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Polymorphisms in *CAMKK2* may predict sensory neuropathy in African HIV patients

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## Abstract

29

30 HIV-associated sensory neuropathy (HIV-SN) is the most common neurological condition associated with  
31 HIV. HIV-SN has characteristics of an inflammatory pathology caused by the virus itself and/or by  
32 antiretroviral treatment (ART). Here we assess the impact of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in  
33 a cluster of three genes that affect inflammation and neuronal repair: *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2*. HIV-  
34 SN status was assessed using the Brief Peripheral Neuropathy Screening tool, with SN defined by  
35 bilateral symptoms and signs. Forty-five SNPs in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* were genotyped using  
36 TaqMan fluorescent probes, in DNA samples from 153 HIV<sup>+</sup> black Southern African patients exposed to  
37 stavudine. Haplotypes were derived using the fastPHASE algorithm, and SNP genotypes and haplotypes  
38 associated with HIV-SN were identified. Optimal logistic regression models included demographics (age  
39 and height), with SNPs (model  $p < 0.0001$ ;  $R^2 = 0.19$ ) or haplotypes (model  $p < 0.0001$ ;  $R^2 = 0.18$ ,  $n = 137$   
40 excluding patients carrying *CAMKK2* haplotypes perfectly associated with SN). Overall *CAMKK2* exhibited  
41 the strongest associations with HIV-SN, with two SNPs and six haplotypes predicting SN status in black  
42 Southern Africans. This gene warrants further study.

43

44 *173 words*

45

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47 **Key words:** HIV, sensory neuropathy, *P2X7R*, *P2X4R*, *CAMKK2*

48

## Introduction

49

50

51 HIV-associated sensory neuropathy (HIV-SN) is the most common neurological complication of HIV  
52 infection and antiretroviral treatment (ART), and affects up to 50% of HIV<sup>+</sup> individuals (Kammerman et al,  
53 2012a; Keswani et al, 2002; Wadley et al, 2011). As a length-dependent, predominantly small fibre  
54 neuropathy, HIV-SN impairs somatosensory function in a stocking-and-glove pattern. Lower limb  
55 symptoms typically predominate. A common symptom is pain (Cherry et al, 2012), which negatively  
56 affects patient mobility, ability to work and quality of life (Ellis et al, 2010; Phillips et al, 2014).  
57 Established associations with HIV-SN include increasing age and exposure to potentially neurotoxic  
58 nucleotide reverse transcription inhibitors (NRTIs): zalcitabine, didanosine and stavudine (Kammerman et  
59 al, 2012a; Wadley et al, 2011). While zalcitabine is no longer used clinically, the affordability and  
60 availability of stavudine means that it are only now being phased out in resource-limited settings.  
61 Although these NRTIs contribute to the development of SN, not all patients receiving these drugs  
62 develop neuropathy, and SN remains prevalent in untreated HIV-infected patients and those never  
63 exposed to known neurotoxic regimens (Ellis et al, 2010).

64

65 Studies of HIV-SN patients who have never received ART demonstrate an inflammatory pathology (Tyor  
66 et al, 1995), and more recent studies show similar pathology in patients receiving ART (Kammerman et al,  
67 2012a). Accordingly, we have identified haplotypes spanning a conserved block of genes around *TNFA*  
68 (the “*TNF Block*”) that influence the risk of HIV-SN in Asian, African and Caucasian individuals (Chew et  
69 al, 2011; Wadley et al, 2015). Equivalent studies of other inflammatory genes are lacking. Here we  
70 report on a block of three neighbouring genes found on the long arm of chromosome 12: *P2X7R*, *P2X4R*  
71 and *CAMKK2* (Erhardt et al, 2007).

72

73 It is biologically plausible that each of these genes may contribute to HIV-SN [for the reasons outlined](#)  
74 [below](#). Indeed, polymorphisms in these genes have been linked with susceptibility to neurological  
75 and/or inflammatory pathologies, including neuropathic pain (Erhardt et al, 2007; Ide et al, 2014;  
76 Oyanguren-Desez et al, 2011; Sorge et al, 2012). Roles for each of the genes in neuropathy are  
77 supported by data from animal models and cultured neurons and microglia.

78 [Both \*P2X7R\* and \*P2X4R\* encode products belonging to the family of purinergic receptors for ATP. As well](#)  
79 [as being a source of intracellular energy, ATP can act as a potent extracellular messenger. Released from](#)  
80 [cells following injury or inflammation, ATP modulates a variety of tissue functions via the activation of](#)

81 [P2 receptors. This includes apoptosis, nociception, fast excitatory neurotransmission and astroglial cell](#)  
82 [function \(Burnstock and Williams, 2000\). Both P2X4R and P2X7R are expressed mainly, but not](#)  
83 [exclusively, in immune cells \(macrophages, monocytes and microglia\), and are known to be associated](#)  
84 [with inflammatory and nociceptive responses \(Arulkumaran et al, 2011\).](#) They contribute to neuronal  
85 injury initiated synergistically by HIV tat protein and morphine in primary mouse striatal neuron-glia co-  
86 cultures.

87 The use of P2X antagonists and immunohistochemical analyses suggest that P2X4R is responsible for  
88 cellular toxicity (Sorrell and Hauser, 2014). HIV tat increases production of chemokine ligand 21 (CCL21)  
89 in dorsal root ganglia. CCL21 induces P2X4R expression, triggering persistent tactile allodynia (Biber et  
90 al, 2011). In microglia, P2X4R activation can be increased through exposure to lipopolysaccharides (Guo  
91 and Schluesener, 2006a) and by activation of toll-like receptors, including TLR2 (Guo et al, 2006b). The  
92 lateral mobility of P2X4R in the plasma membranes of resting microglia is increased by ATP activation  
93 and calcium translocation, acting via the p38 MAPK pathway (Toulme and Khakh, 2012). The p38 MAPK  
94 pathway is implicated in inflammatory disorders, such as inflammatory bowel disease (Hollenbach et al,  
95 2004) and rheumatoid arthritis, and invokes the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines, including  
96 TNF $\alpha$  (Campbell et al, 2004). Activation of P2X4R in microglia and macrophages also triggers the  
97 production of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which interacts directly with nerves, inducing  
98 hyperexcitability of peripheral nociceptive synapses (Trang et al, 2011).

99 P2X7R also activates pro-inflammatory factors, notably TNF $\alpha$  (Suzuki et al, 2004). Activation is  
100 mediated by MyD88 and involves NF $\kappa$ B and caspase 1 (Liu et al, 2011), which in turn activates IL-1  
101 and IL-18 in inflammasomes. Inhibition of P2X7R signaling in rats reduces p38 MAPK activation and  
102 neuronal apoptosis after subarachnoid hemorrhage (Chen et al, 2013). The binding of extracellular ATP  
103 to P2X7R on HIV-1 infected human macrophages triggers the release of HIV virions without killing the  
104 cells (Graziano et al, 2015).

105 [In contrast to the P2X receptors, CAMKK2 is mainly expressed in the nervous system. Part of the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-](#)  
106 [calmodulin dependent protein kinase family, it plays a role in neuronal differentiation and migration,](#)  
107 [neurite outgrowth, and synapse formation \(Scott et al, 2015\). It is also an upstream activator of AMP-](#)  
108 [activated protein kinase, an inhibitor of inflammation \(Racioppi and Means, 2012\). Following injury, the](#)  
109 influx of Ca<sup>2+</sup> into the cell activates calmodulin, inducing the CaM kinase signaling cascade. Activated  
110 CaMKK2 phosphorylates and activates protein kinases CaMKI and CaMKIV. Both trigger the production  
111 of CREB, a transcription factor that promotes the synthesis of several proteins including BDNF (Kokubo

112 et al, 2009). CaMKIV also triggers the p38 MAPK cascade and activation factor 1 (AP-1), inducing pro-  
 113 inflammatory cytokines such as TNF $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-6 (Ageta-Ishihara et al, 2009). Different isoforms of  
 114 CaMKI play a role in synaptogenesis, neural plasticity and neurite outgrowth (Guire et al, 2008;  
 115 Saneyoshi et al, 2008). Aberrations in CaMKK2/CaMKI activity can thus have deleterious effects on  
 116 neuronal growth, repair and function, [as well as inflammatory responses](#). CaMKI is also responsible for  
 117 the recruitment of calcium-dependent AMPA receptors, which mediate rapid excitatory synaptic  
 118 transmission. AMPARs play a role in central sensitization in chronic pain (Garry et al, 2003).

119 [The complex roles of P2X4R, P2X7R and CAMKK2 in the modulation of inflammation, pain and neuronal](#)  
 120 [physiology/pathology make them viable candidates as mediators of HIV-SN. Alterations of the encoding](#)  
 121 [genes may influence an individual's susceptibility to the disorder. Changes to individual base pairs in the](#)  
 122 [genetic code \(single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs\) may alter the expression or function of the](#)  
 123 [encoded protein. Alternatively through non-random assorting of alleles at adjacent loci, a SNP may mark](#)  
 124 [\(tag\) a disease-causing polymorphism \(Cordell and Clayton, 2005\). Hence transmitted groupings of SNPs](#)  
 125 [\(known as haplotypes\) can provide insights on genetic risk besides that provided by individual SNPs](#)  
 126 [\(Cordell and Clayton, 2005\). The frequency of the polymorphic allele can vary between populations](#)  
 127 [through genetic drift and natural selection. By convention, the most common allele in the populations is](#)  
 128 [called the "major" allele \(denoted 1\), while the least common is called the "minor" allele \(denoted 2\).](#)  
 129 [Here the same nomenclature is used to define haplotypes.](#)

130

131 Here we investigate whether SNPs and haplotypes in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* are associated with  
 132 prevalent HIV-SN in a population of black Southern African adults receiving stavudine-based ART.  
 133 Associations between demographic variables (greater height and age), *TNF Block* genotypes and HIV-SN  
 134 have been described in this cohort (Wadley et al, 2011; Wadley et al, 2015).

135

## 136 Materials and Methods

### 137 Participants

138

139 HIV<sup>+</sup> patients were recruited between July 2008 and April 2009 at the Virology Clinic of the Charlotte  
 140 Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, South Africa (Wadley et al, 2011). An interpreter fluent in  
 141 English and local African languages facilitated consent and study procedures. The study was approved by

142 the Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical) of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa  
143 (protocol: M080220). Participants were screened using the AIDS Clinical Trials Group Brief Peripheral  
144 Neuropathy Screen, as it is validated for identifying symptomatic HIV-SN (Cherry et al, 2005). HIV-SN was  
145 defined by at least one symptom experienced bilaterally (pain, aching, burning, numbness or pins-and-  
146 needles) and at least one bilateral clinical sign (reduced vibration sense or absent ankle reflexes).  
147 Demographic and clinical data were collected from medical records. DNA samples were available from  
148 153 HIV<sup>+</sup> patients who had been on stavudine-based ART for at least six months and had no unrelated  
149 cause of neuropathy (Wadley et al, 2011).

150

### 151 **Selection of genetic markers**

152

153 Polymorphisms in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* were identified using the HapMap databases describing  
154 three African groups (YRI – Yoruban in Ibadan, Nigeria; LWK - Luhya in Webuye, Kenya; MKK – Maasai in  
155 Kinyawa, Kenya) and one Caucasian (CEU –Northern and Western European ancestry). Forty-five SNPs  
156 were selected (23 in *P2X7R*, 9 in *P2X4R* and 13 in *CAMKK2*), based on (in order) exonic location,  
157 published links with inflammatory/neurological diseases, location in proximal untranslated regions and  
158 presence in more than one population. Linkage disequilibrium data from HapMap collated in HaploView  
159 showed blocks of coinheritance within and between the three genes.

160

### 161 **Genotyping and construction of haplotypes**

162

163 Genotyping was performed using custom TaqMan OpenArray Genotyping Plates (Life Technologies, NY).  
164 DNA samples were adjusted to 50ng/uL and diluted at 1:1 in TaqMan OpenArray Genotyping Master Mix  
165 for 50 cycles of PCR amplification. The output was viewed using OpenArray™ SNP Genotyping Analysis  
166 software and genotypes were allocated manually. SNPs not meeting Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE)  
167 were excluded. Haplotypes were identified using fastPHASE (Scheet and Stephens, 2006) run 20 times  
168 with random seeds. Haplotypes were sampled from the observed genotypes 10,000 times per sample.  
169 Phylogenetic networks were created with Network 4.6.1.2 (Fluxus Technology, Suffolk, England).

170

## 171 **Statistical analyses**

172  
 173 Statistical analyses were performed using Stata11 (StataCorp, TX). Univariate analyses evaluating  
 174 associations between HIV-SN and clinical/ demographic factors, SNPs and haplotypes were performed  
 175 using t-tests, Wilcoxon rank sum tests, Chi<sup>2</sup> tests or Fisher's exact tests, as appropriate. As this is the first  
 176 comprehensive genetic study of *P2X4R*, *P2X7R* and *CaMKK2*, it is structured as a hypothesis-generating  
 177 study and correction for multiple comparisons was not undertaken as it was important to avoid false  
 178 negative findings. Factors potentially associated with HIV-SN were selected using a cut off of  $p < 0.2$  in  
 179 univariate analyses, to ensure SNPs and haplotypes from each of the genes of interest were included in  
 180 logistic regression analyses. These were refined by a step-wise removal process to obtain optimal  
 181 models.

182

## 183 **Results**

184

### 185 **Age and height associated with HIV-SN**

186

187 The 153 participants included in our study matched the parent cohort [ $n=395$ ; (Wadley et al, 2015)]  
 188 when assessed by the prevalence of HIV-SN - 57% vs 56%, gender - 75% vs 75% female, age -  $39 \pm 8$  and  
 189  $39 \pm 8$  years and height -  $159 \pm 8$  and  $158 \pm 9$  cm (resp.). Logistic regression modeling included factors  
 190 previously linked with HIV-SN, specifically gender (Mehta et al, 2011), anti-tuberculosis drugs (Maritz et  
 191 al, 2010), nadir CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell counts (Ellis et al, 2010) and current CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell count, although this has only  
 192 shown an effect pre-ART (Dubeyu et al, 2013). Here the final model identified only increasing age  
 193 (OR=1.09;  $p=0.001$ ; 95% CI 1.04-1.14) and height (OR=1.05;  $p=0.036$ ; 95% CI=1.00-1.09) as being  
 194 independently associated with HIV-SN (model  $p=0.0002$ ,  $R^2=0.084$ ). These had been associated with HIV-  
 195 SN in the parent cohort (Wadley et al, 2011), and were included in subsequent multivariable analyses.

196

### 197 **Associations between SNP alleles and HIV-SN.**

198

199 Four SNPs – all in *CAMKK2* - (*rs1560568*\*A, *rs7975295*\*C, *rs2686344*\*T and *rs2686367*\*A) were  
 200 associated with HIV-SN ( $p < 0.05$ ) on univariate analysis. An additional eight SNPs met our criteria for  
 201 inclusion in logistic regression modeling ( $p=0.05-0.2$ ; Table 1). These included four in *P2X7R*  
 202 (*rs1186055*\*C, *rs208307*\*G, *rs10160951*\*G, *rs2230912*\*G), three in *P2X4R* (*rs2686387*\*C, *rs2668252*\*C,  
 203 *rs1169719*\*A) and one additional SNP in *CAMKK2* (*rs1653587*\*G).

204

205

206 The *CAMKK2* SNPs rs1560568\*A and rs7975295\*C were invariably carried by the same people, so only  
207 rs1560568 was retained. Logistic regression modeling used 11 SNPs, age and height, with step-wise  
208 removal of the weakest associations. The optimal model included age, height and five SNPs representing  
209 all three genes (model  $p < 0.0001$  and  $R^2 = 0.19$ ; Table 2 upper panel).

210

211 We then considered whether these data improved on associations seen with *TNFA* block genotypes.  
212 Seven *TNF Block* risk alleles were identified in the parent cohort: rs11796\*A, rs3130059\*G,  
213 rs2071594\*C, rs2071592\*A, rs2071591\*A, rs909253\*G and rs10411981\*C (Wadley et al, 2015) and  
214 associated weakly with SN in our sub-cohort ( $p < 0.1$ ). As these were usually carried by the same  
215 individuals, rs2071594 was modeled with age, height and the 11 SNPs identified in Table 1. The resulting  
216 model ( $p < 0.0001$ ;  $R^2 = 0.2$ ) retained rs2071594 and three SNPs from Table 2; rs1560568 and rs2686367 in  
217 *CAMKK2* and rs208307 in *P2X7R*. Hence there was no clear improvement when the *TNF Block* and  
218 *P2X4R/P2X7R/CAMKK2* were examined together.

219

## 220 **Associations between haplotypes and HIV-SN**

221

222 The fastPHASE program produced 195 haplotypes spanning the three genes, with many found in only  
223 one or two individuals. Consequently, each gene was analysed individually, generating 119 haplotypes in  
224 *P2X7R*, 21 in *P2X4R* and 54 in *CAMKK2*. The order of SNPs within the haplotypes matches Table 1. Our  
225 statistical analyses were restricted to haplotypes with a frequency of  $> 2\%$ , so there were eight usable  
226 haplotypes in *P2X7R*, seven in *P2X4R* and 17 in *CAMKK2*. Usable haplotypes in *P2X7R* accounted for only  
227 34% of the cohort, but those from *P2X4R* accounted for 93% and in *CAMKK2* for 78%. Six *CAMKK2*  
228 haplotypes were associated with HIV-SN on univariate analysis ( $p < 0.05$ , Table 3). An additional two  
229 *P2X7R* haplotypes, three *P2X4R* haplotypes and three *CAMKK2* haplotypes met our criteria for inclusion  
230 in regression modelling ( $p = 0.05 - 0.2$ , Table 3). The alleles of the SNPs in each haplotype are expressed as  
231 being either a 1 (major allele) or a 2 (minor allele), with respect to their frequency in this cohort. They  
232 are presented in the sequence corresponding to their chromosomal position (as per Table 1). Three  
233 *CAMKK2* haplotypes perfectly predicted the presence (11121221112) or absence (11111111112,  
234 11121212111) of HIV-SN, explaining HIV-SN status in 16/153 (10.5%) of patients (Table 3). Thus 11  
235 haplotypes together with age and height were carried forward in the logistic regression using the



236 remaining 137 individuals. For these patients, the best model combined age and height with one  
237 haplotype of *P2X7R* and three of *CAMKK2* (Table 2 lower panel;  $p < 0.0001$ ,  $R^2 = 0.18$ ).

238

239 We next sought haplotype families that would reduce the number of variants and allow inclusion of rare  
240 haplotypes. However, phylogenetic networks showed that haplotypes associated with HIV-SN did not form  
241 distinct clusters (Figure 1). The only exception is that two *CAMKK2* haplotypes associated with SN  
242 (11111111121 and 21111111121) differ only at rs1653587, which associated weakly with HIV-SN  
243 ( $p = 0.12$ ; Table 1). However their shared minor allele, rs3817190\*T showed no association ( $p = 0.79$ ).  
244 While this allele was carried by 32% of patients, the 11111111121 and 21111111121 haplotypes had  
245 frequencies of 5% and 10% (respectively), so the causative allele is not identified.

246

247 We also considered risk/protective haplotypes identified in the *TNF Block* in studies of the parent cohort  
248 (Wadley et al, 2015). One *TNF Block* haplotype remained associated with HIV-SN in our sample ( $n = 153$ ).  
249 After inclusion of this haplotype, the optimal model retained all but the 11112121111 *CAMKK2*  
250 haplotype ( $p < 0.0001$ ;  $R^2 = 0.18$ ). Hence the modeling was not strengthened by the inclusion of *TNF block*  
251 haplotypes.

252

253

## 254 Discussion

255

256 We investigated whether prevalent HIV-SN is associated with genetic polymorphisms in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R*  
257 and/or *CAMKK2*, in addition to demographic parameters and *TNF Block* genotypes identified in a  
258 Southern African cohort. Our first model included age, height and the alleles of five SNPs spanning the  
259 three genes (Table 1). We then analyzed haplotypes, as there was considerable linkage disequilibrium.  
260 As there are no equivalent studies of these genes, candidates are discussed individually.

261

262 The poor coverage by conserved *P2X7R* haplotypes (34% of the cohort) reflects the extreme  
263 heterogeneity of this gene and is an unavoidable limitation of our study. The only *P2X7R* haplotype in

264 our final haplotype model (211121211112121111111; Table 2) may be associated with an increased  
265 incidence of SN. It contained the minor alleles of five SNPs, where the second (rs1718125\*T; intronic,  
266 20bp from a splice site) has been linked to increased cold pain sensitivity (Ide et al, 2014). Of the five  
267 minor alleles, only rs1186055\*G (3' downstream) showed a weak association with SN on univariate  
268 analysis ( $p=0.17$ ) and none remained in the final SNP model, so individually they do not explain any  
269 impact of the haplotype.

270

271 The two *P2X4R* alleles in the final SNP model (Table 2) are located 2639 bp apart in the 3' downstream  
272 region of the gene. Rs1169719\*A associated weakly with protection ( $p=0.11$ ) and rs2668252\*C with risk  
273 ( $p=0.09$ ) for HIV-SN, but any effects are minor and no *P2X4R* haplotypes remained in the final haplotype  
274 model. Previous studies of *P2X4R* suggest a role for the gene in pain rather than SN itself (Ide et al, 2014;  
275 Sorge et al, 2012; Ulmann et al, 2008). As 94% of patients in this cohort with HIV-SN had pain (Wadley et  
276 al, 2011), this may explain any associations seen here. It will be informative to examine *P2X4R*  
277 genotypes in cohorts where more patients report painless HIV-SN. For example; in the CHARTER study,  
278 62% of HIV-SN patients reported no neuropathic pain (Ellis et al, 2010).

279

280 Two minor alleles in *CAMKK2* remained in the final SNP model (Table 2). The first, rs1560568\*A (MAF=  
281 0.33;  $p=0.03$ ), was consistently co-inherited with rs7975295\*C. Both are located in the 3'downstream  
282 region of the gene, 1486 bases apart. rs7975295\*C also associated with HIV-SN on univariate analysis  
283 (Table 1;  $p=0.007$ ). The second *CAMKK2* SNP associated with SN, rs2686367\*A ( $p=0.01$ ), is located in the  
284 5'UTR. No previous studies have addressed these SNPs.

285

286 Three *CAMKK2* haplotypes associated perfectly with either the absence (11111111121, 11121212111) or  
287 presence (11121221112) of SN. While the two protective haplotypes share no minor alleles, the single  
288 minor allele in 11111111121 (rs3817190\*T) was found in another haplotype that may be protective,  
289 21111111121. rs3817190 lies in a coding region and is non-synonymous, so it may affect the structure  
290 and function of *CAMKK2*. The T allele has been associated with increased severity of familial mood  
291 disorders such as agoraphobia and anxiety (Erhardt et al, 2007). However, this SNP showed no  
292 association with SN on univariate analysis ( $p=0.79$ ), so its effect may be mediated through co-inherited  
293 alleles.

294

295 Two minor alleles were common to the second protective *CaMKK2* haplotype (11121212111) and the  
296 risk haplotype (11121221112). These alleles, rs1560568\*A and rs7975295\*C, were invariably co-  
297 inherited. While rs1560568\*A (and by proxy rs7975295\*C) had remained in the final SNP model as a risk  
298 allele, its carriage by both the protective and risk haplotype argue against a direct role in SN. The other  
299 minor allele in the protective 11121212111 haplotype, rs11837114\*G, showed no association with SN in  
300 the univariate analysis (p=0.52).

301

302 The two remaining unique minor alleles in the *CaMKK2* 11121221112 risk haplotype were rs7314454\*T  
303 (3' downstream) and rs2686367\*A (5'UTR). Rs2686367\*A showed a stronger association with SN on  
304 univariate analysis than rs7314454\*T (p=0.004 vs. p=0.22), and remained in the final SNP model as a risk  
305 allele. Hence rs2686367\*A warrants consideration as the SNP responsible for the promotion of HIV-SN  
306 associated with the 11121221112 haplotype. This SNP is discussed below.

307

308 Of the 17 *CAMKK2* haplotypes examined, five contained rs2686367\*A. Three of these haplotypes  
309 (11111111112, 11111112112, and 11121221112) met the criterion for inclusion in the multivariable  
310 analyses, but had no other minor alleles in common. The remaining two haplotypes containing  
311 rs2686367\*A were not associated with SN (p=1) and also shared no other alleles. Thus while  
312 rs2686367\*A may contribute to SN risk, its effects may be moderated by SNPs not typed in our panel.  
313 Rs2686367 lies on the extreme edge of the region studied. We defined this as the edge of a conserved  
314 block of genes implicated in neuronal inflammation because linkage disequilibrium broke down in this  
315 region. However the neighbouring gene, anaphase-promoting complex unit 5 (*ANAPC5*) encodes a  
316 protein that inhibits IL-17, an important mediator of inflammation and immunity (Ho et al, 2013).  
317 HapMap data show linkage between rs2686367 and some SNPs in *ANAPC5* in African populations.  
318 Further studies should determine whether rs2686367\*A marks carriage of critical alleles of *ANAPC5* or is  
319 important in its own right. Rs2686367 lies in a promoter region of *CAMKK2* and so may alter production  
320 of *CAMKK2* and an individual's ability to grow and repair nerves.

321

322 Three other *CAMKK2* haplotypes were associated with reduced likelihood of HIV-SN in this cohort  
323 (p=0.03-0.05; Table 3). The 21111111121 haplotype contained rs3817190\*T, the minor allele in the

324 perfectly protective 11111111121 haplotype. 21111111121 was the only haplotype in the final model  
325 to contain the rs1653587\*G (3'UTR) allele that individually showed a weak negative association with SN  
326 ( $p=0.12$ ). The other two protective haplotypes, 11112111111 and 11112121111 share rs2686344\*T. This  
327 intronic SNP-negatively associated with SN in univariate analyses ( $p=0.018$ ), but didn't remain in the final  
328 SNP model.

329

330 *P2X4R* and *P2X7R* encode products with an established role in inflammation. Similar to *TNFA*, variations  
331 in these genes may increase the pro-inflammatory environment surrounding peripheral nerves and so  
332 increase SN risk. We began this study expecting associations with one or more of the six non-  
333 synonymous exonic SNPs typed in these genes. However no non-synonymous SNP remained in the final  
334 SNP model (Table 2) and only two met our criteria for inclusion in the multivariate analyses (Table 1,  
335 both in *P2XR7*). Rather our data highlight the need for a careful study of patterns of LD in the target  
336 population.

337

338 While *CAMKK2* is also involved in inflammatory pathways, it is more clearly implicated in neuronal  
339 growth, signaling, plasticity and repair. Polymorphisms impeding the activity of *CAMKK2* may hinder  
340 recovery from an insult (such as HIV or stavudine exposure) and increase the individual's risk of  
341 developing symptomatic HIV-SN. In contrast, variations that promote *CAMKK2* activity may alleviate  
342 symptoms of neuropathy, or reduce the risk of HIV-SN. This gene warrants further study in relation to  
343 sensory neuropathy.

344

345

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350

351

### Conflict of Interest

352 The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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511 **Figure 1: Phylogenic networks linking *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* haplotypes.**

512

513 No clear clustering indicative of haplotype families was seen. Node sizes reflect  
514 haplotype frequencies. Blue nodes mark haplotypes found in the optimal model.  
515 Purple nodes mark haplotypes perfectly associated with the absence or presence of  
516 HIV-SN (Table 3). Red nodes mark hypothetical haplotypes inserted by the software to  
517 connect existing sequences with maximum parsimony

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521 **Table 1:** SNPs in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* associated individually with HIV-SN

<i>P2X7R</i>						
SNP	Position	MA	MAF	SN free	HIV-SN	P (Chi <sup>2</sup> )
rs10849849	Intronic	G	0.11	11/65 <sup>a</sup> (17%)	21/87 (24%)	0.28
rs11065456	3'down	A	0.32	38/65 (58%)	47/84 (56%)	0.76
rs208288	3'down	C	0.29	33/63 (52%)	42/85 (49%)	0.72
rs17525767	3'down	T	0	1/65 (2%)	0/82 (0%)	0.26
rs1718125	Intronic	T	0.35	38/66 (58%)	47/86 (55%)	0.72
<i>rs208294<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Exonic (non-syn)</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>0.25</i>	<i>23/61 (38%)</i>	<i>27/73 (37%)</i>	<i>0.93</i>
rs1169737	Exonic (syn)	T	0	0/65 (0%)	0/86 (0%)	NA
<b>rs1186055<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>46/66 (70%)</b>	<b>69/87 (79%)</b>	<b>0.17</b>
rs2857585	3'down	A	0.34	40/65 (62%)	48/85 (56%)	0.53
rs208296	3'down	A	0.17	22/66 (33%)	23/85 (27%)	0.4
<i>rs11065464<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>3'down</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>0.05</i>	<i>4/66 (6%)</i>	<i>9/86 (10%)</i>	<i>0.34</i>
<b>rs208307</b>	<b>Intronic</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>40/65 (62%)</b>	<b>61/84 (73%)</b>	<b>0.15</b>
rs12299020	3'down	G	0.17	17/65 (26%)	28/84 (33%)	0.34
rs503720	3'down	G	0.49	50/66 (76%)	62/87 (71%)	0.53
rs504677	3'down	T	0.40	43/64 (67%)	53/86 (62%)	0.48
rs1653609	3'down	A	0.27	31/65 (48%)	43/83 (52%)	0.62
rs2230911	Exonic (non-syn)	G	0.14	17/66 (26%)	25/86 (29%)	0.65
rs1653598	3'down	C	0.47	51/66 (77%)	61/86 (71%)	0.38
<b>rs10160951</b>	<b>Exonic (non-syn)</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>17/65 (26%)</b>	<b>32/87 (37%)</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>rs2230912</b>	<b>Exonic (non-syn)</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>2/66 (3%)</b>	<b>9/85 (11%)</b>	<b>0.08</b>
rs3751144	Exonic (syn)	T	0.15	16/63 (25%)	27/86 (31%)	0.43
rs3751143	Exonic (non-syn)	C	0.02	1/66 (2%)	4/87 (5%)	0.29
rs12301635	3'down	G	0.31	34/66 (52%)	47/85 (55%)	0.64
<i>P2X4R</i>						
<b>rs2686387</b>	<b>5'up</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>31/66 (47%)</b>	<b>51/87 (59%)</b>	<b>0.15</b>

rs2303998	Exonic (syn)	A	0	0/66 (0%)	0/87 (0%)	-
rs7298368	5'up	T	0.08	7/66 (11%)	18/87 (21%)	0.95
rs25643	Exonic (syn)	C	0.41	43/66 (65%)	63/86 (73%)	0.28
<b>rs10849860</b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>19/66 (29%)</b>	<b>27/86 (31%)</b>	<b>0.73</b>
<b>rs2668252</b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>37/65 (57%)</b>	<b>58/84 (69%)</b>	<b>0.13</b>
rs11608486	3'down	C	0.04	4/66 (6%)	7/87 (8%)	0.64
<b>rs1169719</b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>12/66 (18%)</b>	<b>8/86 (9%)</b>	<b>0.11</b>
rs7961979	3'down	A	0.13	18/66 (27%)	20/87 (23%)	0.54

## CAMKK2

<b>rs1653587</b>	<b>3'UTR</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>14/66 (21%)</b>	<b>10/85 (12%)</b>	<b>0.12</b>
<i>rs1653588<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>3'UTR</i>	A	0.08	12/65 (18%)	10/87 (11%)	0.23
rs11065502	3'down	C	0.05	7/66 (11%)	9/87 (10%)	0.96
rs11065503	3'UTR	T	0.11	13/65 (20%)	19/84 (23%)	0.70
<i>rs11065504<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>3'down</i>	G	0.38	46/65 (71%)	67/87 (77%)	0.38
<b>rs7975295</b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>29/65 (45%)</b>	<b>56/84 (67%)</b>	<b>0.007</b>
<b>rs2686344</b>	<b>Intronic</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>30/65 (46%)</b>	<b>24/87 (28%)</b>	<b>0.018</b>
<b>rs1560568</b>	<b>3'down</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>30/65 (46%)</b>	<b>55/85 (65%)</b>	<b>0.023</b>
rs7314454	5'up	T	0.31	31/66 (47%)	49/86 (57%)	0.22
rs11837114	3'down	G	0.29	29/65 (81%)	39/78 (50%)	0.52
rs1718120	Intronic	T	0.02	1/65 (2%)	4/85 (5%)	0.28
rs3817190	Exonic (non-syn)	T	0.32	35/64 (55%)	43/82 (52%)	0.79
<b>rs2686367</b>	<b>5'UTR</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>25/66 (38%)</b>	<b>53/86 (62%)</b>	<b>0.004</b>

522 <sup>a</sup> Sample numbers vary as up to five samples failed genotyping at each SNP.

523 <sup>b</sup> Twelve SNPs showing a significant or weak association with HIV-SN ( $p < 0.2$ , bold highlighted) were  
524 included in multivariate models (See Table 2).

525 <sup>c</sup> Four SNPs were excluded from the derivation of haplotypes (See Table 3) as they were not in  
526 Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium.

527 **Abbreviations:** 3'down – 3' downstream region; 5'up - 5 upstream region; UTR - untranslated  
528 region; non-syn - non-synonymous change; syn - synonymous change; MA - minor allele in this  
529 cohort; MAF - minor allele frequency.

530 **Table 2:** Logistic regression models establish *CaMKK2* genotypes as optimal predictors of HIV-SN  
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*Logistic regression model combining demographics and SNPs (n=143<sup>a</sup>, p<0.0001; R<sup>2</sup>=0.19)*

Variable	Odds ratio	P value	95% Conf. Interval
Age	1.08	0.007	1.02 – 1.13
Height	1.05	0.03	1.00 – 1.11
rs208307*G ( <i>P2X7R</i> )	1.96	0.10	0.86 – 4.88
rs2668252*C ( <i>P2X4R</i> )	2.10	0.09	0.90 – 4.93
rs1169719*A ( <i>P2X4R</i> )	0.37	0.11	0.11 – 1.23
rs1560568*A ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	2.39	0.03	1.09 – 5.25
rs2686367*A ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	2.85	0.01	1.26 – 6.42

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*Logistic regression model combining demographics and haplotypes (n=137<sup>b</sup>, p<0.0001; R<sup>2</sup>=0.18).*

Age	1.10	0.001	1.04 - 1.166
Height	1.04	0.17	0.99 - 1.09
2111212111121211111111 ( <i>P2X7R</i> )	3.91	0.15	0.61 - 25.23
111121111111 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	0.15	0.10	0.36 - 0.64
111121211111 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	0.27	0.04	0.08 - 0.94
21111111121 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	0.25	0.03	0.07 - 0.87
11111111121 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	Never seen with SN	-	-
11121212111 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	Never seen with SN	-	-
11121221112 ( <i>CAMKK2</i> )	Always seen with SN	-	-

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532 Haplotypes are defined by SNPs according to their positions in the genes, as specified in Table 1.  
 533

534 <sup>a</sup> excluding samples with genotyping failures

535 <sup>b</sup> excluding samples with genotyping failures or carrying *CAMKK2* haplotypes perfectly aligned with SN

536

537  
538**Table 3:** Haplotypes in *P2X7R*, *P2X4R* and *CAMKK2* associated with HIV-SN

	<i>P2X7R</i> haplotypes		P (chi <sup>2</sup> )
	SN Free (n=66)	SN (n=87)	
1111112111111211111111	4 (6%)	6 (7%)	1 <sup>b</sup>
1111112111112112111212	5 (8%)	8 (9%)	0.7
1111112111112112111211	4 (6%)	5 (6%)	1 <sup>a</sup>
<b>1111112111112121111111</b>	<b>6 (9%)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>3 (3%)</b>	<b>0.18<sup>b</sup></b>
112121111221211221112	12 (18%)	15 (17%)	0.9
1211111211111112111111	5 (8%)	6 (7%)	0.9
1211211112112112111111	4 (6%)	4 (5%)	0.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>2111212111121211111111</b>	<b>2 (3%)</b>	<b>9 (10%)</b>	<b>0.12<sup>b</sup></b>
<i>P2X4R</i> haplotypes			
111121121	12 (18%)	15 (17%)	0.9
111211111	58 (88%)	74(85%)	0.6
<b>211111111</b>	<b>5 (8%)</b>	<b>12 (13%)</b>	<b>0.2</b>
211111121	2 (3%)	4 (5%)	0.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>211111212</b>	<b>11 (17%)</b>	<b>8 (9%)</b>	<b>0.17</b>
211121111	4 (6%)	9 (10%)	0.4 <sup>b</sup>
<b>212111111</b>	<b>7 (11%)</b>	<b>17 (20%)</b>	<b>0.13</b>
<i>CAMKK2</i> haplotypes			
11111111111	9 (13%)	13 (15%)	0.8
<b>11111111112</b>	<b>9 (14%)</b>	<b>20 (23%)</b>	<b>0.14</b>
<b>11111111121</b>	<b>7 (11%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.002<sup>b</sup></b>
11111112111	4 (6%)	3 (3%)	0.5 <sup>b</sup>
<b>11111112112</b>	<b>1 (2%)</b>	<b>6 (7%)</b>	<b>0.14<sup>b</sup></b>
11111121111	4 (6%)	4 (5%)	0.7 <sup>b</sup>
<b>11112111111</b>	<b>9 (14%)</b>	<b>3 (3%)</b>	<b>0.03<sup>b</sup></b>

11112112122	3 (5%)	5 (6%)	1 <sup>b</sup>
<b>11112121111</b>	<b>10 (15%)</b>	<b>5 (6%)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
11121211112	3 (5%)	4 (5%)	1 <sup>b</sup>
<b>11121212111</b>	<b>5 (8%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.014<sup>b</sup></b>
11121212121	6 (9%)	8 (9%)	1
<b>11121221111</b>	<b>15 (23%)</b>	<b>33 (38%)</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>11121221112</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 (5%)</b>	<b>0.13<sup>b</sup></b>
11211112111	3 (5%)	5 (6%)	1 <sup>b</sup>
11211112121	7 (11%)	6 (7%)	0.4
<b>21111111121</b>	<b>11 (17%)</b>	<b>5 (6%)</b>	<b>0.03</b>

539 <sup>a</sup> Haplotypes showing a significant or weak association with HIV-SN ( $p < 0.2$ , bold highlighted) were  
540 included in multivariate models (See Table 2).

541 <sup>b</sup> Fisher's Exact tests