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Distinct Tau Pathologies in the Nucleus Basalis of Meynert between Early-Onset and Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Patients Revealed by Positron Emission Tomography

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Introduction: Alzheimer's disease (AD) is characterized by the abnormal accumulation of amyloid- β and tau proteins. Previous studies have demonstrated that early-onset AD (EOAD) has more rapid and significant tau accumulation compared to late-onset AD (LOAD). Particularly, postmortem analyses have shown greater tau accumulation in the nucleus basalis of Meynert (nbM) in EOAD. However, there is a lack of clinical studies that directly compare tau pathologies in EOAD and LOAD or explore their associations with clinical symptoms.

Objectives: To evaluate the tau accumulation patterns in the nbM and other brain regions defined by Braak stages (I/II, III/IV, V/VI) in EOAD and LOAD using 18F-florzolotau PET imaging. Additionally, to analyze the relationship between tau accumulation in the nbM and cognitive function.

Methods: The study included 38 amyloid-positive AD patients (15 EOAD, 23 LOAD) and 46 healthy controls (HCs). PET scans with 18F-florzolotau were performed, and the standardized uptake value ratios (SUVRs) of tau accumulation in the nbM and Braak stage regions were calculated using the cerebellum as the reference. Cognitive assessments were conducted using the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and other neuropsychological tests. Postmortem brain tissue from six AD patients and two HCs was histologically analyzed to validate PET findings.

Results: EOAD patients showed significantly higher tau accumulation in the nbM than LOAD patients (p = 0.004). The SUVRs in Braak stage regions also tended to be higher in EOAD (I/II: p = 0.244, III/IV: p = 0.120, V/VI: p = 0.079). Correlation analysis revealed no significant relationship between nbM SUVR and Braak stage SUVRs in EOAD, whereas LOAD patients exhibited positive correlations in Braak stages I/II (r = 0.50, p = 0.014) and III/IV (r = 0.43, p = 0.043). In LOAD, nbM tau accumulation correlated negatively with MMSE scores (r = -0.55, p = 0.006). In EOAD, higher Braak stage tau was associated with a stronger negative trend in MMSE (III/IV: r = -0.37, p = 0.178; V/VI: r = -0.41, p = 0.126). Histopathological examination confirmed the presence of ghost tangles in advanced AD and intracellular tau in early-stage AD, supporting the PET imaging results.

Conclusions: The study highlights distinct tau pathology differences in the nbM and their impact on cognitive function between EOAD and LOAD. The findings suggest that while nbM tau

pathology in LOAD is linked to disease severity, EOAD is influenced more by cortical tau pathology. PET imaging of tau provides a promising approach for enhancing diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for Alzheimer's disease.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV1055

Widespread Functional and Structural Dysconnectivity Patterns in Treatment-Resistant Schizophrenia

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Introduction: Treatment-resistant schizophrenia patients have the worst clinical outcomes and poor quality of life, despite the administration of clozapine. Currently, the definition of resistance is based on treatment response, but evidence differentiating resistance remains unclear. The dysconnectivity theory suggests that disrupted brain interactions contribute to schizophrenia pathology. Advances in functional and structural neuroimaging allow exploration of connectivity patterns that may characterize treatment-resistant schizophrenia.

Objectives: This study aimed to describe functional and structural connectivity patterns in schizophrenia patients on clozapine.

Methods: Patients taking clozapine (CLZ) or other antipsychotic (nCLZ) were recruited from the Hospital of the Medical School of Ribeirão Preto. Healthy controls (HC) were recruited from the Hospital database. Seventy-seven participants were selected: CLZ = 35, nCLZ = 27, and HC = 27. Functional connectivity (FC) was assessed via resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (rsfMRI) and ROI-to-ROI analysis using the CONN toolbox. Structural connectivity was analyzed with diffusion tensor imaging and tractography using TRACULA toolbox. ANOVA and Tukey test were used for three-group comparisons, and the t-tests for two-group comparisons. Functional analysis was performed with a significance threshold of p < 0.05 and false discovery rate (FDR) set to p < 0.01.

Results: Reduced frontotemporal FC and increased FC in the frontal-occipital were common in CLZ and nCLZ compared to HC. An increased FC between sensorimotor and the cerebellum was notable in CLZ compared to HC. Structural findings included increased axial diffusivity (AD) and mean diffusivity (MD) in 8 of 10 tracts in CLZ compared to HC. The corticospinal tract and inferior longitudinal fasciculus exhibited increased AD and MD in CLZ compared to nCLZ. The cingulum angular bundle showed significantly altered diffusion measures in nCLZ: increased AD, MD, and radial diffusivity (RD), and reduced fractional anisotropy (FA).

Conclusions: This study described a widespread functional and structural dysconnectivity in CLZ, characterized by reduced fronto-temporal FC and increased frontal-occipital and sensorimotor-cerebellum FC. Altered AD and MD measures in the corticospinal tract and inferior longitudinal fasciculus were observed in the CLZ. Alterations in AD, MD, RD, and FA measures in the cingulum angular bundle, particularly noted in nCLZ, may be associated with antipsychotic administration. Further studies are necessary to establish whether these dysconnectivity patterns consistently characterize these patient groups.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared