

An Association of Virus Infection with Type 2 Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease

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Abstract: Diabetes mellitus type 2 is a metabolic disorder characterized by high blood glucose due to insulin deficiency or resistance. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a complex neurodegenerative disease leading to irreversible loss of neurons, intellectual abilities, memory and reasoning. The worldwide prevalence of diabetes and AD in elderly population is a major public health concern. Interestingly, both health issues are unraveling the puzzling links. The clinico-pathological relationship between diabetes and AD has been reported at genomic and proteomic levels. The association of virus infection in type 2 diabetes mellitus and AD has been reported in few recent studies, some have shown direct evidence of virus infection in diabetes and AD while other have shown that diabetes increases the risk of developing AD. This review aims to summarize the association of few common viruses like Hepatitis C Virus and Herpes Simplex Virus-1 which affects both these two age-related devastating diseases. We also discuss the pathological links of Influenza virus, Cytomegalovirus, West Nile virus, Enterovirus, Herpes Simplex Virus-2, Hepatitis viruses in diabetes and Influenza virus, Picornavirus and Borna disease virus in AD. Establishing such relationships and defining their common pathogenesis and patho-physiological mechanisms may lead to new concepts and paths for developing novel preventive strategies and pharmacological treatment options for diabetes and AD. This study may aid in future for the identification of a single or a panel of likely blood-based viral biomarkers for early diagnosis of diabetes and AD with high sensitivity and specificity.

Keywords: Type 2 diabetes mellitus, Alzheimer's disease, virus infection, hepatitis virus, herpes simplex virus, influenza virus.

INTRODUCTION

Mammalian aging is an inevitable process associated with a general decline in physiological function and the rapid rise in geriatric populations worldwide is increasing the prevalence of age-related cognitive degenerative disorders such as diabetes and Alzheimer's disease (AD) [1]. Diabetes, with its complications and related diseases, is one of the most chronic, costly and fast-growing health challenges [2]. According to the latest World Health Organization report, 347 million people worldwide suffer from diabetes and will double by 2030 [3, 4]. This disease occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces, which results in hyperglycemia with disturbances of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism [5, 6]. There are two main types of diabetes: type 1 and type 2. Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a chronic autoimmune disease, in which the pancreatic β -cells (which secrete insulin) are selectively destroyed. Inflammatory cytokines, innate and adaptive immune cells, have a role in β -cell damage [7], and type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is caused due to insufficient insulin production from

beta cells [8]. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes have increased markedly over the last 50 years in parallel with obesity, accounting for 85-95% of all diagnosed cases of diabetes [9]. The basis of this metabolic syndrome is insulin resistance (IR) which is defined as an increased requirement for insulin in the peripheral tissues to achieve normal blood glucose levels and to reduce the glucose output in the liver [10]. The symptoms of diabetes are polyuria (frequent urination), polydipsia (increased thirst), polyphagia (increased hunger), and weight loss [11]. Over time, diabetes can damage the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves and can lead to related complications [4]. There are no specific reasons identified for diabetes. However, life style, particularly obesity is thought to be the primary cause of T2DM in people who are genetically predisposed to the disease. Few links between T2DM and AD have been reported [12-15].

AD, the most important neurodegenerative disease, is irreversible, age-dependent ailment characterized by problems in progressive impairments in memory, language, reasoning, thinking, behavior and visuospatial skills [16]. AD is characterized by two neurotoxic hallmark abnormalities: (1) plaques, extracellular dense deposits of misfolded, aggregated amyloid beta ($A\beta$) peptide and cellular material that accumulate outside and around nerve cells [17, 18] and (2) neurofibrillary tangles made of twisted tau filaments that build up inside the nerve cells [19]. It is

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the fourth leading cause of death in the western world, one in ten people over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 have AD [20]. In 2010, 36 million people were living with dementia worldwide, and it is estimated to increase up to 66 million by 2030 and 115 million by 2050 [21]. It threatens to become an epidemic if no cure is found, as life expectancy is increasing worldwide. As of 2012, more than 1000 clinical trials have been or are being conducted to find ways to treat this disease, but it is unknown if any of the tested treatments will work [22]. The greatest known risk factor for AD is increasing age followed by family history, environmental factors, which include aluminium, mercury, and viruses but their direct role is under investigation.

Correlations between T2DM and AD have been reported in several epidemiological studies [12, 14, 23, 24]. T2DM has also been associated with an increased risk of cognitive dysfunction and dementia through disease processes such as vascular dementia (VaD) and AD [25]. So far, no one single factor has been identified as a cause for the development of T2DM or AD. The likely etiology is a combination of factors, including age, genetic inheritance, environmental factors, lifestyle, and viral infections [26-28].

Viral infections constitute risk factor for developing T2DM and AD [29]. Familiar viruses associated with these two diseases are Hepatitis C virus (HCV), Herpes simplex

virus (HSV), Influenza Virus (H1N1-serotype), Influenza Virus (H5N1-serotype) Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Enterovirus, West Nile Virus (WNV), Picornavirus and Borna disease virus (BDV). Direct or indirect viral-mediated mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of T2DM and AD is ambiguous and an area of intensive research. Recent experimental evidences have unraveled many steps involved. However, there are many critical questions whose answers still elude the experimental scientists and we still do not have concrete indications of viruses as culprits responsible for these two age-related devastating health concerns. An understanding of the complex association of virus infection between diabetes and AD is necessary for the design and development of novel drug therapies and lifestyle guidelines aimed at the treatment and/or prevention of these life threatening diseases.

VIRUS INFECTION AS RISK FACTOR FOR T2DM AND AD

Viral infection is one of the most important causes of liver damage, diabetes, neurological disorders and several other diseases world over. The viruses associated with the T2DM and AD are HSV, Hepatitis viruses, CMV, Enterovirus, WNV, Influenza Viruses (H1N1, H5N1 serotypes), Picornavirus and BDV [30, 31] (Fig. 1).

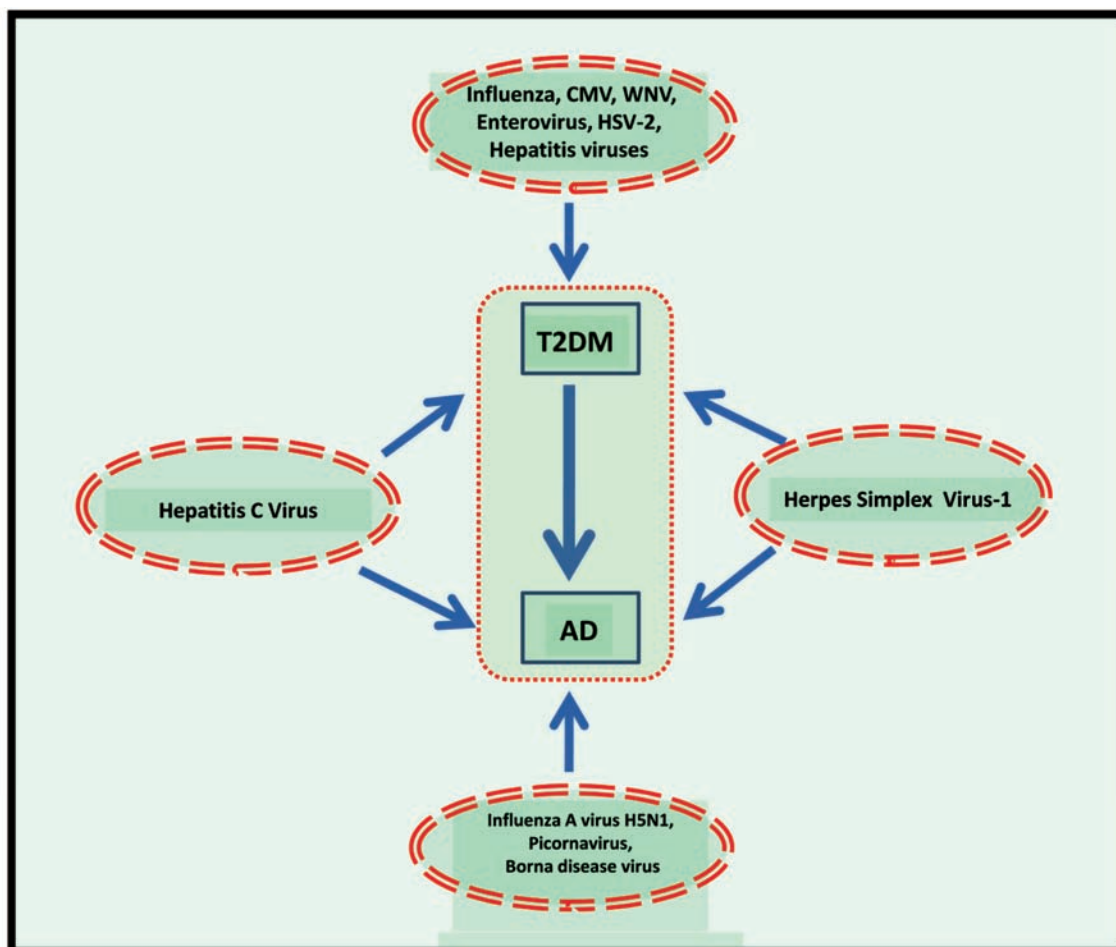


Fig. (1). Schematic diagram showing a link between common virus infection with T2DM and AD. Abbreviations: AD-Alzheimer's Disease, T2DM-Type II Diabetes Mellitus, CMV- Cytomegalovirus, WNV-West Nile Virus, HSV-2-Herpes Simplex virus type-2.

HCV in T2DM

HCV is the most dangerous virus causing liver disease and IR [32]. Nearly 170 million persons worldwide have been infected with the HCV [33]. HCV infection primarily causes liver disease [34], but also has been linked to other conditions including IR and T2DM. The HCV is a blood borne pathogen discovered in 1989, belonging to family *Flaviviridae*. HCV infection is one of the most important causes of cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma with significant impact on public health worldwide [35-39]. The HCV genome is 9.6 Kb in size encoding about 3010 amino acids, translated into 10 different structural and non-structural proteins [40-42] (Fig. 2A). These proteins help in

virus replication and affects host cell machinery. In IR, three proteins are involved in particular *i.e.* core protein, NS-3 and NS-5 proteins. The capsid formation takes place by core protein, Helicase and proteolytic activities are controlled by NS-3 protein and down regulation of interferon stimulated genes and RNA polymerase is controlled by NS5-A and NS-5B proteins [43, 44]. HCV infection is directly and/or indirectly affecting the glucose metabolism, leading to IR, and followed by T2DM. Since 1994, several groups have reported an association between HCV infection and T2DM [31, 45-54]. HCV Core protein, NS3 and NS5 proteins, lipogenic and gluconeogenic genes are shown to be involved in IR [55].

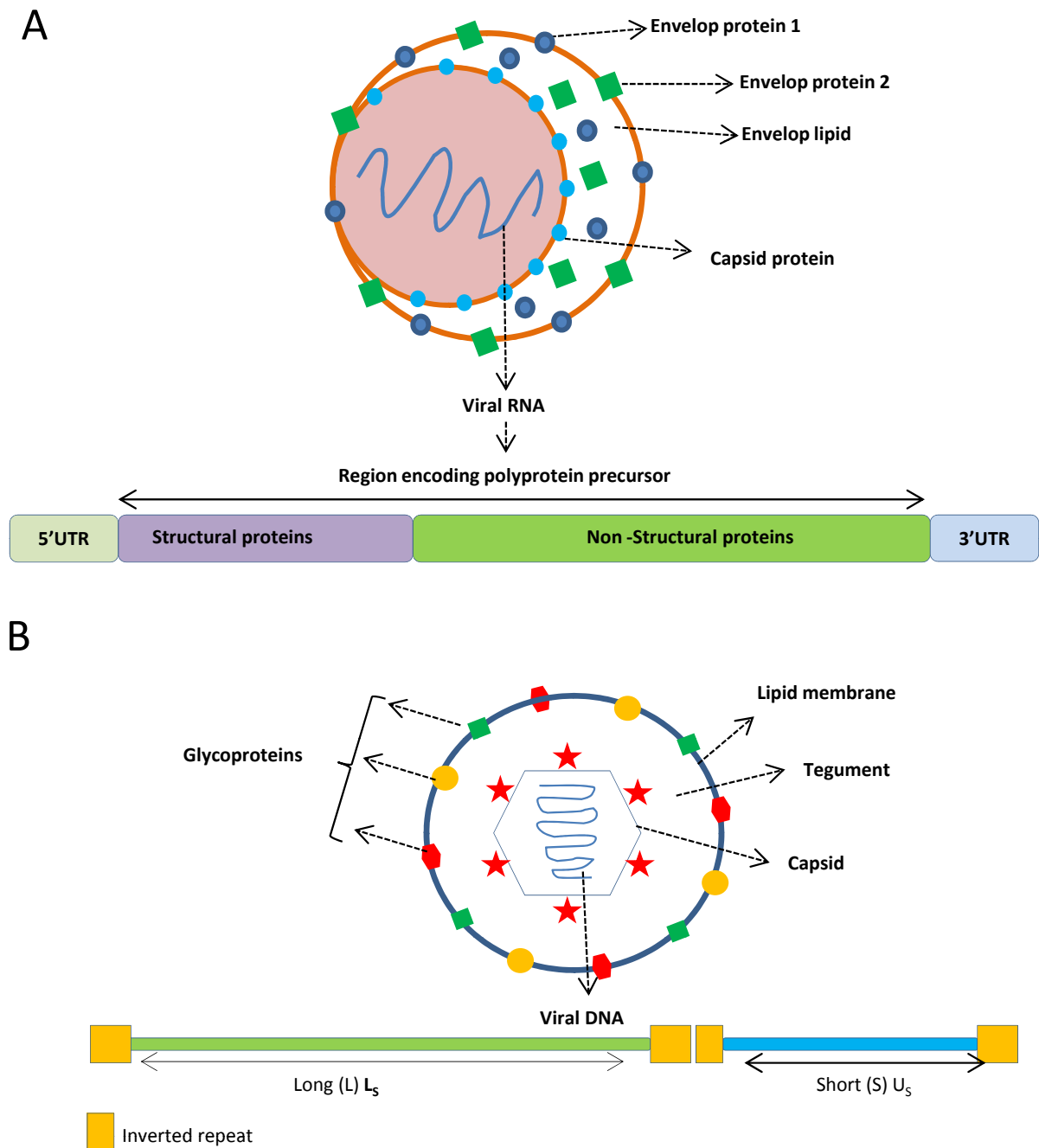


Fig. (2). Model structure and genome map of HCV (A) and HSV (B).

The epidemiological data clearly indicates a link between chronic hepatitis C (CHC) and disturbed glucose homeostasis. The incidence and increased risk of diabetes is significantly higher in those with hepatitis C-related cirrhosis than those with non-CHC-related cirrhosis [56]. One important survey conducted in general population by Mehta and colleagues, showed a strong link between HCV infection and T2DM [57]. The prevalence of T2DM in CHC ranges from 7.6 to 50%; confounding factors known to influence IR such as viral load, viral genotype, age, body mass index, advanced fibrosis and steatosis likely hence affecting the variation in the prevalence. Since then, various workers have re-confirmed these relationships [52, 58-61]. The HCV induced T2DM in CHC patient ranges from 24-50% and it is five times greater than the other hepatic cirrhosis and its prevalence is increasing gradually [45, 47, 62-70]. An excess risk of T2DM in HCV-infected cases was observed in comparison to HBV infected controls, as both viruses can replicate in extra-hepatic sites and produce β -cell damage resulting in diabetes [71]. In Saudi population, the occurrence of T2DM with chronic liver disease was reported and the prevalence of T2DM patients with CHC was significantly higher than the control (19.2% vs 9.2%). The above findings indicate that T2DM is more common in patients with an HCV than non infected individuals [72, 73].

HCV in AD

HCV infection has also shown association with AD [35]. Chronic inflammation is an important cause of AD. Patients with chronic HCV infection may exhibit neuropsychological symptoms and cognitive impairment. Recent evidence suggests that approximately one third of people with chronic HCV experience cognitive impairment. HCV infection increases risk for AD by direct infection in the brain. HCV can cross the blood brain barrier and infect monocytes/macrophages may subsequently cause excessive secretion of cytokines ultimately causing excitotoxicity in the CNS. Microglial activation positively correlated with HCV viraemia and with altered cerebral metabolism [74]. Increased risk for AD was found for participants in their sixties who were infected with HCV. HCV-infected patients who received antiviral therapy have a lower risk for AD. Emerging, intriguing research implicates chronic infection with several pathogenic organisms in the development and progression of AD [30, 75-77].

HCV: A LINK BETWEEN T2DM AND AD

Alzheimer's may Begin in Liver

A recent study reports that AD may originate in liver not brain. Several experimental, clinical and epidemiological data supports that infection with HCV is a leading cause of chronic liver disease [46-49, 55, 78]. The amyloid and plaques, believed to be characteristic of the debilitating AD, starts in the liver rather than in the brain. Sutcliffe and colleagues have indentified three genes (one being PSN-2) in the liver that prevents the formation, accumulation and deposition of amyloid plaques in the mouse's brain [79] suggesting that the therapeutic benefits of a drug in preventing amyloid deposits may not depend on its ability to

easily cross the blood-brain barrier but in fighting against its peripheral accumulation.

The HCV infection has been shown to have direct and/or indirect effects on glucose metabolism, leading to IR and in predisposed individuals followed by development of T2DM and AD. The relationship was first reported in 1994 [35]. Since then, various workers have re-confirmed this relationship [47, 50, 52, 58, 60, 61, 80-93]. Based on the reports, it may be hypothesized that the chronic infection in liver and CNS caused by the HCV should be considered as a risk factor for pathogenesis or patho-physiology of T2DM and AD. The reported prevalence of T2DM in CHC patients ranges from 7.6 to 50%; confounding factors known to influence IR are age, body mass index, viral load, viral genotype, advanced fibrosis and steatosis [91].

HSV-1 in T2DM

HSV-1 is the member of Herpes virus family, *Herpesviridae* [34]. The HSV genome is large, double stranded, linear DNA, containing 74 genes and encased within an icosahedral capsid protein, which is covered by an envelope [94, 95] (Fig. 2B). The clinical and epidemiological studies have demonstrated the direct link between HSV infection and T2DM [88, 96, 97]. Chronic inflammation is involved closely and early on in the pathogenesis of T2DM [98, 99]. The association of HSV-1 infection with T2DM further supported the notion that inflammation and virus infection might be the risk of development of T2DM [88].

HSV-1 in AD

HSV-1 is known to be neurotropic and engages in active transport within neuronal processes. Because HSV enters sensory ganglia (TG or sacral dorsal root nerves) that also project a second process to the CNS, this transport is the more likely route of entry into the brain. The presence of HSV-1 DNA in human brain has been reported by various researchers. A number of investigations have attempted to link various genetic factors, age, and gender to HSV-1 DNA in humans. These reports are somewhat controversial, and in some cases are contradictory. However, there is a general agreement among those who have investigated this area that a large percentage of the human population has HSV-1 DNA in the CNS. During the course of the AD, protein 'plaques' and 'tangles' develop in the structure of the brain, leading to the death of brain cells [100-120].

In AD brains, 90% of the plaques contained the HSV-1 DNA and in aged normal brains, which contain amyloid plaques at a lower frequency, 80% of plaques contained HSV-1 DNA. This shows a strong association of HSV-1 DNA within the amyloid plaques in AD, particularly because most people harbor the virus. Interestingly HSV-1 genome has been amplified in post-mortem brain specimens from numerous AD patients, particularly those who carry the type 4 allele of the gene that encodes apolipoprotein E4, another potential risk factor for AD [121-124]. Indeed, viral infection has been reported to produce molecular hallmarks of neurodegeneration, such as the production and deposit of misfolded protein aggregates, oxidative stress, deficient

autophagic processes, synaptopathies and neuronal death [125].

All of these factors support a viral influence on the development of AD [126, 127]. Four genes, apolipoprotein E4, clusterin, complement receptor 1 and Phosphatidylinositol binding clathrin assembly protein are the main suspects in AD, each of which can be implicated in viral life cycles as well as to amyloid precursor protein and tau and over 100 others implicated in genetic association studies. HSV-1 infection in mice or neuroblastoma cells increases β -amyloid deposition and phosphorylation of the microtubule protein tau. AD-specific tau phosphorylation is induced by HSV-1 [28, 29, 100, 104, 128-133]. HSV-1 induces nuclear accumulation of hyperphosphorylated tau in neuronal cells.

Emerging HSV-1 particles interact with APP, the parent protein that, when hydrolyzed, produces the amyloid β that forms the major component of Alzheimer's plaques, and this leads to reduced distribution of APP in HSV-infected cells [86]. Antivirals reduce the formation of key AD molecules in cell cultures acutely infected with HSV-1 [134]. Micro vesicles (L-particles) are secreted from HSV-1 infected cells, offer a highly plausible mechanism for micro vesicular-mediated intracellular communication and also lead to AD by interacting with β -amyloid [135, 136]. The relationship between HSV-1 and AD has been reported *in vivo* and *in vitro* and has moved throughout the brain by axonal transport and play important pathological roles in AD [137]. In a recent study it was reported that specific host miRNA146 is significantly up regulated during HSV-1 infection, this in turn drives the down regulation of complement factor H expression, and induction of AD type pro-inflammatory signaling [128, 138, 139].

HSV-1: A LINK BETWEEN T2DM AND AD

It is reported that most of the T2DM patients die at the age of 70 years approximately due to the cardiovascular complications before AD. The presence of antibodies to HSV-1 is reported to be associated with an increase in the risk of incident myocardial infarction and coronary heart death. HSV-1 has been reported to play a causative role in people carrying the susceptible versions of the apoE gene [129, 140]. This study established a link between T2DM and AD by using two new mouse models and provided further understanding of mechanism. The pathogenesis of AD begins with impaired synaptic function, which results from the accumulation of amyloid- β peptide [141-144]. It is conceivable that insulin actions or their lack may be a link between T2DM and AD [145]. Furthermore, the reduction of brain insulin levels was observed and Akt phosphorylation, a key step in insulin signaling, was severely impaired. These findings provide experimental evidence to support the notion that impairment of insulin signaling might be a mechanistic link between T2DM and AD [140]. In recent years, inflammatory pathways, including that of nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells, have been linked to metabolic syndrome and neurodegenerative diseases, including AD. As inflammation is often not restricted to central or peripheral tissues or organs, it is tempting to hypothesize that inflammation may be another mechanistic link underlying T2DM and AD [146].

ASSOCIATION OF OTHER VIRAL INFECTIONS IN T2DM AND AD

Several studies have shown that viral infections promote IR, inducing T2DM followed by AD [55, 47]. HCV and HSV-1 infections are found to be directly involved in T2DM and AD; however, viruses below are causing either T2DM or AD: Influenza Virus (H1N1 and H5N1 serotypes), Hepatitis Virus (A, B, D, E and F), HSV-2, CMV, WNV, Enterovirus, Picornavirus and BDV.

Influenza A Virus (H1N1)

Influenza A virus, a genus of the *Orthomyxoviridae* family, with 17 different H and 9 different N antigens, causes flu in mammals including humans [147, 148]. Recently it has been reported that Influenza virus infection may play a role as a causative agent of pancreatic damage resulting in hyperlipasemia followed by diabetes in over 50% of subjects [80]. T1D is a chronic autoimmune disease causing selective destruction of insulin-producing β cells and induces T2DM. The non-structural protein 1 of Influenza A viruses has multiple accessory functions, including suppression of innate immunity and adaptive immunity, inhibition of apoptosis and activation of phosphoinositide 3-kinase. Pei and colleagues have shown that intramuscular delivery of non-structural protein 1 of Influenza A (pEGFP-C2/NS1) in mice resulted in reduction in hyperglycemia and diabetes incidence, with an increase in insulin. This result suggests that the expression of non-structural protein 1 is effective for the prevention and treatment of T2DM [149]. Blocking the autoimmune assault of β cells by immune intervention is effective for the prevention and treatment of T1D and T2D.

Influenza A Virus (H5N1)

Like all other influenza virus, the H5N1 is a RNA virus causing disease in humans and other animal species. In 2011, World Health Organization announced the death of 332 people among 566 confirmed human cases infected with H5N1 since 2003 [150]. It has been hypothesized that viruses have an etiological role in the development of several neurodegenerative disorders, reports also suggest that influenza infection might lead to neurotoxic effect causing neurological disorders like Parkinson's and AD [151]. However, role of Influenza virus in AD is still not clear and debatable. Animals infected by H5N1 viruses have demonstrated acute neurological signs ranging from mild encephalitis to motor disturbances to coma. It was observed that any neurotopic Influenza virus that activates the immune system in the brain could contribute by forming protein aggregates leading to CNS disorders [152, 153] and more generally that viruses may be an important etiological agent in AD development. In regions infected by influenza virus (H5N1), the activation of microglia, alpha-synuclein phosphorylation and aggregation persists long after resolution of the infection. It was also observed that the significant loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta 60 days after infection. The findings suggest that a pandemic H5N1 pathogen, or other neurotropic Influenza virus, could initiate CNS disorders of protein aggregation including AD [154]. Another reports says that amyloid β -peptides which is the major components of neuritic plaques found in AD are aggregated to

fibrillary β -sheet structures (neurotoxic) or form α -helices (membrane poration), which would then trigger cellular death. The 3D NMR structure of A β -peptide (1-42) shows two helical regions encompassing residues 8-25 and 28-38, connected by a regular type I beta-turn. The surprising similarity of this structure, as well as the sequence of the C-terminal moiety, with those of the fusion domain of Influenza hemagglutinin suggests a direct mechanism of neurotoxicity leading to AD [155].

HSV-2

Herpes simplex virus-2 is a member of Herpes virus family that infects humans [34]. The presence of antibodies to HSV-2 is reported to be associated with an increase in the risk of incident myocardial infarction and coronary heart diseases. T2D is a major risk factor for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality [88, 156] and is recorded as a coronary artery disease risk equivalent. HSV-2 glycoprotein E is required for efficient virus spread from epithelial cells to neurons and for targeting viral proteins from the neuron cell body into axons [157].

CMV

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) belongs to *Herpesviridae* family and *beta-herpesvirinae* subfamily and its human herpesvirus-5 species is extremely common cause of human infections [34, 158, 159]. Human CMV is found throughout all geographic locations and socioeconomic groups, and infects ~ 40% world population especially elderly people without specific symptoms [160]. Reports have shown that CMV harms cells in the pancreas and predisposing people to T1D and T2D. Due to T1D, immune system becomes weak which favors more susceptibility to infection with CMV and chances of acquiring T2DM becomes 12 times more than the persons who was exposed previously [82, 83].

In fact, CMV is the major viral cause of serious neurological defects in infants, and also a major problem for the immunocompromised. Like other Herpes viruses it can reside latently for long periods in the body and can be reactivated, and it has been suggested that this might be relevant to its putative role in atherosclerosis, AD and (VaD) [107, 114, 161]. VaD is one of the most common causes of dementia after AD [162, 163]. The fact that CMV resides also in some normal brains suggests that if it is a cause of AD, it must be acting in conjunction with another (possibly genetic) factor. Direct role of CMV in AD is not yet established but it is unlikely that CMV is present in brain merely as an opportunistic infection in those who are already HSV-1-infected [114, 109, 107]. Recent findings indicate that there is a very strong association between CMV in brain and AD but further studies are needed to reveal whether the virus presence denotes cause or consequence. If it were eventually shown to be a risk factor for AD, there would be the possibility of prevention or of treatment of the disease by vaccination or antiviral therapy, respectively.

HBV

Hepatitis B virus is a member of the *Hepadnavirus* family [164] causes serum hepatitis, an infectious inflammatory illness of the liver [165, 166]. The nucleocapsid encloses the viral DNA and a DNA polymerase that has reverse transcriptase

activity. The outer envelope has embedded proteins which are responsible for viral binding and entry into the susceptible cells [167]. The pathogenesis of HCV-associated IR occurs through the inhibition of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ and HBV infection produces the exact opposite effect on peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ [47]. The reports on the relationship between T2DM and HBV infection are inconsistent; some workers have found glycemic abnormalities in HBV infected patients while others could not [168]. The association between HBV and the development of hepatic steatosis is also somewhat controversial [169, 170].

Enterovirus

Enteroviruses are members of the *Picornaviridae* family and cause disease in human and mammals. The genome is positive-sense single-stranded RNA approximately 7500 bases [171]. A link between enterovirus infection and diabetes was shown by a study conducted in a group of adults who had been diagnosed with T2DM and compared with those without T2DM. It was observed that forty percent of the pancreas from adults with T2DM contained the enteroviral protein. The incidence of Enterovirus in pancreas of people diagnosed with T2DM was three times higher than in those without it [85].

WNV

WNV belongs to the genus *Flavivirus* in the family *Flaviviridae*. It is an endemic pathogen found in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, United States and Europe causing encephalitis [172, 173]. The most important neurological diseases caused by this virus are: west nile encephalitis (brain inflammation), west nile meningitis (Nuroinvasive disease) and meninges inflammation [174]. Important risk factors associated with neuro-invasive disease and West Nile fever includes diabetes mellitus, hypertension, older age and male sex [175]. A recent clinico-epidemiological study supported the association of WNV encephalitis and T2DM but no experimental studies have elucidated the direct role of diabetes in WNV neuropathogenesis [176].

Picornavirus

Picornavirus belongs to the family *Picornaviridae*. Picornaviruses are non-enveloped with an icosahedral capsid [177] and are important pathogens of humans and animals [94]. The diseases caused by these viruses are varied, ranging from acute "common-cold"-like illnesses, to poliomyelitis, to chronic infections in livestock. This virus-induced memory loss could accumulate over the lifetime of an individual and eventually lead to clinical cognitive memory deficits. However, it is believed that picornaviruses might be having much more common brain effects that are being missed. Clinical studies suggested that picornavirus infections might trigger brain damage by causing inflammation. Brain inflammation is associated with learning and memory loss, and is a key element of AD [178].

BDV

Borna disease virus is a neurotropic RNA virus belongs to family *Bornaviridae* which has a high affinity for the CNS

and causes disease in humans, birds and mammals [179-181]. It has been shown that BDV infection on the CNS impairs synaptic plasticity, which is important for learning and memory [182]. This virus also affects astrocytes, which play a crucial role in the maintenance of homeostasis in the CNS. Infections with BDV reported to contribute to the pathophysiology of AD caused due to the affinity of viral proteins to neurotransmitter receptors which leads to changes in neurotransmission. Based on these reports, chronic infection with several pathogens should be considered a risk factor for sporadic AD. Early intervention against viral infection may delay or even prevent the future development of AD [91, 183, 184].

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION

T2DM is disease of abnormal functioning of pancreas while AD is result of plaques accumulation in brain. Amyloid beta and amylin peptides aggregate together and clumps are found in the Alzheimer's plaques in the neurons of the brain and pancreas; and also found in the pancreas of diabetic patients, and in both diseases their presence has been linked to the disease progression. T2DM and AD are caused by number of factors such as life style, obesity, genetic factors and microbial infection. Virus infection is one of the causative agents and increases the risk of T2DM and AD. It is also established that diabetes increases the risk of AD in later phase of life. Some virus infection directly induces T2DM and/or AD, while other affects indirectly, diabetes is followed by AD. The identification and establishment of viral links involved in T2DM and AD will enable investigators and clinicians to further delineate the pathobiological events leading to AD-related neurodegeneration and complications arising due to diabetes. Knowledge gained from these analyses should facilitate the development of effective strategies for the treatment and prevention of the infection of the involved viral culprits and to exploit the viral genetics and structural information to develop specific vaccines and drugs. To reduce the risk of diabetic patients developing AD, the interactions between the two diseases and intricate molecular mechanism has to be explored. By understanding these interactions, a drug can be developed in future to decrease the risk among T2DM patients of developing AD in later life. Further basic and applied research work will be necessary to reduce, prevent and counteract.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD	=	Alzheimer's disease
BDV	=	Borna Disease Virus
CHC	=	Chronic Hepatitis C
CMV	=	Cytomegalovirus
CNS	=	Central Nervous System
HBV	=	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	=	Hepatitis C Virus
HSV	=	Herpes Simplex Virus
HSV-1	=	Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1
HSV-2	=	Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2

IR = Insulin Resistance

T2DM = Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

T1D = Type 1 Diabetes

T2D = Type 2 Diabetes

VaD = Vascular dementia

WNV = West Nile Virus

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that there is no conflict of interest.

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