

Saturday

**Diagnostic delays amongst Hispanics/Latinos with ALS-FTD: Initial cognitive and behavioral findings**

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**State of the Art:** There is growing awareness that ethnic and racial minorities may be disproportionately affected by dementia syndromes, and recent data suggest that Hispanics and Latinos may be at greater risk of developing dementia. Moreover, little is known about the course of Frontotemporal dementias, especially ALS-FTD, among Hispanics and Latinos living in the United States. We present cognitive and behavioral data from a longitudinal, observational study of patients seen at their initial visit within a multidisciplinary ALS clinic at UT Health San Antonio.

**Methodology:** One hundred thirteen consecutive patients (N=30 Hispanic/Latino) recently diagnosed with ALS completed the Edinburgh Cognitive and Behavioral ALS Screen with accompanying caregivers. We examined associations between cognitive and behavioral performance, demographic, and clinical variables.

**Results:** Hispanic patients presented to clinic much later than non-Hispanic counterparts, had less education, higher rates of cognitive impairment, more advanced disease, and longer time intervals between initial symptom and diagnosis. When these variables are controlled, many of cognitive functioning differences are reduced.

**Conclusions:** This investigation suggests that among Hispanics/Latinos in South Texas, diagnosis and treatment may be delayed, as patients are presenting to clinic much later in the disease process. The disparity in disease severity at initial visit indicates that Hispanic patients with ALS may have barriers to care.

**Conflicts of interest**

None