

Research Group in HIV and AIDS



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Main Lines of Research

- ▶ Medical care projects.
- ▶ Study of pathogenic mechanisms altering body fat distribution.
- ▶ Study of metabolic disorders associated with antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Body composition changes.
- ▶ New antiretroviral drugs.
- ▶ Cardiovascular risk associated with antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Comorbid conditions associated with HIV-1 infection.
- ▶ Pharmacogenetics (toxicokinetics).
- ▶ Bacterial meningitis.

Medical Care Projects

- ▶ Continuing with, expanding and, as appropriate, consolidating the care team for HIV-1 infected patients, consisting currently of 3 staff physicians, 4 grantaided research assistants (including a Río Hortega-funded research assistant) and 2 nurses).
- ▶ Continuing with participation in multicentre projects (especially the AIDS network, Gesida, VACH, EuroSIDA and ART collaboration).
- ▶ Exploration of possible participation in clinical trials of new antiretroviral drugs.
- ▶ Increasing the number of HIV-1 infected patients attended to in our hospital (given current mortality rates, an estimated annual increase of 50 patients is required).
- ▶ Continuing with current clinical research and mixed basic research-clinical research lines.

Pathogenic mechanisms altering body fat distribution

- ▶ Study of metabolism in pyrimidines and derivatives in the genesis of lipodystrophy associated with HIV-1 and antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Development of an animal (mouse) model of lipodystrophy.
- ▶ Development of in vitro models (adipocyte cultures) to study the adipose toxicity of antiretroviral drugs.
- ▶ Study of new manifestations of the lipodystrophy syndrome.
- ▶ Development of measurements for antiretroviral drug concentrations in adipose tissue.
- ▶ Exploration of the role of inflammation in the pathogenesis of lipodystrophy associated with HIV-1 and antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Metabolism of uridine and its role in the pathogenesis of lipodystrophy.

Metabolic disorders associated with antiretroviral treatment

- ▶ In vivo assessment of metabolic toxicity associated with antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Development of in vitro models (adipocyte cultures) to study the adipose toxicity of antiretroviral drugs.
- ▶ Study of factors contributing to hepatic steatosis in patients receiving antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Study of the pathogenic role of FGF21 in insulin resistance in HIV-1 infected patients.
- ▶ Study of role of FABP4 in metabolic disorders associated with antiretroviral treatment.

Body composition

- ▶ Definition of normal fat distribution in the general population.
- ▶ Establishment of abnormal fat distribution patterns.
- ▶ Development of a definition of lipodystrophy associated with HIV-1 and antiretroviral treatment.

New antiretroviral drugs

- ▶ Clinical trials of new antiretroviral drugs (phases 2 and 3).
- ▶ Ritonavir and non-ritonavir pharmacokinetic potentiation of antiretroviral drugs.

Cardiovascular risk associated with antiretroviral treatment

- ▶ Establishment of a multicentre cardiovascular risk cohort.
- ▶ Study of antiretroviral treatmentdependent and non-treatmentdependent factors in multicentre cohorts.
- ▶ Development of in vitro models (adipose cultures) to study adipose toxicity for antiretroviral drugs.

Challenges

Challenges

Comorbid conditions associated with HIV-1 infection

- ▶ Study of ageing in different tissues associated with HIV-1 infection and antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Study of fragility in patients with HIV-1 infection and the role of HAART.
- ▶ Evaluation of the neurocognitive function in patients with HIV-1 infection with and without antiretroviral treatment.
- ▶ Participation in multicentre cohort studies to determine the incidence of specific comorbidities (cancer, HCV, cardiovascular disease, osteogenesis/osteoporosis): EuroSIDA, ART Collaboration, Gesida, VACH, etc.
- ▶ Treatment of HCV in patients with HIV-1 and its prognostic significance.

Pharmacogenetics (toxicogenetics)

- ▶ Role of enzyme polymorphism of the pyrimidine pathways in the pathogenesis of lipodystrophy.
- ▶ Role of enzyme polymorphism of the pyrimidine pathways in the pathogenesis of clinical toxicity (neuropathy, pancreatitis).
- ▶ Role of IL28B polymorphism in spontaneous HCV clearance in the response to antiviral treatment based on interferon and ribavirin.

Bacterial meningitis

- ▶ Identification of prognostic factors in adult bacterial meningitis.
- ▶ Continuation with a cohort study of adult bacterial meningitis.
- ▶ Identification of host-intrinsic factors in the in the pathogenesis and prognosis of adult bacterial meningitis and meningococcal disease.

Collaborations

Collaborations with other IIB Sant Pau Groups

- ▶ Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (Dr. Pere Coll).

Active Grants

- ▶ Pere Domingo Pedrol. El sistema FGF23/alpha-Klotho como mediador de las comorbilidades no directamente relacionadas con la infección por VIH en el eje cardio-osteo-renal. PI14/00700. Instituto de Salud Carlos III. Duration: 2015-2017. 116,500.00 €.
- ▶ Joan Villarroya Terrade. Estudio de las alteraciones metabólicas y óseas en pacientes VIH bajo tratamiento antirretroviral. IJCI-2014-19681. Ministeri d'Economia i Competitivitat. Duration: 2016-2018. 64,000.00 €.

- ▶ Pere Domingo Pedrol Prevalencia y progresión de la ateromatosis subclínica en pacientes con infección por VIH: correlación con marcadores de señalización inter-orgánica, disbiosis intestinal y estrés oxidativo. PI17/00498 Instituto de Salud Carlos III. 275,780.48 €

Note: Total amount granted to PI. It does not include indirect costs.

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*TIF: 93.933 **MIF: 5.87

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