Title: Apolipoprotein E4 effects on Topological Brain Network Organization in Mild

Cognitive Impairment

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Supplementary Information

Supplementary Table S1. List of anatomical structures

The regions are listed following the anatomical brain atlas described in Destrieux et al. (2010). The subcortical regions were not included. The short names, as well as the full structure names, are specified. The lobe to which the structure belongs is also included. L: Limbic; I: Insula; P: Parietal; O: Occipital; F: Frontal; T: Temporal. G: gyri; S: sulcus.

Supplementary Table S2. Network properties definition and interpretation.

Sample Biomarkers Characteristics

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples at baseline were collected from 192 MCI subjects as part of the ADNI-1 protocol. The overlap between this sample and the one selected for the present study corresponds to 132 subjects (67 MCI-Carriers and 65 MCI non-Carriers). For details about CSF samples and methods see [UPENN CSF Biomarkers Elecsys \[ADNI1,GO,2\].](javascript:void(0);)csv and [UPENN](javascript:void(0);) [CSF Biomarkers Elecsys METHODS \[ADNI1,GO,2\] \(PDF\)](javascript:void(0);) at <https://ida.loni.usc.edu/pages/access/studyData>

MCI groups characterization based on ADNI1 CSF biomarker measurements (Aβ (1-42), tTau,

and pTau) at baseline

Values are represented by the mean (pg/mL) and the Standard deviations (SD). N: number of subjects; MCI: Mild Cognitive Impairment; Carriers: *ApoE4*-positive; non-Carriers: *ApoE4*-negative; Aβ(1-42): β-Amyloid (1-42); tTau: Total-Tau; pTau: Phospho-Tau. The superscript "*" represents significant T-test for independent samples set at p<0.05

MCI groups characterization as biomarker positive and negative based on Aβ (1-42), tTau and

pTau

Values are represented by the number of subjects (%). The positive (+) and negative (-) status are based on PEToptimized cut-offs for Aβ(1-42), pTau/Aβ(1-42) and tTau/Aβ(1-42). CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; BM, biomarker; Aβ(1-42): β-Amyloid (1-42); tTau: Total-Tau; pTau: Phospho-Tau; MCI, mild cognitive impairment. For biomarkers, cut-offs description, see Hansson et al. (2018).

CSF Biomarkers groups characterization. The Amyloid plaque burden +/- represented by Aβ (1- 42) and Tau pathology represented by tTau+ or -

Values are represented by the number of subjects $(\%)$. The positive $(+)$ and negative $(-)$ status are based on PEToptimized cut-offs for Aβ(1-42), pTau/Aβ(1-42) and tTau/Aβ(1-42). CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; Aβ(1-42): β-Amyloid (1-42); tTau: Total-Tau; pTau: Phospho-Tau; MCI, mild cognitive impairment. For biomarkers, cut-offs description, see Hansson et al. (2018).

Graph Theory Metrics

The following group theoretical metrics were computed in the present study:

Clustering index (C). The clustering index of a node 'i' is defined as the number of existing connections between the node's neighbors divided by all possible connections. It is a measure of the inherent tendency to cluster nodes into strictly connected neighborhoods. Nodes are considered neighbors when a connection between them exists, which is not reduced to a physical neighborhood concept. The clustering index for the whole graph G is defined as the average clustering around each node:

$$
C = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \in G} C_i
$$
 (1)

Represent the number of nodes. Clearly, $0 < C < 1$; and $C = 1$ if and only if the network is fully connected, that is, each node is connected to all other nodes.

Characteristic path length (L) *. The characteristic path length* L *of the graph G is the smallest* number of connections required to connect one node to another, averaged over all pairs of nodes. It is a measure of the typical separation between two nodes (structures) *i* and *j* ($\forall i, j \in N$), and it is defined as the mean of geodesic lengths d_{ij} over all pairs of nodes.

$$
L = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{\substack{i,j \in G \\ i \neq j}} d_{ij} \tag{2}
$$

In the unweighted network context, the geodesic length d_{ij} is defined as the number of edges along the shortest path connecting nodes *i* and *j*.

Nodal efficiency (E_{glob} , E_{loc}). The concept of efficiency has also been expressed in terms of information flow. That is, small-world networks are very efficient in terms of global and local communication and they are defined to have high global E_{glob} and local E_{loc} efficiency. The global *Eglob* of a graph G is expressed as:

$$
E_{glob} = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{\substack{i,j \in G \\ i \neq j}} \frac{1}{d_{ij}}
$$
 (3)

This measure reflects how efficiently the information can be exchanged over the network, considering a parallel system in which each node sends information concurrently through the network. On the other hand, the E_{loc} of G is defined as the average efficiency of the local subgraphs:

$$
E_{loc} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \in G} E_{glob} (G_i)
$$
 (4)

Where G_i is the subgraph of the neighbors of '*i*'. This measure reveals how much the system is fault-tolerant, showing how efficient the communication is among the first neighbors of *i* when it is removed. As above, nodes are considered neighbors when a connection between them exists, which is not reduced to a physical neighborhood concept.

Global and Homologous regional connectivity. We assessed the global connectivity and homologous region connectivity. First, the absolute correlation coefficient values were converted to z using Fisher's r-to-z transformation, followed by taking the mean and transforming back to correlations through the inverse Fisher's z-to-r transformation. All anatomical regions were used to estimate the global connectivity, whereas only the correlation values between homologous regions were used in the mean homologous region connectivity.

Nodal centrality: normalized betweenness centrality (NBC). The 'betweenness centrality' B_i of a node *i* is defined as the number of shortest paths between any two nodes that run through node *i*. We measured the normalized betweenness centrality as $b_i = B_i / \langle B \rangle$, where $\langle B \rangle$ was the average betweenness of the network. b_i is a global centrality measure that captures a node's influence over information flow between other nodes in the network. In our case, betweenness centrality b_i could be used to reflect the effects of ApoE4 on the global roles of regions in the cortical thickness covariance networks. Hubs were selected as those with b_i superior to 1.5, similar to previous investigations.

Modularity. A complex network module is a subset of nodes that are densely connected within the modules but sparsely connected between the modules. Here we have adopted Newman's metric as a modularity measure to compare our results with previous studies that used this method in other neuroimaging modalities.

Targeted Attack: Methodology to study the robustness of the cortical thickness covariance network

We calculated a surrogate measure of the resilience of the cortical thickness covariance network against a targeted attack. In a simulated targeted attack study, network hubs are removed one by one in order of betweenness centrality (NBC). Each time a node was removed from the network, the largest connected component's size was recomputed. We defined the robustness parameter as the AUC showing the relative largest connected component's size versus the number of nodes removed⁹⁴. Robust networks retain large connected components even when several nodes have been knocked out, represented by a large AUC. As before, we repeated this procedure for all bootstrapped connectivity matrices and sparsity degrees. The same statistical procedure used for evaluating the ApoE4 effect of global network properties was applied to explore network robustness differences between groups.

Fig S1. Spatially distributed differences in cortical thickness between MCI Carriers and non-Carriers (p<.01, uncorrected). Relative deficits in Carriers compared with non-Carriers are displayed in red/yellow, while excesses are shown in blue/cyan. Surfaces are presented in lateral, medial, and frontal views for the left and right pial (outer) surface. After Random-field theory-based cluster-corrected (q<.05) there were no clusters of significant differences between groups.

Supplementary Table S3. Cortical thickness cluster differences between MCI Carriers vs non-Carriers for p<0.01 (uncorrected)

Supplementary Table S4. Significant differences in NBC between MCI Carriers and non-Carriers groups (FDR-corrected). Values represent the NBC mean and standard deviation (s.d). NBC: Normalize Betweenness Centrality.

Supplementary Table S5. Hubs regions for Carriers and non-Carriers listing by the descending order of the normalized betweenness centrality in each group

Values represent the regional NBC means. Regions considered hubs per group if NBC>1. In bold hub regions with the higher NBC values (NBC>1.5). NBC: Normalize Betweenness Centrality.

Supplementary Table S6. List of brain regions module composition per group

In each structure, the module is identified with roman numbers. R: right hemisphere, L: left hemisphere. G: gyri; S: sulcus.