



PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE

**IDENTIFICAÇÃO DE MARCADORES GENÉTICOS
ASSOCIADOS A LIPODISTROFIA E DISLIPIDEMIA EM
PACIENTES COM SÍNDROME DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA
ADQUIRIDA SOB TERAPIA ANTIRRETROVIRAL**

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Orientador: Profa. Dra. Silvana Almeida
Co-orientador: Profa. Dra. Vanessa S. Mattevi

Biblioteca Paulo Lacerda de Azevedo

Área de Concentração:
Métodos Diagnósticos e Epidemiologia das Doenças

2010

Dissertação de Mestrado

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JUCIANE RODRIGUES TRINCA

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SÍNDROME DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA ADQUIRIDA SOB
TERAPIA ANTIRRETROVIRAL**

Dissertação de Mestrado apresentada
ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em
Ciências da Saúde da Universidade
Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto
Alegre para a obtenção de grau de
Mestre em Ciências da Saúde.

Orientador: Profa. Dra. Silvana Almeida
Co-orientador: Profa. Dra. Vanessa S. Mattevi

PORTO ALEGRE

2010

T832i Trinca, Juciane Rodrigues

Identificação de marcadores genéticos associados a lipodistrofia e dislipidemia em pacientes com síndrome da imunodeficiência adquirida sob terapia antirretroviral / Juciane Rodrigues Trinca. – Porto Alegre, 2010. 124 f. : il.

Dissertação (Mestrado) – Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde – Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre, 2010.

Orientador: Silvana Almeida

Co-orientador: Vanessa S. Mattevi

1. Leptina. 2. Adiponectina. 3. PPAR gama. 4. Proteínas de ligação a elemento regulador de esterol. 5. HAART. 6. Farmacogenética. 7. HIV. I. Título. II. Almeida, Silvana. III. Mattevi, Vanessa S.

CDD 616.39

Eleonora Liberato Petzhold
CRB10/1801



REPÚBLICA FEDERATIVA DO BRASIL
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO

UFCSPA

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE DE PORTO ALEGRE

PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE

ATA Nº 217-2009

De acordo com o estabelecido previamente pela Comissão Coordenadora do Curso de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Saúde da Universidade Federal de Ciências Saúde de Porto Alegre, realizou-se aos vinte e um dias de dezembro de dois mil e nove, às 10:00h, no Auditório do Centro de Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação Prof. Heitor Cirne Lima da UFCSPA, a apresentação da Dissertação de Mestrado da aluna **Juciane Rodrigues Trinca**, orientada pela Professora Silvana Almeida no PPG-Ciências da Saúde e intitulada **“IDENTIFICAÇÃO DE MARCADORES GENÉTICOS ASSOCIADOS A LIPODISTROFIA E DISLIPIDEMIA EM PACIENTES COM SÍNDROME DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA ADQUIRIDA SOB TERAPIA ANTIRRETROVIRAL”**, na área de concentração de Métodos Diagnósticos e Epidemiologia das Doenças. A Banca Examinadora foi composta pelos Professores Pedro Roosevelt Torres Romão (UFCSPA), Rosane Vianna Jorge (UFRJ) e José Artur Bogo Chies (UFRGS). A sessão foi aberta pela Profª Cláudia Ramos Rhoden, vice-coordenadora do PPG-Ciências da Saúde. Após a abertura da sessão a candidata dispôs de 45 minutos para expor seu trabalho. Ao término da apresentação, foi franqueada a platéia a possibilidade de dirigir perguntas ao autor.


Ao término da Sessão, foram anunciadas as notas conferidas pelos examinadores:

Prof. Pedro Roosevelt Torres Romão	9,6
Profª Rosane Vianna Jorge	9,7
Prof. José Artur Bogo Chies	9,8

NOTA FINAL: 9,7

Nada mais havendo a tratar, foi encerrada a reunião e lavrada a presente ata, que após lida deverá ser assinada.

Porto Alegre, 21 de dezembro de 2009.


Profª. Cláudia Ramos Rhoden
Vice-Coordenadora do Programa

“Algo só é impossível até que alguém
duvide e acabe provando o contrário”

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

AGRADECIMENTOS

A Dra. Vanessa Suñé Mattevi e a Dra. Silvana Almeida pela orientação, dedicação e paciência ao longo dos anos que trabalhamos juntas.

As funcionárias do Laboratório de Biologia Molecular, Grasiela Agnes e Magda Brasil, pela amizade e pelo apoio técnico sempre imprescindível.

As amigas e colegas de laboratório, Ananda, Aline, Lisiane e Luciana, pelo apoio nos momentos mais difíceis, mas principalmente pelos momentos de descontração.

Aos demais colegas e amigos do laboratório pela amizade e pelo excelente ambiente de trabalho.

Aos meus pais, Mauro e Nilva, pelo esforço e empenho inabaláveis, para que eu pudesse me dedicar integralmente aos estudos e às minhas irmãs Juliana e Juciara, por estarem sempre por perto. Ao pequeno Dimitry pelas bagunças, risadas e brincadeiras que aliviavam as tensões diárias.

Ao meu querido companheiro de todas as horas, Fabio, pelo respeito, carinho, paciência para suportar a distância e, sobretudo, por sempre acreditar e investir nas minhas capacidades.

A CAPES, pela concessão da bolsa de estudos e, a Secretaria Nacional de DST/AIDS do Ministério da Saúde e ao CNPq, patrocinadores desta pesquisa.

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ABSTRACT

The advent of antiretroviral therapy (HAART) against HIV led to the reduction of viral load to undetectable levels, changing the perception of this disease from a fatal disease to a chronic condition. Despite the advances accomplished by HAART, the appearance of significant adverse effects might compromise quality of life of patients and their adherence to treatment. This study aimed to investigate the association between polymorphisms in the leptin (*LEP* -2548G>A), leptin receptor (*LEPR* Gln223Arg), adiponectin (*APM1* -11391G>A and -11377C>G), peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (*PPARG* Pro12Ala) and sterol regulatory element binding protein (*SREBP-1c* 3322C>G) genes and the occurrence of lipodystrophy (LD) and dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients receiving HAART. Genotypes of 410 HIV-infected patients from Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, receiving HAART at least one year, were analyzed through polymerase chain reaction-based methods. Anthropometric (weight, height, waist circumference and skinfolds thickness) and biochemical (blood lipids and glucose) parameters were evaluated. Genotype frequencies were compared between patients with and without LD. Adjusted mean biochemical and anthropometric parameters were compared between the different genotypes. Poisson regression models were used to estimate the contribution of genetic variants to LD phenotypes. LD prevalence was 53.4%, being higher in euro-Brazilians (61.1%) than in afro-Brazilians (42.7%, $P<0.001$). *APM1* -11391A carriers and *APM1* -11377C carriers presented higher adiponectin levels compared to other genotypes, as well as carriers of the -11391A-11377C haplotype when compared to carriers of other haplotypes (AC carriers= 9.83 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; other haplotypes= 9.16 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; $P=0.005$). *SREBP-1c* 3322G allele was associated with higher risk of developing lipohypertrophy in European descendants (PR=1.41, $P=0.039$). SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphism) in *APM1* gene are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected patients receiving HAART and may thus affect the occurrence of metabolic alterations in these patients. *SREBP-1c* is a significant contributor to lipohypertrophy in Euro-Brazilians. No influence of the *LEP*, *LEPR* and *PPARG* gene polymorphisms on the occurrence of LD and dyslipidemia was observed.

Key Words: leptin, adiponectin, *PPARG*, *SREBP*, HAART, pharmacogenomics, HIV.

RESUMO

O advento da terapia antirretroviral (TARV) contra o HIV permitiu a redução da sua carga viral para níveis não-detectáveis, alterando a percepção desta patologia de uma doença fatal para uma condição crônica. Apesar dos avanços alcançados pela TARV o aparecimento de efeitos adversos significativos pode comprometer a qualidade de vida do paciente e sua adesão ao tratamento. Este trabalho teve como objetivo investigar a associação entre polimorfismos nos genes da leptina (*LEP* -2548G>A), receptor da leptina (*LEPR* Gln223Arg), adiponectina (*APM1* -11391G>A e -11377C>G), receptor ativado por proliferadores de peroxissoma gama (*PPARG* Pro12Ala) e proteína de ligação a elementos regulatórios de esteróis (*SREBP* 3322C>G) e a ocorrência de lipodistrofia (LD) e dislipidemia em pacientes HIV-positivos sob TARV. Os genótipos de 410 pacientes provenientes do Ambulatório HIV/AIDS do Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, sob TARV há pelo menos um ano, foram investigados pela técnica da reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR). Parâmetros antropométricos (peso, altura, circunferência da cintura e pregas cutâneas) e bioquímicos (colesterol, LDL, HDL, triglicérides, glicose, leptina e adiponectina séricos) foram avaliados. As freqüências alélicas e genotípicas foram comparadas entre os pacientes com ou sem LD. As médias ajustadas de parâmetros bioquímicos e antropométricos foram comparadas entre os diferentes genótipos. Modelos de regressão de Poisson foram utilizados para estimar a contribuição das variantes genéticas para os subtipos de LD. A prevalência de LD foi de 53,4%, sendo maior entre os descendentes de europeus (61,1%) do que entre os afro-descendentes (42,7%, $P < 0,001$). Portadores do alelo A do polimorfismo *APM1* -11391G>A e do alelo C do polimorfismo *APM1* -11377C>G apresentaram níveis de adiponectina mais elevados do que portadores de outros genótipos, bem como portadores do haplótipo -11391A-11377C, quando comparados com os demais haplótipos (portadores do haplótipo AC= 9.83 µg/mL; demais haplótipos= 9.16 µg/mL; $P = 0.005$). O alelo *SREBP-1c* 3322G foi associado com maior risco de desenvolvimento de lipohipertrofia em euro-descendentes (RP=1.41, $P = 0.039$). SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphism) no gene *APM1* estão associados com os níveis de adiponectina em indivíduos portadores do HIV sob TARV e podem afetar a ocorrência de alterações metabólicas nestes pacientes. O polimorfismo *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G contribui significativamente para a ocorrência de lipohipertrofia em pacientes descendentes de europeus. Nenhuma influência dos polimorfismos estudados nos genes *LEP*, *LEPR* e *PPARG* sobre lipodistrofia e/ou dislipidemia foi observada.

Palavras-chave: leptina, adiponectina, *PPARG*, *SREBP*, HAART, farmacogenômica, HIV.

Capítulo 1 – Introdução

1. INTRODUÇÃO

1.1. Epidemiologia da infecção pelo HIV/AIDS

Cerca de 33,4 milhões de pessoas em todo o mundo estão infectadas pelo vírus da imunodeficiência humana (HIV) (Tabela 1) (UNAIDS/WHO, 2009).

Tabela 1: Resumo da epidemia de AIDS no mundo

Número de pessoas vivendo com HIV em 2008	
Total	33,4 milhões [31,1 – 35,8 milhões]
Adultos	31,3 milhões [29,2 – 33,7 milhões]
Mulheres	15,7 milhões [14,2 – 17,2 milhões]
Crianças (menores de 15 anos)	2,1 milhões [1,2 – 2,9 milhões]
Pessoas infectadas pelo HIV em 2008	
Total	2,7 milhões [2,4 – 3,0 milhões]
Adultos	2,3 milhões [2,0 – 2,5 milhões]
Crianças (menores de 15 anos)	430.000 [240.000 – 610.000]
Mortes causadas pela AIDS em 2008	
Total	2,0 milhões [1,7 – 2,4 milhões]
Adultos	1,7 milhões [1,4 – 2,1 milhões]
Crianças (menores de 15 anos)	280.000 [150.000 – 410.000]

Fonte: AIDS update epidemic. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS / World Health Organization (UNAIDS/WHO), 2009.

Na América Latina, de modo geral, a epidemia de HIV/AIDS permanece estável. O número estimado de novas infecções pelo HIV no ano de 2008 foi 170.000. Estima-se que 2,0 milhões de pessoas estão vivendo com HIV nesta região e que 77.000 pessoas tenham morrido em consequência da AIDS (*acquired immune deficiency syndrome*) em 2008 (Tabela 2) (UNAIDS/WHO, 2009).

No Brasil, o número de pessoas vivendo com HIV foi estimado em 620.000, para o ano de 2005; cerca de um terço de todas as pessoas infectadas pelo HIV na América Latina. Embora a epidemia inicialmente tenha sido

concentrada entre homens que fazem sexo com homens, logo englobou usuários de drogas injetáveis e hemofílicos, e finalmente atingiu a população em geral, com um número cada vez maior de mulheres infectadas. A ampla distribuição de antirretrovirais, através de programas governamentais, aponta resultados positivos, como a redução nos casos de transmissão vertical do HIV (da mãe para o filho), nas taxas de mortalidade e no número de hospitalizações em decorrência de complicações da doença (UNAIDS/WHO, 2009).

Tabela 2: Estatísticas regionais do HIV e AIDS em 2008

	Adultos e crianças vivendo com HIV	Prevalência entre adultos (%)	Mortes devido à AIDS (adultos e crianças)
África Sub-Sahariana	22,4 milhões	5,2	1,4 milhões
Oriente Médio e Norte da África	310.000	0,2	20.000
Sul e Sudeste da Ásia	3,8 milhões	0,3	270.000
Leste da Ásia	850.000	<0,1	59.000
Oceania	59.000	0,3	2.000
América Latina	2,0 milhões	0,6	77.000
Caribe	240.000	1,0	12.000
Leste Europeu e Ásia Central	1,5 milhão	0,7	87.000
Oeste e Centro da Europa	850.000	0,3	13.000
América do Norte	1,4 milhão	0,6	25.000
Total	33,4 milhões	0,8	2,0 milhões

Fonte: AIDS update epidemic. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS / World Health Organization (UNAIDS/WHO), 2009.

1.2 O vírus HIV

O HIV é um vírus pertencente à família *Retroviridae*, ou seja, um retrovírus (BARRE-SINOUSSE *et al.*, 1983). Compõem esta família também o

HTLV-I (vírus linfotrófico T humano tipo I) e o HTLV-II. O HIV é constituído por um genoma de RNA, um capsídeo protéico e um envoltório lipoproteico (envelope). No interior do capsídeo, adjacente ao RNA viral, encontra-se uma enzima fundamental para a replicação do vírus – a transcriptase reversa. O “envelope viral” contém duas glicoproteínas de extrema importância, pois garantem a ligação do vírus à célula hospedeira – gp120 e gp41 (ALCAMI, 2008).

Dentre as células humanas, o HIV tem tropismo para linfócitos T CD4+, macrófagos e células dendríticas. Estas células têm em comum um receptor de membrana denominado CD4. Entretanto, para a penetração celular do genoma viral após ligação do vírion ao CD4 é necessária a interação com co-receptores como CCR5 e CXCR4 (FENG *et al.*, 1996; DRAGIC *et al.*, 1996). Sem estes co-receptores, não é possível proceder ao ciclo reprodutivo viral. Assim que o RNA ganha o citoplasma da célula hospedeira (no caso o linfócito T CD4+), ele sofre ação da transcriptase reversa, enzima capaz de transcrever um DNA fita dupla a partir de um RNA fita simples. Quando o genoma viral passa a ser um DNA fita dupla pode integrar-se ao DNA nuclear, utilizando assim o maquinário enzimático do hospedeiro para produzir suas próprias proteínas e seu RNA. Durante a replicação viral, milhares de partículas virais brotam da célula hospedeira, aproveitando o material de sua membrana plasmática para formar seu envoltório protéico. Ao se replicar em alta escala, prejudica a fisiologia celular, contribuindo para sua morte (ALCAMI, 2008).

1.3 Fases da infecção

Após um período de incubação de duas a quatro semanas, inicia-se um período de intensa replicação viral, elevando a viremia a níveis muito altos. Neste momento, 50 a 90% dos pacientes apresentam sinais e sintomas de uma síndrome viral aguda, semelhante a mononucleose infecciosa, chamada por alguns de “Síndrome da Primo-infecção pelo HIV” ou “Síndrome de Soroconversão” ou simplesmente “Síndrome Retroviral Aguda” (KAHN & WALKER, 1998). Os sintomas mais frequentes são: febre, geralmente entre 38-40°C, adenopatia cervical, axilar e occipital, faringite eritematosa, *rash* cutâneo-mucoso, mialgia e artralgia, diarreia, cefaleia, náuseas e vômitos e hepato-esplenomegalia. Estes sintomas duram cerca de uma a duas semanas e deixam uma sensação de fadiga e certa letargia por algumas semanas a meses. Em conjunto com a viremia, costuma haver uma queda abrupta da contagem periférica de células T CD4+ (KAHN & WALKER, 1998).

Após três a doze semanas desde o início da infecção, a maioria dos indivíduos “soroconverte”, isto é, apresenta títulos detectáveis de imunoglobulina G (IgG) anti-HIV. Este anticorpo permanece positivo para o resto da vida do paciente. Os anticorpos imunoglobulina M (IgM) contra o vírus geralmente não são detectados ou aparecem em títulos muito baixos. O aparecimento da imunidade humoral anti-HIV contém parcialmente a replicação viral, fazendo a viremia cair para um nível denominado “*set point*” (STEKLER & COLLIER, 2004), com conseqüente queda na contagem de linfócitos T CD4+. Após a viremia atingir o “*set point*” a contagem dos linfócitos T CD4+ volta a aumentar, atingindo níveis acima de 500/mm³, mas geralmente não voltando totalmente ao normal. O

paciente entra então na “Fase Assintomática” ou “Latência Clínica da Infecção” (FORD *et al.*,2009).

A fase assintomática pode durar de dois a vinte anos, mas a média oscila em torno de dez anos. Durante toda a fase assintomática o vírus permanece se replicando de forma menos intensa e a contagem de células CD4+ permanece estável. Finalmente, a fase assintomática evolui para uma fase de “reativação viral”, na qual o vírus aumenta novamente sua capacidade replicativa, elevando a viremia e fazendo a contagem de células T CD4+ cair de forma mais rápida. Valores inferiores a 350/mm³, juntamente com a ocorrência de infecções oportunistas e/ou neoplasias são, segundo o Ministério da Saúde, indicadores de imunodepressão, caracterizando a AIDS (MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE, 2003). Esta fase representa um estado de imunodepressão grave, cujo mecanismo principal é a queda da contagem de linfócitos T CD4+ para níveis abaixo de 20% do valor normal. Neste momento infecções oportunistas e neoplasias levam o paciente ao óbito em média depois de 18 meses. Cerca de dois anos antes da fase AIDS, a contagem começa a cair mais rápido. Ao atingir 200/mm³, sem doença oportunista, a sobrevida média sem tratamento é de 3,7 anos. A média de contagem de CD4 no aparecimento da primeira doença oportunista é de 60-70/mm³ (FORD *et al.*, 2009).

1.4 Fundamentos da terapia antirretroviral

Desde a aprovação da zidovudina (AZT), primeiro fármaco antirretroviral, em 1987, mais de vinte fármacos foram aprovados para o tratamento contra o HIV. A combinação destes em regimes triplos permitiu a

redução da carga viral para níveis não detectáveis, modificando a percepção desta patologia de uma doença fatal para uma condição crônica (ENGEL *et al.*, 2004).

A terapia antirretroviral (TARV) tem um papel primordial no controle da doença relacionada ao HIV, tendo como principais objetivos: 1) diminuir a duração e gravidade das manifestações clínicas da doença aguda; 2) reduzir o número de células infectadas; 3) preservar a resposta imune HIV-específica; 4) reduzir o *set point* viral inicial, o qual pode afetar as taxas de progressão da doença; 5) reduzir a taxa de mutação viral como resultado da supressão da replicação viral; 6) diminuir as possibilidades de transmissão viral (MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE, 2006). Isso garante um controle, pelo menos momentâneo, da infecção viral e dos sintomas a ela relacionados. Infelizmente a cura ainda não foi alcançada; o tratamento atual apenas suprime ou contém a replicação viral, mas não é capaz de erradicar o vírus. A suspensão da TARV está relacionada com o retorno dos níveis prévios da viremia e o retorno da imunodepressão (ENGEL *et al.*, 2004).

Atualmente cinco classes de fármacos são utilizadas contra o HIV. A primeira classe de fármacos antirretrovirais é a dos inibidores da transcriptase reversa análogos de nucleosídeos (ITRN). Estes medicamentos atuam incorporando-se a cadeia de DNA que o vírus cria através da enzima transcriptase reversa. Os ITRNs tornam essa cadeia de DNA defeituosa, impedindo que o vírus se reproduza. Outra classe de fármacos que atua no mesmo passo do ciclo vital do vírus, mas de modo diferente, é a dos inibidores da transcriptase reversa não análogos de nucleosídeos (ITRNN). Essa classe de fármacos bloqueia diretamente a ação da enzima. A terceira classe de

antirretrovirais é a dos inibidores da protease (IP). Estes fármacos impedem a produção de novas células infectadas com HIV. A quarta classe de fármacos compreende os inibidores de integrase que atuam impedindo a inserção do DNA viral no DNA do humano. Assim, impossibilita a replicação do vírus e sua capacidade de infectar novas células. Uma quinta e nova classe de antirretrovirais, ainda pouco utilizada, inclui os inibidores de fusão, que impedem a entrada do vírus na célula (ALCAMI, 2008).

A Figura 1 demonstra esquematicamente o ciclo reprodutivo do HIV e os processos que são possíveis alvos para os antirretrovirais.

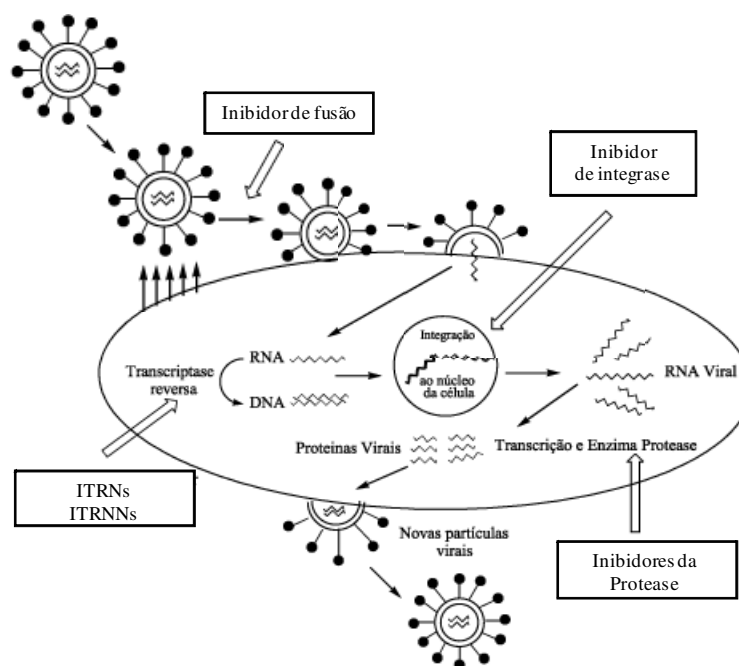


Figura 1: Esquema resumido do ciclo reprodutivo do HIV com os alvos dos fármacos antirretrovirais. Adaptado de DE SOUZA & DE ALMEIDA, 2003.

A Tabela 3 apresenta os representantes das diferentes classes de fármacos. A TARV inicial deve sempre incluir combinações de três fármacos: dois ITRNs associados a um ITRNN ou a um IP reforçado com ritonavir (IP/r).

Tabela 3: As diferentes classes de antirretovirais e seus representantes:

ITRN	Zidovudina (AZT), didanosina (ddl), estavudina (d4T), lamivudina (3TC), abacavir (ABC) e tenofovir (TDF)
ITRNN	Nevirapina (NVP) e efavirenz (EFV)
IP	Lopinavir (LPV), atazanavir (ATV), indinavir (IDV), nefinavir (NFV), ritonavir (RTV), saquinavir (SQV) e amprenavir (APV)
Inibidor de integrase	Raltegravir
Inibidores de fusão	Enfuvirtida (T-20)

Fonte: Ministério da Saúde. ITRN, inibidor da transcriptase reversa análogo de nucleosídeo; ITRNN, inibidor da transcriptase reversa não análogo de nucleosídeo; IP, inibidor da protease.

Apesar do avanço representado pela utilização da TARV, nem todos os pacientes respondem igualmente bem ao tratamento. Cerca de 10 a 20% dos pacientes que iniciam o tratamento com os esquemas atuais não conseguem suprimir a viremia de forma satisfatória após alguns meses de terapia e de 20 a 50% dos que apresentam boa resposta inicial apresentarão falha virológica após um ano de tratamento, sendo a taxa de resposta virológica aos tratamentos de resgate subsequentes progressivamente menor. Assim, o desenvolvimento de falha terapêutica, principalmente por resistência aos fármacos disponíveis, é um fenômeno esperado, e um número crescente de pacientes já se encontra sem opções terapêuticas. Além disso, o aparecimento de vários efeitos adversos significativos como neuropatias, hepatotoxicidade, pancreatite, lipodistrofia, diabetes, dislipidemias, osteoporose e acidose láctica, está entre as complicações associadas a TARV que podem piorar consideravelmente a qualidade de vida destes pacientes (MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE, 2006).

Numerosos esforços têm sido empregados na tentativa de melhorar os resultados clínicos da TARV. No entanto, dado o fato de que a infecção pelo HIV

permanece incurável, os fatores genéticos determinantes da variabilidade inter-individual na eficácia e toxicidade da TARV têm se tornado, mais recentemente, objetos de intensa pesquisa.

1.5 Lipodistrofia e dislipidemias

Conforme comentado anteriormente, dentre os efeitos adversos da TARV, a lipodistrofia (LD) e as dislipidemias destacam-se por sua alta prevalência. Estudos indicam que mais de 50% dos portadores de HIV sob TARV apresentam algum tipo de alteração na distribuição de tecido adiposo corporal (lipohipertrofia, lipoatrofia ou lipodistrofia mista) (SWEENEY *et al.*, 2007).

A lipodistrofia, um dos principais efeitos adversos da TARV, é caracterizada por alterações parciais ou generalizadas no desenvolvimento e/ou distribuição do tecido adiposo (perda de tecido adiposo subcutâneo nas extremidades e/ou acúmulo de tecido adiposo na região abdominal e dorsocervical). É geralmente acompanhada por anormalidades metabólicas como: resistência à insulina, hiperlipidemia e diabetes tipo 2 (CHEN *et al.*, 2002; CARR, 2003; VIGOUROUX *et al.*, 2003). Pode ser classificada como: lipoatrofia, quando há perda de tecido adiposo subcutâneo nas extremidades e face; lipohipertrofia, quando ocorre acúmulo de tecido adiposo na região abdominal e dorsocervical; ou lipodistrofia mista, quando há lipoatrofia e lipohipertrofia simultaneamente.

Segundo a Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia, as dislipidemias são caracterizadas por elevações nos níveis séricos de triglicerídeos, colesterol total e colesterol LDL, e/ou diminuição dos níveis de colesterol HDL. As dislipidemias podem ser classificadas, de forma laboratorial, conforme descrito na Tabela 4.

As dislipidemias são observadas em mais de 70% dos indivíduos tratados com antirretrovirais (CHEN *et al.*, 2002; SWEENEY *et al.*, 2007). Estas alterações estão associadas com aumento do risco de doenças cardiovasculares e diabetes tipo 2.

Tabela 4: Classificação laboratorial das dislipidemias

Hipercolesterolemia isolada	Elevação isolada do colesterol LDL (≥ 160 mg/dL)
Hipertrigliceridemia isolada	Elevação isolada dos triglicerídeos (≥ 150 mg/dL)
Hiperlipidemia mista	Valores aumentados de colesterol LDL e triglicerídeos. Nos casos com triglicerídeos ≥ 400 mg/dL, considera-se hiperlipidemia mista se o colesterol total ≥ 200 mg/dL
Colesterol HDL baixo	Redução do colesterol HDL isolada (homens <40 mg/dL e mulheres <50 mg/dL) ou em associação com aumento de colesterol LDL ou triglicerídeos

Fonte: IV Diretriz Brasileira Sobre Dislipidemias e Prevenção da Aterosclerose, Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia. LDL, lipoproteína de baixa densidade; HDL, lipoproteína de alta densidade.

1.6 Estudos farmacogenômicos da TARV

A farmacogenômica é um campo de pesquisa emergente, tendo como principal objetivo a análise das bases genéticas da variação interindividual na resposta aos medicamentos, dando embasamento para um tratamento individualizado.

Dentro da farmacologia, existem duas grandes áreas de pesquisa: farmacodinâmica, que descreve os efeitos farmacológicos de um princípio ativo no organismo (tanto os efeitos desejáveis quanto os indesejáveis); e farmacocinética, que descreve o curso de um fármaco e seus metabólitos,

compreendendo sua absorção, distribuição, metabolismo e eliminação. A farmacogenômica envolve o estudo da associação de variantes de genes que codificam proteínas e enzimas relacionadas a estas duas áreas da farmacologia com a resposta ao tratamento medicamentoso.

Dentro do enfoque farmacodinâmico, uma das primeiras investigações em indivíduos HIV positivos foi um estudo de associação entre polimorfismos no gene do fator de necrose tumoral alfa (TNFA) e a ocorrência de lipodistrofia em pacientes sob TARV (MAHER *et al.*, 2002). Os resultados deste estudo demonstraram que um polimorfismo na região promotora do gene TNFA (-238 G>A) estava associado com a ocorrência de lipodistrofia nos pacientes. Este tipo de polimorfismo, conhecido como SNP (do inglês “*single nucleotide polymorphism*”), é uma variação na seqüência de DNA que ocorre quando um único nucleotídeo (A, T, C ou G) difere entre membros de uma mesma espécie (ou entre cromossomos pareados em um mesmo indivíduo). Por exemplo, dois fragmentos de DNA sequenciados a partir de dois indivíduos, AAGCCTA e AAGCTTA, são diferentes em apenas um nucleotídeo. Neste caso, diz-se que há dois alelos: C e T. Os SNPs mais comuns possuem dois alelos. Dentro de uma população, SNPs podem ser designados como alelos de maior ou menor frequência, quando uma variante é mais comum que a outra. Para ser considerado um polimorfismo e não uma mutação, o alelo variante deve estar presente em, pelo menos, 1% da população estudada. É importante salientar que há variações entre populações diferentes, onde um alelo comum em determinado grupo étnico pode ser raro em outros (ALBERTS *et al.*, 2010).

O mecanismo responsável pela síndrome lipodistrófica ainda não foi totalmente esclarecido. Estudos *in vitro* demonstraram que os IPs podem inibir a diferenciação de pré-adipócitos em adipócitos maduros, modulando a expressão de fatores de transcrição como o SREBP-1c (proteína de ligação a elementos regulatórios de esteróis – 1c) e o PPAR- γ (receptor ativado por proliferadores de peroxissoma – gama) (DOWELL *et al.*, 2000; CARON *et al.*, 2001; RUDICH *et al.*, 2001) e marcadores específicos de adipócitos (como a leptina, LEP, e a adiponectina, APM1) (PACENTI *et al.*, 2006). Os ITRNs também alteram a expressão gênica de fatores de transcrição importantes para a adipogênese (PACENTI *et al.*, 2006). No entanto, anormalidades metabólicas não ocorrem em todos os pacientes, apesar das similaridades demográficas, no regime terapêutico e nas respostas imunológicas e virológicas (RODRIGUEZ-NOVOA *et al.*, 2006). Dessa forma, polimorfismos nos genes envolvidos no metabolismo lipídico e na diferenciação de adipócitos poderiam explicar estas diferenças. Assim, genes codificadores de adipocinas (como LEP e APM1), do receptor da leptina (LEPR) e de fatores de transcrição (SREBP-1c e PPARG) tornam-se candidatos promissores na investigação etiológica da LD e das dislipidemias.

1.7. Genes de Adipocinas e TARV

Adipocinas são proteínas secretadas pelo tecido adiposo, com funções autócrinas, parácrinas e endócrinas (COSTA & DUARTE, 2006). Desempenham um papel importante na homeostase energética, sensibilidade à insulina, resposta imunológica e doença vascular (FANTUZZI, 2005), podendo ser agrupadas em adipocinas com função metabólica (adiponectina e resistina), imunológica

(interleucina-6 e TNF- α), cardiovascular (inibidor de ativação do plasminogênio tipo I) e endócrina (leptina) (PRINS, 2002).

Sabe-se que algumas adipocinas têm importante papel na homeostase de glicose, de lipídios e na sensibilidade à insulina, estando associadas com obesidade. A expressão dessas adipocinas pode ser influenciada por fatores de transcrição que agem na diferenciação dos pré-adipócitos em adipócitos, como o PPAR- γ e o SREBP-1c, o que pode levar a alterações na expressão dessas adipocinas, contribuindo para a ocorrência de alterações no tecido adiposo e obesidade (Figura 2).

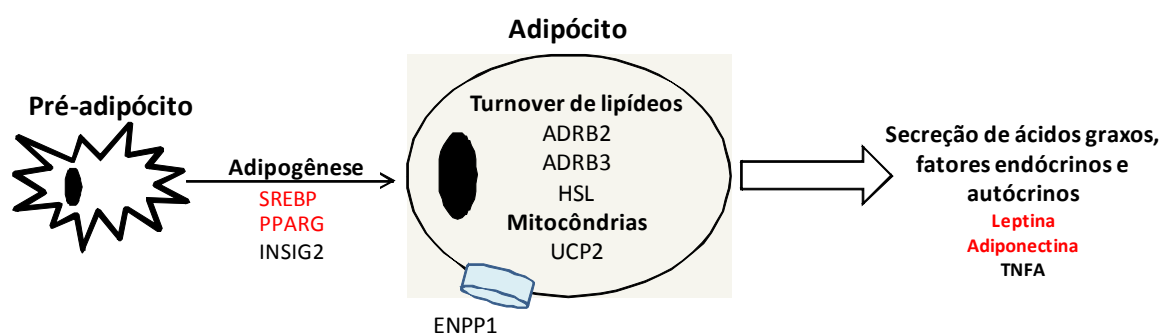


Figura 2: Genes que regulam a diferenciação e a função do tecido adiposo humano que podem predispor à obesidade. SREBP, proteína de ligação a elementos regulatórios de esteróis; PPARG, receptor ativado por proliferadores de peroxissoma gama; INSIG2, gene indutor de insulina 2; ENPP1, ectonucleotídeo pirofosfatase/fosfodiesterase; ADRB 2 e 3, adrenorreceptores beta 2 e 3; HSL, lipase hormônio-sensível; UCP 2, proteína desacopladora 2, TNFA, fator de necrose tumoral alfa. Adaptado de Dahlman & Arner, 2007.

1.7.1. Leptina

Leptina, a molécula protótipo da classe das adipocinas, apresenta níveis séricos proporcionais à quantidade de tecido adiposo corporal (MYNARCIK *et al.*, 2002). Produzida principalmente pelo tecido adiposo (também pode ser encontrada em pequenas quantidades no epitélio intestinal, placenta, leite

materno, músculo esquelético e cérebro), age regulando o gasto energético (via norepinefrina e lipólise no tecido adiposo) e a ingestão de alimentos (via hipotálamo e sistema límbico) (Figura 3). Mutações inativadoras do gene codificador da leptina (*LEP*) levam a hiperfagia e obesidade (FAROOQI, 2005). Existe uma correlação positiva dos níveis da leptina com o aumento dos níveis séricos de insulina, glicose e triglicerídeos, e uma correlação negativa com resistência à insulina (VIGOUROUX *et al.*, 2003).

Em indivíduos portadores do HIV com lipodistrofia os níveis séricos de leptina podem estar elevados (ocorrendo juntamente com lipohipertrofia) ou diminuídos (normalmente acompanhando lipoatrofia) (TSIODRAS & MANTZOROS, 2006), neste último caso havendo associação com resistência à insulina (NAGY *et al.*, 2003).

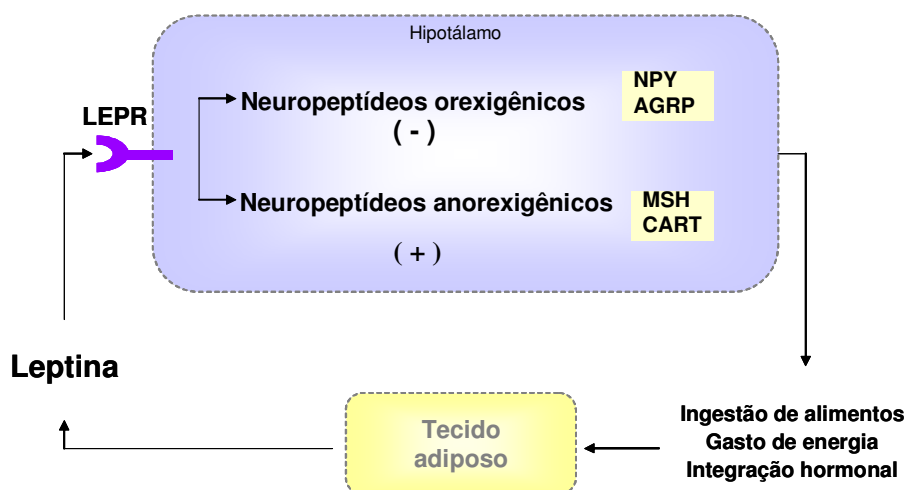


Figura 3: Liberação da leptina pelo tecido adiposo e seus efeitos na regulação de energia e na atividade neuroendócrina. LEPR, receptor de leptina; NPY, neuropeptídeo Y; AGRP, *agouti related protein*; MSH, hormônio estimulador de melanócito; CART, transcrito regulado por cocaína e anfetamina. Adaptado de Palou *et al.*, 2000.

Uma consulta, realizada em 31 de janeiro de 2010, na base de dados de SNPs mantida pelo *National Center for Biotechnology Information* (NCBI) dos Institutos Nacionais de Saúde dos Estados Unidos (disponível em <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) revelou que 253 polimorfismos já foram identificados na região cromossômica que compreende o gene *LEP*, sendo que, destes, 12 estão citados na base de dados *Pubmed Medline*. O polimorfismo -2548G>A (rs7799039) na região promotora do gene foi associado com resposta à dieta de baixa caloria, obesidade e níveis de leptina (MAMMES *et al.*, 2000; HOFFSTEDT *et al.*, 2002; WANG *et al.*, 2006). Em um extenso estudo sobre polimorfismos no gene da leptina e obesidade, variantes comuns a montante da região 5' têm mostrado associação com o índice de massa corporal (IMC) (DAHLMAN & ARNER, 2007).m

O receptor de leptina (LEP-R) é uma proteína transmembrana pertencente à superfamília dos receptores de citocinas classe I. A sequência de DNA para o LEP-R é codificada pelo gene *LEPR*, localizado no cromossomo 1 (1p31) (TARTAGLIA *et al.*, 1995). Até o momento foram identificadas seis isoformas deste receptor (de LEP-Ra a LEP-Rf), geradas por *splicing* alternativo e processamento pós-traducional, porém apenas a isoforma longa LEP-Rb tem um domínio de sinalização intracelular, sendo a única capaz de originar a cascata de transdução de sinal. As outras isoformas parecem atuar como transportadores da leptina, sem conseqüente transdução do sinal (CHUNG *et al.*, 1997). A sinalização intracelular induzida pela ligação da leptina ao LEP-Rb parece estar associada à ativação das vias JAK/STAT (*janus activated kinase/signal transducers and activators of transcription*). Na ausência do hormônio, os

receptores apresentam-se como monômeros; quando a leptina se liga ao domínio extracelular do receptor, dois monômeros juntam-se formando um dímero (Figura 4) (DALLONGEVILLE *et al.*, 1998; FRUHBECK, 2006). O receptor da leptina é expresso no cérebro, principalmente no plexo coróide e em regiões hipotalâmicas como o núcleo arqueado, regiões paraventricular e ventromedial, que estão relacionadas com a regulação do balanço energético. Adicionalmente, o LEP-R é expresso em diversos órgãos periféricos, como tecido adiposo, pulmão, rins, fígado, pâncreas, músculo esquelético, células hematopoiéticas, no estômago e na placenta (KLOK *et al.*, 2007).

Já foram identificadas mutações no gene codificador do LEP-R que causam disfunção e/ou inativação dos receptores e levam à obesidade extrema. Entretanto, essas mutações são muito raras e não são causas comuns de obesidade em humanos (FAROOQI *et al.*, 2007). Por outro lado, 1650 polimorfismos foram identificados neste gene, sendo que 26 estão citados na base de dados *Pubmed Medline* (31 de janeiro de 2010). Uma variante comum no éxon 6 do gene codificador do receptor de leptina, Gln223Arg (rs1137101), foi associada com elevação do IMC em vários estudos (YIANNAKOURIS *et al.*, 2001; PORTOLES *et al.*, 2006; DUARTE *et al.*, 2007), incluindo um realizado pelo presente grupo de pesquisa (MATTEVI *et al.*, 2002). Portanto, este polimorfismo pode estar de alguma forma relacionado com as modificações na formação e/ou distribuição do tecido adiposo apresentadas pelos indivíduos portadores do HIV sob TARV avaliados neste trabalho.

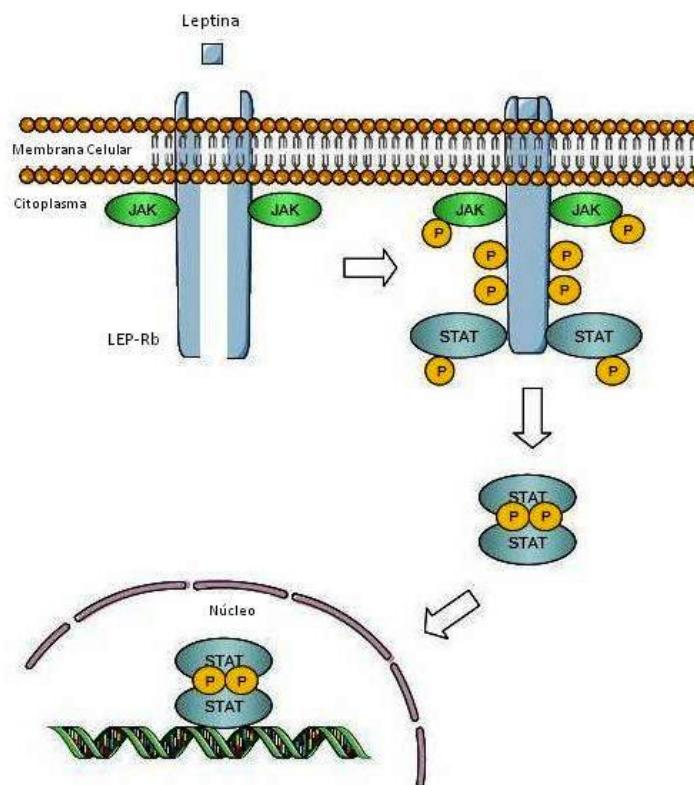


Figura 4: Efeito da ligação da leptina ao seu receptor. Quando a leptina se liga ao domínio extracelular do receptor LEP-Rb, dois monômeros juntam-se formando um dímero. A cada um dos domínios intracelulares está associada uma proteína quinase JAK2 na forma inativa. Com a dimerização do receptor duas JAKs2 são ativadas e fosforilam resíduos chave uma da outra. Após a ativação das JAKs, estas fosforilam os STATs e o próprio receptor. Duas proteínas STAT fosforiladas juntam-se formando dímeros que migram para o núcleo, ligando-se a locais específicos do DNA de forma a regular a expressão gênica. LEP-Rb, isoforma longa do receptor da leptina; P, fósforo. Retirado de Fruhbeck, 2006.

1.7.2. Adiponectina

A adiponectina, codificada pelo gene *APM1*, é uma adipocina produzida exclusivamente por adipócitos maduros (SCHERER *et al.*, 1995). Tem como função a regulação sistêmica do metabolismo da glicose e de lipídeos (Figura 5). Seus níveis plasmáticos estão reduzidos na presença de obesidade, resistência à insulina (ARITA *et al.*, 1999) e diabetes tipo 2 (HOTTA *et al.*, 2000). Os níveis de adiponectina estão inversamente relacionados com o IMC, onde indivíduos obesos apresentam níveis de adiponectina reduzidos quando comparados com

indivíduos magros (ARITA *et al.*, 1999). Recentemente foi demonstrado que a expressão de adiponectina é maior no tecido adiposo subcutâneo do que no tecido adiposo visceral (FAIN *et al.*, 2004), o que pode explicar a ocorrência de hipoadiponectinemia em indivíduos com lipodistrofia. Além disso, análises funcionais revelaram que a adiponectina possui potencial antiinflamatório (WOLF *et al.*, 2004; YAMAGUCHI *et al.*, 2005; NEUMEIER *et al.*, 2006) e anti-aterogênico (OKAMOTO *et al.*, 2000; OUCHI *et al.*, 2001).

A adiponectina sinaliza através da ligação aos receptores 1 (ADIPOR-1) e 2 (ADIPOR-2) (KOERNER *et al.*, 2005). ADIPOR-1 é um receptor comum no tecido adiposo subcutâneo, e sua expressão é diminuída em obesos (RASMUSSEN *et al.*, 2006). Polimorfismos nos receptores ADIPOR-1 e ADIPOR-2 já foram associados com diabetes tipo 2, mas não com obesidade (DAMCOTT *et al.*, 2005; KANTARTZIS *et al.*, 2006).

A expressão de *APM1* é reduzida em indivíduos obesos e em estados insulino-resistentes, mas eleva-se após perda de peso corporal (KOERNER *et al.*, 2005). Vários estudos têm analisado a associação entre polimorfismos comuns no gene *APM1* e obesidade. Foram identificados 257 polimorfismos na região do gene *APM1*, sendo que 17 estão citados no *Pubmed Medline* (31 de janeiro de 2010). Variantes como +45 T>G e + 276 G>C têm sido associados com níveis circulantes de adiponectina, obesidade e diabetes tipo 2, mas com resultados inconsistentes entre diferentes coortes (GABLE *et al.*, 2006).

Polimorfismos na região promotora do gene da adiponectina (*APM1* -11377 G>C, rs266729, e *APM1* -11391 G>A, rs17300539) foram associados com modificações nos níveis circulantes de seus produtos (POITOU *et al.*, 2005),

sendo possível sua associação com as alterações desenvolvidas pelos indivíduos HIV positivos sob terapia antirretroviral.

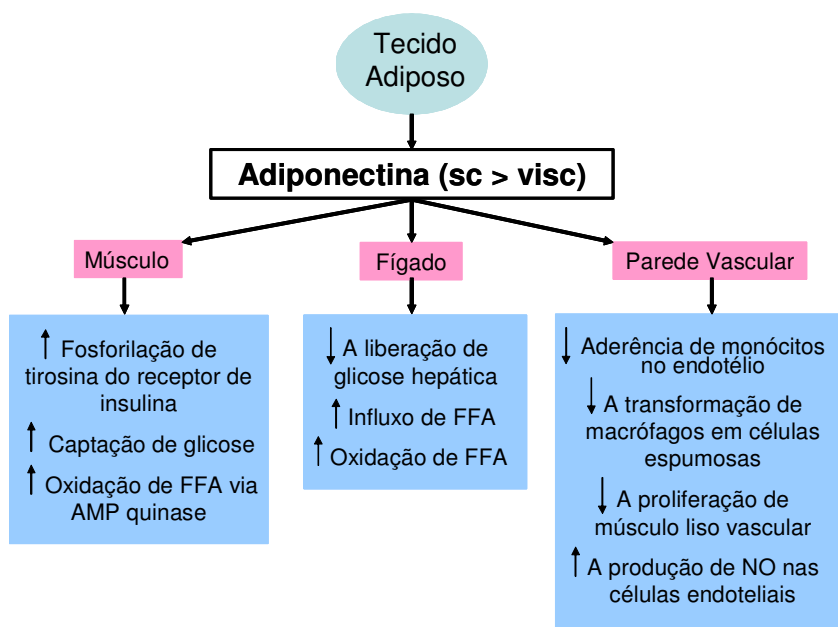


Figura 5: Ações da adiponectina no metabolismo da glicose e de lipídeos. sc, tecido adiposo subcutâneo; visc, tecido adiposo visceral; FFA, ácidos graxos livres; AMP, adenosina monofosfato; NO, óxido nítrico. Adaptado de Lacquemant *et al.*, 2003.

1.7.3. PPAR- γ

Os PPARs (receptores ativados por proliferadores de peroxissoma) são fatores de transcrição da família de receptores nucleares, caracterizados por seu padrão de distribuição nos tecidos e por sua função metabólica. São três proteínas, codificadas por genes distintos: *PPAR α* , *PPAR δ* e *PPAR γ* (WALCZAK & TONTONZOZ, 2002). O *PPAR γ* possui três isoformas: *PPAR γ 1*, *PPAR γ 2* e *PPAR γ 3*. O *PPAR γ 1* é expresso em uma ampla variedade de tecidos (cardíaco, intestinal, renal, pancreático, esplênico). O *PPAR γ 2* é expresso exclusivamente

no tecido adiposo e o PPAR γ 3 tem expressão restrita a macrófagos e intestino grosso (vide revisão em TAVARES, 2007).

O PPAR γ 2 é necessário e suficiente para diferenciar adipócitos. Nos adipócitos, o PPAR γ regula a expressão de numerosos genes envolvidos no metabolismo de lipídeos (TAVARES, 2007). Mutações raras no gene *PPARG*, que codifica o PPAR γ , foram descritas em oito indivíduos que apresentavam um complexo fenótipo com lipodistrofia parcial, resistência à insulina severa e precoce, diabetes tipo 2, dislipidemia (triglicerídeos elevados e colesterol HDL diminuído), hipertensão arterial precoce e esteatose hepática, indicando que o PPAR γ é essencial para a ação da insulina, homeostase da glicose e controle da massa adiposa (MEIRHAEGHE & AMOUYEL, 2004).

Segundo a base de dados do NCBI existem 1397 polimorfismos identificados na região do gene *PPARG*. Destes, 33 estão citados no *Pubmed Medline* (31 de janeiro de 2010). Um polimorfismo relativamente comum localizado na porção amino-terminal da isoforma PPAR γ -2, substituindo a prolina por alanina no códon 12 (Pro12Ala, rs1801282) (YEN *et al.*, 1997) tem sido relacionado com resistência à insulina, diabetes tipo 2 e obesidade, entre outras patologias. Estudos analisando o efeito do alelo Ala sobre diabetes tipo 2 e melhora na resistência à insulina têm obtido resultados contraditórios. Enquanto alguns resultados indicam um efeito protetor do alelo Ala (HARA *et al.*, 2000; MORI *et al.*, 2001; POULSEN *et al.*, 2003) outros apresentam um efeito deletério (EVANS *et al.*, 2001; LINDI *et al.*, 2002) ou nenhuma influência deste polimorfismo sobre a ocorrência de diabetes (ZIETZ *et al.*, 2002; MULLER *et al.*, 2003; MALECKI *et al.*, 2003). Com relação ao IMC, estudos iniciais sugeriram

haver um efeito protetor do alelo Ala, reduzindo o IMC (PIHLAJAMAKI *et al.*, 2000; LUAN *et al.*, 2001; DONEY *et al.*, 2002; FRANKS *et al.*, 2004). Porém alguns estudos não confirmam estes achados (CLEMENT *et al.*, 2000; FREDERIKSEN *et al.*, 2002; GURNELL *et al.*, 2003; CARAMORI *et al.*, 2003), enquanto outros sugerem um efeito contrário (GONZELEZ SANCHEZ *et al.*, 2002; ROBITAILLE *et al.*, 2003; MIRZAEI *et al.*, 2009). Um estudo realizado pelo presente grupo apontou em efeito gênero específico em indivíduos da população em geral, onde homens portadores do alelo Ala apresentaram médias de IMC superiores as dos portadores do alelo Pro, não ocorrendo diferenças entre o IMC de mulheres portadoras de um ou outro alelo (MATTEVI *et al.*, 2007). De acordo com uma meta-análise realizada com dados para cerca de 19.000 indivíduos, o polimorfismo Pro12Ala está associado com maior IMC em indivíduos com sobrepeso e/ou obesos ($IMC > 27 \text{ kg/m}^2$) (MASUD & YE, 2003). Os efeitos díspares do polimorfismo Pro12Ala no IMC em indivíduos obesos e magros sugerem que esta variante genética interage com outros fatores. Considerando que o *PPARG* promove armazenamento de lipídeos, é surpreendente que o alelo Ala esteja associado à obesidade, já que apresenta reduzida ligação e transcrição de DNA *in vitro* (DEEB *et al.*, 1998) Várias explicações para estes resultados aparentemente contraditórios para o alelo Ala são possíveis: pode haver compensação ou diferentes vias pelas quais o *PPARG* regula a obesidade, ou o alelo Ala poderia estar em forte desequilíbrio de ligação com outro alelo predisponente à obesidade. Outra hipótese é que o alelo Pro seria protetor contra efeitos de outros genes que predisõem à obesidade. *PPARG* C1431T é um polimorfismo silencioso na região codificadora, exibindo estreito desequilíbrio de

ligação com Pro12Ala (GURNELL *et al.*, 2005). O alelo T tem sido associado a um aumento do IMC, mas não está claro se a associação é independente do Pro12Ala (CECIL *et al.*, 2006).

Em indivíduos portadores do HIV, o polimorfismo *PPARG* C1431T parece não estar relacionado com a ocorrência de LD (ZANONE POMA *et al.*, 2008). Outro estudo avaliando os efeitos do *PPARG* Pro12Ala no risco de desenvolvimento de lipodistrofia em pacientes sob TARV demonstrou que portadores do Ala apresentavam níveis plasmáticos de colesterol total e colesterol LDL mais elevados que os homozigotos Pro/Pro, porém, parece não haver associação deste polimorfismo com a ocorrência de LD (SAUMOY *et al.*, 2009).

Resultados tão contraditórios podem ser explicados devido a diferenças entre as populações estudadas e/ou devido ao número de participantes em cada estudo. Mesmo assim, a importância do PPAR γ para a adipogênese é evidente, o que o mantém como um bom candidato para estudo em indivíduos portadores do HIV com lipodistrofia.

1.7.4 SREBP-1c

Os SREBPs (*sterol regulatory element binding proteins* ou proteínas de ligação a elementos regulatórios de esteróis) são uma família de fatores de transcrição responsável pela síntese de colesterol e ácidos graxos, triglicerídeos e fosfolípidos em células humanas (EBERLE *et al.*, 2004b). Três isoformas estão descritas em muitas espécies de mamíferos: SREBP-1a e 1c que são produzidas a partir do mesmo gene (*SREBP1*, através de promotores específicos e *splicing* alternativo) localizado no cromossomo 17p11.2 (HUA *et al.*, 1995) e SREBP-2,

produzido por um gene diferente (*SREBP2*), localizado no cromossomo 22q13 (MISEREZ *et al.*, 1997).

A isoforma 1c é encontrada principalmente no fígado, músculo e tecido adiposo, onde é responsável pela mediação dos efeitos transcricionais da insulina em genes codificadores de enzimas envolvidas na glicólise, lipogênese e gliconeogênese (FOUFELLE & FERRE, 2002; EBERLE *et al.*, 2004a). SREBP-1c é uma peça importante na diferenciação de adipócitos, ativando a transcrição de PPAR γ (FAJAS *et al.*, 1999).

Até 31 de janeiro de 2010, 253 SNPs foram identificados no gene *SREBP1*, sendo que apenas três estão citados no *Pubmed Medline*. Estudos demonstraram que o polimorfismo Gly952Gly (3322 C>G, rs2297508) no éxon 18c está associado com obesidade, diabetes e prevalência de nefropatia em alguns estudos (EBERLE *et al.*, 2004a; FELDER *et al.*, 2007), nos quais o alelo G foi mais frequente em pacientes obesos, diabéticos (independentemente de obesidade) e em pacientes com nefropatia. Por outro lado, o alelo C deste mesmo polimorfismo foi também associado com mudanças nos níveis lipídicos em homens (LAAKSONEN *et al.*, 2006).

Um estudo realizado com indivíduos HIV positivos sob TARV (MISEREZ *et al.*, 2001) demonstrou que o polimorfismo *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G estava associado com hiperlipoproteinemia. Neste estudo, aumento nos níveis plasmáticos de colesterol foram mais frequentes em portadores do alelo C.

1.8 Justificativa e objetivos

O advento da TARV permitiu a redução da carga viral do HIV para níveis não-detectáveis, modificando a percepção da AIDS, de uma doença fatal para uma condição crônica. A utilização da terapia combinada em regimes triplos reduziu drasticamente a morbi/mortalidade entre os pacientes infectados pelo HIV. No Brasil, a ampla distribuição de antirretrovirais também demonstra resultados altamente positivos. Apesar dos aspectos positivos da terapia, o aparecimento de efeitos adversos vem comprometendo a adesão ao tratamento e a qualidade de vida dos pacientes. Dentre os principais efeitos adversos da TARV, a lipodistrofia e a dislipidemia destacam-se devido a sua alta prevalência, ocorrendo em mais de 50% dos pacientes em tratamento.

A etiologia da síndrome lipodistrófica ainda não está totalmente esclarecida. A modulação da expressão de fatores de transcrição, como o PPAR- γ e o SREBP-1c, e de marcadores específicos de adipócitos (como a leptina e a adiponectina) por IPs e ITRNs parece estar envolvida. No entanto, essas alterações metabólicas e do tecido adiposo não ocorrem em todos os pacientes expostos a TARV, indício de que possa haver o envolvimento de fatores genéticos na ocorrência destes efeitos adversos.

Dessa forma, polimorfismos nos genes codificadores da adiponectina (*APM1* -11377 G>C e *APM1* -11391 G>A), da leptina (*LEP* -2548 G>A), do receptor da leptina (*LEPR* Gln223Arg) e dos fatores de transcrição PPAR- γ (*PPARG* Pro12Ala) e SREBP-1c (*SREBP-1c* 3322C>G) tornam-se candidatos plausíveis para a investigação etiológica da LD e dislipidemia.

Outro aspecto importante é que os estudos farmacogenômicos da TARV são ainda pouco numerosos, embora esta área de pesquisa seja extremamente promissora. Com a identificação de possíveis marcadores genéticos, as variações nas reações adversas e na resposta aos fármacos poderão ser esclarecidas, disponibilizando uma ferramenta de avaliação útil para a seleção de fármacos e o desenvolvimento de tratamentos personalizados, aumentando a segurança e eficácia das terapias existentes.

Dado o exposto, os objetivos específicos deste trabalho são:

1. Determinar as frequências dos polimorfismos *LEP* -2548 G>A, *LEPR* Gln223Arg, *APM1* -11377 C>G e -11391 G>A, *PPARG* Pro12Ala e *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G em pacientes HIV positivos sob terapia antirretroviral;
2. Verificar a associação desses polimorfismos com a ocorrência de lipodistrofia nestes pacientes;
3. Correlacionar os genótipos destes pacientes para os referidos polimorfismos com fenótipos relacionados a síndrome lipodistrófica, como perfil lipídico, medidas antropométricas e níveis das adipocinas leptina e adiponectina.

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Capítulo 2 – SNPs in the *APM1* gene promoter are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART

(Artigo submetido ao periódico *JAIDS*, Fator de impacto: 4.57)

SNPs in the *APM1* gene promoter are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART

Adiponectin levels and *APM1* gene promoter

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Supported by: Secretaria Nacional de DST/AIDS, Ministério da Saúde, Brasil; Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico and Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aimed to investigate the association between four polymorphisms in the leptin (*LEP*), leptin receptor (*LEPR*) and adiponectin (*APM1*) genes and the occurrence of lipodystrophy and dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients receiving highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

Materials and Methods: Genotypes of 410 HIV-infected patients on HAART were investigated. Anthropometric (weight, height, waist circumference and skinfolds thickness) and biochemical (blood lipids, glucose, leptin and adiponectin levels) parameters were evaluated. Genotype frequencies were compared between patients with or without lipodystrophy. Mean biochemical and anthropometric parameters were compared between the different genotypes.

Results: Lipodystrophy prevalence was 53.4%. Genotype frequencies were not different between patients with or without lipodystrophy. Carriers of the A allele for the *APM1* -11391 G>A and of the C allele for *APM1* -11377 C>G presented higher adiponectin levels compared to other genotypes, as well as carriers of the -11391A-11377C haplotype when compared to carriers of other haplotypes.

Conclusions: SNPs in *APM1* gene are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected patients receiving HAART and may thus affect the occurrence of metabolic alterations in these patients. No influence of the *LEP* and *LEPR* gene polymorphisms on the occurrence of lipodystrophy and dyslipidemia was observed.

Key Words: leptin, adiponectin, lipodystrophy, HAART, pharmacogenomics, HIV

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in the 1990's decade provided a large increase in life expectancy for HIV-infected patients, with a dramatic reduction on morbidity and mortality¹⁻². Despite the advances accomplished by HAART, the appearance of significant adverse events probably related to therapy might compromise quality of life of patients and their adherence to treatment. Studies indicate that over 50% of people with HIV on HAART have some kind of change in body fat distribution³ and more than 70% have changes in lipid profile⁴. However, the mechanism responsible for the lipodystrophy syndrome has not yet been fully clarified.

It is now widely accepted that the adipose tissue (AT) is not merely a fat storage depot, but also plays roles in the regulation of energy intake and expenditure, thermal insulation, and functions as an endocrine organ⁵⁻⁶. Proteins secreted by AT, called adipokines, have important roles in energetic homeostasis, insulin sensibility, immunologic response and vascular disease⁷.

The discovery of leptin and adiponectin had broadened the horizons of research in the regulation of body adiposity and energy balance⁸. Leptin circulates in levels proportional to the amount of body fat⁹ and has a positive correlation with the concentration of insulin, triglycerides and glucose, with a negative correlation with insulin sensibility¹⁰. Produced mainly by adipose cells, leptin acts regulating energy expenditure and food intake. Inactivating mutations of the gene encoding leptin lead to hyperphagia and obesity. In individuals with HIV lipodystrophy, leptin serum levels may be high (occurring in association with lipohypertrophy) or low (usually accompanying lipoatrophy)¹¹. A common single nucleotide polymorphism

(SNP) located in the promoter region of the leptin gene (*LEP* -2548 G>A) has been previously associated with changes in leptin serum levels and obesity¹²⁻¹⁵. A common variant in the leptin receptor gene (*LEPR* Gln223Arg) has also been associated with body mass index (BMI) in several studies¹⁶⁻¹⁸, including one performed by our group¹⁹. Thus, we hypothesized that these polymorphisms may be involved with the modifications undertaken by HIV-infected subjects on HAART.

As leptin, adiponectin, encoded by the *APM1* gene, is another recently discovered adipokine, produced exclusively by mature adipocytes²⁰. It acts in systemic regulation of glucose metabolism and lipids. Adiponectin levels are negatively correlated to obesity, insulin resistance and type II diabetes mellitus²¹⁻²². Polymorphisms in the promoter region of the *APM1* gene (-11377 G>C and -11391 G>A) have been associated with changes in adiponectin circulating levels in obese subjects¹².

Given the fact that the eradication of HIV is not currently possible, the study of genetic factors involved in inter-individual variation in efficacy and toxicity of HAART is now subject of intense research²³. Considering the importance of adverse effects as factors of non-adherence to HAART and the possible contributions that pharmacogenomics can bring to the elucidation of these causes, this study had the objective to investigate the association between polymorphisms in the *LEP*, *LEPR* and *APM1* genes and the occurrence of lipodystrophy and dyslipidemia in HIV patients on HAART.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

HIV-patients

Four-hundred and ten patients on HAART for at least one year from the South Brazilian HIV Cohort (SOBRHIV) ²⁴, at the HIV/AIDS outpatient clinic at Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil, were consecutively enrolled. All were over 18 years old, with viral load <50 copies/mL (this estimate has been used as a measure of HAART adherence). All individuals signed an informed consent form. The study protocol and consent procedure were approved by the Research Ethics Committees from the institutions involved.

Subjects from the General Population

To assess SNP frequency in our population and to evaluate genotyping assays, four-hundred samples of adults living in the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil were first tested. These samples were collected from individuals who attended in the Clinical Analysis Laboratory at the Pharmacy School of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and the Biomedicine Laboratory at Feevale University Center for routine blood tests. All individuals signed an informed consent form and the use of samples for gene analyses was authorized by the Research Ethics Committees of the institutions involved.

Anthropometric Measurements

The diagnosis of lipodystrophy was performed by a physician, and patients were classified as having lipoatrophy, when there was loss of subcutaneous fat from the face and/or extremities; lipohypertrophy, when there was accumulation in the abdomen, neck and/or dorsocervical region ("buffalo hump") and mixed

pattern, when both phenotypes were present²⁵. Body fat redistribution was also evaluated by measurements of weight, height, waist and hip circumferences and skinfolds from the HIV-infected subjects, performed by two nutritionists. Weight and height were used to calculate body mass index (BMI) of each participant. Measures of waist circumference were used as a measure of central fat accumulation and the sum of seven skinfolds (biceps, triceps, subscapular, axillary, suprailiac, abdominal, calf) was used as a measure of total subcutaneous fat.

Laboratory Tests

Blood samples were collected from HIV-patients after 12 hours of fasting. Levels of total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose and viral load are part of patients' routine care. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels were estimated from Friedewald equation²⁶, only in individuals who had triglycerides under 400mg/dL. Serum leptin levels were measured using the Human Leptin Elisa Kit (Linco Research, St. Charles, MO, USA). Serum adiponectin levels were obtained using the Human Adiponectin Elisa Kit (Linco Research, St. Charles, MO, USA).

Genotyping

DNA was extracted from whole blood samples by a salting out standard procedure²⁷. Polymorphisms were detected by PCR-RFLP analysis. PCR cycling conditions used have been previously published^{12, 28-29}. Primer sequences were as follows: *LEP* -2548G>A (rs7799039): sense, 5'-

TTTCCTGTAATTTTCCCGTGAG-3'; antisense, 5'-
 AAAGCAAAGACAGGCATAAAAA-3'²⁸; *LEPR* Gln223Arg (rs1137101): sense, 5'-
 ACCCTTTAAGCTGGGTGTCCCAAATAG-3'; antisense, 5'-
 AGCTAGCAAATATTTTTGTAAGCAATT-3'²⁹; *APM1* -11391G>A (rs17300539)
 and -11377C>G (rs266729): sense, 5'-TGTTGAAGTTGGTGGCTGGCAT-3',
 antisense, 5'-AGCCTGGAGAACTGGAAGCT-3'¹². Genotyping was performed
 after digestion of the PCR products with specific restriction enzymes for each
 polymorphism (*HhaI* for *LEP* -2548G>A and *APM1* -11391 G>A; *MspI* for *LEPR*
 Gln223Arg and *APM1* -11377 C>G) according to the manufacturer's instructions,
 electrophoresis on agarose gels (2.0% or 2.5%) and staining with ethidium
 bromide.

Statistical Analyses

Chi-square analysis was used to test for deviations of genotype frequencies from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and to compare allele and genotype frequencies among groups of patients with and without adverse reactions. Mean biochemical (total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose, leptin and adiponectin levels) and anthropometric parameters (BMI, waist circumference and sum of seven skinfolds) were compared among the different genotypes by analysis of variance and T test for independent samples. These anthropometric and biochemical parameters were adjusted through multiple regressions for co-variables that showed significant correlation with them in previous univariate analyses (gender, age, regular practice of physical activity, smoking, hypolipemic drug use, protease inhibitors (PI) use, BMI). Variables that did not show normal

distribution (triglycerides and leptin levels) were transformed into natural logarithm prior to statistical tests. The non-adjusted means are presented for these two parameters. Non-parametric tests were used when necessary. Poisson regression models with robust variance were used to estimate the contribution of genotypes to lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy phenotypes separately ³⁰. Statistical analysis was performed in SPSS version 16.0 for Windows software.

Haplotypes were inferred using Multiple Locus Haplotype Analysis software, version 2.0 ³¹⁻³² and linkage disequilibrium value (D') was calculated using Thesias program ³³.

RESULTS

Subjects Characteristics and Adipokine Levels

The main demographic, clinical, anthropometric and metabolic characteristics of the HIV-patients are shown in Table 1. The study sample consisted of 410 patients, of whom 224 (54.6%) were men and 53.4% had lipodystrophy. Mean age was 43 ± 9.4 years. The sample comprised 239 (58.3%) individuals of European ancestry and 171 of African ancestry, ascertained by skin color and morphological characteristics, as described by Zembrzuski *et al.*³⁴. All patients were on at least three antiretroviral drugs, including two nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors. Approximately half of the sample (202 patients) was on HAART regimen containing PI, while the remaining patients were on non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Leptin and adiponectin levels were significantly higher in women than in men in HIV-infected patients (independent samples T-test, $P < 0.001$ for both leptin and adiponectin levels, Table 1). These adipokine levels, stratified according to LD subgroups, are presented in Figure 1. Both adipokine levels were significantly different among LD subgroups ($P < 0.001$ and $P = 0.009$, respectively). Leptin levels were significantly lower in the lipoatrophy patients and patients without LD than in the lipohypertrophy and mixed pattern subgroups, as indicated by the Tukey-Kramer post-hoc tests (Figure 1). When adiponectin levels were considered, the difference observed is due to lipoatrophy and mixed pattern subgroups, which are both lower than lipohypertrophy patients' levels.

Genotype and Allele Frequencies

LEP, *LEPR* and *APM1* polymorphisms genotype frequencies in subjects of European ancestry from the general population (GP) and in HIV-infected patients are shown in Table 2 (genotype frequencies of *LEPR* Gln223Arg in the GP were previously published by Mattevi *et al.* ¹⁹). Genotype frequencies for all SNPs were distributed as expected according to Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Minor allele frequencies for SNPs in the GP were: *LEP* -2548 G>A: 0.43; *LEPR* Gln223Arg: 0.40; *APM1* -11391 G>A: 0.14 and *APM1* -11377 C>G: 0.24, being not different (data not shown) from those in HIV-patients: *LEP* -2548 G>A: 0.43; *LEPR* Gln223Arg: 0.42; *APM1* -11391 G>A: 0.08 and *APM1* -11377 C>G: 0.25. Genotype and allele frequencies did not differ between European and African Brazilians from this population therefore analyses were performed in the whole sample. Nevertheless, ethnicity entered in the model as a covariate in all multivariate analyses performed herein.

Association Analyses

Table 2 also presents genotype frequencies in HIV-infected individuals according to LD status (present or absent). No associations with any of the variants analyzed with lipodystrophy were observed, as there were no differences in allele and genotype frequencies between patients with or without LD (*LEP* -2548G>A, $P = 0.091$; *LEPR* Gln223Arg, $P = 0.308$; *APM1* -11391 G>A, $P = 0.979$ and *APM1* -11377 C>G, $P = 0.652$).

Poisson regression analyses were employed to test if any of the SNPs was associated with lipotrophy and lipohypertrophy. These analyses revealed that

none of the polymorphisms contributed significantly for these phenotypes (data not shown).

Mean adipokine (leptin and adiponectin) levels were compared between genotypes (Tables 3 and 4). Mean leptin levels were not different among *LEP* and *LEPR* genotypes (Table 3). Due to the small number of homozygotes for the two adiponectin polymorphisms, the analyses were also performed in dominant and recessive models (Table 4). Significant associations among adiponectin levels and the two *APM1* polymorphisms were observed. Carriers of the A allele for the -11391 G>A variant presented higher adiponectin levels compared with other genotypes, as well as carriers of the C allele for -11377C>G (Table 4).

The two polymorphisms in the *APM1* gene were in linkage disequilibrium ($D' = -0.795$), thus the haplotype combinations were derived in HIV-infected subjects and adiponectin levels were compared among them. All four possible haplotypes (GC, GG, AC and AG) were detected. As carriers of the A allele in the -11391 position and the C allele in -11377 have the highest adiponectin levels when analyzed separately, adiponectin levels on AC haplotype carriers were significantly higher than in non-carriers (AC carriers= 9.83 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, $n = 57$; other haplotypes= 9.16 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, $n = 351$; $P = 0.005$; Figure 2).

Mean anthropometric parameters (BMI, waist circumference and skinfolds; Table 3) and blood lipid (total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, triglycerides) and glucose levels (data not shown) were also compared between genotypes. No significant differences in these parameters were observed.

DISCUSSION

To the extent of our knowledge, this is the first report about polymorphisms in *LEP*, *LEPR* and *APM1* genes in HIV individuals on HAART. In this study, we investigated the bases of two important HAART adverse reactions, lipodystrophy and dyslipidemia, by analyzing the possible association between polymorphisms in three genes involved in the signaling from adipocytes and the emergence of these side effects.

Allele frequencies for the four SNPs observed in the GP were similar to those observed in European populations (Spain, France and Greece)^{12, 16-17, 35} as well as in other Brazilian studies^{14, 18-19}. No differences in allele and genotype frequencies between the GP and HIV-infected samples were observed.

The relationship between *LEP*-2548G>A polymorphism and obesity-related phenotypes has been observed in several populations, with studies showing their association with leptin levels¹⁵, BMI¹⁴ and its relationship with weight loss¹² and hypertension³⁶ in obese individuals. For the *LEPR* Gln223Arg polymorphism even more studies have demonstrated its association with increased BMI and the risk of obesity in the GP^{18, 19}. These associations, however, were not replicated in HIV patients studied herein. Furthermore, no associations were observed between these gene variants and lipodystrophy, suggesting that these polymorphisms in the leptin signaling pathway are not related to the occurrence of LD.

Different studies have shown³⁷⁻⁴⁰ that HIV-infected patients exhibit lower leptin levels when compared to the GP, but the relationship between leptin and fat mass seems to be maintained in HIV-patients. The gender differences observed in leptin levels, with women presenting higher levels than men, are also preserved in

HIV infection. These results are in line with those reported by Kosmiski *et al.*⁴⁰, and further suggest that the leptin signaling pathway may not be involved in adipose tissue alterations that occur in LD.

APM1 gene promoter region SNPs -11391G>A and -11377C>G have been consistently associated with adiponectin levels in individuals from the GP⁴¹⁻⁴³. The -11391A and -11377C alleles were associated with higher adiponectin levels by Poitou *et al.*¹² and Schwarz *et al.*⁴⁴, in French and German GPs, respectively. The present results demonstrated that both polymorphisms were associated with adiponectin levels in HIV patients. Therefore, we may hypothesize that HIV infection is not probably altering *APM1* gene expression.

The -11391A allele was reported to be associated with increased activity of the *APM1* gene⁴². Another report found no significant effect of both variants in the promoter activity⁴³, but several studies that included haplotypes, containing the -11391 G>A SNP showed that the -11391A allele is a predictor of higher serum adiponectin levels^{41, 43, 45-46}. In our sample, although genotype was shown to be a determinant of adiponectin levels, there is no evidence that it is associated with the LD phenotype.

In non-HIV infected individuals, adiponectin levels are paradoxically decreased in obese subjects compared with lean subjects⁴⁷. In HIV patients, this relationship seems to be more complex. The inverse relationship between adiponectin and fat mass seemed to be lost: adiponectin levels were lower in lipoatrophy and mixed pattern patients in comparison to lipohypertrophy. This finding indicates that this protein signaling pathway is altered in LD, but the disfunction probably involves post-transcriptional steps.

Kosmiski et al⁴⁰ results on adiponectin levels in LD patients are in line with the present findings. These authors suggested that the reversal in the relationship between adiponectin/fat could be more indicative of a dysfunction or loss of adipocytes rather than the simple reduction in adipose tissue size in lipoatrophy patients. In situations of severe fat depletion, such as seen in anorexia⁴⁸, high adiponectin concentrations are observed, which are in contrast to what happened in LD (including other forms of familial partial LD, which also have low adiponectin levels)⁴⁹⁻⁵⁰. These data suggest that low adiponectin levels produced by HIV patients with lipoatrophy are due to LD *per se* and not simply by fat mass loss.

Adiponectin undergoes post-translational modifications within the adipocyte into multimeric forms including trimers, hexamers and high-molecular-weight oligomers. The relative distribution of these multimers appears to differ between the adipose tissue and the circulation, and its multimerization seems to play an important role in its metabolic function⁴⁷. As we and others^{35, 40, 42-44} measured only total adiponectin and did not separate the different multimeric forms, it remains to be elucidated the possibility that the balance between these different forms are altered in HAART-associated lipodystrophy.

Another potential factor in the action of adiponectin, besides its oligomerization status, is its binding to two transmembrane receptors (AdipoR1 and AdipoR2), which are differently expressed in skeletal muscle and liver⁴⁷. Thus, gene variants in these two receptors may warrant further investigation in HAART-related LD.

Some limitations of the present study are its cross-sectional design and the inclusion of patients receiving several different antiretroviral regimens, which is an

inherent difficulty to any study involving current HAART, as by definition it should include at least three different drugs. This fact might hinder the accomplishment of any pharmacogenomic study regarding this therapy. Additionally, a limited number of SNPs were analyzed. Clearly, we cannot rule out the influence of other polymorphisms in these genes on these HAART side effects.

In summary, our study brings some important findings. This is the first report on the topic of polymorphisms in *LEP*, *LEPR* and *APM1* genes in HIV-patients on HAART. Although their contribution to the LD syndrome still remains unclear, *APM1* -11391G>A and *APM1* -11377C>G were significantly associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART and this fact could impact the consequences of LD-associated metabolic alterations in these patients, as adiponectin plays important roles in regulation of glucose and lipids metabolism. We did not find evidence of association of *LEP* -2548 G>A and *LEPR* Gln223Arg polymorphisms on biochemical or anthropometric parameters, indicating that these polymorphisms did not influence the development of the HAART side effects here investigated. Therefore, more studies are needed to explore the role of the adiponectin signaling pathway in the etiology of LD, expanding the applications of pharmacogenomics in the investigation of HAART-related adverse effects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by Secretaria Nacional de DST/AIDS, Ministério da Saúde, Brasil, Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico and Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior.

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TABLE 1. Main demographic, clinical, anthropometric and metabolic characteristics of 410 HIV- infected patients on HAART

Characteristics	HIV-infected patients (n= 410)
Demographic	
Age, years	43.0 ± 9.4
Male sex, %	54.6
Ethnicity, %	
Euro-brazilians	58.3
Afro-brazilians	41.7
Physical activity, %	24.9
Cigarette smoking, %	27.1
Clinical	
ART duration, months	69 ± 42
Lipid-lowering drugs use, %	16.8
PI users, %	49.3
Anthropometric	
Lipodystrophy, %	53.4
Atrophy, %	38.8
Hypertrophy, %	26.5
Mixed lipodystrophy, %	34.7
Metabolic	
Leptin, ng/mL	10.6 ± 14.2 (387)
Men, ng/mL	3.9 ± 3.8 *
Women, ng/mL	19.0 ± 17.5 *
Adiponectin, ug/mL	9.3 ± 7.3 (409)
Men, ng/mL	7.5 ± 5.3 †
Women, ng/mL	11.4 ± 8.6 †

* † Independent samples T-test, $P < 0.001$

Data are mean ± standard deviation or percentage (n presented when different from total).
ART, antiretroviral therapy; PI, protease inhibitors.

TABLE 2. Genotype frequencies in the general population and in HIV-patients with and without lipodystrophy

<i>Genotypes</i>	<i>General Population</i>	<i>HIV-patients</i>	<i>Without LD</i>	<i>With LD</i>	<i>P*</i>
<i>LEP -2548G>A</i>					
G/G	33.3 (132)	32.0 (131)	28.8 (55)	34.7 (76)	0.091
G/A	47.5 (188)	49.7 (204)	55.5 (106)	44.8 (98)	
A/A	19.2 (76)	18.3 (75)	15.7 (30)	20.5 (45)	
<i>LEPR Gln223Arg</i>					
Gln/Gln	33.2 (111)	34.3 (140)	30.9 (59)	37.3 (81)	0.308
Gln/Arg	52.8 (177)	47.6 (194)	48.7 (93)	46.5 (101)	
Arg/Arg	14.0 (47)	18.1 (74)	20.4 (39)	16.2 (35)	
<i>APM1 -11391G>A</i>					
G/G	74.1 (297)	85.1 (349)	85.3 (163)	84.9 (186)	0.979
G/A	23.9 (96)	13.9 (57)	13.6 (26)	14.1 (31)	
A/A	2.0 (8)	1.0 (4)	1.1 (2)	1.0 (2)	
<i>APM1 -11377C>G</i>					
C/C	59.9 (240)	55.9 (229)	53.9 (103)	57.5 (126)	0.652
C/G	32.7 (131)	39.0 (160)	41.4 (79)	37.0 (81)	
G/G	7.5 (30)	5.1 (21)	4.7 (9)	5.5 (12)	

* Chi-square test, with vs. without LD.

Data are percentage (n). LD, lipodystrophy.

TABLE 3. Mean anthropometric variables and leptin levels according to *LEP*, *LEPR* and *APM1* polymorphisms in HIV patients

	HIV Subjects															
	BMI (kg/cm ²) [†]				Waist (cm) [‡]				Skinfolds (mm) [§]				Leptin (ng/mL) [¶]			
	n	mean	sd	P	n	mean	sd	P	n	mean	sd	P	n	mean	sd	P
<i>LEP</i> -2548 G>A																
G/G	131	25.0	4.4		123	88.7	11.1		117	110	50		124	11.4	14.7	
G/A	204	25.1	4.1	0.717*	189	88.8	10.4	0.974*	183	104	48	0.961*	190	11.0	14.5	0.378*
A/A	75	24.6	5.3		73	88.8	13.2		70	103	51		73	8.6	12.3	
<i>LEPR</i> Gln223Arg																
Gln/Gln	140	25.5	4.0		132	90.4	10.8		125	105	51		133	9.7	13.0	
Gln/Arg	194	24.6	4.5	0.255*	183	87.7	10.9	0.114*	179	106	49	0.782*	183	11.2	15.1	0.573*
Arg/Arg	74	25.5	5.1		68	88.6	12.9		64	106	50		69	11.0	14.2	
<i>APM1</i> -11391 G>A																
G/G	349	25.0	4.4		332	88.4	11.0		321	105	42		-	-	-	
G/A	57	25.2	4.5	0.943*	49	91.2	11.4	0.254*	45	109	49	0.445*	-	-	-	-
A/A	4	25.1	2.6		4	88.0	5.5		4	128	39		-	-	-	
<i>APM1</i> -11377 C>G																
C/C	229	25.1	4.3		213	88.8	11.0		204	108	45		-	-	-	
C/G	160	25.0	4.6	0.653*	153	88.8	11.4	0.932*	147	102	39	0.989*	-	-	-	-
G/G	21	24.1	4.2		19	87.8	8.9		19	102	46		-	-	-	

* One-way analysis of variance.

† adjusted by gender and smoking.

‡ adjusted by age and smoking.

§ adjusted by gender, regular practice of physical activity and smoking.

¶ adjusted by gender and age. Values are ln transformed for statistical analysis. The non adjusted means are presented.

BMI, body mass index; sd, standard deviation.

TABLE 4. Comparisons between circulating adiponectin levels and *APM1* polymorphisms

		<i>APM1</i> -11391 G>A									
		Co-dominant model			Dominant model			Recessive model			
		G/G	G/A	A/A	<i>P</i>	G/G	G/A + A/A	<i>p</i>	G/G+G/A	A/A	<i>P</i>
Adiponectin (ug/mL)		9.1 ± 7.6	9.5 ± 4.8	14.8 ± 8.3	0.003*	9.1 ± 7.6	9.9 ± 5.2	0.003**	9.2 ± 7.3	14.8 ± 8.3	0.084**
	n	348	57	4		348	61		405	4	
		<i>APM1</i> -11377 C>G									
		Co-dominant model			Dominant model			Recessive model			
		C/C	C/G	G/G	<i>P</i>	C/C	C/G + G/G	<i>p</i>	C/C + C/G	G/G	<i>P</i>
Adiponectin (ug/mL)		9.5 ± 7.4	9.3 ± 7.6	6.4 ± 3.6	0.095*	9.5 ± 7.4	8.9 ± 7.3	0.650**	9.4 ± 7.4	6.4 ± 3.6	0.030**
	n	228	160	21		228	181		388	21	

*One-way analysis of variance.

**Independent-samples T test.

Adiponectin levels are adjusted by gender, hypolipidemic drugs use, CD4 count and waist/hip relationship.

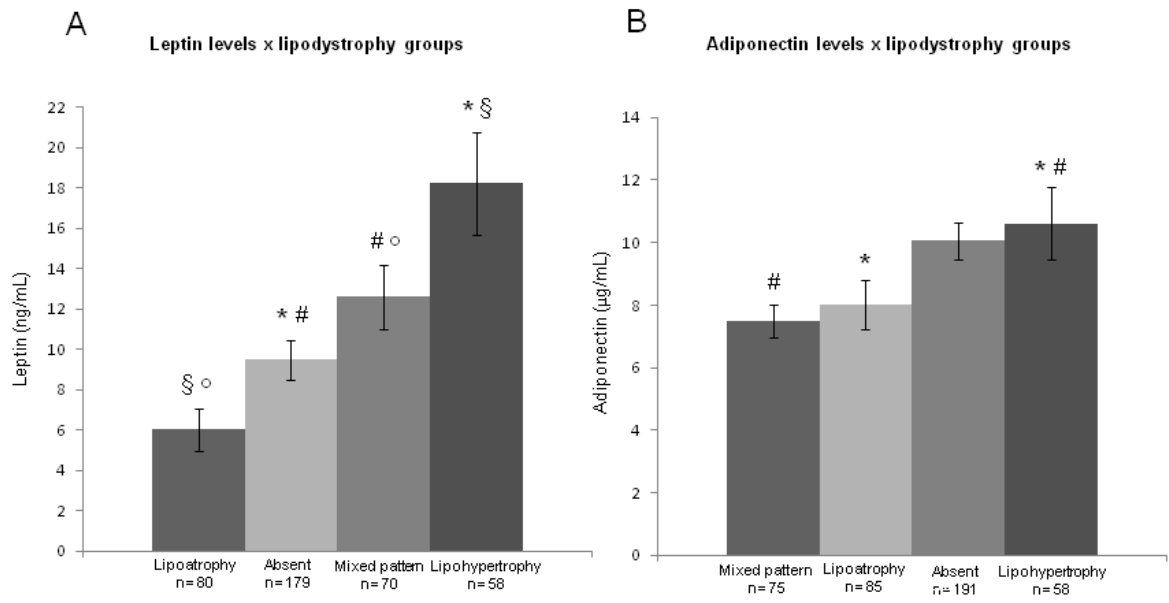
Data are mean ± SD. SD, standard deviation.

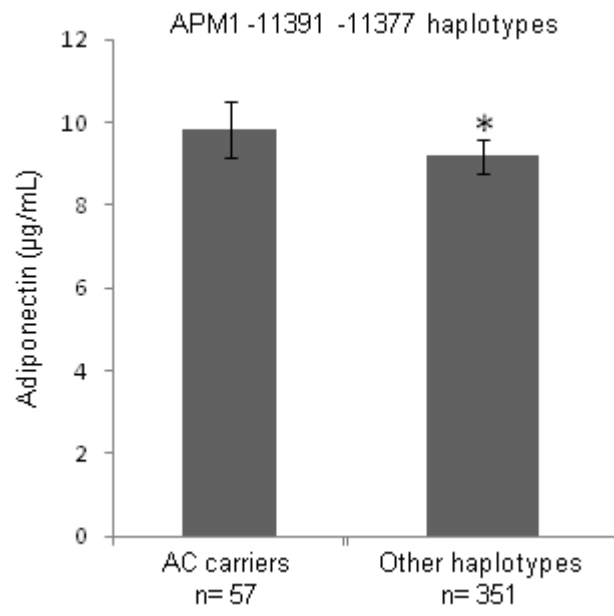
FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1: Circulating adipokine levels in HIV-patients separated by lipodystrophy subgroups. (A) Leptin levels. One-way analysis of variance, $P < 0.001$. Tukey-Kramer multiple comparisons test: * $P < 0.001$, # $P = 0.018$, § $P < 0.001$, ° $P < 0.001$. (B) Adiponectin levels. One-way analysis of variance, $P = 0.009$. Tukey-Kramer multiple comparisons test: * $P = 0.049$, # $P = 0.048$

Figure 2: Association of -11391/-11377 haplotypes with adiponectin levels.

* Independent-samples T test, $P = 0.005$. Adiponectin levels are adjusted by gender, hypolipidemic drugs use, CD4 count and waist/hip relationship.





Capítulo 3 – A genetic variant in sterol-regulatory element-binding protein-1c is associated with HAART-related lipohypertrophy

(Manuscrito em preparação para submissão ao periódico *Antiviral Therapy*,
Fator de impacto: 4.11)

A genetic variant in sterol-regulatory element-binding protein-1c is associated with HAART-related lipohypertrophy

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Supported by: Secretaria Nacional de DST/AIDS, Ministério da Saúde, Brasil; Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico and Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior

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ABSTRACT

Background: The emergence of adverse effects such as lipodystrophy (LD) and dyslipidemia associated with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) compromise patient's adherence to treatment. This study aimed to investigate the associations between polymorphisms in the *PPARG* and *SREBP-1c* genes and the occurrence of LD and dyslipidemia in HIV-infected individuals receiving highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART).

Methods: Genotypes of 410 HIV-infected patients on HAART were analyzed. Anthropometric (weight, height, waist circumference and skinfolds thickness) and biochemical (blood lipids and glucose) parameters were evaluated. Poisson regression models were used to estimate the contribution of *PPARG* Pro12Ala and *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G genotypes to lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy phenotypes separately.

Results: The LD prevalence was higher in euro-Brazilians (61.1%) than in afro-Brazilians (42.7%, $P<0.001$). *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G genotype frequencies were different between euro and afro-Brazilians ($P=0.024$). *SREBP-1c* 3322G allele was associated with higher risk of developing lipohypertrophy in European descendants. *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G and *PPARG* Pro12Ala polymorphisms were not significant contributors for lipoatrophy.

Conclusions: This a first report showing association of *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G with HAART-related lipohypertrophy in European descendants. No evidence of association between *PPARG* Pro12Ala and the development of LD was found. Further studies are needed to clarify the role of *SREBP-1c* gene on the HAART-related LD etiology.

Key Words: lipodystrophy, HAART, pharmacogenomics, HIV, *PPARG*, *SREBP*

INTRODUCTION

HIV infection was successfully controlled through the use of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), suppressing the viral load and increasing the life expectancy of patients. Despite the benefits brought about by HAART, adverse effects have compromised patients' adherence to treatment. Among the adverse effects, we highlight lipodystrophy (LD) and dyslipidemia, with more than 50% of patients having some form of fat redistribution or lipid profile alteration [1]. The prevalence of LD increases with time of exposure to HAART [2-3] and is higher in HIV-patients receiving protease inhibitors-containing regimens [4-5].

Recent studies *in vitro* have demonstrated that protease inhibitors (PI) can impair adipogenesis [6-8], by inhibiting the differentiation of pre-adipocytes to mature adipocytes, and that nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTI) reduce the lipid content of adipocytes and modify the pattern of adipokines secretion [9].

PPAR- γ (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma) is a transcription factor belonging to the family of nuclear receptors [10]. It has three isoforms (PPAR γ -1, PPAR γ -2 and PPAR γ -3). PPAR γ -2 is expressed exclusively in adipose tissue, where it is sufficient and necessary for the differentiation of pre-adipocytes into mature adipocytes [11]. Rare mutations in the *PPARG* gene lead to the occurrence of familial partial lipodystrophy type 3 (FPLD3), characterized by loss of subcutaneous fat in the limbs and buttocks, with relative excess of adipose tissue in subcutaneous and visceral abdominal depots. Most patients also have profound metabolic complications; especially insulin resistance, early onset type 2 diabetes mellitus and marked dyslipidemia (high serum triglycerides and low levels

of HDL-cholesterol) [12-17]. A common SNP located in exon B, Pro12Ala (rs1801282) [18], has been linked to insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and obesity[19-25].

SREBPs (sterol regulatory element binding proteins) are a family of transcription factors responsible for the synthesis of cholesterol and fatty acids, triglycerides and phospholipids in human cells [26]. Three isoforms are described in many species of mammals, SREBP-1a and 1c (produced from the same gene, *SREBP1*, through specific promoters and alternative splicing) [27] and SREBP-2, produced by a different gene (*SREBP2*) [28]. The 1c isoform is found primarily in liver, muscle and adipose tissue, which is responsible for mediating the transcriptional effects of insulin on genes encoding enzymes involved in glycolysis, gluconeogenesis and lipogenesis [29-30]. SREBP-1c plays an important role in the differentiation of adipocytes, activating PPAR- γ transcription [31]. In HIV-infected individuals under HAART, one study showed that the polymorphism *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G (rs2297508) was associated with hyperlipoproteinaemia, where PI users carrying the C allele had higher increases in plasma cholesterol levels than GG homozygotes [32].

Taking into account that not all patients receiving HAART develop adverse effects, genetic factors may be involved in the etiology of LD and dyslipidemia.

Considering the importance of adverse effects as factors of non-adherence to HAART and the possible contributions that pharmacogenomics can bring to the elucidation of these causes, this study aimed to investigate the associations between polymorphisms in the *PPARG* and *SREBP-1c* genes and

the occurrence of lipodystrophy and dyslipidemia in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

HIV-patients

We consecutively enrolled 410 patients from the South Brazilian HIV Cohort (SOBRHIV) [33], followed in the HIV/AIDS Ambulatory of the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. Were used as inclusion criteria in this study: to be over 18 years old, to be receiving HAART for at least one year and to have viral load <50 copies/mL, which was used as a measure of adherence to treatment. All patients signed the Free and Informed Consent Form. This study was approved by Research Ethics Committees from the institutions involved.

Anthropometric Analyses

LD diagnosis was performed by a physician, and patients were classified as follows: lipoatrophy, if they had loss of subcutaneous fat from the face and/or extremities; lipohypertrophy, if they presented fat accumulation in the abdomen, neck and/or accumulation region ("buffalo hump"), and mixed pattern, when they presented both phenotypes (lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy) [34].

Body fat alterations were also evaluated through anthropometric measurements (weight, height, waist and hip circumferences and skinfolds), performed by two nutritionists. Waist circumference was used as a measure of central fat accumulation and the sum of seven skinfolds (biceps, triceps, subscapular, axillary, suprailiac, abdominal and calf) was used as a measure of total subcutaneous fat. Weight and height were used to calculate body mass index (BMI).

Laboratory Tests

Blood samples were collected from patients after 12 hours of fasting. Total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, triglycerides, and glucose levels and viral load were collected from patients' records. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels were estimated by Friedewald equation [35], only in patients with triglycerides below 400mg/dL.

Genotyping

DNA was extracted from whole blood samples by a salting out standard procedure [36]. The *PPARG* Pro12Ala (rs1801282) polymorphism was detected by PCR-RFLP analysis, using upstream primer 5'-GCCAATTCAAGC CCAGTC-3' and downstream primer 5'-GATATGTTTGCAGACAGTGTATCAG TGAAGGAATCGCTTTCCG-3', described by Yen et al. [18]. The PCR products were digested with 5 U of *Bst*UI, electrophoresed on 2.5% agarose gels and stained with ethidium bromide. *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G (rs2297508) polymorphism was investigated by TaqMan allelic discrimination assay using primers and probes provided by Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA, USA) in a 7300 Real-time PCR thermocycler.

Statistical Analysis

Chi-square analysis was used to test for deviations of genotype frequencies from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Mean biochemical (total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose) and anthropometric parameters (BMI, waist circumference and sum of seven skinfolds)

were compared among the different genotypes by analysis of variance and T test for independent samples. These anthropometric and biochemical parameters were adjusted through multiple regressions for those co-variables (gender, age, regular practice of physical activity, smoking, hypolipidemic drugs use, protease inhibitors use, BMI) that showed significant correlation with them in previous univariate analyses. Triglycerides were transformed into natural logarithm prior to the adjustments and to perform the statistical tests due to the skewed distribution. Non-parametric tests were used when necessary.

General linear models were employed to verify if there was an interaction between the PPARG polymorphism and gender on the anthropometric parameters.

Poisson regression models with robust variance were used to estimate the contribution of genotypes to lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy phenotypes separately [37]. All statistical analyses were performed in SPSS version 16.0 for Windows software.

RESULTS

Main demographic, epidemiological and laboratory characteristics of the 410 patients included in this study are summarized in Table 1. Of these subjects, 54.6% (224) were men and 53.4% (219) were found to have some form of lipodystrophy (Table 1). Mean age was 43.0 ± 9.4 years. All patients were receiving at least three anti-retroviral drugs, including two NRTIs. Approximately half of the sample (202 patients) was receiving a HAART regimen containing PI, while the remaining patients were on non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

The ethnic composition of the sample comprised 239 (58.3%) individuals of European ancestry and 171 of African ancestry, ascertained by skin color and morphological characteristics, as described in Zembrzuski *et al.* [38]. Comparison of characteristics between ethnic groups is also shown in Table 1. LD prevalence was higher in euro-Brazilians (61.1%) than in afro-Brazilians (42.7%; $P < 0.001$, Pearson chi-square with continuity correction). The predominant pattern in afro-Brazilians was lipoatrophy, while in the euro-Brazilians the simultaneous occurrence of lipoatrophy and lipohypertrophy was more frequent. When comparing only individuals with LD, although patterns were not significantly different among ethnic groups ($P = 0.074$), chi-square residuals analysis showed that lipoatrophy prevalence was different among the two groups, being higher in the afro-descendants ($P = 0.024$, Table 1).

Genotype and allele frequencies of *PPARG* and *SREBP-1c* gene polymorphisms in both ethnic groups are shown in Table 2. Genotype frequencies for SNPs were distributed as expected according to Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G genotype and allele frequencies were significantly different

between euro and afro-Brazilians ($P= 0.024$ and $P= 0.009$, respectively, Table 2), while for *PPARG* Pro12Ala no such differences were observed.

Poisson regression multivariable models were employed to test whether the two gene variants were predictors of lipoatrophy and/or lipohypertrophy. The variables which significantly contributed to lipoatrophy were PI-use, European ancestry and age (Table 3). *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G and *PPARG* Pro12Ala polymorphisms were not significant contributors for this outcome. For lipohypertrophy, PI-use and European ancestry were also significant contributors; on the other hand, male gender was a protective factor (Table 4). When *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G genotype was included in the regression model, the presence of the G allele was significantly associated with higher risk (prevalence ratio 1.34, $P= 0.046$; Table 4). To verify if this allele was associated with higher risk of developing lipohypertrophy in both ethnic groups, analyses were carried out in euro-Brazilians and afro-Brazilians separately, also (Table 4). When stratified according ethnicity, it was shown that *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G influences the lipohypertrophy occurrence only in euro-Brazilians (Table 4). The *PPARG* Pro12Ala polymorphism did not contribute significantly for lipohypertrophy.

As a previous study by our group [39] showed a gender-specific association with BMI for *PPARG* Pro12Ala in the general population, we used a general linear model to verify if there was an interaction between the polymorphism and gender on the anthropometric parameters. This analysis found a significant interaction between the variant and the effect of gender on the measure of waist circumference, where women carrying the Ala allele had higher mean than those homozygous for the Pro allele (Ala allele: mean= 93.9 ± 16.3 cm;

Pro allele: mean= 88.6 ± 11.5 cm; $P= 0.044$). There seems to be a trend of an increase in BMI of women Ala allele carriers, but it did not reach statistical significance (Table 5).

Comparisons between lipid profile (triglycerides, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and non-HDL cholesterol) and glucose levels and genotypes for the two gene variants were also performed. No significant differences were observed (data not shown).

DISCUSSION

In this study, we investigated the possible association between polymorphisms in two genes involved in adipogenesis and the occurrence of LD and dyslipidemia in HIV-infected patients on HAART.

Minor allele frequencies for *PPARG* Pro12Ala observed in euro-descendants from our sample (Ala= 0.08) were similar to those observed in another study performed by our group which included only euro-descendants from the general population of the same geographical region (Ala= 0.09) [39]. Allele frequencies for this variant observed in afro-descendants from our sample (Ala= 0.07) were not different from that observed in euro-descendants, but were somewhat higher than that observed in other studies in African-Americans (Ala= 0.02) [40]. For *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G, the allele frequencies observed for euro-descendants in this report (G = 0.39) were similar to those observed in other studies conducted in French (G= 0.41) and Austrian populations (G= 0.37) respectively [29, 41]. No studies reporting allele frequencies for this variant in African-derived populations were found. In the present setting, this variant presented higher frequency in afro-descendants (G = 0.48, $P = 0.009$).

In our study, the LD prevalence was higher in euro-Brazilians than in afro-Brazilians, also with differences in LD patterns presented. In euro-Brazilians the predominant pattern was the simultaneous occurrence of lipoatrophy and lipohipertrophy, while afro-Brazilians showed as the predominant pattern only lipoatrophy. Our findings are in agreement with previous reports [42-44], suggesting that European descendants are more susceptible to the development

of fat redistribution than African descendants, even when they live in the same environment.

SREBP-1c is one of several transcription factors responsible for adipogenesis, acting possibly through the activation of PPAR- γ transcription [31]. Overexpression of SREBP-1c in adipose tissue of mice leads to lipodystrophy associated with diabetes and fatty liver [45], thus it is possible that the occurrence of LD is linked to dysregulation of the adipogenic process [46]. Studies analyzing the polymorphism 3322 C>G in exon 18c showed that the G-allele is associated with obesity and type 2 diabetes in a French case-control study [29] and type 2 diabetes and low adiponectin levels in Austrian population [41]. Our results suggest that the same allele is associated with the occurrence of lipohypertrophy in European-descendants. To our knowledge, this is the first evidence of association between this polymorphism and the LD occurrence in HIV-infected individuals. *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G is a synonymous mutation, where the nucleotide change does not result in amino acid change. Thus, it is possible that 3322C>G change exerts some effect at the mRNA level, such as its conformation, or that another SNP in linkage disequilibrium with this variant is the responsible for the observed association.

Laaksonen *et al.* [47], in a functional study of the *SREBP1c* 3322 C>G variant, showed that CC homozygotes had a cholesterol synthesis rate higher than CG or GG carriers, but they found no effect of the gene variant on plasma cholesterol levels. Another report performed by Miserez *et al.* [32], in HIV-infected individuals, found that PI users who were C allele carriers presented increases in plasma cholesterol levels. Our study found no differences in plasma cholesterol

levels between genotype groups, but these results also argue for some functional effect of this nucleotide change.

Regarding *PPARG* Pro12Ala, a study conducted by our group in individuals from the general population showed a gender specific effect for this variant, where men carriers of the Ala allele had higher BMI than those with Pro allele [39]. This polymorphism has been linked to insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and obesity [21-22, 24-25]. However, the results regarding this gene variant have been conflicting so far. According to a meta-analysis of data from approximately 19,000 individuals, Pro12Ala polymorphism is associated with BMI in overweight and/or obese individuals (BMI above 27 kg/m²) [48]. These results were not reproduced in HIV-infected patients studied herein, although we found some evidence that it could be associated with abdominal fat accumulation in women, which may warrant further investigations. Furthermore, no associations of *PPARG* Pro12Ala with LD were found. Despite being largely investigated in several populations, only two studies were found in the literature regarding the *PPARG* gene in HIV-infected patients: a study investigating the C1431T SNP [49] and other investigating the Pro12Ala polymorphism, which found no associations with LD occurrence, in agreement with our findings.

All work involved HAART is hampered by the inclusion of patients receiving several different therapeutic regimens, which can interfere on execution of pharmacogenomic study concerning this therapy. Other limitations of the present investigation are its cross-sectional design and the analysis of only one SNP in each gene. Consequently, we cannot rule out the influence of other polymorphisms in these genes on these HAART adverse effects.

In summary, this is a first report showing association of *SREBP-1c* 3322C>G with HAART-related lipohypertrophy in European descendants. We did not find evidence of association of *PPARG* Pro12Ala on LD subtypes or lipid levels, indicating that this polymorphism should not influence the development of the HAART side effects studied here. Further studies are needed to fully clarify the role of the *SREBP-1c* gene on the etiology of HAART-related LD and the application of pharmacogenetic tools on prevention and management of HAART-related adverse effects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by Secretaria Nacional de DST/AIDS, Ministério da Saúde, Brasil, Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico and Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior.

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Table 1: Main demographic, clinical, anthropometric and metabolic characteristics of 410 HIV- infected patients

Characteristics	HIV-infected patients (n= 410)	Euro-Brazilians (n= 239)	Afro-Brazilians (n= 171)	<i>P</i> (euro vs. afro-Brazilians)
Demographic				
Age, years	43.0 ± 9.4	42.7 ± 9.4	43.31 ± 9.5	0.553 ^a
Male sex, %	54.6	51.5	59.0	0.155 ^b
Physical activity, %	24.9	21.7	29.2	0.107 ^b
Cigarette smoking, %	27.1	20.9	35.7	0.001 ^b
Clinical				
ART duration, months	69 ± 42	72 ± 42	65 ± 41	0.138 ^c
Lipid-lowering drugs use, %	16.8	17.6	15.8	0.732 ^b
PI users, %	49.3	54.0	45.0	0.092 ^b
Anthropometric				
Lipodystrophy, %	53.4	61.1	42.7	<0.001 ^b
Atrophy, %	38.8	33.6 ^e	49.3 ^f	
Hypertrophy, %	26.5	28.1	23.3	0.074 ^d
Both, %	34.7	38.3	27.4	

Data are mean ± SD or percentage (n presented when different from total).

^a Independent samples T-test.

^b Pearson chi-square with continuity correction.

^c Mann-Whitney's U non-parametric test.

^d Pearson chi-square between individuals with lipodystrophy.

^e Adjusted residual= -2.26, p= 0.024.

^f Adjusted residual= 2.26, p= 0.024.

Table 2: Genotype and allele frequencies of *PPARG* and *SREBP-1c* polymorphisms in HIV-infected patients by ethnic group

Genotypes	Ethnic group % (n)		<i>P</i> [*]	Alleles	Ethnic group %		<i>P</i> [§]
	Euro-Brazilians	Afro-Brazilians			Euro-Brazilians	Afro-Brazilians	
<i>PPARG</i> Pro12Ala				<i>PPARG</i> Pro12Ala			
Pro/Pro	84.3 (199)	85.8 (145)	0.682	Pro	92.0	93.0	0.797
Pro/Ala	15.7 (37)	14.2 (24)		Ala	8.0	7.0	
<i>SREBP-1c</i> 3322 C>G				<i>SREBP-1c</i> 3322 C>G			
C/C	36.0 (85)	25.5 (42)	0.024	C	61.0	51.5	0.009
C/G	50.0 (118)	52.1 (86)		G	39.0	48.5	
G/G	14.0 (33)	22.4 (37)					

* Chi-square test.

§ Chi-square test with Yates correction.

Table 3: Poisson regression models and predicting variables for development of lipoatrophy in HIV-infected subjects

Outcome	Variable	PR	95% CI	<i>P</i>
Lipoatrophy (whole sample)	PI – use	1.40	1.12 – 1.76	0.003
	Age	1.02	1.02 – 1.04	<0.001
	Ethnic group (euro-descendent)	1.43	1.13 – 1.81	0.003

PR, prevalence ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval; PI, protease inhibitor

Table 4: Poisson regression models and predicting variables for development of lipohypertrophy in HIV-infected subjects

Outcome	Variable	PR	95% CI	<i>P</i>
Lipohypertrophy (whole sample)	PI – use	1.46	1.12 – 1.90	0.005
	Sex (male)	0.73	0.56 – 0.94	0.015
	Ethnic group (euro-descendent)	1.74	1.28 – 2.36	<0.001
	<i>SREBP-1c</i> G-allele	1.33	0.99 – 1.77	0.054
Lipohypertrophy (euro-Brazilians)	PI – use	1.42	1.06 – 1.91	0.018
	Sex (male)	0.81	0.61 – 1.09	0.151
	<i>SREBP-1c</i> G-allele	1.41	1.02 – 1.96	0.039
Lipohypertrophy (afro-Brazilians)	PI – use	1.58	0.91 – 2.72	0.098
	Sex (male)	0.52	0.30 – 0.93	0.026
	<i>SREBP-1c</i> G-allele	1.08	0.60 – 1.93	0.792

PR, prevalence ratio; 95% CI, 95% confidence interval; PI, protease inhibitor

Table 5: Comparison between anthropometric parameters and *PPARG Pro12Ala* polymorphism by gender

	Men		Women		P_{gen}	P_{sex}	$P_{\text{gen}*\text{sex}}$
	Pro/Pro	Pro/Ala	Pro/Pro	Pro/Ala			
BMI (kg/cm²)							
mean	24.6	24.1	25.3	27.1	0.305	0.005	0.077
sd	3.6	3.1	5.0	6.7			
n	192	29	152	32			
Waist (cm)							
mean	88.3	86.9	88.6	93.9	0.211	0.024	0.044
sd	10.1	7.1	11.5	16.3			
n	179	27	143	31			
Skinfolds (mm)							
mean	84.4	82.2	131.5	135.6	0.936	<0.001	0.571
sd	36.9	26.8	53.0	42.7			
n	175	27	135	28			

Univariate analysis of variance.

P_{gen} , P value for genotype; P_{sex} , P value for gender; $P_{\text{gen}*\text{sex}}$, P value for the interaction between genotype and gender; BMI, body mass index; sd, standard deviation.

Anexo 1 – Metodologia Utilizada

Metodologia utilizada

As amostras de DNA foram obtidas de leucócitos de sangue periférico através da técnica de Lahiri e Nurnberger (1991), através da precipitação de proteínas pelo excesso de sal.

O DNA extraído foi amplificado pela técnica de PCR (reação em cadeia da polimerase) para análise dos polimorfismos nos genes *LEP*, *LEPR*, *APM1* e *PPARG*. Os fragmentos que continham cada um dos polimorfismos foram amplificados de acordo com as condições descritas na tabela A-1. Para análise dos polimorfismos no gene *APM1*, somente um fragmento compreendendo os dois SNPs foi amplificado. Após a amplificação, a efetividade da reação foi averiguada pela análise dos produtos através de eletroforese em géis de agarose 1,5% corados com brometo de etídio.

A seguir, 10 μ L dos produtos amplificados foram clivados com as respectivas enzimas de restrição, de acordo com a tabela A-2. A genotipagem foi realizada através de eletroforese em géis de agarose com diferentes concentrações, de acordo com o tamanho dos fragmentos produzidos pela digestão enzimática (Tabela A-2). A coloração dos géis com brometo de etídio permitiu a verificação dos genótipos através da utilização de luz ultravioleta (UV). O tamanho dos fragmentos foi estimado por comparação com marcadores de peso molecular (50 bp e 100 bp)

O polimorfismo no gene *SREBP* foi analisado pela técnica de PCR em tempo real, através do ensaio de discriminação alélica *TaqMan*, utilizando *primers* e *probes* adquiridas da empresa Applied Biosystems.

Tabela A-1: Protocolos utilizados para amplificação através de PCR dos polimorfismos analisados no presente estudo

SNP	Sequência dos primers	Composição da reação	Ciclos de temperatura	Referências
LEP -2548G>A	L1: 5'-TTTCCTGTAA TTTTCCCGTGA-3' L2: 5'-AAAGCAAAG ACAGGCATAAAAA-3'	- 2 mM de MgCl ₂ - 187 µM de cada dNTP - 0,5 µM de cada primer - 0,75 U de <i>Taq</i> polimerase - 1 µL de DNA genômico - Volume final: 20 µL	94 °C – 5 min 94 °C – 30 s 50 °C – 30 s 72 °C – 30 s 72 °C – 5 min } 35 X	Le Stunff e cols. (2000) Mammés e cols. (2000)
LEPR Gln223Arg	LR-1: 5'- ACCCTTTAAGCT GGGTGTCCCAAATAG-3 LR2: 5'-AGCTAGCAAATA TTTTTGTAAGCAATT-3'	- 1,5 mM de MgCl ₂ - 200 µM de cada dNTP - 0,3 µM de cada primer - 1,25 U de <i>Taq</i> polimerase - 1 µL de DNA genômico - Volume final: 20 µL	94 °C – 5 min 94 °C – 45 s 55 °C – 45 s 72 °C – 1 min 72 °C – 7 min } 35 X	Matsuoka e cols. (1997)
APM1 -11391G>A e APM1 -11377C>G	A1: 5'-TGTTGAAGTTGG TGCTGGCAT-3' A2: 5'-AGCCTGGAGAA CTGGAAGCT-3'	- 2 mM de MgCl ₂ - 166 µM de cada dNTP - 0,23 µM de cada primer - 0,75 U de <i>Taq</i> polimerase - 1 µL de DNA genômico - Volume final: 30 µL	94 °C – 5 min 94 °C – 30 s 57 °C – 30 s 72 °C – 30 s 72 °C – 5 min } 35 X	Poitou e cols. (2005)
PPARG Pro12Ala	P1: 5'-GCCAATTCAAG CCCAGTC-3' P2: 5'-GATATGTTTGCA GACAGTGTATCAGTGA AAGGAATCGCTTTCCG -3'	- 1,5 mM de MgCl ₂ - 200 µM de cada dNTP - 0,3 µM de cada primer - 0,75 U de <i>Taq</i> polimerase - 1 µL de DNA genômico - Volume final: 25 µL	96 °C – 5 min 96 °C – 30 s 58 °C – 30 s 72 °C – 45 s } 35 X	Yen e cols. (1997)

Tabela A-2: Condições das reações de clivagem dos polimorfismos e de eletroforese para separação dos fragmentos obtidos

SNP	Enzima de restrição	Concentração da enzima	Condições de clivagem	Gel de agarose
<i>LEP</i> -2548G>A	<i>HhaI</i>	4 U	1 h a 37°C	2,0 %
<i>LEPR</i> Gln223Arg	<i>MspI</i>	5 U	2 h a 37°C	2,0 %
<i>APM1</i> -11391G>A	<i>HpaII</i>	5 U	2 h a 37°C	3,0 %
<i>APM1</i> -11377C>G	<i>HhaI</i>	4 U	1 h a 37°C	3,0 %
<i>PPARG</i> Pro12Ala	<i>BstUI</i>	5 U	2 h a 60°C	2,5 %

Anexo 2 – Termos de aprovação pelos comitês de ética



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
FUNDAÇÃO FACULDADE FEDERAL DE CIÊNCIAS MÉDICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE
COMITÊ DE ÉTICA EM PESQUISA
APROVADO PELA CARTA Nº 880/2004-CONEP/CNS/MS
RUA SARMENTO LEITE, 245 – FONE: (51) 3224.8822
CEP 90050-170 – PORTO ALEGRE – RS - cep@fffcmpa.edu.br

Of. 302/06-CEP

Porto Alegre, 05 de outubro de 2006.

Ilma. Sra.
Profa. Vanessa Suñé Mattevi
Nesta Faculdade

Senhora Professora

Informamos que seu projeto intitulado “Identificação de Marcadores Genéticos Associados a Efeitos Adversos em Pacientes com Síndrome da Imunodeficiência Adquirida Sob Terapia Anti-Retroviral.”, Processo nº 141/06, foi avaliado pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa, na reunião de 05 de outubro de 2006, sendo o projeto aprovado, conforme parecer substanciado nº 246-06, em anexo.

Outrossim, informamos que de acordo com o Art. 4º, letra c, do Regulamento do CEP, V. Sa. deverá nos encaminhar relatórios semestrais do desenvolvimento do projeto.

Atenciosamente,

José Geraldo Vernet Taborda
Coordenador do CEP/FFFCMPA



HCPA - HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE
Grupo de Pesquisa e Pós-Graduação
COMISSÃO CIENTÍFICA E COMISSÃO DE PESQUISA E ÉTICA EM SAÚDE

A Comissão Científica e a Comissão de Pesquisa e Ética em Saúde, que é reconhecida pela Comissão Nacional de Ética em Pesquisa (CONEP)/MS como Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa do HCPA e pelo Office For Human Research Protections (OHRP)/USDHHS, como Institutional Review Board (IRB0000921) analisaram o projeto:

Projeto: 05-295

Versão do Projeto: 06/09/2005

Versão do TCLE: 06/09/2005

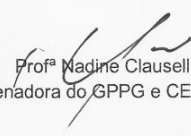
Pesquisadores:

EDUARDO SPRINZ
ROSMERI KUHMMER LAZZARETTI
VANESSA SUNE MATTEVI
JORGE PINTO RIBEIRO
SILVIA KELBERT
PATRICIA REIS PEREIRA
MARA HELENA HUTZ
REGINA KUHMER

Título: IDENTIFICAÇÃO DE MARCADORES GENÉTICOS ASSOCIADOS A EFEITOS ADVERSOS EM PACIENTES COM SÍNDROME DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA ADQUIRIDA SOB TERAPIA ANTI-RETROVIRAL

Este projeto foi Aprovado em seus aspectos éticos e metodológicos, inclusive quanto ao seu Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido, de acordo com as Diretrizes e Normas Internacionais e Nacionais, especialmente as Resoluções 196/96 e complementares do Conselho Nacional de Saúde. Os membros do CEP/HCPA não participaram do processo de avaliação dos projetos onde constam como pesquisadores. Toda e qualquer alteração do Projeto, assim como os eventos adversos graves, deverão ser comunicados imediatamente ao CEP/HCPA. Somente poderão ser utilizados os Termos de Consentimento onde conste a aprovação do GPPG/HCPA.

Porto Alegre, 03 de outubro de 2005.


Profª Nadine Clausell
Coordenadora do GPPG e CEP-HCPA

Anexo 3 – Termo de consentimento livre e esclarecido

Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido

Com o passar do tempo, estão sendo identificadas mudanças no sangue e no corpo antes não descritas em pessoas portadores do HIV, tais como aumento exagerado das gorduras e açúcares no sangue e modificações nas formas do corpo, que consistem no aumento de gordura no pescoço, na barriga e no peito, e uma diminuição da gordura na face, braços, pernas e nádegas, que surgem durante a utilização do coquetel.

Esta pesquisa tem como objetivo identificar várias formas dos genes que podem determinar a eficácia e a segurança do coquetel. Os resultados deste estudo poderão ser utilizados, no futuro, para definir o melhor tratamento para cada paciente de forma individualizada, evitando-se assim o uso desnecessário de fármacos com diferentes efeitos colaterais em pacientes que não se beneficiarão dos mesmos, com a conseqüente redução da desistência do tratamento e da mortalidade.

Concordando em participar do estudo, você será submetido a uma coleta de sangue que lhe causará o desconforto da picada com agulha e, às vezes, poderá deixar o local um pouco roxo. Além disso, serão realizadas medidas de peso, altura e dobras cutâneas.

Pelo presente Termo de Consentimento Livre e Esclarecido, declaro que autorizo a minha participação neste projeto de pesquisa, pois fui informado de forma clara e detalhada, livre de qualquer forma de constrangimento e/ou coerção, a respeito dos objetivos, da justificativa e dos procedimentos aos quais serei submetido. Também fui informado dos riscos, desconfortos e benefícios da minha participação, todos acima listados.

Fui igualmente informado:

- da garantia de receber respostas ou esclarecimento sobre qualquer dúvida a respeito dos procedimentos, riscos, benefícios e outros detalhes relacionados com a pesquisa;
- da liberdade de retirar meu consentimento, a qualquer momento, e deixar de participar do estudo, sem que isso traga prejuízo à continuação do meu tratamento;
- da garantia que não serei identificado quando da divulgação dos resultados e que as informações obtidas serão utilizadas apenas para fins científicos vinculados ao presente projeto de pesquisa;
- do compromisso por parte dos pesquisadores de proporcionar informação atualizada obtida durante o estudo, ainda que possa afetar a minha vontade em continuar participando;
- da disponibilidade de tratamento médico e indenizado, conforme estabelecido em legislação, caso existam danos a minha saúde diretamente causados por esta pesquisa;

- de que se existirem gastos adicionais, estes serão absorvidos pelo orçamento da pesquisa.

- de ser informado sobre os resultados e de suas implicações clínicas após o término do estudo;

- de que o material biológico que será coletado será armazenado, podendo ser utilizado para posteriores estudos;

- da utilização do material armazenado, que só ocorrerá mediante aprovação do novo projeto pelo Comitê de Ética em Pesquisa;

Os pesquisadores responsáveis por este Projeto de Pesquisa são o Prof. Dr. Eduardo Sprinz (Fone: 21018152) e a Prof^ª Dr^ª Vanessa Suñé Mattevi (Fone: 33038763), tendo este documento sido revisado em seus aspectos éticos e metodológicos e aprovado pelos Comitês de Ética em Pesquisa do Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre e da Fundação Faculdade Federal de Ciências Médicas de Porto Alegre.

Data ___/___/___

Nome

Assinatura do paciente

Nome

Concordo em deixar a minha amostra armazenada por 5 anos

Nome

Assinatura do responsável pela obtenção do presente consentimento

Observação: O presente documento, baseado no item IV das Diretrizes e Normas Regulamentadoras para a Pesquisa em Saúde, do Conselho Nacional de Saúde (Resolução 196/96), será assinado em duas vias, de igual teor, ficando uma via em poder do Paciente ou seu Responsável Legal e outra com o Pesquisador Responsável.

Anexo 4 – Carta de confirmação da submissão do artigo
"SNPs in the APM1 gene promoter are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART" ao periódico **JAIDS**

----- Mensagem Original -----

Assunto: Submission Confirmation for SNPs in the APM1 gene promoter are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART

De: "JAIDS, Basic Science" <dgottwal@adarc.org>

Data: Dom, Janeiro 3, 2010 11:24 am

Para: vmattevi@ufcspa.edu.br

vmattevi@terra.com.br

Dear Prof. Mattevi,

Your submission entitled "SNPs in the APM1 gene promoter are associated with adiponectin levels in HIV-infected individuals receiving HAART" has been received by the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes - Basic Science section.

You will be able to check on the progress of your paper by logging on to Editorial Manager as an Author. The URL is <http://jaids-basicscience.edmgr.com/>.

Your manuscript will be given a reference number once your submission is processed and ready for review.

Thank you for submitting your work to this journal.

Kind regards,

Editorial Office

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes - Basic Science

**Anexo 5 – Instruções para publicação de artigos no
periódico *JAIDS***

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (JAIDS)

Online Submission and Review System

SCOPE

The *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal directed to an audience of physicians and researchers. The journal publishes original articles in the form of rapid communications, original research reports, short reviews, brief reports, and letters to the editor. *JAIDS* generally does not publish case reports.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

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Manuscripts that do not adhere to the following instructions will be returned to the corresponding author for technical revision before undergoing peer review.

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Once the paper has been accepted for publication, and final versions of the manuscript, figures, and table files have been uploaded to the Editorial Manager interface, PDF files will not be used for typesetting. This is important to note for Table and Figure files, which may lose formatting when converted to PDF, but will remain intact in their original file format.

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A title page must be included in the manuscript file. Include on the title page: *a*) complete manuscript title; *b*) authors' full names, academic degrees, and affiliations; *c*) name and address for correspondence, including fax number, telephone number, and e-mail address; *d*) address for reprints if different from that of corresponding author; *e*) meetings at which parts of the data were presented (including title of conference, city, and date); *f*) sources of support; and *g*) a running head of no more than 40 characters.

The title page must also include disclosure of funding received for this work from any of the following organizations: National Institutes of Health (NIH); Wellcome Trust; Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI); and other(s).

Abstract and Key Words

The abstract should be structured and limited to 200 words. It must be factual and comprehensive. Limit the use of abbreviations and acronyms, and avoid general statements (eg, "the significance of the results is discussed"). List 3 to 6 key words or phrases.

Text

Organize the manuscript file into sections with appropriate section headings. The sequence should be as follows: title page, abstract/key word page, introduction, methods, results, discussions, acknowledgments, references, tables, figures and figure captions.

Authors should type, whenever possible, all mathematical and chemical symbols, equations, and formulas, and identify all unusual symbols the first time they are used. Define abbreviations at first mention in text and in each table and figure. If a brand name is cited, supply the manufacturer's name and address (city and state/country).

Abbreviations

For a list of standard abbreviations, consult the Council of Biology Editors Style Guide (available from the Council of Science Editors, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814) or other standard sources. Write out the full term for each abbreviation at its first use unless it is a standard unit of measure.

References

The authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references. Key the references (double-spaced) at the end of the manuscript. (If using End Note, set the style output to *JAMA*.) Cite references in text in order of appearance. Cite unpublished data, such as papers submitted but not yet accepted for publication, or personal communications, in parentheses in the text. If there are more than 3 authors, list only the first 3 authors and then use et al. Refer to the List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus for abbreviations of journal names. Sample references are given below:

Journal Article

1. Schambelan M, Benson CA, Carr A, et al. Management of metabolic complications associated with antiretroviral therapy for HIV-1 infection: recommendations of an International AIDS Society-USA panel. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2002;31:257–275.

Book Chapter

2. Wortmann RL, Bentzel CJ. Renal handling of uric acid. In: Massry SG, Glasscock RJ, eds. *Massry and Glasscock's Textbook of Nephrology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2001;90–92.

Entire Book

3. Mandell GL, Mildvan D, eds. *Atlas of AIDS*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2001.

Software

4. Epi Info [computer program]. Version 6. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1994.

Online Journals

5. Friedman SA. Preeclampsia: a review of the role of prostaglandins. *Obstet Gynecol* [serial online]. January 1988;71:22–37. Available from: BRS Information Technologies, McLean, VA. Accessed December 15, 1990.

Database

6. CANCERNET-PDQ [database online]. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute, 1996. Updated March 29, 1996.

World Wide Web

7. Panel on Clinical Practices for the Treatment of HIV Infection. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-infected adults and adolescents. Department of Health and Human Services and Henry J. Kaiser Foundation, January 28, 2000. Available at: <http://www.hivatis.org/guidelines/AA599.pdf>.

Paper Presented at a Conference

8. Koenig L, Ellerbrock T, Pratt-Palmire M, et al. Prospective predictors of medication adherence: a study of the first six months of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) using electronic monitoring [WePeB5818]. Presented at: XIV International AIDS Conference; 2002; Barcelona.

Figures

Cite figures consecutively in the text, and number them in the order in which they are discussed. We encourage authors to submit their figures through Editorial Manager, but if this is not possible, authors may send hard copies of the figures to the editorial office for scanning. On the hard copies,

be sure to write the first author's last name, the figure number and figure part (1A, 1B, 1C), and an arrow to indicate the top edge of the figure on a label pasted to the back of each figure. Submit all artwork in camera-ready form; illustrations should be glossy prints or high-quality, laser-printed illustrations. Photocopies are unacceptable. Authors who submit manuscripts through Editorial Manager may submit figures as separate electronic files. High-quality hard copies may be requested once the manuscript has been accepted for publication. Lettering should be large enough that it will remain legible after figure reduction; typewritten or unprofessional lettering is unacceptable. Figure parts (A, B, C) may be left unlabeled (but clearly marked on back) for professional placement by the journal's printer.

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Create tables using the table creating and editing feature of your word-processing software (eg, Word, Word-Perfect). Do not use Excel or comparable spreadsheet programs. Group all tables at the end of the manuscript, or supply them together in a separate file. Cite tables consecutively in the text, and number them in that order. Key each on a separate sheet, and include the table title, appropriate column heads, and explanatory legends (including definitions of any abbreviations used). Do not embed tables within the body of the manuscript. They should be self-explanatory and should supplement, rather than duplicate, the material in the text.

Style

Pattern manuscript style after the *American Medical Association Manual of Style* (9th edition), *Stedman's Medical Dictionary* (28th edition) and *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (11th edition) should be used as standard references. Refer to drugs and therapeutic agents by their accepted generic or chemical names, and do not abbreviate them. Use code numbers only when a generic name is not yet available. In that case, supply the chemical name and a figure giving the chemical structure of the drug. Capitalize the trade names of drugs and place them in parentheses after the generic names. To comply with trademark law, include the name and location (city and state in USA; city and country outside USA) of the manufacturer of any drug, supply, or equipment mentioned in the manuscript. Use the metric system to express units of measure and degrees Celsius to express temperatures, and use SI units rather than conventional units.

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JAIDS has adopted the standards of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors with regard to the registration of clinical trials. As a condition of consideration for publication, data from research projects "prospectively assigning human subjects to intervention or concurrent comparison or control groups to study the cause-and-effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome" must be registered in a public trials registry. The Protocol Registration System (<http://prsinfo.clinicaltrials.gov/>) offered through the U.S. National Institutes of Health is one such registry.

GenBank Accession Numbers

When manuscripts include or describe original nucleotide or amino acid sequence data, the sequence must be submitted to the GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ sequence database and an accession number obtained from them. This accession number must be returned to the journal, where it will be placed after the Key Words on the title page in the printed article. URLs for the 3 members of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ) are as follows (respectively): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BankIt/>, <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/embl/>, <http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>.

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The above guidelines apply to the original article format. There is no length limitation for original articles, but authors are encouraged to be succinct, as papers that are overlong do not fare well in peer review.

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- The paper should include an abstract, key words, methods, results, discussion, and reference sections.
- The title page should include the corresponding author's telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address.
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Brief Reports are short versions of clinical studies. They represent observations that are preliminary, speak for themselves, or offer new insight into a recognized condition. Submissions should not exceed 10 double-spaced manuscript pages, including references and table. Manuscripts that are too long for this category will be shortened at the editorial office or returned to the author for shortening.

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Letters to the Editor can provide additional comment on an article published in *JAIDS*, or can be a very concise report on study findings. Letters should be no more than 3 typeset pages (6 manuscript pages double-spaced, including references and either 1 figure or 1 table [but no abstract]).

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Anexo 6 - Instruções para publicação de artigos no periódico
Antiviral Therapy

Antiviral Therapy

Guidelines for preparation of manuscripts

EDITORIAL POLICY

Antiviral Therapy welcomes the submission of high-quality research on the clinical development and use of antiviral agents and vaccines, and the treatment of all virus diseases.

Manuscripts submitted to *Antiviral Therapy* are considered for publication on the understanding that the work contained therein has not been submitted simultaneously to another journal. Copies of related manuscripts submitted elsewhere or in press should accompany the submitted manuscript.

All submissions must be accompanied by a covering letter (a letter template is available on the online submission website), signed by all the authors (or the corresponding author on behalf of all others) stating that all authors have contributed to the paper and are familiar with the contents of the final draft, and that all authors meet the criteria for authorship as established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. The letter should also state whether any author has any conflict of interest. You must declare sources of funding, any influence the funding source may have had on the analysis and reporting of the results and any related interest in the Acknowledgements section. Illustrations and other material obtained from other sources must be acknowledged and permission for reproduction must be obtained from the publisher.

All manuscripts should be submitted via the online submission site. Manuscripts should not be submitted via e-mail or post.

Papers will be peer reviewed and assessed statistically before acceptance. Priority and time of publication of accepted material will be decided by the editors. The editors retain the right to shorten material accepted for publication. This can include subediting the text for style. The editors endorse the guidelines on good publication practice from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

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Papers based on clinical investigation must conform to ethical standards as set out in the Declaration of Helsinki. Reports describing data obtained from experiments performed in animals must clearly indicate that humane standards were adhered to.

For experiments on isolated tissues the paper must indicate precisely how the donor tissue was obtained. The NIH *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (National Institutes of Health Publications) gives guidelines for the acquisition and care of animals.

Randomized controlled trials

Authors are requested to report these in accordance with the CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) statement (Hopewell S, *et al.* 2008 *PLoS Med* 5(1): e20 doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0050020). This ensures that enough information is provided for editors, peer reviewers and readers to see how the study was performed and to judge whether the findings are likely to be reliable. For behavioural and public health evaluations involving nonrandomized designs, authors should include with their submission a complete checklist from the TREND statement.

Observational studies

Observational studies (cohort, case-control or cross-sectional designs) should be reported according to the STROBE recommendations (see www.strobe-statement.org).

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1,500 words; ≤ 20 references; ≤ 3 display items

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Correspondence

1,000 words; ≤ 15 references

The correspondence section is for letters that are addressing issues or exchanging views on topics arising from published articles in *Antiviral Therapy*. Correspondence should not exceed 1,000 words.

Meeting report

1,500 words; ≤ 20 references

Antiviral Therapy encourages submissions on written reports from relevant and recent workshops and conferences. An abstract is not required.

Original articles

≤ 4,000 words; ≤ 50 references; ≤ 5 display items

Review articles

3,000–5,000 words; ≤ 100 references; ≤ 5 display items

Reviews are usually commissioned, but unsolicited reviews may occasionally be considered.

Articles will be assessed in-house and those considered suitable will be peer reviewed before an editorial decision is made. Reviews should either be definitive overviews of a major topic connected with antiviral therapies or updates of knowledge in a somewhat narrower field of current interest. The word count will depend on the breadth of the topic. All reviews should be prefaced by a summary of 100–120 words. The summary is important: it should contain sufficient information for the reader to be able to appreciate the relevance of the full article when read alone. Summaries are used by abstracting services and many users of these services read only the summary. It should include background information and specific examples of recent advances. References should not be included and abbreviations should be avoided as far as possible in the summary. References selected for publication in the article should be chosen for their importance, ease of access, and for the 'further reading' opportunities they provide. *Antiviral Therapy* welcomes systematic reviews (see Systematic reviews, above).

Short communication

1,500 words; ≤ 20 references; ≤ 3 display items

Original research findings that do not require a full paper, but are completed studies, may be submitted as a short communication. All short communications should contain an introduction, methods, results and discussion section.

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The manuscript should contain the following:

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A running header of up to 75 characters should be supplied. This will appear at the top of each right-hand page.

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The headings Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions should be used. The abstract must not exceed 250 words. All abbreviations should be defined at first mention. References and display item citations must not appear in the abstract, and the abstract must be clear and comprehensible in its own right.

Main text

Methods

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements should be made to those, not including the authors, who have made a substantial contribution to the study. Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission from people acknowledged by name in case readers infer their endorsement of data and conclusions. Details of sources of funding, editorial support and previous presentation of should be placed in this section, when appropriate. A summary of the role of each author on a collaborative paper may also be included.

Disclosure statement

All conflicts of interest relevant to the article should be disclosed in this section. If there are no conflicts of interest, a sentence to this effect should be included.

References

The accuracy of references is essential and this remains the responsibility of the author. As formatting information (italics, special characters and subscript and superscript text) is often lost on PubMed and other websites, the original versions should be consulted. References must be cited numerically by order of appearance in the text and listed in the bibliography. References should be cited in square brackets, for example, [3] or [1,3–5]. The manuscript bibliography must present full references in the formats given below. In the full list of references give the names and initials of all authors. If there are more than six, cite only the first three, followed by *et al.* The authors' names are followed by the title of the article, the title of the journal (italics) abbreviated according to the style of Index Medicus, the year of publication; the volume number (in bold) and the first and last page numbers in full followed by a full stop. Titles of books should be followed by the city of publication, the publisher, the year and inclusive page numbers. See the following examples:

Standard journal article

1. Bar S, Alizon M. Role of the ectodomain of the gp41 transmembrane envelope protein of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 in late steps of the membrane fusion process. *J Virol* 2004; **78**:811–820.

More than six authors

2. Hirsch MS, Brun-Vézinet F, Clotet B, *et al.* Antiretroviral drug resistance testing in adults infected with human immunodeficiency virus type 1: 2003 recommendations of an International AIDS Society-USA Panel. *Clin Infect Dis* 2003; **37**:113–128.

Translated journal title

3. Schäfer W. Vergleichende sero-immunologische Untersuchungen über die Viren der Influenza und klassischen Geflügelpest [Comparative sero-immunological investigations on the viruses of influenza and classical fowl plague]. *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung* 1955; **10b**:81–91. German.

Book

4. Glantz SA. *Primer of Biostatistics*. 3rd edn. New York: McGraw-Hill 1997; pp. 440.

Chapter in a book

5. Jilbert AR, Burrell CJ, Triatni M, Kann M. Hepatitis B virus replication. In *Human Virus Guide: Hepatitis B Virus*. Edited by CL Lai and S Locarnini. London: International Medical Press; 2002. pp. 43–53.

Abstract

6. Torriani F, Rockstroh J, Rodriguez-Torres M, *et al.* Final results of APRICOT: a randomized, partially blinded, international trial evaluating peginterferon-alfa-2a + ribavirin vs. interferon-alfa-2a + ribavirin in the treatment of HCV in HIV/HCV co-infection. *11th Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections*. 8–11 February 2004, San Francisco, CA, USA. Abstract 112.

Website

7. Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adult and Adolescents. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-1-infected adults and adolescents. Department of Health and Human Services (Updated 10 October 2006. Accessed 3 August 2007.) Available from <http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/contentfiles/AdultandAdolescentGL.pdf>

Prescribing information

8. Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). *Package insert* 2005. Gilead Sciences, Foster City, CA, USA.

Patents

9. Hurst DN, Jones PS, Parkes KEB, Parratt MJ, Wilson FX, inventors; Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., assignee. Inhibitors of HPV E1 helicase enzyme. United State patent US 6703387. 2004 March 9.

Display items

References to figures and tables should be made in order of appearance in the text and should be in Arabic numerals in parentheses, e.g. (Figure 2). Any abbreviation used in a figure or table must be defined, even if it has already been defined in the main text. Units should be stated after a comma, for example 'Time, years' or 'HCV RNA, log₁₀ copies/ml'.

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