

THESES

DEMENTIA ASSOCIATED TO THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS AND THEIR MAGNETIC RESONANCE ASPECTS (Abstract)*. **Dissertation. São Paulo, 1995.**

SANDRA CRISTINA MATHIAS**

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) associated dementia is characterized by progressive cognitive impairment of subcortical type. The neuropathological aspects include myelin pallor, microglial nodules, multinucleated giant cells and neuronal loss. Cerebral atrophy is the macroscopic most frequent finding.

Magnetic resonance is very sensitive in detecting white matter lesions, revealing focal or diffuse areas of signal hyperintensity on T2-weighted images. The severity of the lesions may correlate with the degree of dementia. Lesions of subcortical structures also present with hyperintensity of signal on T2-weighted images.

The HIV associated dementia is frequent and magnetic resonance imaging is a very sensitive method to establish the diagnosis and to evaluate its course.

KEY WORDS: dementia, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), magnetic resonance image.

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**Address: Alameda Ministro Rocha Azevedo 628 apto 51, 01410-000 São Paulo SP, Brasil.
