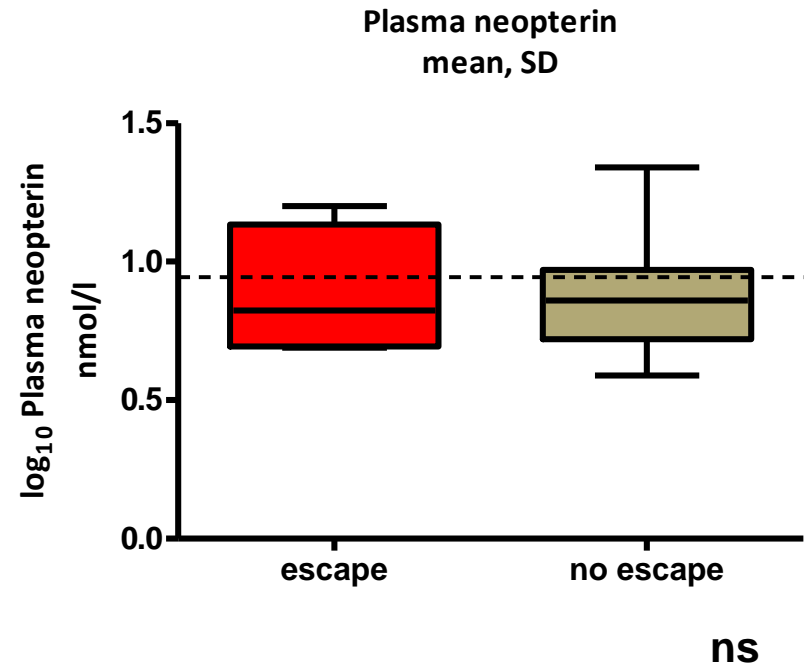
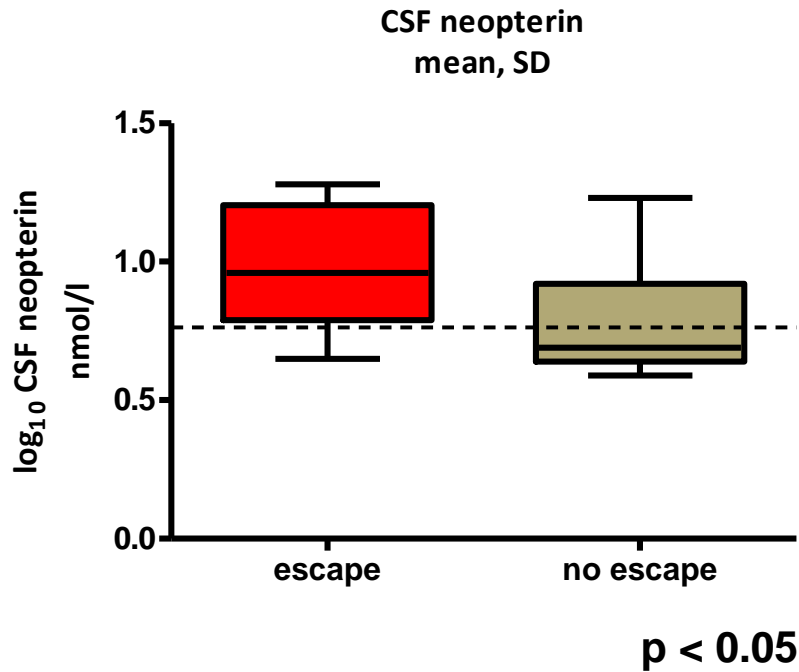


and had a history of more plasma viral blips
and periods with treatment interruptions

| | CSF escape | No escape | Sign |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Viral blips plasma | | | |
| median (IQR) | 2.5 (1-4) | 0 (0-1) | p = 0.001 |
| History of treatment | | | |
| interruptions | 71% | 15% | p < 0.01 |



CSF escape associated with intrathecal immunoactivation



Cerebrospinal Fluid Viral Blips in HIV Infected Patients on ART

Study design

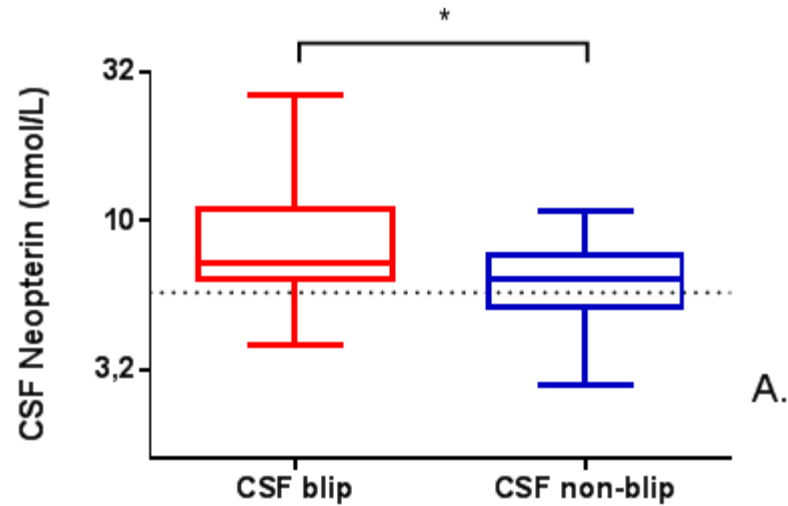
- 75 subjects on effective ART >6 months, plasma HIV-1 RNA <50 c/mL
- Longitudinal follow up: ≥2 (median 5) lumbar punctures
- HIV-1 RNA in CSF and plasma analyzed by *real time* PCR (Cobas TaqMan v2, Roche)

Results

- 35 % CSF RNA >20 c/mL on ≥1 time point (23 % >50 c/mL)
- 8 % >20 c/mL in consecutive samples (3 % >50 c/mL)
- Of all 373 CSF samples, 10 % had >20 c/mL (5 % >50 c/mL)



Cerebrospinal Fluid Viral Blips in HIV Infected Patients on ART



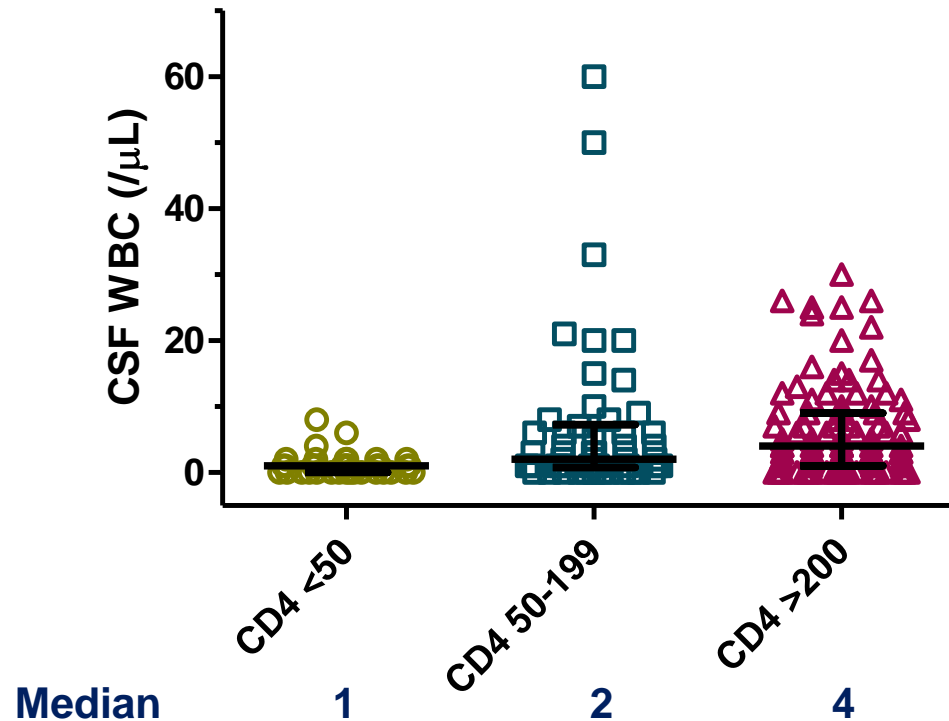
CSF Biomarkers

- ▶ Viral
- ▶ **Immunoactivation**
- ▶ Blood-brain barrier integrity
- ▶ Neuronal injury



CSF findings in HIV

- ▶ I. Untreated HIV - neuroasymptomatic
 - ▶ CSF WBC

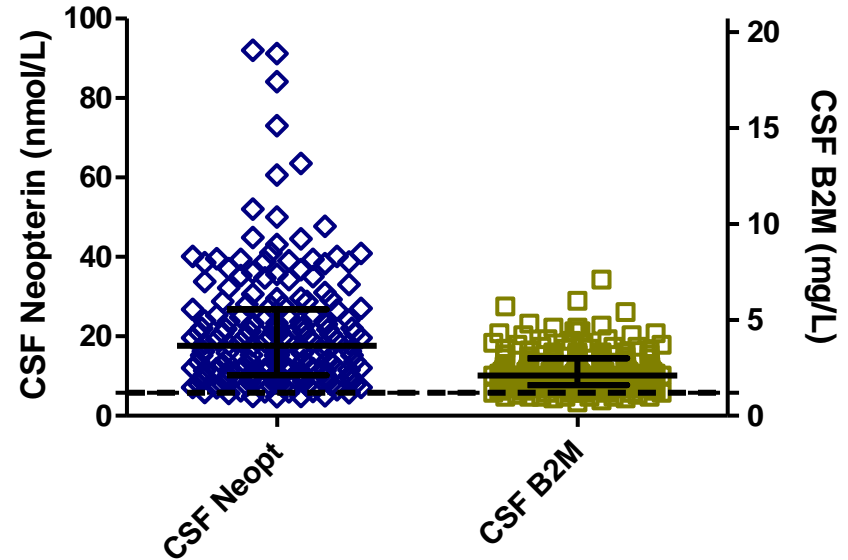
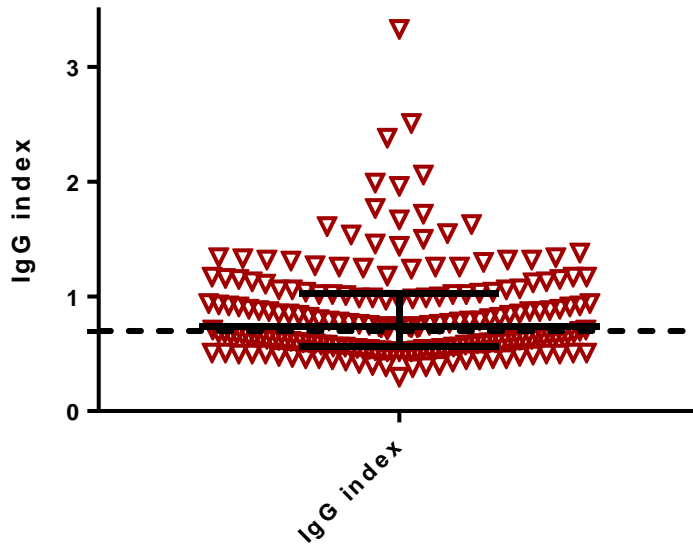


Data on file (n = 198)



CSF findings in HIV

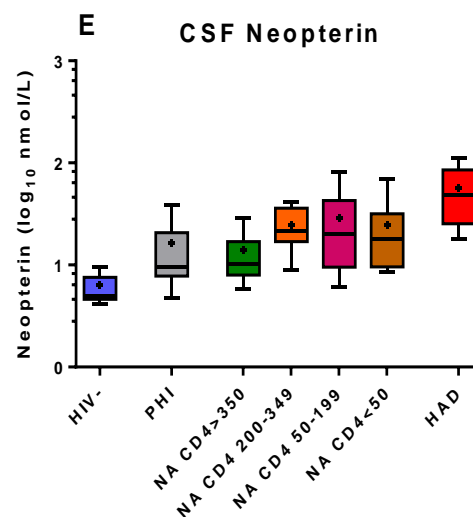
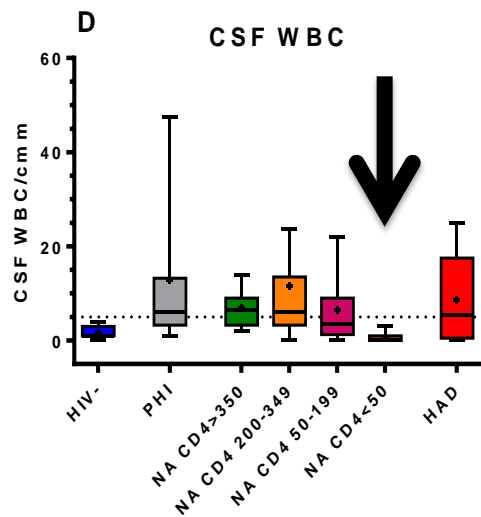
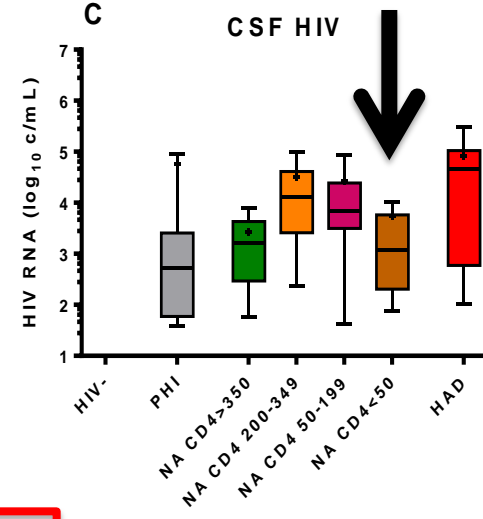
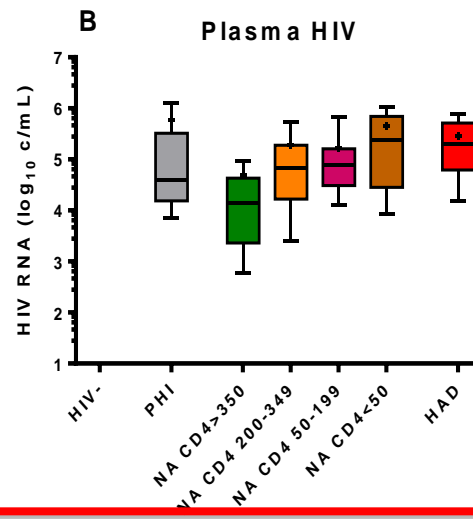
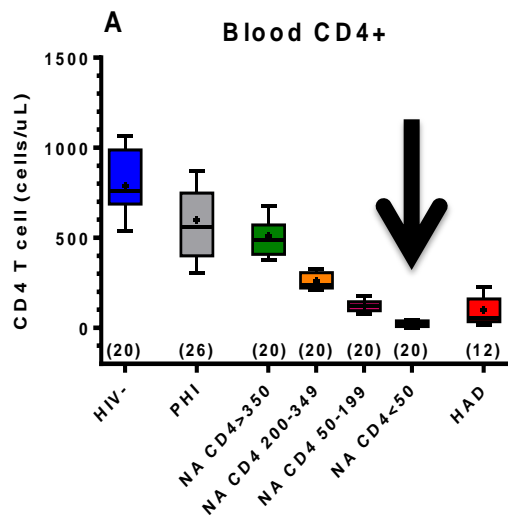
- ▶ I. Untreated HIV - neuroasymptomatic
 - ▶ Markers of immunoactivation



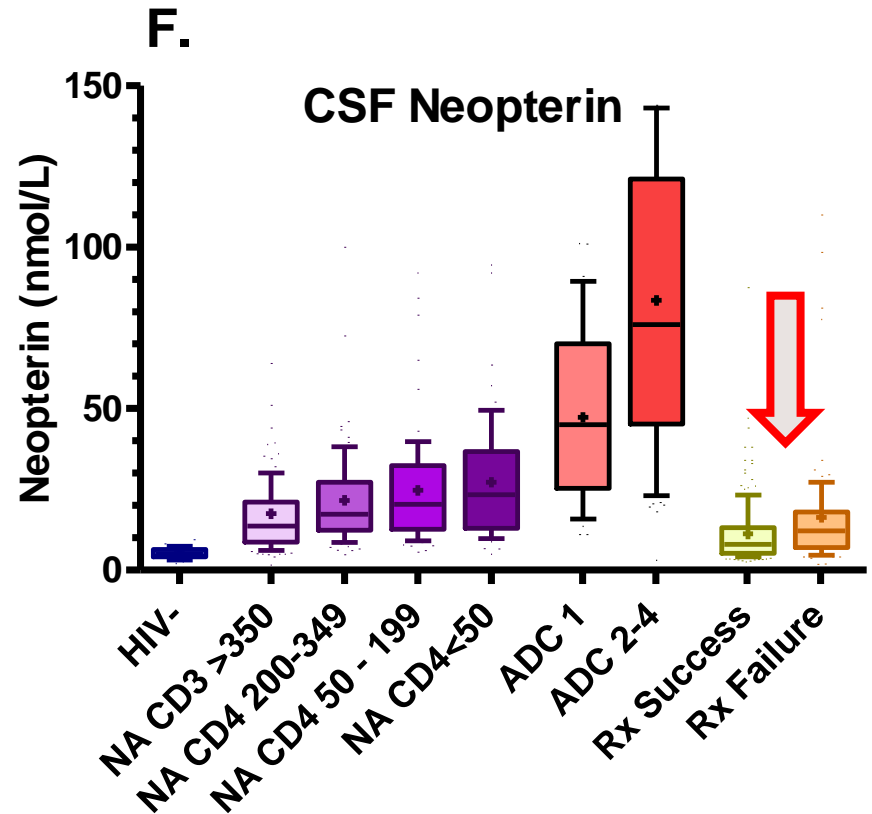
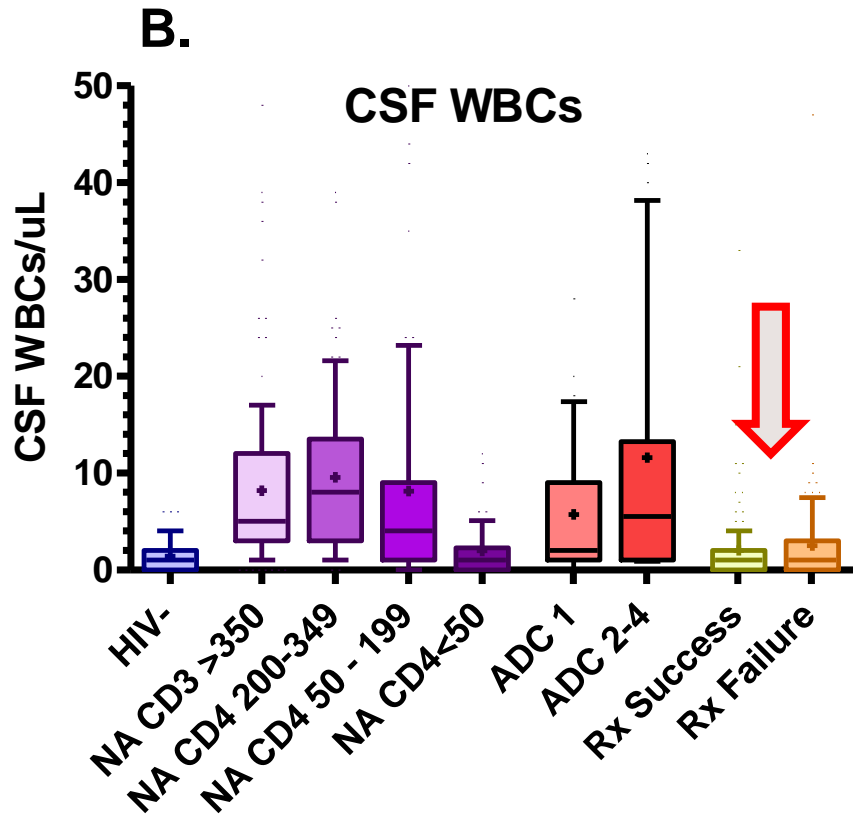
Data on file (n = 198)



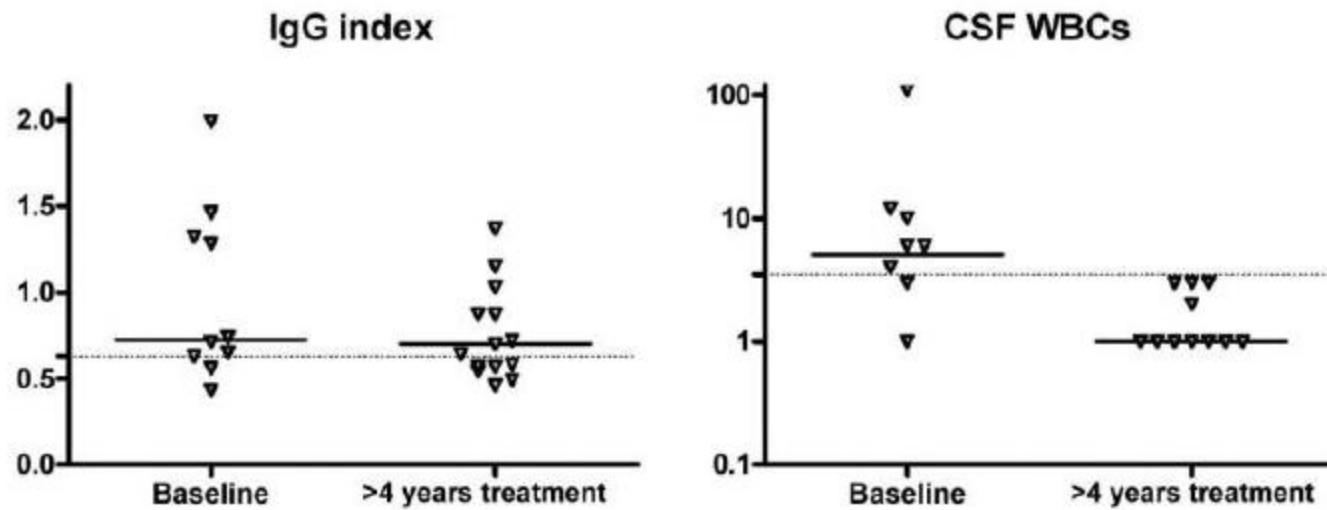
Biomarkers Over the Entire Range of Infection



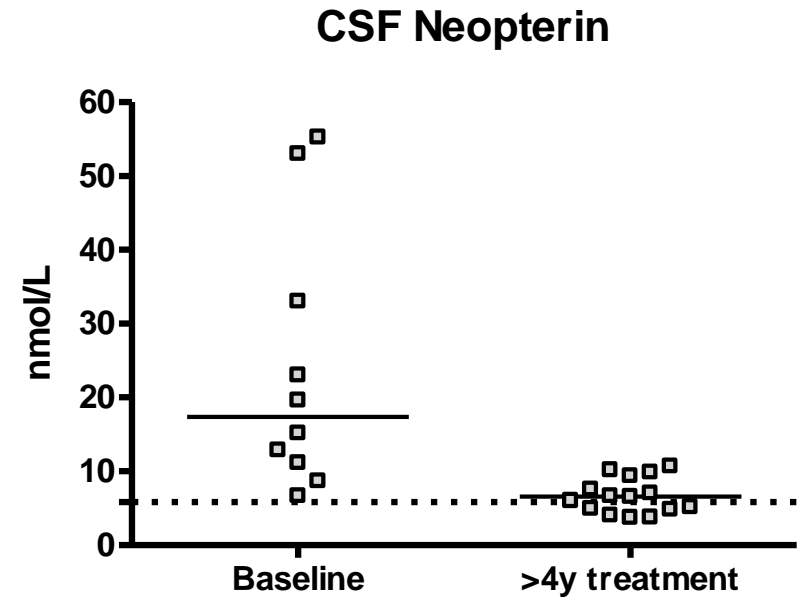
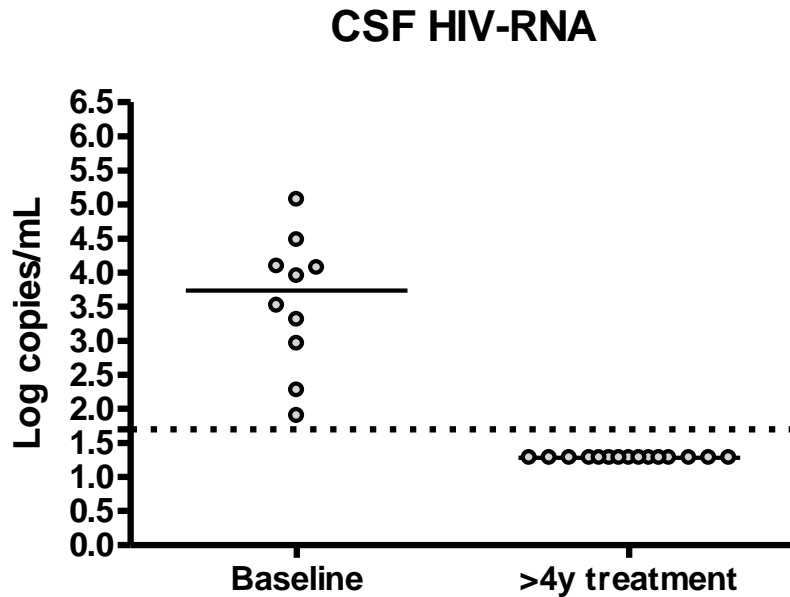
Treatment effects



ART normalizes CSF WBC but not intrathecal immunoglobulin production

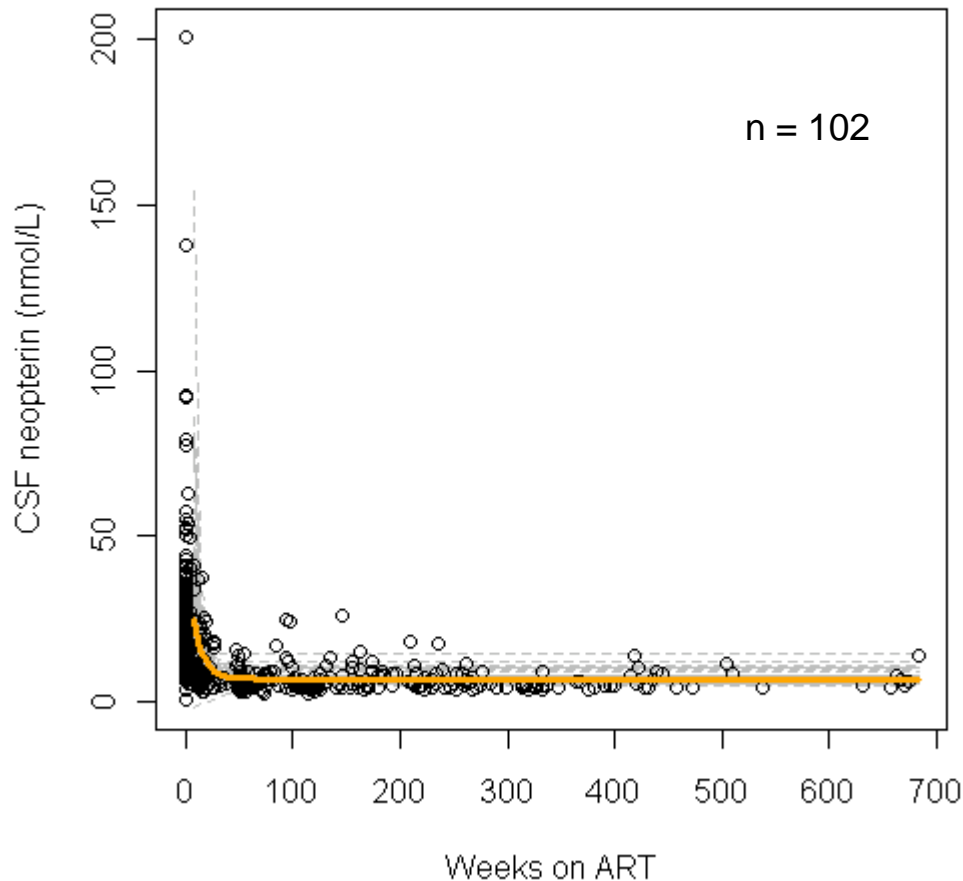


Increased CSF neopterin during treatment



CSF neopterin decay characteristics after initiation of ART

ART-naïve asymptomatic patients starting cART



Non-linear model to estimate neopterin decay in response to ART and a stable neopterin “set-point” attained after prolonged ART

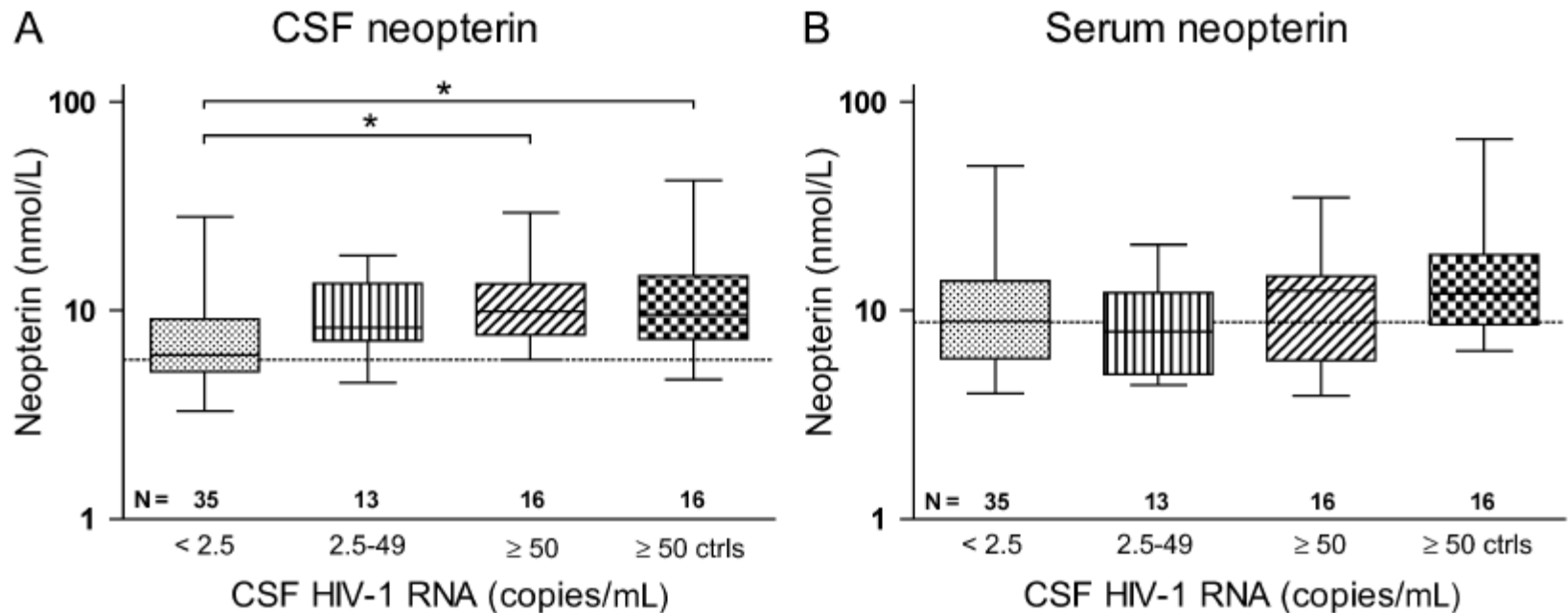
Results:

41% end up with stable elevated levels of CSF neopterin on suppressive long-term ART



Neopterin and CSF HIV RNA

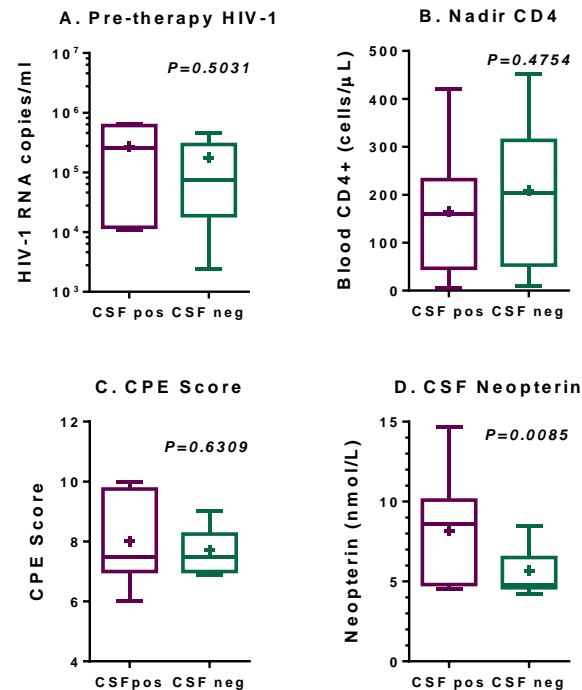
Subjects on HAART with plasma VL <50 copies/mL.
CSF-RNA measured by sensitive PCR



Low levels of HIV RNA in CSF after up to 10 years of suppressive therapy - associated with local immune activation

Table 2. SCA HIV-1 RNA measurements.

| | CSF | Plasma | P-value |
|---|------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Proportion of positive sampels | 12/70 | 39/68 | P<0.0001 |
| HIV-1 RNA concentrations during suppressive therapy (mean HIV-1 RNA copies/mL, range) | 0.3 (0.2-3.9) | 1.1 (0.2-15) | P<0.0001 |
| Time of suppressive therapy to time point with detectable HIV-1 RNA (median years, range) | 3 (2-10) | 2 (0.4-11) | P=0.0917 |

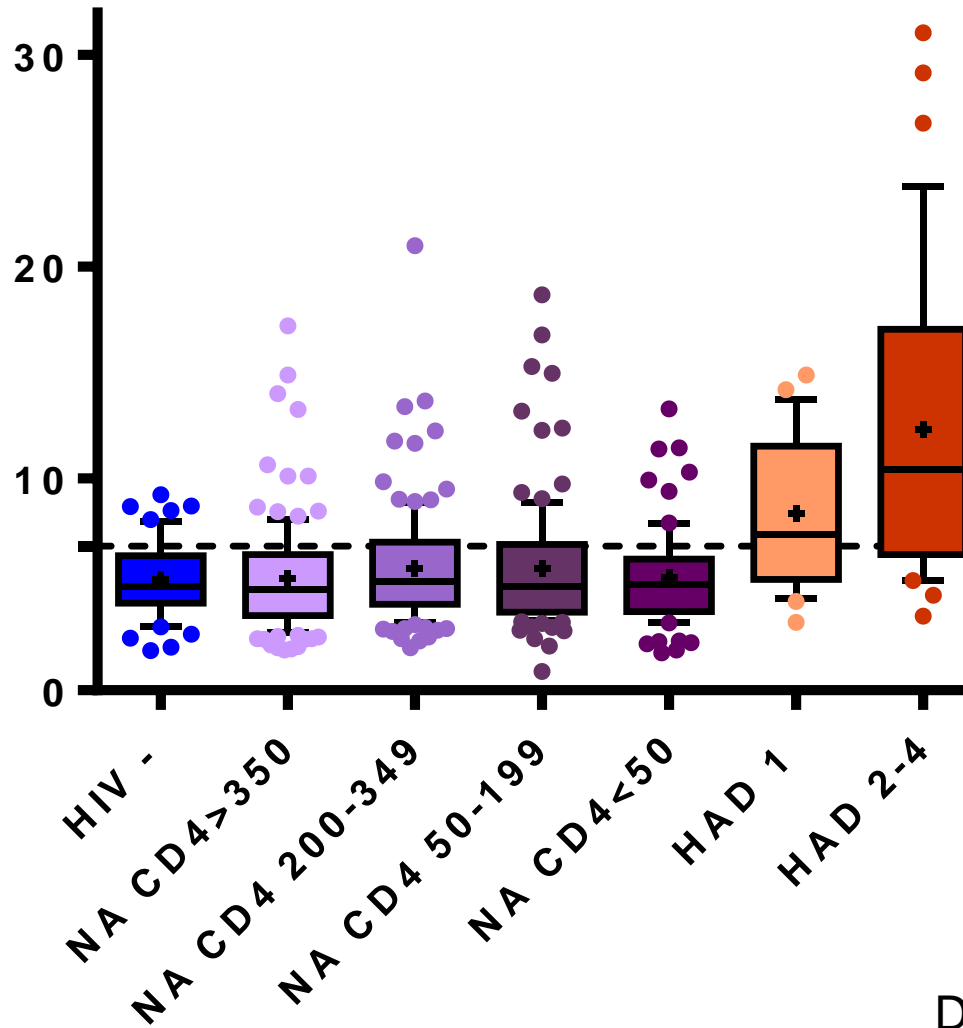


CSF Biomarkers

- ▶ Viral
- ▶ Immunoactivation
- ▶ **Blood-brain barrier integrity**
- ▶ Neuronal injury



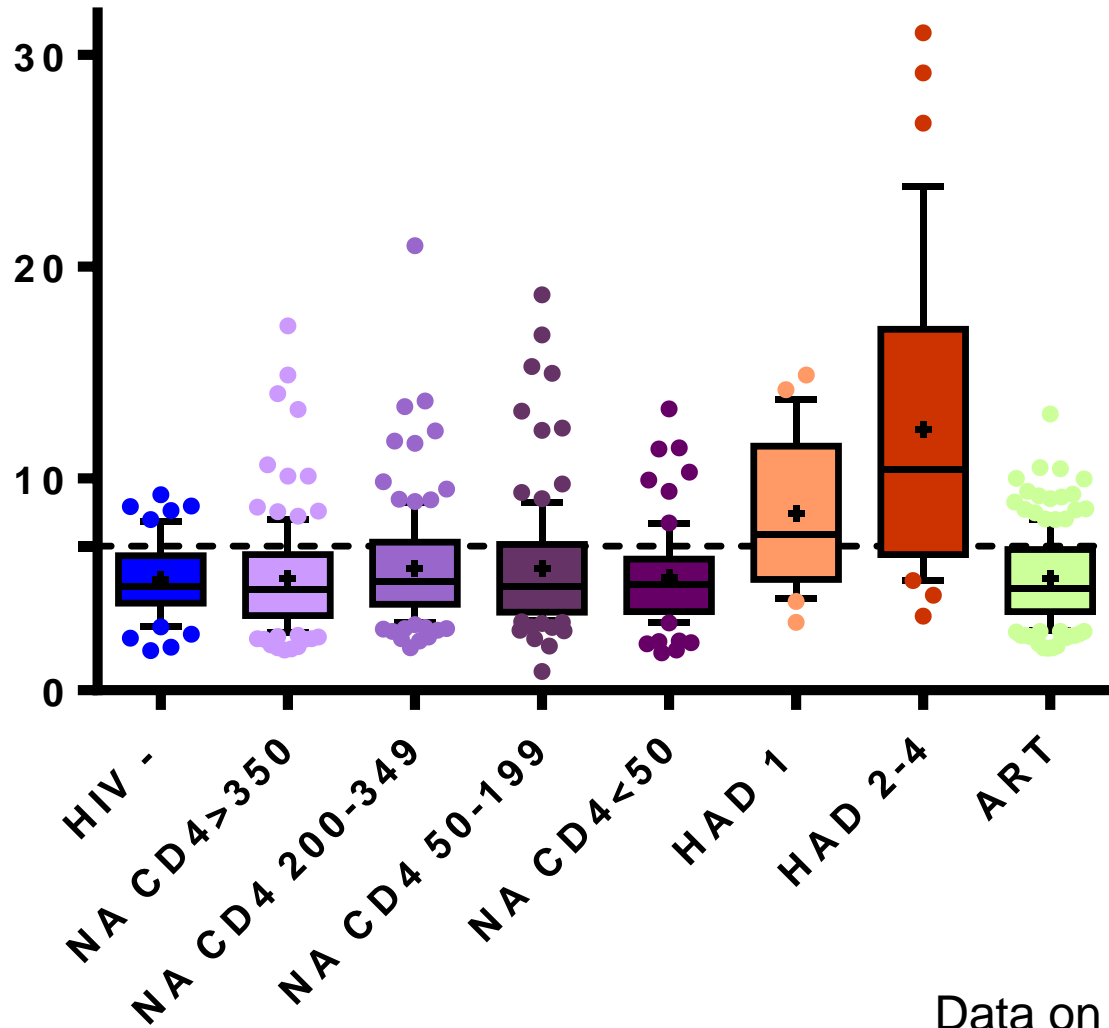
Alb Ratio



Data on file (n = 710)



Alb Ratio



Data on file (n = 710)



CSF Biomarkers

- ▶ Viral
- ▶ Immunoactivation
- ▶ Blood-brain barrier integrity
- ▶ **Neuronal injury**



CSF Biomarkers

t-tau

p-tau

Amyloid beta

soluble amyloid precursore proteins (sAPP)

Neurofilament Light Protein (NFL)

Neurofilament Heavy Protein (NFH)

Tubulin

Actin

Neuron-specific enolase (NSE)

14-3-3

N-acetyl aspartic acid (NAA)

Tissue transglutaminase (tTG)

N-lysine isopeptide

Ceramide

Sulphatide

Gangliosides

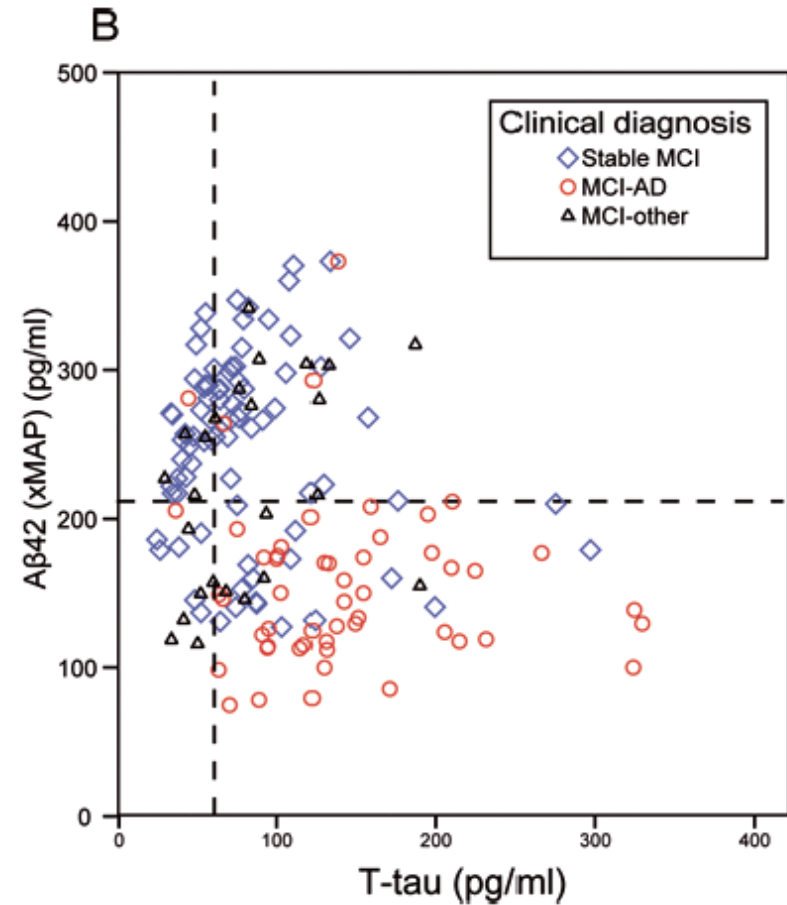
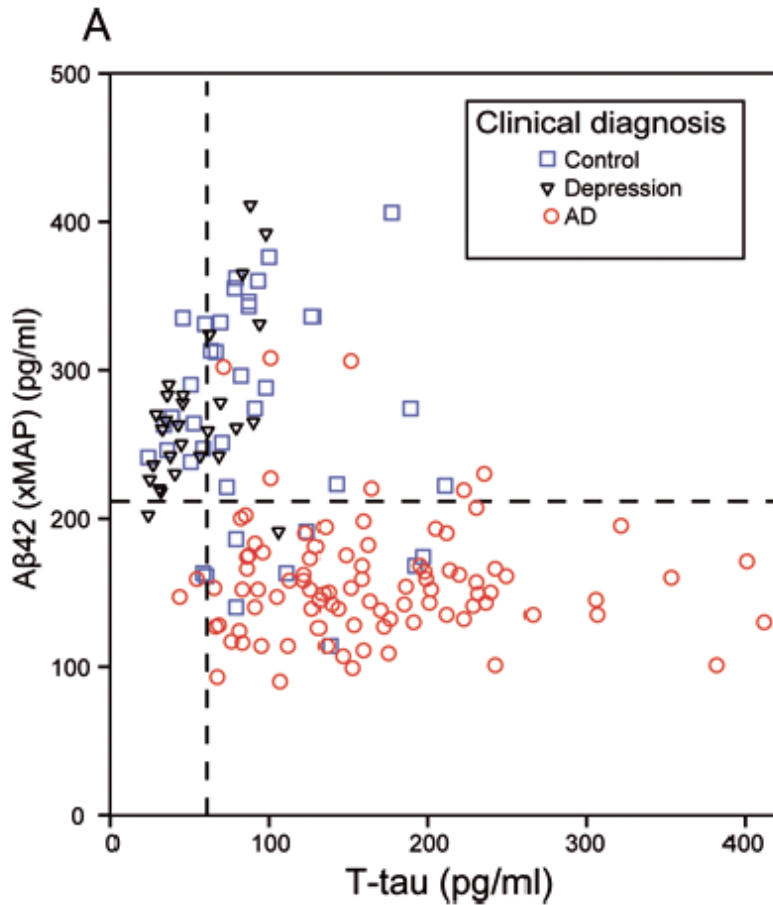
Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)

S100b

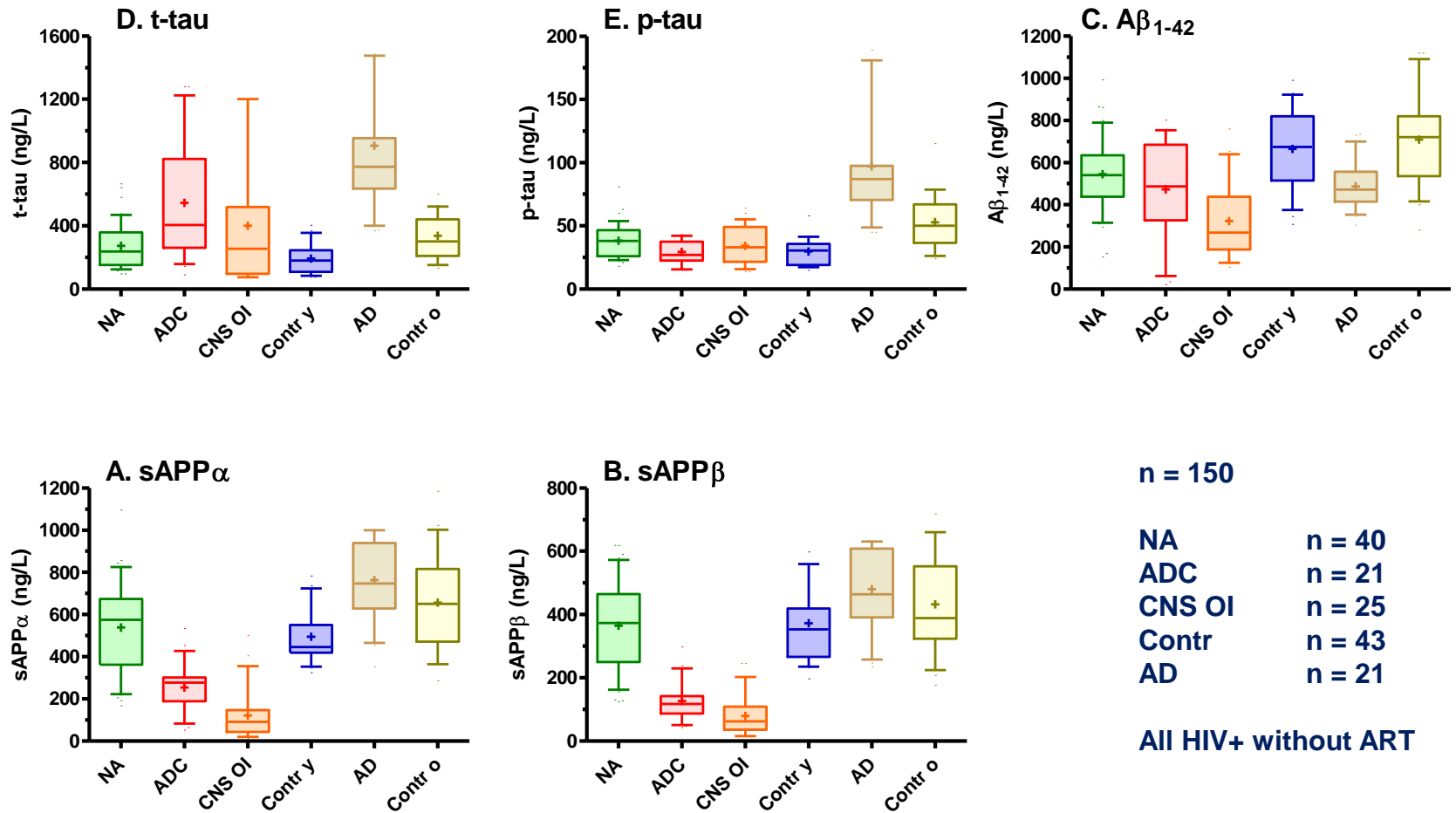
Etc



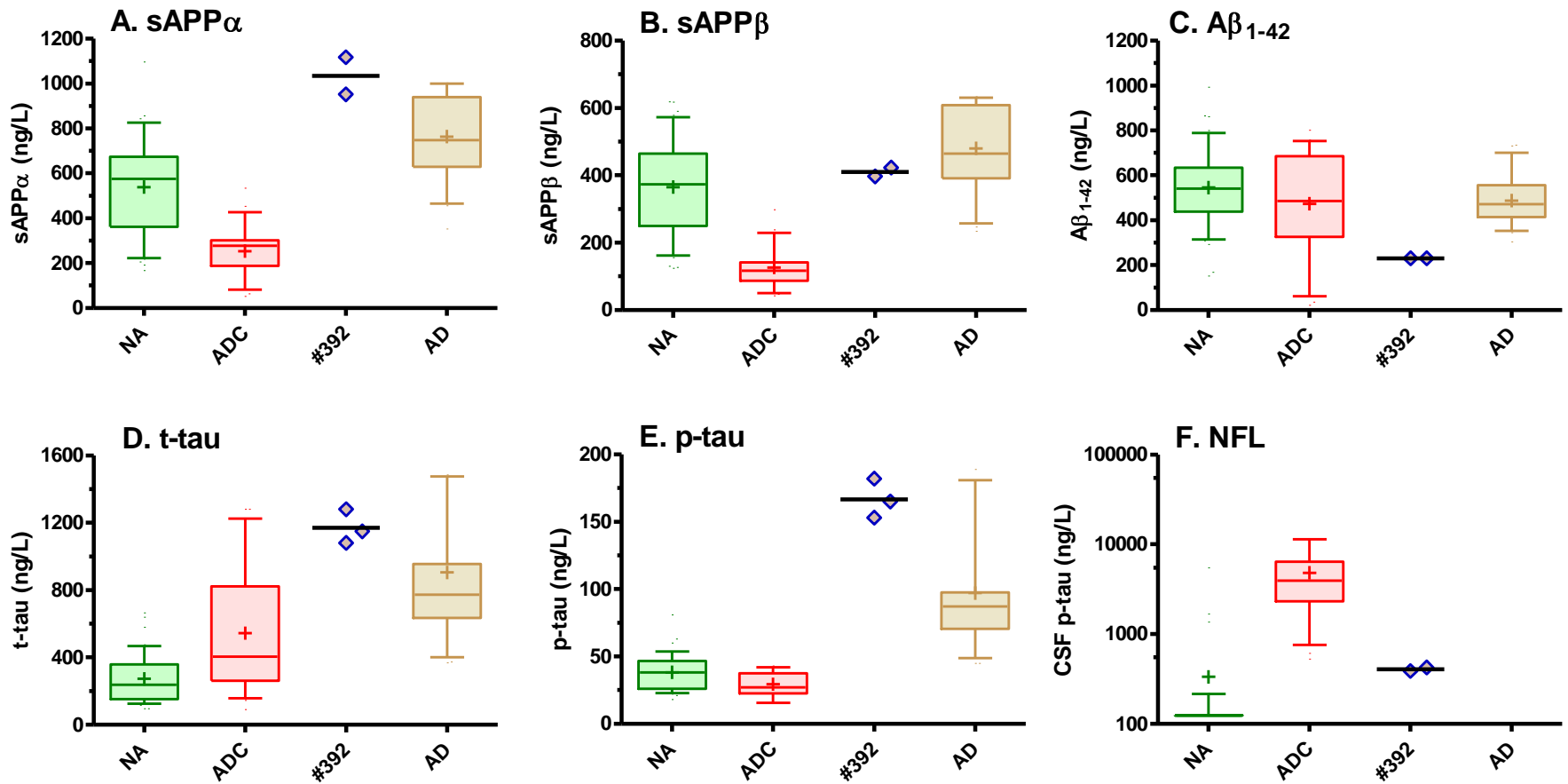
Prediction of progression to Alzheimer's Disease



Amyloid and tau cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers HIV infection



Alzheimers disease in an HIV-infected subject



HIV-associated dementia vs Alzheimer's disease

| | HAD | AD |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| t-tau | ++ | +++ |
| p-tau | = | ++ |
| AB42 | - | - |
| sAPP α | --- | = |
| sAPP β | --- | = |
| NFL | +++ | + |
| | | |



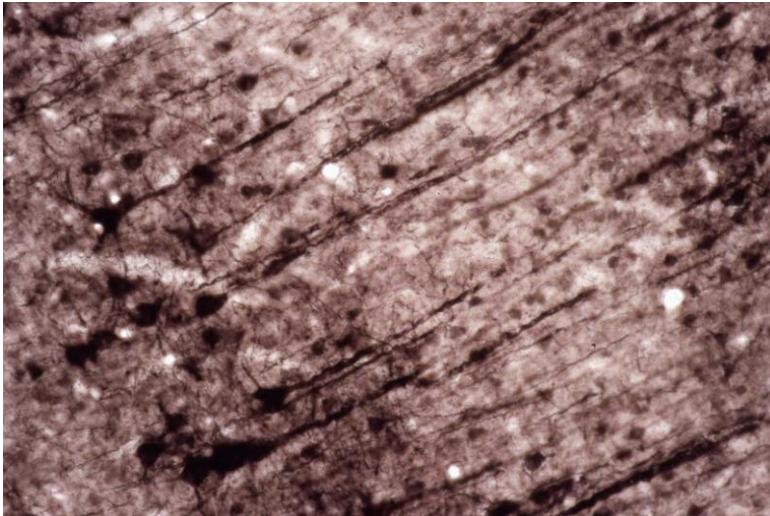
CSF "Alzheimer biomarkers"

- ▶ Clinical usage
 - ▶ Differential diagnostics
 - ▶ HIV-associated dementia
 - ▶ Alzheimer's disease
 - ▶ Vascular dementia



CSF biomarkers of neuronal injury

▶ Neurofilament light protein (NFL)

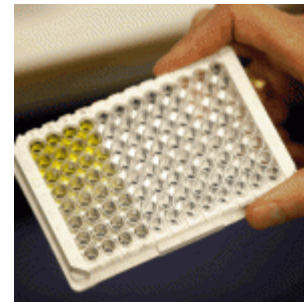


- ▶ A major structural element of neurons
- ▶ Mainly found in large myelinated neurons
- ▶ A triplet protein, the light subunit (NFL) is the essential component of the neurofilament core
- ▶ Main function: to maintain the axonal calibre and thereby having a crucial role for morphological integrity and conduction velocity of nerve impulses

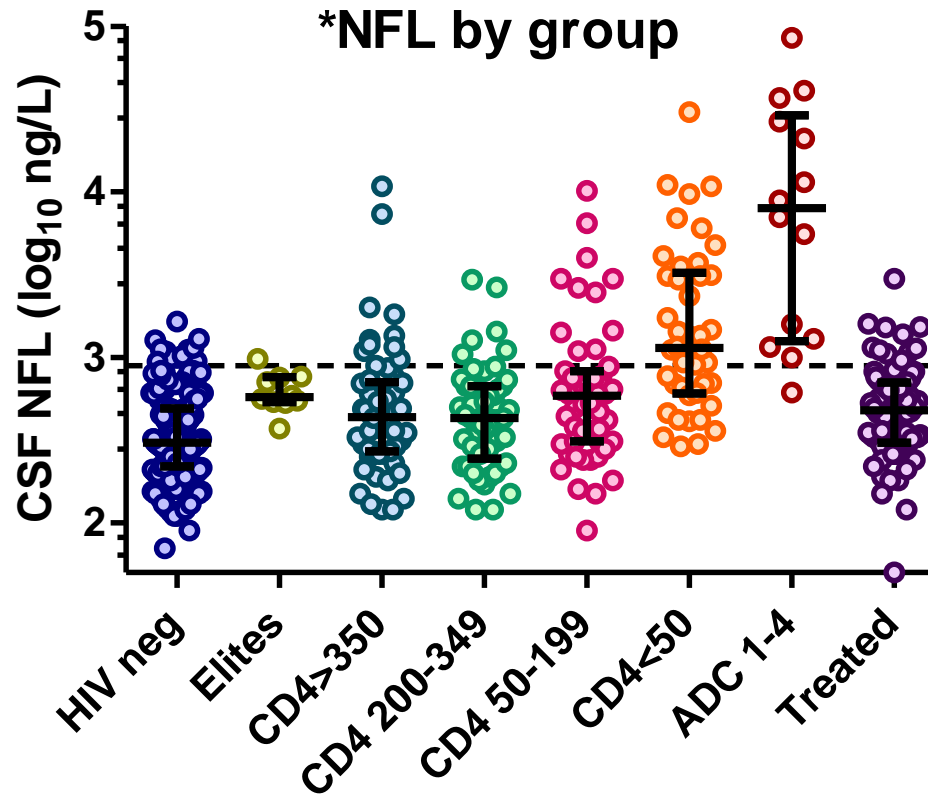


CSF NFL methods

- ▶ Commercial assay
- ▶ UmanDiagnostics (www.umandiagnosics.com)
- ▶ NF-Light[®] Neurofilament ELISA RUO
 - ▶ enzymatic two site immunoassay for quantitative determinations of NF-light in human body fluids



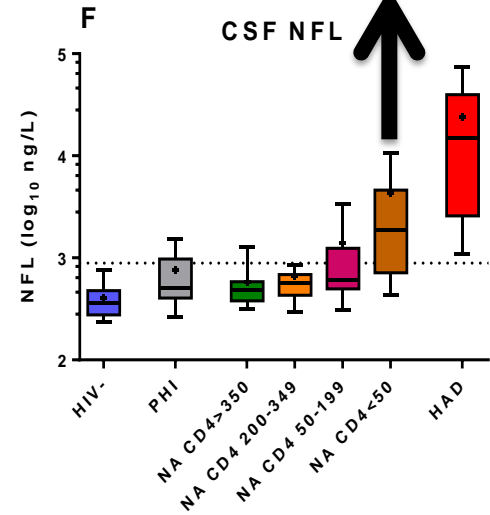
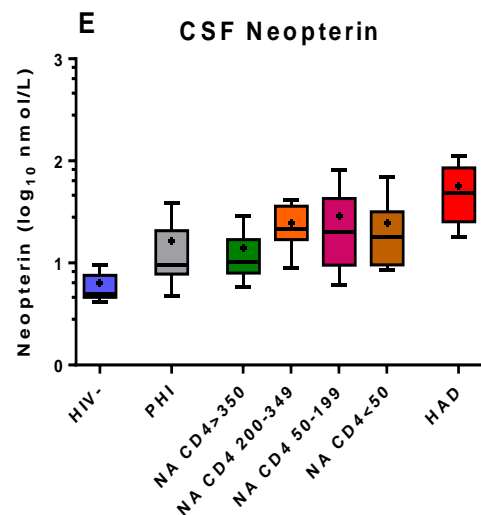
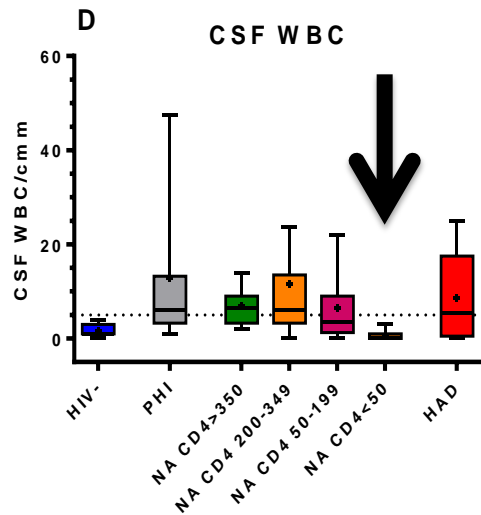
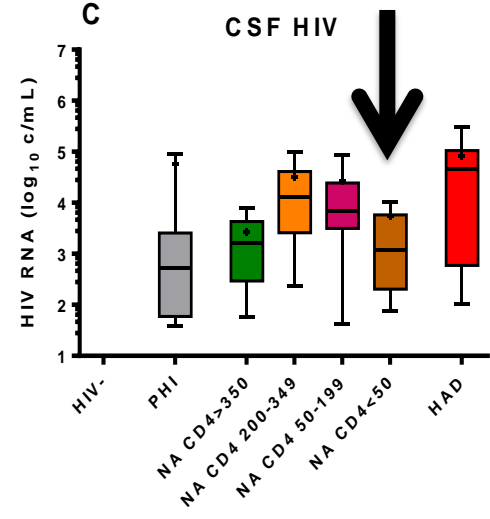
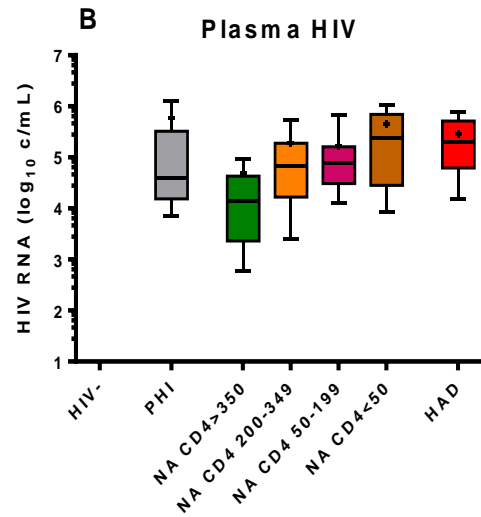
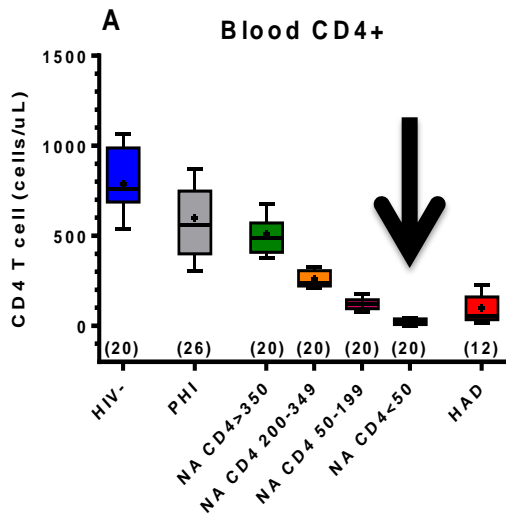
CSF NFL



Data on file (n = 518)

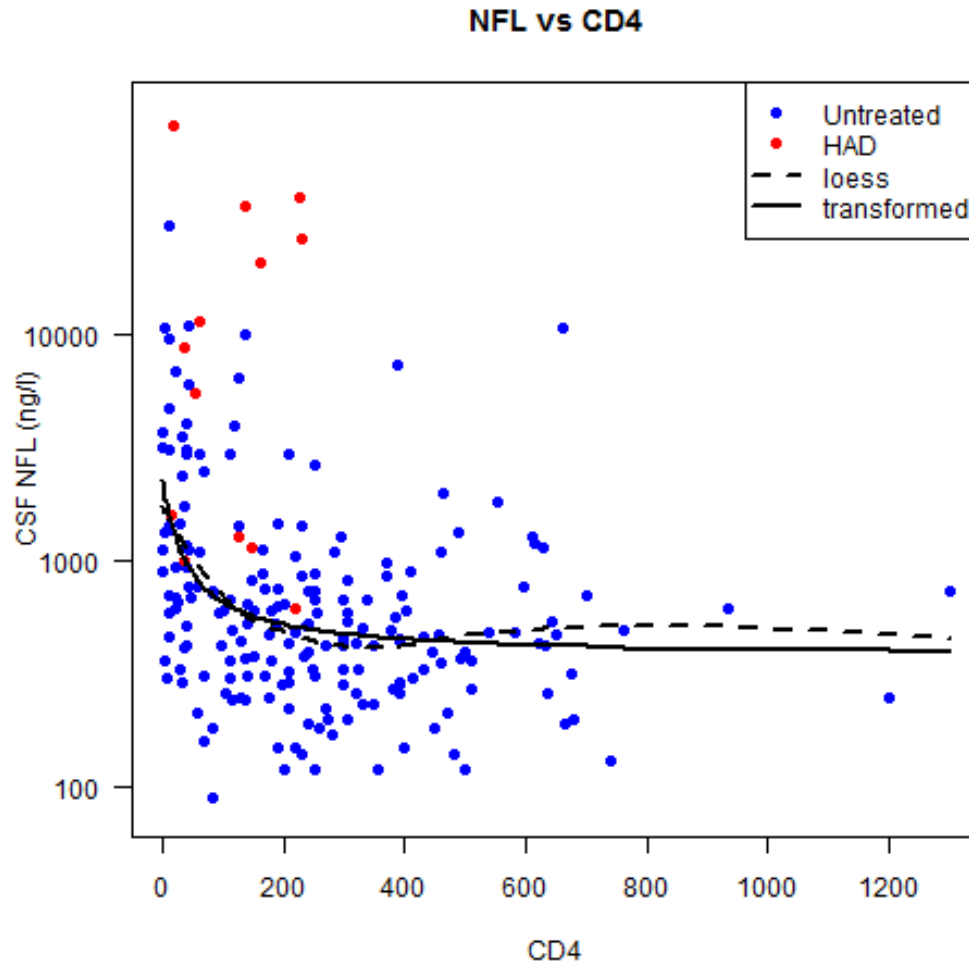


Biomarkers Over the Entire Range of Infection: CD4 Low, Pleocytosis Drops, CSF VL Drops, CSF NFL Up

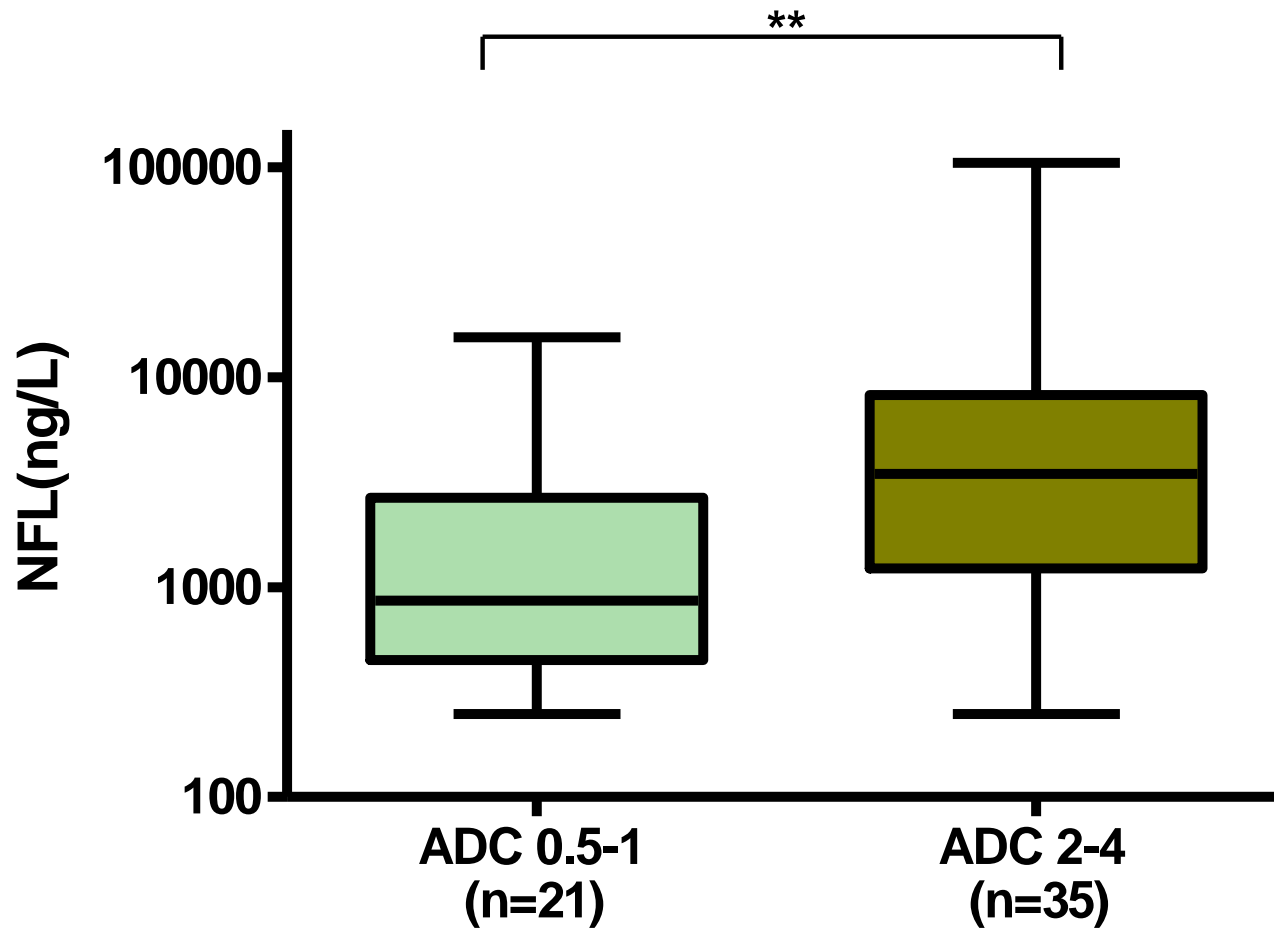


CNS Damage Up

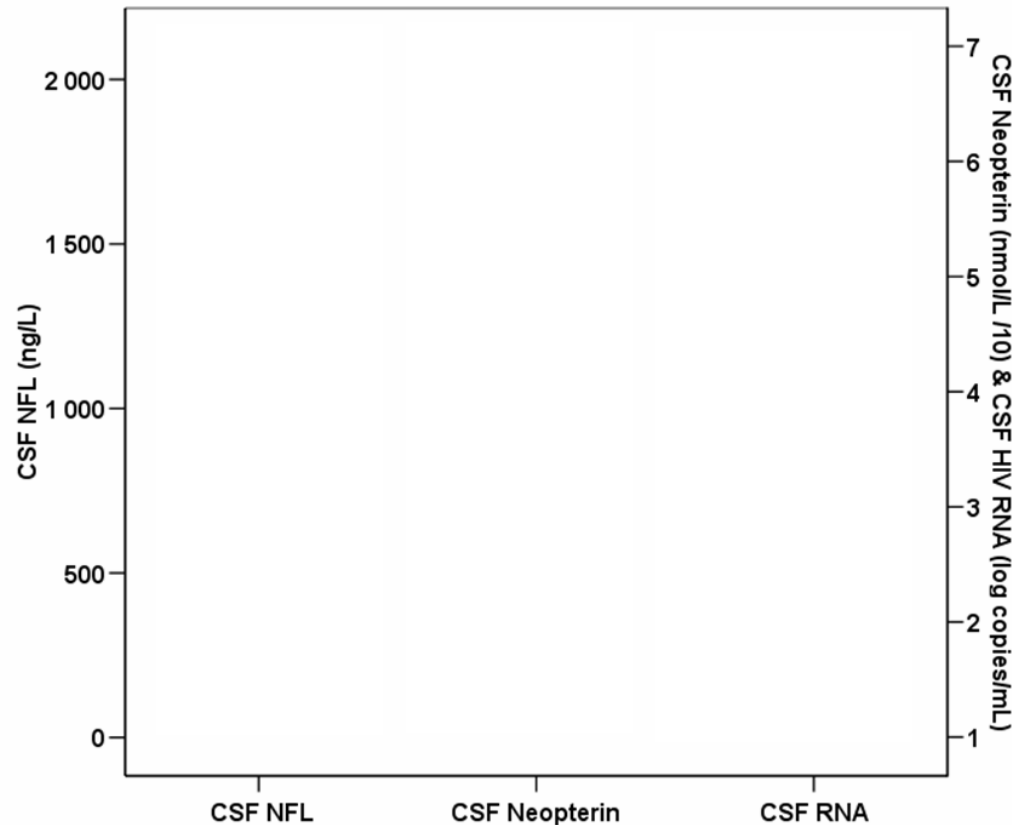
In asymptomatic HIV; signs of neuronal destruction mainly found in patients with low CD4 cell counts.



CSF NFL levels related to severity of dementia



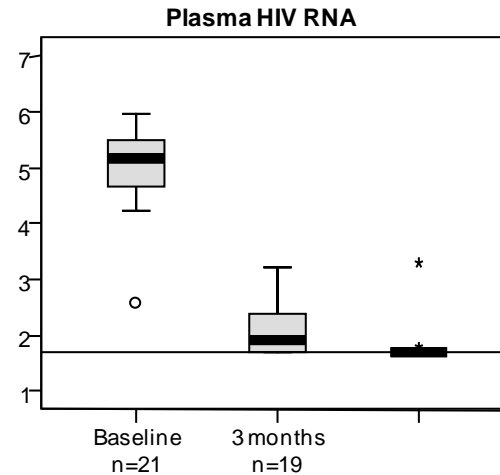
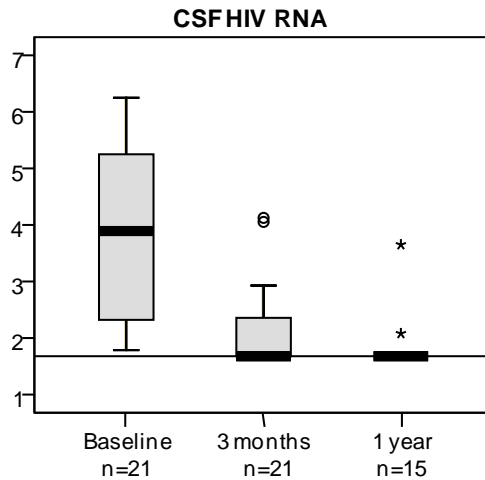
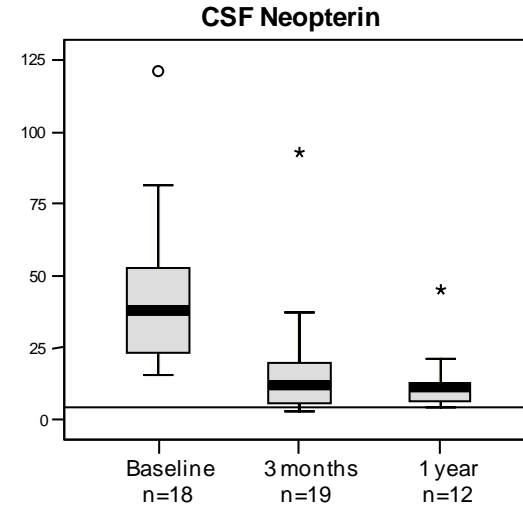
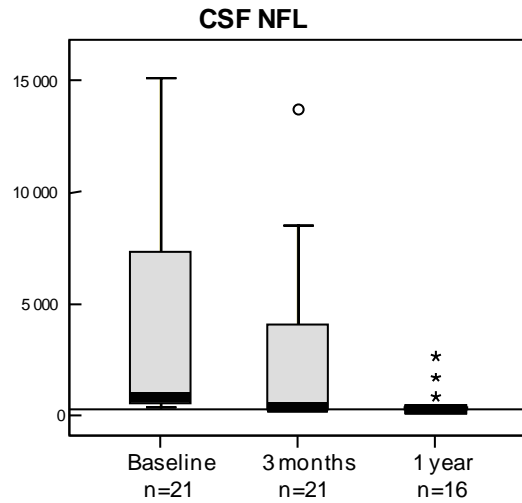
CSF biomarkers 1-2 years before development of dementia (pre-HAART era)



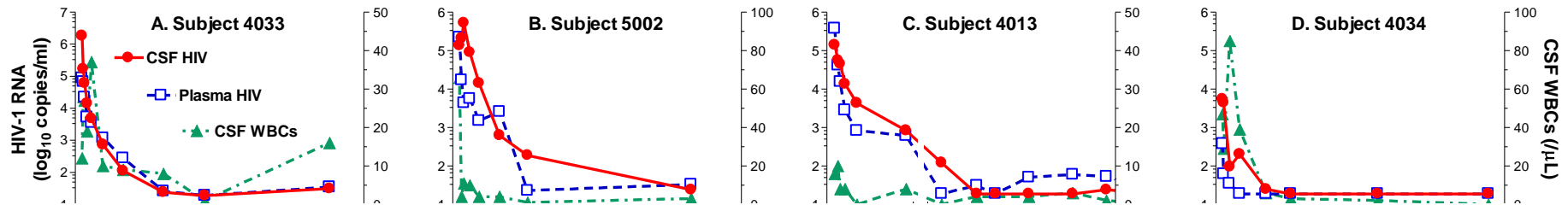
Cases developed HAD 1-2 years after examination
Controls did not (CD4 matched)



CSF NFL decrease with ART



CSF NFL decrease with ART

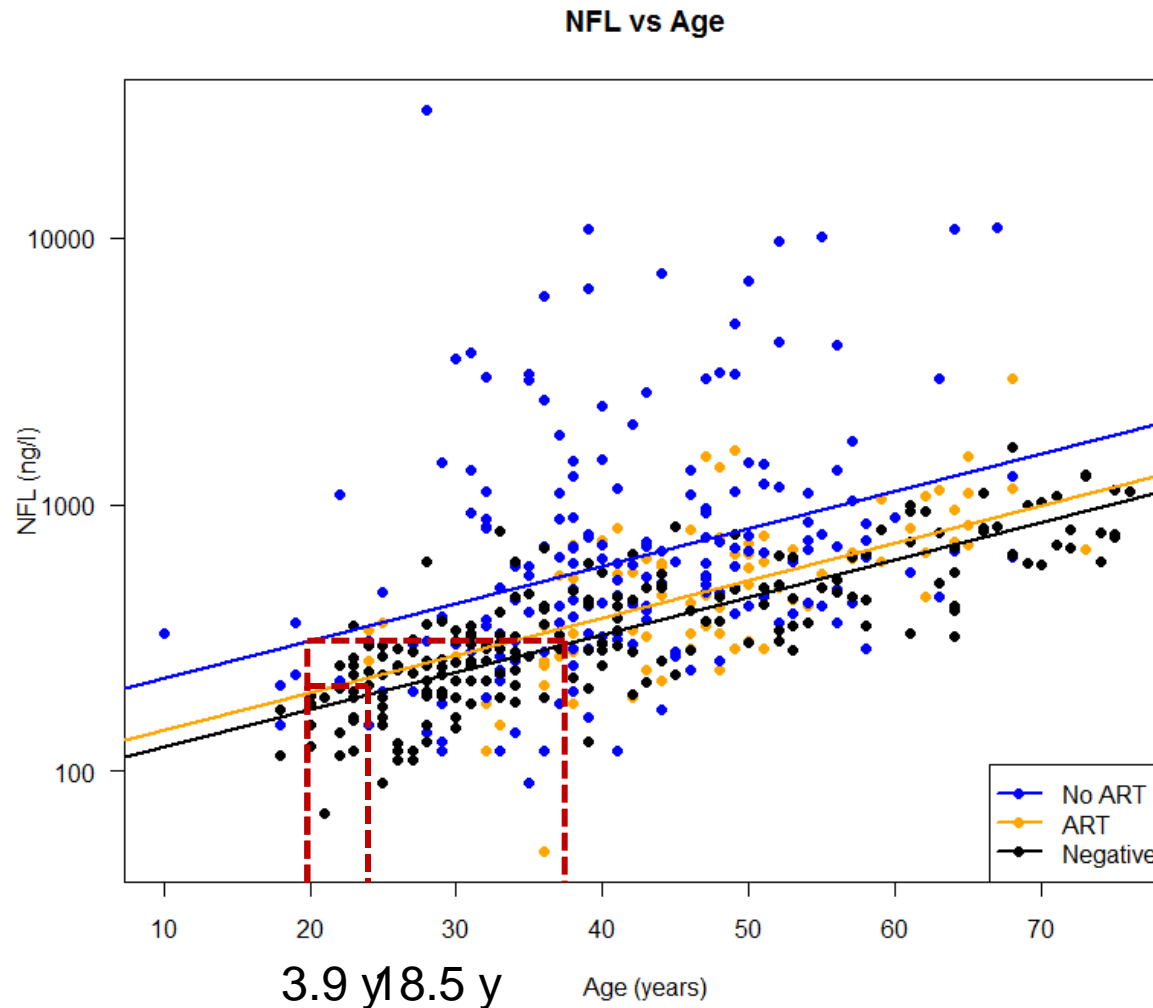


CSF NFL

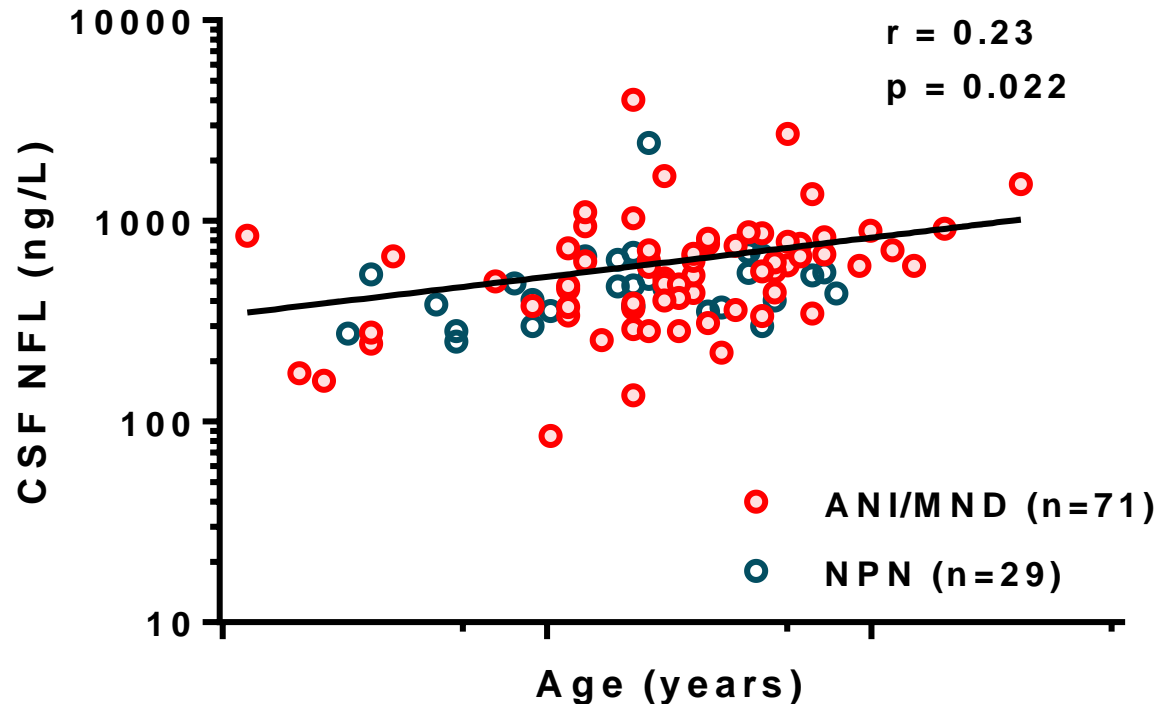
- ▶ Very sensitive marker of axonal injury
- ▶ Potential clinical usage
 - ▶ Pathological correlate to HAND
 - ▶ Confirming HAD diagnosis
 - ▶ Objective evaluation of milder forms of HAND (ANI/MND)?
 - ▶ Evaluation of neuronal injury by CSF viral breakthrough during treatment?



HIV and aging independently affect axonal disruption as measured by CSF NFL



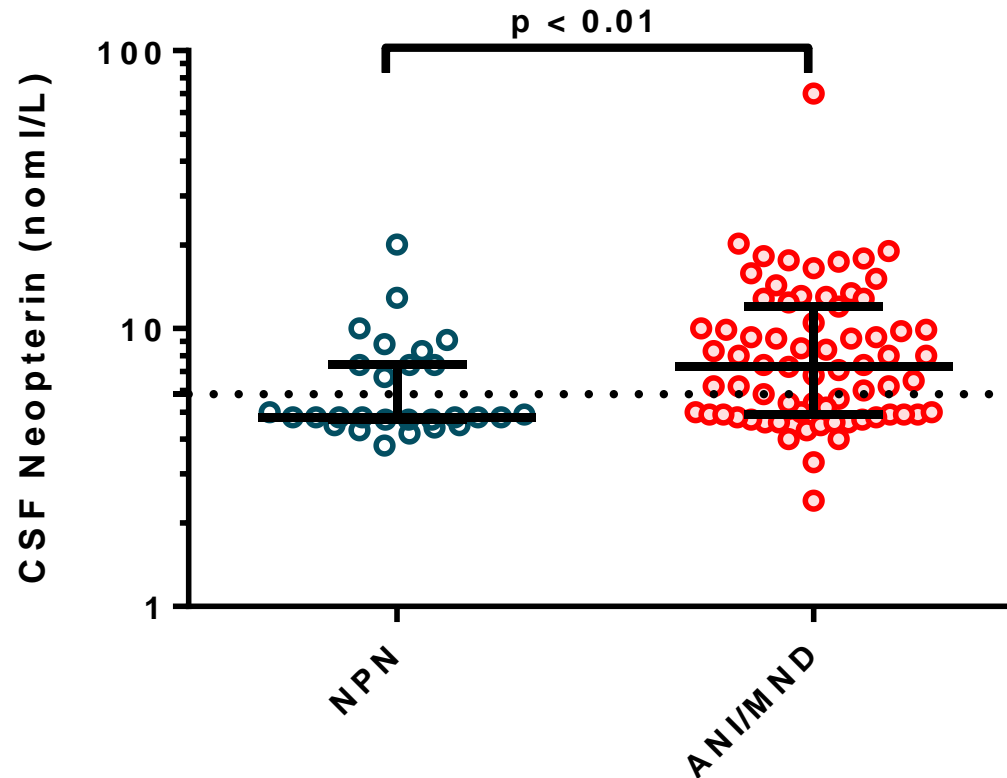
CSF NFL in treated subjects (P-RNA <50) with mild neurocognitive disease (CHARTER)



No sign difference between asympt and ANI/MND



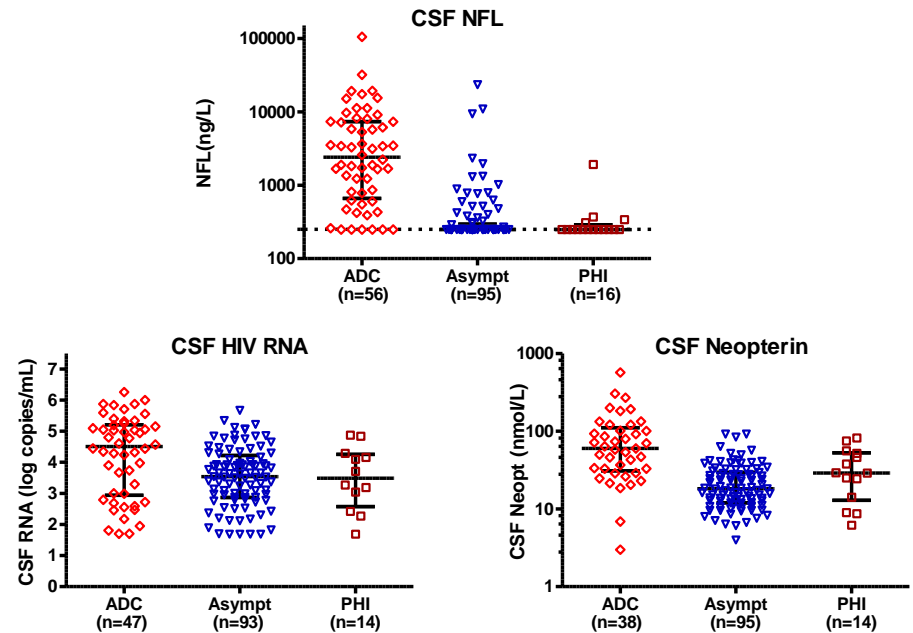
CSF Neopterin in treated subjects (P-RNA <50) with mild neurocognitive disease (CHARTER)



CSF biomarkers in HAND

Conclusions

- ▶ There is a need for an approach that focuses on objective markers of ongoing CNS-injury, as a complement to NP testing.
- ▶ Markers should be based on current pathogenetic concepts of HIV-related injury.
- ▶ A combination of CSF biomarkers (viral, immunological and damage) is a promising alternative.
- ▶ Tau- and amyloid CSF biomarkers promising for differential diagnosis of dementia





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