HTLV-1 Infection

Epidemiology, Transmission and Associated Diseases

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> INTRODUCTION

- Human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV-I), the first human retrovirus to be discovered.
- infect 10 to 20 million people worldwide
- the causative agent of two typically fatal diseases: adult T cell leukemia-lymphoma (ATL) and HTLV-I-associated myelopathy (HAM) which is also known as tropical spastic paraparesis (TSP)

History & Epidemiology

- HTLV-I infects an estimated 10 to 20 million people worldwide.
- It is endemic in southern Japan, the Caribbean, South America, the Melanesian islands, Papua New Guinea, the Middle East and central and southern Africa
- In these endemic areas, seroprevalences range from 3-5% in Trinidad up to 30% in rural Miyazaki in southern Japan.

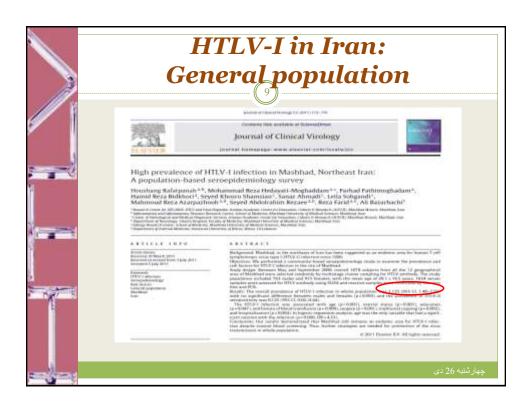


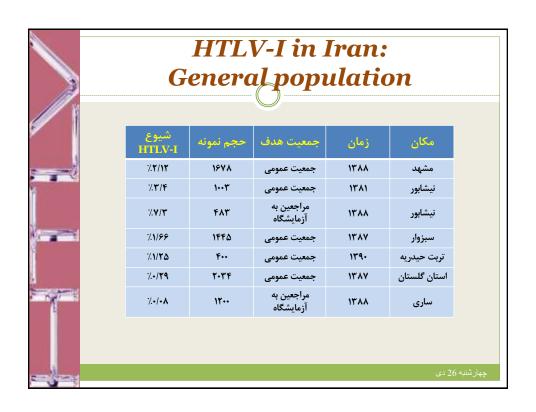


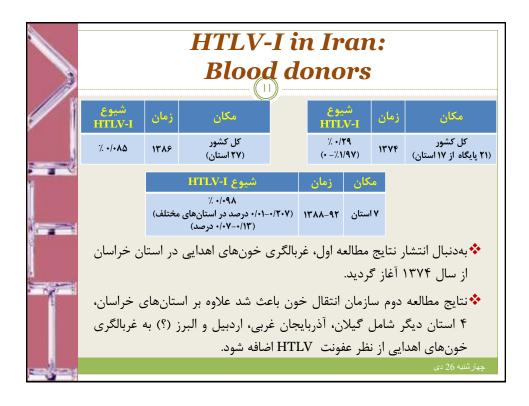


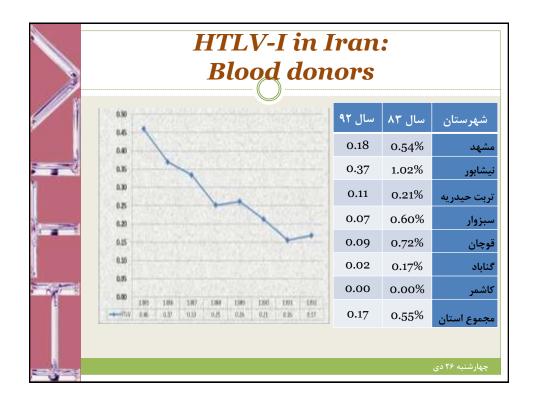












Transmission

Transmission

- Seroprevalence increase with age
- women are nearly twice as likely to be infected as men.
- the gender difference is only seen after 30 years of age and probably reflects the relative efficiency of sexual transmission from male to female.

Transmission

Breast feeding

breast-fed infants have a fourfold increase risk of infection (15.7 versus 3.6 percent).

Sexual transmission:

male to female transmission is more efficient than the reverse.

▶ Blood transfusion

Transfusion of infected cells, but not plasma.

The estimated probability of seroconversion is 40 to 60 percent with a mean time of 51 day

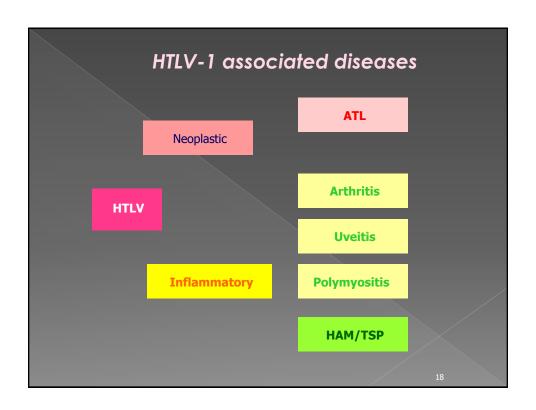
- Tissue donation
- Injection drug use

HTLV-I is consistently less prevalent than HTLV-II among IDUs in Western Europe and the United States.



> DISEASE ASSOCIATIONS

- The majority of HTLV-I-infected individuals will remain asymptomatic
- Adult T cell leukemia-lymphoma (ATL)
- HTLV-I-associated myelopathy (HAM), also known as tropical spastic paraparesis (TSP).



HTLV-1 associated diseases: ATL

- HTLV-I was first isolated from a patient with a cutaneous T cell lymphoma in 1980.
- It has become clear that the cumulative lifetime risk of ATL in a patient with HTLV-I infection is between 2 and 5 percent.
- The risk is slightly higher in males.
- the onset of ATL is typically delayed for 20 to 30 years after the viral infection
- It occurs most frequently among persons aged 40 to 60 years.

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HTLV-1 associated diseases: HAM-TSP

- HAM/TSP is more common in females than males.
- It affects less than 2 percent of HTLV-I carriers.
- with onset ranging from four months to 30 years (median 3.3 years)
- In another prospective cohort analysis, HTLV-1-associated myelopathy was found in 3.7 percent and HTLV-II myelopathy in 1.0 percent

HTLV-1 associated diseases: HAM-TSP

- The illness is characterized by
 - insidious onset of slowly progressive weakness
 - » spasticity of one or both legs,
 - together with hyperreflexia, ankle clonus, extensor plantar responses, and lumbar pain
 - Other features include back pain, detrusorinstability leading to nocturia, urinary frequency, incontinence, and minor sensory changes, especially paresthesias and loss of vibration sense.

• HTLV-1—associated uveitis may be unilateral or bilateral, is more common among women, and resolves spontaneously, although it often recurs within 1-3 yr. Topical corticosteroids hasten recovery.

- HTLV-1-associated infective dermatitis is a chronic and recurrent eczematous disease occurring during childhood and adolescence.
- HTLV-1-associated arthropathy mimics rheumatoid arthritis, including a positive rheumatoid factor. Treatment is with antiinflammatory agents.

- HTLV-1 infection predisposes to disseminated and recurrent Strongyloides stercoralis infection.
- increased risk of developing tuberculosis disease following latent infection
- severe scabies

- Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP): HTLV-I infection was found in 17 (22.1 percent) of 77 Japanese patients with ITP
- Gastric cancer: the incidence of gastric cancer may be lower in patients with HTLV-1 infection. Some reports have also noted a low prevalence of Helicobacter pylori infection among patients infected with HTLV-1.