

Predictive Models of ART Responses Among Acutely Infected Individuals

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Introduction

Background:

- Fewer than 50% of people with acute HIV (AHI) achieve milestones that correspond to a favorable clinical phenotype (Table 1) after 96 weeks of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) initiated during acute infection.
- Risk factors and disease mechanisms underlying phenotype differences remain unknown.

Table 1. Favorable Clinical Phenotype

- No serious clinical events
 - No deaths
 - No AIDS-defining illness
 - No grade 4 adverse events
- Undetectable viral load after 6 months of ART
- Latest CD4 > 500 cells/mm³
- Latest CD4/CD8 ratio > 1

Ananworanich et al., 2018

Methods

Participants:

- 412 Thai adults enrolled in RV254/SEARCH 010. Participants were mostly male (97%), Fiebig stages I-III (86%), with a CD4 T cell count >350 at baseline and undetectable viral status by week 24.

Assessments:

- Multi-dimensional assessments (e.g., viral, immune, neuro, psychosocial) at week 0 and at structured follow-up visits through week 144.
- Individuals were classified into favorable vs. unfavorable clinical phenotypes at weeks 96 and 144 using previously established criteria (Ananworanich et al., 2018).

Analytic Approach:

- The frequency of phenotype designation was defined at weeks 96 and 144 post ART.
- Ensemble machine learning was used to identify features that differentiated individuals according to phenotype designation.
- Multivariate group-based trajectory analyses were employed to identify clusters of participants with distinct risk profiles from week 0 through week 144.

Results

- 41% of the sample met criteria for a favorable clinical phenotype at week 144 (Fig. 1)
- CD4/CD8 T-cell ratio was the strongest classifier of phenotype designation (Fig. 2).

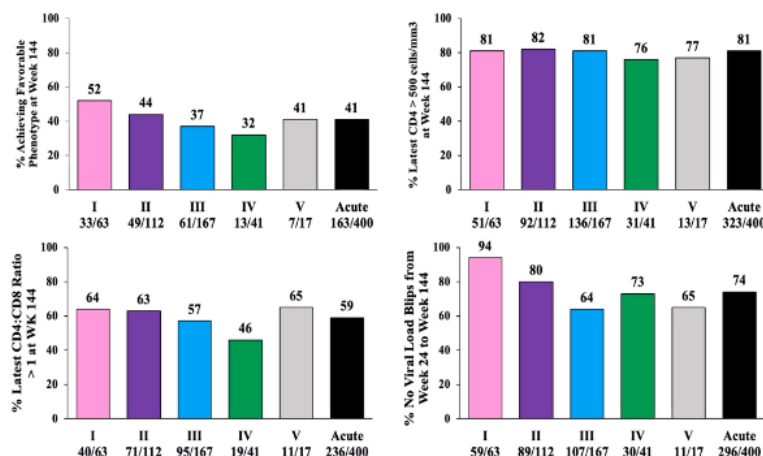


Figure 1. Frequency of phenotype designation by Fiebig stage.

Results and Conclusions

- Trajectory analysis revealed 5 distinct patterns of CD4/CD8 T-cell ratio from week 0 through week 144.
- Two subgroups (49% of the sample) exhibited early and chronic CD4/CD8 T-cell ratio inversion, owing to elevated CD8 T cell-counts with (group 4) or without (group 1) a strong CD4 T-cell response to ART.
- Baseline depressive symptoms, later Fiebig stage at ART onset, and levels of IL-7, IL-23, CD27, Tim-3, and RANTES differentiated the trajectory subgroups with based on CD4/CD8 T-cell inversion and clinical phenotype designation at week 144.

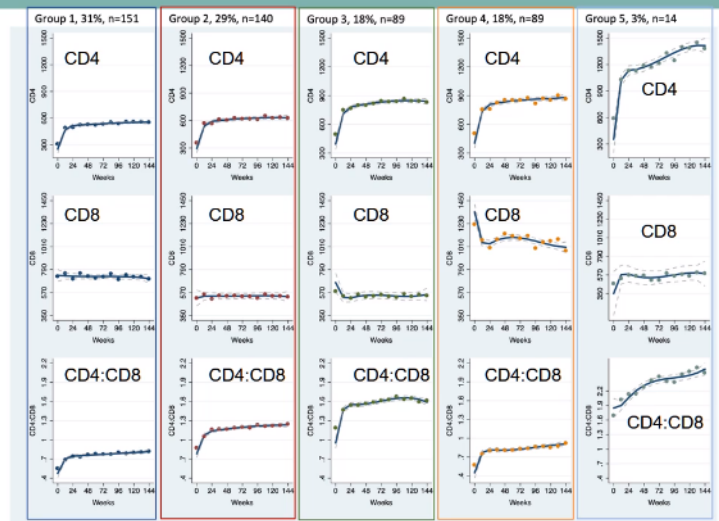


Figure 3. Five CD4/CD8 T-cell trajectory groups. Top row = CD4 T-cell count, Middle row = CD8 T-cell count, Bottom row = CD4/CD8 T-cell ratio. Each column represents a unique latent class. Columns 2 and 4 depict the groups with chronic CD4/CD8 T-cell inversion.

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