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History of Cigarette Smoking in Cognitively-Normal Elders is Associated with Elevated Cerebrospinal Fluid Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress

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Abstract

Background—Cigarette smoking in adults is associated with abnormalities in brain neurobiology. Smoking-induced central nervous system oxidative stress (OxS) is a potential mechanism associated with these abnormalities. The goal of this study was to compare cognitively-normal elders on cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of F₂-isoprostane biomarkers of OxS.

Methods—Elders with a lifetime history of smoking (smokers; n=50; 75±5 years of age; 34±28 pack-years; approximately 12% were actively smoking at the time of study) were compared to

Conflict of Interest. The Authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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Author disclosures

Author contribution. Dr. Durazzo was responsible for the concept and design of the study, completed all statistical analyses, and wrote the manuscript. Drs. Mattsson, Weiner, Korecka, Trojanowski, and Shaw were involved in manuscript editing and data interpretation. Drs. Korecka, Trojanowski, and Shaw designed the HPLC-atmospheric pressure chemical ionization-tandem mass spectrometry method for isoprostane quantitation. Dr. Durazzo had full access to all the original ADNI data presented study and takes responsibility for the accuracy of the data analyses. All authors approved the final manuscript.

Page 2

never-smokers (n=61; 76±6 years of age) on CSF iPF_{2 α}-III and 8,12, *iso*-iPF_{2 α}-VI F₂-isoprostanes levels. F₂-isoprostanes levels were quantitated with HPLC-atmospheric pressure chemical ionization-tandem mass spectrometry. Associations between F₂-isoprostanes levels, hippocampal volumes, and cigarette exposure measures were also evaluated.

Results—Smokers showed higher $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III level than never-smokers. An age x smoking status interaction was observed for 8,12, *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI, where smokers demonstrate a significantly greater concentration with increasing age than non-smokers. In smokers only, higher 8,12, *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentration was associated with smaller hippocampal volume, and greater $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III level was related to greater pack years.

Conclusions—This is the first study to demonstrate that a history of cigarette smoking in cognitively-normal elders was associated with significantly elevated CSF F_2 -isoprostane levels and greater age-related increases in F_2 -isoprostane levels, and that higher F_2 -isoprostane levels in smokers were related to smaller hippocampal volume. These findings provide additional novel evidence that a history of chronic smoking during adulthood is associated with adverse effects on the human brain that are potentially persistent even with extended smoking cessation.

Keywords

cigarette smoking; oxidative stress; isoprostanes; hippocampus; cerebrospinal fluid; elder adults

1. INTRODUCTION

It is now apparent that cigarette smoking-related morbidity extends well beyond cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, and various cancers, and includes neurobiological and neurocognitive abnormalities, some of which are progressive over time, and are not directly attributable to the foregoing biomedical conditions (Azizian et al., 2009; Durazzo et al., 2010; Sharma and Brody, 2009; Swan and Lessov-Schlaggar, 2007). Specifically, chronic cigarette smoking in young-to-elder adults, without a history of clinically significant biomedical or psychiatric disorders, is associated with abnormalities in brain morphology, biochemistry, microstructural integrity, and neurocognition (Durazzo et al., 2012, 2013; Kuhn et al., 2012, 2010; Sabia et al., 2012; Wagner et al., 2013); see Durazzo et al., 2010 for review). Additionally, former-smokers show neurobiological and neurocognitive abnormalities that are intermediate to active-smokers and never-smokers (Durazzo et al., 2010). Smoking is also associated with significantly increased risk factor for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other diseases that promote dementia (Cataldo et al., 2010; Giunta et al., 2012; Peters et al., 2008). Cigarette smoke is a complex mixture of approximately 5000 combustion products that contains a high number of toxic and carcinogenic compounds (Talhout et al., 2011). Chronic cerebral oxidative stress (OxS) is induced by cigarette smoking, and OxS has been suggested as a mechanism promoting the neurobiological and neurocognitive deficits observed in smokers (Durazzo and Meyerhoff, 2007; Fowles et al., 2000; Haustein, 1999; Swan and Lessov-Schlaggar, 2007; Yang and Liu, 2003). Cerebral OxS is operationalized as the detection of damage to brain tissue (e.g., lipid peroxidation, proteolysis) that is caused by reactive oxygen species (ROS), or more broadly by damage from ROS, reactive nitrogen species (RNS), and other oxidizing agents (Seet et al., 2011; Sutherland et al., 2013; Wang and Michaelis, 2010). Increased levels of

free radicals and oxidants results from an imbalance between the generation of these compounds by endogenous (i.e., normal cellular metabolism) and/or exogenous sources (e.g., smoking), and their chemical reduction by antioxidants/radical scavengers (Schulz et al., 2000; Valavanidis et al., 2009; Wang and Michaelis, 2010). Cigarette smoke contains extremely high concentrations of short-and-long-lived free radicals (Ambrose and Barua, 2004; Valavanidis et al., 2009), and smoking inhibits synthesis of essential endogenous intracellular anti-oxidants, such as glutathione (Bloomer, 2007; Moriarty et al., 2003). The brain is highly susceptible to OxS damage due to its high metabolism and susceptibility of membrane phospholipids to radical attack (Anbarasi et al., 2006; Chalela et al., 2001; Kovacic, 2005; Mueller et al., 2001), and the hippocampi are particularly vulnerable to OxS (Wang and Michaelis, 2010). Central nervous system (CNS) OxS may trigger inflammation via increased proinflammatory cytokine release (Voloboueva and Giffard, 2011), which, in turn, amplifies OxS through generation of additional ROS and other inflammatory mediators (Crews et al., 2006; Guerri and Pascual, 2010; Perricone et al., 2009). Correspondingly, CNS OxS and inflammation tend to occur in tandem in many diseases/disorders, including AD, atherosclerosis, alcohol/substance use disorders, and cigarette smoking (Butterfield et al., 2013; Crews and Nixon, 2009; Durazzo et al., 2010; Enciu et al., 2013; Gill et al., 2010; Khandelwal et al., 2011; Khanna et al., 2013). Animal models and human post-mortem studies indicate that cigarette smoking-induced OxS promotes brain tissue damage via lipid peroxidation and proteolysis (Anbarasi et al., 2005, 2006; Ho et al., 2012; Khanna et al., 2013; Rueff-Barroso et al., 2010; Sonnen et al., 2009; Tyas et al., 2003). Since smoking is a risk factor for AD, it is possible that smoking-induced OxS increases the risk for AD-like neuropathological changes; however, there are no published in vivo studies that have specifically compared human smokers and non-smokers on CNS-derived biomarkers of cerebral OxS.

The goal of this study was to compare cognitively-normal elders with a history of cigarette smoking during lifetime (smokers) to never-smokers on cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of F2-isoprostanes, and test the associations between these biomarkers of OxS and hippocampal volume, a structure that typically shows marked atrophy in those with mild cognitive impairment and AD (Jack et al., 2013). F₂-isoprostanes are prostaglandin-like compounds formed from free radical-mediated peroxidation of arachidonic acid, a highly abundant polyunsaturated fatty acid in the brain (Korecka et al., 2010; Milne et al., 2005). F2-isoprostanes are established biomarkers of radical-induced OxS (Rokach et al., 2004) that have been employed to assess OxS-related tissue damage in neurodegenerative diseases, atherosclerosis, pulmonary diseases, and chronic smoking (Galasko and Montine, 2010; Korecka et al., 2010; Milne et al., 2005; Pratico, 2008, 2010; Yao et al., 2003), and levels increase with advancing age (Montine et al., 2011). In this report we adhere to the F2isoprostane nomenclature proposed by Rokach and colleagues (1997). iPF₂₀-III (alternate nomenclatures: 8-iso-PGF_{2a}; 15-F_{2t}-IsoP) and 8,12, iso-iPF_{2a}-VI (alternate nomenclature: 5-F_{2c}-IsoP) are among the most studied of the F₂-isoprostanes, with the majority of research focused on iPF2a-III (Cracowski et al., 2002; Haschke et al., 2007; Korecka et al., 2010). In active and former adult smokers, urine and plasma iPF2q-III levels were significantly elevated relative to never-smokers (Harman et al., 2003; Helmersson et al., 2005; Milne et al., 2005; Yan et al., 2007). CSF F_2 -isoprostane levels may more accurately characterize

lipid peroxidation of brain tissue than those obtained from peripheral levels because blood and urine-based F₂-isoprostanes concentrations will also reflect radical-mediated peroxidation of plasma lipids and tissue comprising peripheral organ systems (Milne et al., 2005; Montine et al., 2011). We posit that a history of cigarette smoking serves as a source of chronic OxS that places a significant burden on the integrity of brain morphology, which is exacerbated by advancing age. Accordingly, we tested the following hypotheses:

- 1. Smokers demonstrate significantly higher CSF $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and 8,12, *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI and (*iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI) concentrations than never-smokers, and a smoking status (smoker vs. non-smoker) x age interaction is observed, where smokers show significantly higher $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI levels with increasing age than never-smokers.
- 2. In smokers and never-smokers, higher CSF $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentrations are associated with smaller hippocampal volumes.
- 3. In smokers, higher cigarette pack-years are related to higher CSF $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentrations.

2. METHODS

2.1. Participants and study design

Participants were 111 cognitively-normal elder controls (75.5 ± 5.1 years of age) from Alzheimer's disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) project, Phase 1. Phase 1 of ADNI (ADNI1) was a multisite study supported by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the FDA, private pharmaceutical companies, and non-profit organizations, as a 5-year public-private partnership. The primary goal of ADNI1 was to test whether serial magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), other biomarkers, and clinical and neuropsychological assessment can be combined to measure the progression of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early AD (Mueller et al., 2005a, 2005b). Written informed consent was obtained from all participants before procedures were performed. The study was conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki, and U.S. 21 CFR Part 50 – Protection of Human Subjects, and Part 56 – Institutional Review Boards.

Participants who reported they never smoked cigarettes during lifetime were assigned to the non-smoker group (n = 61), and those who reported any history of cigarette smoking during lifetime were designated as smokers (n = 50). Twenty-five of 50 smokers had sufficiently detailed smoking history information to calculate pack-years (34 ± 28); three participants were actively smoking at the time of study, and 22 were former-smokers with 35 ± 14 years of smoking cessation. Antioxidant (vitamin E), anti-hypertensive, and statin/cholesterol absorption blocking agents (statin/CAB) usage was recorded (binary variables – yes, no) and body mass index (BMI) calculated for all participants. See Table 1 for group demographic and clinical information.

2.2. CSF iPF_{2a}-III and iso-iPF_{2a}-VI acquisition and quantitation

ADNI procedures for CSF sampling via lumbar puncture, transport, and storage were previously described in detail (Shaw et al., 2009). Quantitation of $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI was achieved with a HPLC-atmospheric pressure chemical ionization-tandem mass spectrometry method that demonstrates high sensitivity and selectivity for these F₂isoprostanes (Korecka et al., 2010).

2.3. MRI image acquisition and processing

Participants completed a 1.5 Tesla magnetic resonance scan. T1-weighted MRI scans using 3D volumetric magnetization prepared rapid gradient echo (MPRAGE) and 3D T2-weighted sequences were acquired for morphological analyses (see Jack et al., 2008 for acquisition parameters). All images were calibrated with phantom-based geometric corrections to ensure consistency among different study sites (Gunter et al., 2006). The publicly available Freesurfer (v4.5) volumetric segmentation and cortical surface reconstruction methods (Dale et al., 1999; Fischl and Dale, 2000; Fischl et al., 2004, 1999) were used to obtain regional cortical and subcortical brain volumes (mm³) from T1-weighted images, including the hippocampus. Volumes for left and right hippocampi were summed because we had no *a priori* predictions about laterality for associations between $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentrations and hippocampal volumes. Total white matter (WM) hyperintensity volume was calculated from T2-weighted images (Haight et al., 2013).

2.4. Statistical Analyses

2.4.1 Primary analyses—Comparisons of smokers and never-smokers on demographic and clinical variables were conducted with independent sample t-tests and Fisher's exact tests where appropriate. Group comparisons on iPF2a-III and iso-iPF2a-VI concentrations were conducted with generalized linear modeling (GENLIN). Age, sex, vitamin E and statin/CAB use, BMI, smoking status (smoker vs. non-smoker), and smoking status x age interaction were predictors. BMI, vitamin E use, and statin/CAB use were used as predictors because they are associated with F2-isoprostanes levels (Cracowski et al., 2002; Milne et al., 2005; Pratico, 2008). Follow-up t-tests (two-tailed) comparing smokers to never-smokers (controlled for age, sex, BMI, and vitamin E and statin/CAB use) were conducted when smoking status was a significant predictor of isoprostane concentration; effect sizes for mean F₂-isoprostane differences between smokers and never-smokers were calculated with Cohen's d. Associations between iPF2a-III and iso-iPF2a-VI concentrations, hippocampal volumes were examined with linear regression (semi-partial coefficients are reported) in the combined sample (i.e., smokers + never-smokers) and separately for each group. Relationships between smoking exposure measures (pack-years and number of years of smoking cessation for former-smokers) and isoprostane concentrations in smokers were also assessed with linear regression. Covariates for these analyses were age, sex, and vitamin E and statin/CAB use. Intracranial volume and APOE & (APOE4) carrier status were also included as a covariate for analyses involving the hippocampus; APOE genotype was previously related to hippocampal volume (Chiang et al., 2010; O'Dwyer et al., 2012). Pvalues < .05 were considered statistically significant in all analyses.

2.4.2. Secondary analyses—Some investigations of OxS in neurodegenerative diseases and aging employed F₂-isoprostanes measures that represent the concentrations of multiple F₂-isoprostanes or a composite of all 64 constitutional isomers (see Galasko and Montine, 2010; Milne et al., 2005; Montine et al., 2011). In order to determine if a composite isoprostane measure could be used to characterize the level of OxS in smokers and nonsmokers, iPF2a-III and iso-iPF2a-VI concentrations were standardized to never-smokers to form z-scores, and the z-scores were then summed for each F2-isoprostane for all participants to form a single measure. We employed standardized scores to form a single isoprostane measure because the concentration of iso-iPF2a-VI was approximately 3.6-fold greater than iPF_{2 α}-III [see (Korecka et al., 2010) for details] across the sample, and the use of standardized scores mitigated any potential influence of these concentration differences on the formation of the composite F_2 -isoprostane measure. GENLIN and follow-up t-tests, as described for iPF2a-III and iso-iPF2a-VI, were used to compare smokers and neversmokers on the standardized composite isoprostane level. Associations between the composite isoprostane concentration, hippocampal volumes, and smoking exposure variables were tested as described for iPF2a-III and iso-iPF2a-VI. All analyses were completed with SPSS (v22) and R (v3.0.2).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Demographic and clinical variables

There were no significant differences between smokers and never-smokers on age, education, WM hyperintensity and hippocampal volumes (adjusted for intracranial volume), and triglyceride and total cholesterol levels. Groups were equivalent on non-exclusionary self-reported medical conditions (e.g., hypertension, hyperlipidemia) that may influence OxS and brain morphology, as well as on the frequency of statin/CAB, vitamin E, and antihypertensive use. Smokers had a significantly higher percentage of males (p = .008) and higher BMI (p = .02) than never-smokers (see Table 1).

3.2. Primary analyses

3.2.1. Group comparisons on iPF_{2a}-III and iso-iPF_{2a}-VI concentrations—iPF_{2a}-III: Main effects were observed for smoking status [χ^2 (1) = 10.98, p = .001], BMI [χ^2 (1) = 10.28, p = .001], and vitamin E use [χ^2 (1) = 6.01, p = .014]. Smokers demonstrated a higher iPF_{2a}-III concentration than never-smokers (p = .001; effect size = 0.64; see Figure 1). Higher BMI was associated with higher iPF_{2a}-III concentration, while vitamin E use was associated with lower iPF_{2a}-III level. No significant effects were found for age, sex, statin/CAB use, or the smoking status x age interaction (all p > .30).

<u>*iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI</u>: A smoking status x age interaction was observed [χ^2 (1) = 5.85, p = .016], where smokers demonstrated a significantly greater increase of *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI level with increasing age than never-smokers (see Figure 2). Main effects were observed for age [χ^2 (1) = 8.20, p = .004], BMI [χ^2 (1) = 9.18, p = .002], and vitamin E use [χ^2 (1) = 3.87, p = .049]. Higher age and BMI were associated with higher *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI, whereas vitamin E use was related to lower *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI concentration. No main effects were apparent for sex (p = .36),

statin/CAB use (p = .12), and smoking status (p = .16); smokers showed numerically higher levels).

3.2.2. Associations of $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and iso- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentrations with hippocampal volume and smoking exposure variables— $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III: No significant associations between $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III level and hippocampal volume were observed in the combined sample (i.e., smokers + never-smokers) or individually for smokers and never-smokers (all r < -0.23, p > .10). In smokers, higher $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III level was associated with greater pack-years (r = 0.47, p = .018), and greater years of smoking cessation showed a trend for association with lower $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III level (r = -0.39, p = .08).

<u>iso-iPF_{2a}-VI</u>: There were no significant associations between *iso*-iPF_{2a}-VI level and hippocampal volume in the combined sample (r = -0.08, p > .42) or never-smokers alone (r = 0.21, p = .12). However, in smokers, greater *iso*-iPF_{2a}-VI level was associated with smaller hippocampal volume (r = -0.34, p = .024; see Figure 3), and showed a trend for a positive association with pack-years (r = 0.38, p = .061). Years of smoking cessation was not related to *iso*-iPF_{2a}-VI level (r = -0.13, p = .58).

3.3. Secondary analyses

3.3.1. Group comparisons on the standardized composite F₂-isoprostane concentration—A smoking status x age interaction was observed [χ^2 (1) = 8.20, p = . 042], where smokers demonstrated a significantly greater increase of composite isoprostane level with increasing age than never-smokers. Main effects were observed for age [χ^2 (1) = 7.01, p = .007], BMI [χ^2 (1) = 13.32, p < .001], and vitamin E use [χ^2 (1) = 5.31, p = .021], and smoking status [χ^2 (1) = 7.17, p = .007]. Smokers demonstrated a greater composite level than never-smokers (p = .007; effect size = 0.51). Higher age and BMI were associated with a higher composite level, whereas vitamin E use was related to a lower composite concentration. Sex (p = .55) and statin/CAB use (p = .26) were not significant predictors.

3.3.2. Associations of standardized composite F_2 -isoprostane concentration with hippocampal volume and smoking exposure measures—There were no significant associations between the composite isoprostane concentration and hippocampal volume in the combined sample (i.e., smokers + never-smokers) or never-smokers alone (all r < -0.19, p > .10). For smokers, higher composite concentration showed a trend for association with smaller hippocampal volume (r = -0.24, p = .10). Higher composite isoprostane level was related to greater pack-years (r = 0.49, p = .014), but composite concentration was not significantly associated with years of smoking cessation (r = -0.29, p = .20).

4. DISCUSSION

The major findings from this cohort of cognitively-normal elders were as follows: (1) individuals with a history of cigarette smoking (i.e., smokers), relative to never-smokers, demonstrated: higher CSF iPF_{2α}-III and composite isoprostane level (i.e., sum of standardized iPF_{2α}-III and *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI), as well as greater *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI and composite F₂-isoprostane concentration with increasing age. (2) Across groups, vitamin E use was

associated with lower isoprostane levels, and higher BMI was related to higher isoprostane levels; sex and use of statin/cholesterol absorption blocking agents were not significantly related to $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III, *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI, or composite F₂-isoprostane concentrations. (3) In smokers only, higher *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI concentration was associated with smaller hippocampal volume; greater $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and composite isoprostane levels were related to greater pack years.

This is the first study to demonstrate that a history of cigarette smoking in cognitively normal elders is associated with significantly elevated CSF F2-isoprostanes, greater agerelated increases in isoprostane levels, as well as that higher F_2 -isoprostane levels in smokers was related to smaller hippocampal volume. The higher CSF iPF2a-III and composite F₂-isoprostane concentrations observed in these elder smokers are consistent with previous reports of elevated urine and plasma F2-isoprostane levels in both active and former-smokers (Harman et al., 2003; Helmersson et al., 2005; Milne et al., 2005; Yan et al., 2007), while the greater age-related increases in F_2 -isoprostane levels observed in smokers are novel for F₂-isoprostanes measured in any biological tissue. The positive associations between BMI and F₂-isoprostanes, and inverse relationship between vitamin E use and F₂isoprostane levels across groups in this study was consistent with previous reports (Galasko and Montine, 2010; Milne et al., 2005). The equivalence of smokers and non-smokers on cerebrovascular risk factors (e.g., triglyceride and cholesterol levels, WM hyperintensity volume, antihypertensive use), and the robust group differences and age-related effects on F2-isoprostane levels after adjusting for BMI and use of statin/cholesterol absorption blocking agents, argues against clinically significant cerebrovascular disease in smokers as a primary explanation for the smoking-related findings. Three of the 25 smokers with detailed smoking history information were actively smoking at the time of assessment. This is consistent with the 10% prevalence of active-smokers in those 60 years-of-age in the US (Dube et al., 2010), and with the frequency of cognitively-normal active-smokers we observed in larger sample of participants (n = 263) from ADNI GO/ADNI 2 study phases (Durazzo et al., in press). Therefore, most of the cognitively-normal elders for which we did not have detailed smoking history were likely former-smokers with 30-35 years of smoking cessation.

Although groups were statistically equivalent on hippocampal volume, an association between higher *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI level and smaller hippocampal volume was observed in smokers only; the lack of a significant relationship between *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI concentration and hippocampal volume in never-smokers was not due to a restriction of range in this group because smokers and never-smokers showed statistically equivalent variances on *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI concentration and hippocampal volume (data not shown). This indicates that CSF *iso*iPF_{2α}-VI level in smokers may serve as a unique biomarker of the effects of radicalmediated lipid peroxidation on the morphological integrity of brain regions known to be vulnerable to OxS. The significant positive relationship of iPF_{2α}-III level and standardized composite isoprostane concentration with pack-years, and the trend for association of lower iPF_{2α}-III level with greater years of smoking cessation, suggests the dose/duration of cigarettes exposure is linearly related to level of OxS in this group of primarily formersmokers. The greater age-related increases in *iso*-iPF_{2α}-VI and composite isoprostane levels

in this group of elder smokers are congruent with our cross-sectional studies that demonstrated chronic smoking is associated with greater age-related hippocampal atrophy in cognitively-normal middle-aged adults (Durazzo et al., 2013), and greater age-related cortical atrophy in middle-aged adults with an alcohol use disorder (Durazzo et al., 2014). It is not surprising that smokers failed to exhibit greater age-related increases in iPF_{2a} -III since age was not a significant predictor of iPF_{2a} -III concentration across groups.

Large sample, population-based studies found that former-smokers, with variable durations of smoking cessation (e.g., 1 to >28 years), showed higher urine F_2 -isoprostane levels than never-smokers. It was proposed that former-smokers, despite extended periods of smoking cessation, may continue to manifest cytokine-mediated inflammation and OxS and/or incomplete recovery/repair of various cell types in multiple organ systems (Harman et al., 2003; Helmersson et al., 2005). Other large population studies reported former-smokers demonstrated significantly elevated blood-based biomarkers of inflammation (e.g., Creactive protein) after 10-20 years of smoking cessation; the magnitude of biomarker elevation was related to number of cigarettes smoked per day (Wannamethee et al., 2005; Yanbaeva et al., 2007). Therefore, the CSF F₂-isoprostane findings for these primarily former-smokers may be related to persistent chronic inflammatory processes promoting chronic OxS, and/or CNS tissue damage that did not fully resolve with smoking cessation. While speculative, this is supported by the positive association between isoprostane levels pack-years, and the trend for an inverse relationship between iPF_{2a}-III concentration and years of smoking cessation. Additionally, we recently demonstrated that elder former smoker controls from ADNI-GO/ADNI-2 phases demonstrated significantly higher cortical fibrillar amyloid beta (A β) levels than elder never-smoker controls, as measured with florbetapir positron emission tomography (Durazzo et al., in press). The significantly higher cortical Aß level in these former elder smokers is highly relevant because widespread elevations of cortical A β is hallmark neuropathological feature of MCI and AD, and chronic OxS is proposed as a potential mechanism contributing to the inception and progression of pathological A β accumulation during the preclinical stages of AD (Giunta et al., 2012; Sutherland et al., 2013; Swerdlow, 2012). Overall, the findings from the present study and previous research on OxS biomarkers indicate a history of smoking serves as a source of chronic OxS that may impose enduring adverse effects on the integrity of brain morphology, particularly with greater cigarette smoke exposure and increasing age. The association between F₂-isoprostane biomarkers of OxS and hippocampal volume in smokers suggests that chronic OxS may be a mechanism by which cigarette smoking increases the risk for late-life AD (Durazzo et al., in press). However, it is possible the isoprostane findings for these smokers may be, at least partially, related to unrecorded differences between smokers and never-smokers in brain reserve (Stern, 2012), diet and physical activity (Barnes and Yaffe, 2011; Durazzo et al., 2010), subclinical pulmonary, cardiovascular, and/or cerebrovascular diseases, other genetic factors (e.g., polymorphisms brain derived neurotrophic factor), and level of current/past exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Durazzo et al., in press).

This study has other limitations that may influence the generalizability of the findings. The participants were predominately well-educated elder Caucasians. Detailed smoking information was available for 50% of the participants with a history of smoking. Cigarette

smoking in the US promotes at least a 10-year reduction in life expectancy (Jha et al., 2013), which may create a survivor bias due to premature death. In other words, the study of the effects of smoking in elders will be inescapably biased toward the healthiest smokers - those individuals who survived or did not experience significant smoking-related morbidity (Chang et al., 2012; Kukull, 2001). Therefore, the effects of smoking on F_2 -isoprostane levels in this elder sample may be underestimated due to survivor bias. Finally, the accuracy of the automated segmentation methods used for the hippocampal volumetry in this study may be influenced normal and/or pathological variations of shape and tissue contrast (Mueller and Weiner, 2009).

In conclusion, a history of cigarette smoking in this cognitively-normal elder sample was associated with higher CSF F₂-isoprostane concentrations, as well as significantly greater levels with increasing age. These findings provide additional evidence that chronic smoking during adulthood is associated with adverse effects on the brain that are potentially persistent, even with long-term cessation. $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI appeared to show differential associations with smoking status and hippocampal volume; therefore, the formation of a composite measure of these isoprostanes may conceal possible singular relationships of $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III and *iso*- $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -VI with smoking status, brain morphology or other AD biomarkers in future studies. Since smoking-related OxS is proposed as a potential mechanism promoting AD neuropathology (see Durazzo et al., in press), additional longitudinal research is needed on the potential unique characteristics of CSF iPF_{2a} -III and *iso*- iPF_{2a} -VI as biomarkers of smoking-related OxS and their association with brain morphology and other biomarkers of AD-related neuropathology (e.g., CSF or PET measurements of A β and tau) in cognitively-normal controls, and those with MCI and AD.

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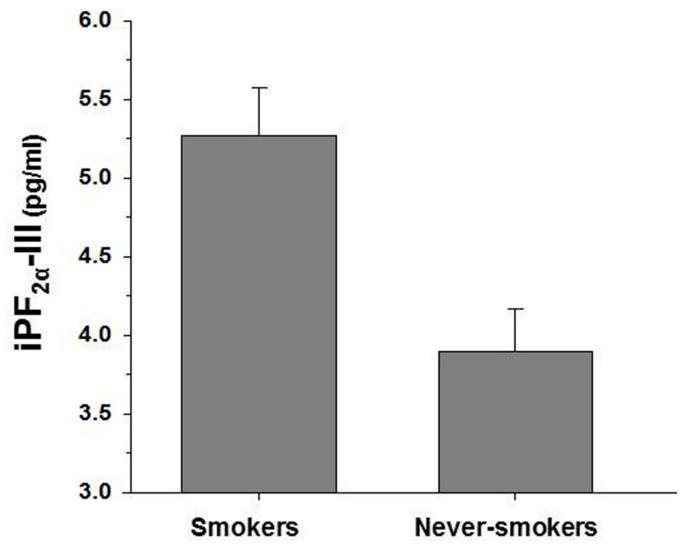


Figure 1. Group concentrations for $iPF_{2\alpha}$ -III.

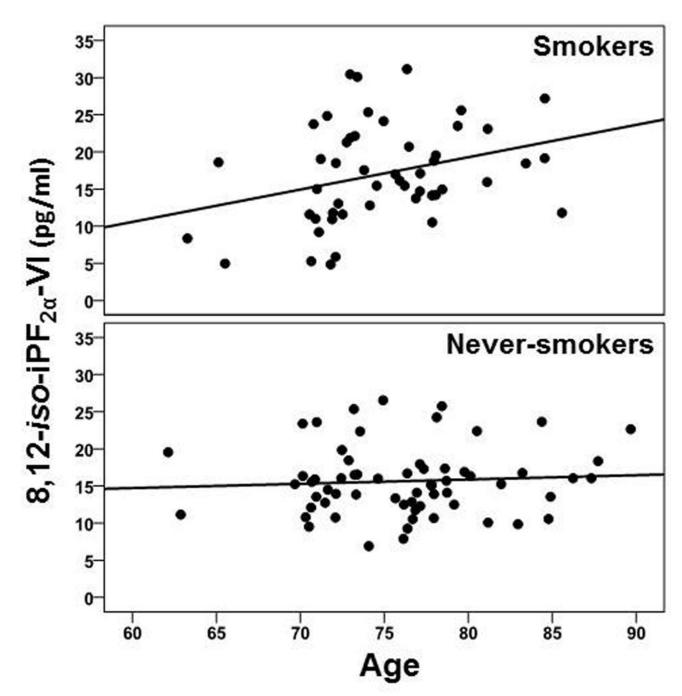


Figure 2. Group concentrations for 8,12-*iso*-iPF_{2a}-VI across age

Durazzo et al.

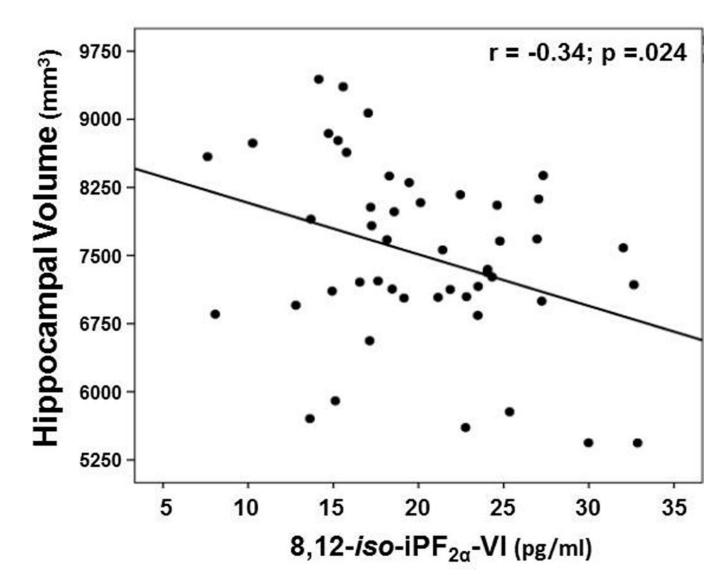


Figure 3. Association between hippocampal volume and 8,12-iso-iPF_{2a}-VI concentration in smokers

Table 1

Participant demographics and clinical variables

Variable	Never-smokers (n = 61)	Smokers (n = 50)
Age	76.1 ± 5.5	74.9 ± 4.7
Education	15.9 ± 2.9	15.5 ± 2.8
Mini Mental Status Exam (total score)	29.3 ± 0.8	28.9 ± 1.2
Caucasian (%)	95	98
Male (%) ^{<i>a</i>}	40	66
Pack-years	NA	34 ± 28
APOE E4 carriers (%)	25	22
Body mass index ^b	25.7 ± 4.1	27.6 ± 4.7
Statin/cholesterol absorption inhibitor use (%)	38	42
Vitamin E use (%)	22	22
Antihypertensive use (%)	43	48
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	199 ± 36.2	187 ± 41.1
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	134 ± 90.2	149 ± 95.5
Hippocampal volume (cm ³) ^C	7.35 ± 0.77	7.23 ± 0.78
White matter hyperintensity volume (cm ³) ^C	0.94 ± 2.3	0.54 ± 0.90

Note:

a, *b* never-smokers < smokers (p < .05);

^cvolumes adjusted for intracranial volume;

NA = not applicable.