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High CD8 cell percentage and HCV control in HIV-1 controllers and HTLV-2 coinfecting patients

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Natural control of HIV-1 infection occurs in less than 1% of patients, maintaining very low plasma HIV-1 RNA loads or even below the limit of detection, and usually with no clinical signs of disease progression for many years without any antiretroviral treatment.

HTLV-2/HIV-1 co-infection is found with relatively high frequency among injection drug users in North America and Western Europe. These patients have been reported to have lower levels of plasma HIV-1 RNA loads before antiretroviral treatment, and slower decrease of CD4 T cell counts.


These two groups of patients show an immune capacity that enables a certain control of viral infections, dramatic control of HIV-1 replication in the case of controllers. The aim of this study was to compare viral and immunologic parameters between

HIV-1 controllers (N=75), HTLV-2/HIV-1 chronic progressors (N=57), and HIV-1 chronic progressors (N=182).

Speaker Biography

Alejandro Vallejo is a biologist and completed his PhD at Complutense University, Madrid, Spain. One of his fields of research is the study of immune parameters of HTLV infections among HIV-1 infected patients. He moved to the Laboratory of Molecular Virology, CBER, Food and Drug Administration, Bethesda, MD, USA, as a Post-Doctoral Fellow (1995-2000) and developed several works on molecular epidemiology of HTLV and HIV, and viral tropism. Then he joined the Immunovirology Laboratory at the Virgen del Rocío University Hospital, Seville, Spain, as an independent researcher (2000-2008). He focused his research on immune recovery of HIV-1-infected patients. Then he moved to Ramon y Cajal University Hospital in Madrid to follow his research on HIV-1 immunopathology and continuing the research on HTLV-1/2 infections (2008) running the Laboratory of Molecular Virology within the Infectious Diseases Department.

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