

HTLV type I II IgG antibodies

synonym: Human T-cell lymphotropic virus antibodies

General:

The first human retrovirus, isolated from a patient with a cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, was described in 1980 (Poiesz et al., 1980). Due to its cell tropism it was named human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV). Two years later a second, related virus was isolated from a cell line, which had been established from a patient with hair cell leukemia (T-cell) (Kalyanaraman et al., 1982). These viruses were then designated as HTLV type 1 (HTLV I) and type 2 (HTLV II). A close association could be detected by serological examinations of HTLV I-infections with an aggressive T-cell leukemia in adults (T-cell leukemia of the adult, adult T-cell leukemia, ATL). Moreover it has been shown that a second clinical picture, the tropical spastic paraparesis (TSP), also known as HTLV I associated myelopathy (HAM), is caused by HTLV I (Gessain et al., 1985). HTLV II infections were not associated with diseases over a long period.

However latest results point to neurological disorders (similar to TSP/HAM) caused by HTLV II. HTLV I infections are found in different regions of the world. Japan, West and Central Africa, the Caribbean, Central to South America and Malaysia are considered endemic infection areas. Furthermore HTLV I infections are found in certain population groups, e.g. among eskimos, aborigines and in North Iran. In Europe, HTLV I infections were described in persons from endemic areas, or their sexual partners. HTLV II infections were frequently seen among drug addicts.

Indication: Clarification of the suspicion of T-cell leukemia

Material: 1 ml serum

TAT: 2 weeks*

Method: CMIA

Ref.- range: see report

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