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Alzheimer's Disease Normative Cerebrospinal Fluid Biomarkers Validated in PET Amyloid- β Characterized Subjects from the Australian Imaging, Biomarkers and Lifestyle (AIBL) study

Article type: Research Article

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Abstract: Background: The cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) amyloid- β ($A\beta$)₁₋₄₂, total-tau (T-tau), and phosphorylated-tau (P-tau_{181P}) profile has been established as a valuable biomarker for Alzheimer's disease (AD). Objective: The current study aimed to determine CSF biomarker cut-points using positron emission tomography (PET) $A\beta$ imaging screened subjects from the Australian Imaging, Biomarkers and Lifestyle (AIBL) study of aging, as well as correlate CSF analyte cut-points across a range of PET $A\beta$ amyloid ligands. Methods: $A\beta$ pathology was determined by PET imaging, utilizing ¹¹C-Pittsburgh Compound B, ¹⁸F-flutemetamol, or ¹⁸F-florbetapir, in 157 AIBL participants who also underwent CSF collection. Using an INNOTEST assay, cut-points were established ($A\beta$ ₁₋₄₂ >544 ng/L, T-tau <407 ng/L, and P-tau_{181P} <78 ng/L) employing a rank based method to define a "positive" CSF in the sub-cohort of amyloid-PET negative healthy participants (n = 97), and compared with the presence of PET demonstrated AD pathology. Results: CSF $A\beta$ ₁₋₄₂ was the strongest individual biomarker, detecting cognitively impaired PET positive mild cognitive impairment (MCI)/AD with 85% sensitivity and 91% specificity. The ratio of P-tau_{181P} or T-tau to $A\beta$ ₁₋₄₂ provided greater accuracy, predicting MCI/AD with $A\beta$ pathology with 92% sensitivity and specificity. Cross-validated accuracy, using all three biomarkers or the ratio of P-tau or T-tau to $A\beta$ ₁₋₄₂ to predict MCI/AD, reached 92% sensitivity and specificity. Conclusions: CSF $A\beta$ ₁₋₄₂ levels and analyte combination ratios demonstrated very high correlation with PET $A\beta$ imaging. Our study offers additional support for CSF biomarkers in the early and accurate detection of AD pathology, including enrichment of patient cohorts for treatment trials even at the pre-symptomatic stage.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease, amyloid- β , cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers, positron emission tomography $A\beta$ imaging, tau

DOI: 10.3233/JAD-150247

Journal: [Journal of Alzheimer's Disease](#), vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 175-187, 2015

Accepted 29 May 2015 | **Published:** 2015

Price: EUR 27.50

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