



Human T cell Leukemia Virus

Human T cell Leukemia Virus (HTLV) is a retrovirus that infects a type of white blood cell called a T cell or T lymphocyte

AN ESTIMATED 10 MILLION PEOPLE INFECTED WITH HTLV-1 WORLDWIDE

HOW IS HTLV PASSED ON?

HTLV can be passed on through infected blood, used needles, semen, vaginal fluids, rectal secretions, breast milk and organ transplants. Most people transmit without ever knowing.

DOES HTLV CAUSE ANY DISEASES?



The great majority of people infected with HTLV-1 do not develop any medical problems.

Only about 1 in 20 of HTLV-1 carriers, will become ill, but this usually occurs after several years of infection.

HAM/TSP (HTLV-1-Associated Myelopathy/Tropical Spastic Paraparesis)

Inflammation of the cells in the spinal cord that affects the nervous system of the lower part of the body

ATLL(Adult T-cell Leukaemia/Lymphoma)

A rare form of cancer of the blood, seen in HTLV-1 infected individuals

HTLV-1 can also cause...

inflammation of the eye (uveitis), joints (arthritis), muscles (myositis), lung (alveolitis) and skin (dermatitis)

Find out more at HTLVaware.com

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