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## Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

Volume 5, Issue 4, December 2006, Pages 153-166

## HTLV-I infection: Virus structure, immune response to the virus and genetic association studies in HTLV-I-infected individuals (Review)

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## Abstract

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Although the structure of human T lymphotropic virus type I (HTLV-I) has been known well, the function of some proteins encoded by HTLV-I PX region is not fully understood. Furthermore, the responses of the immune system to HTLV-I remain still unknown. Most of HTLV-I-infected individuals show a strong and persistently activated cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response to the virus. The frequency of HTLV-I specific CTL is higher in patients with HTLV-I-associated myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis (HAM/TSP) compared with HTLV-I carriers. However, the efficacy of the immune response determines the outcome of HTLV-I-associated diseases. Among the risk factors which contribute to the observed differences between HAM/TSP patients and HTLV-I carriers, the interaction between different genes and/or environmental factors seem to be important. These factors may also involve in outcome of HTLV-I infection in infected-individuals. Copyright© 2006, Iranian Journal of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. All rights reserved.

## Author keywords

CTL response; Cytokine gene polymorphism; HAM/TSP; HTLV-I; MHC

## Indexed Keywords

EMTREE drug terms: Tax protein

EMTREE medical terms: CD8+ T lymphocyte; cytotoxic T lymphocyte; disease predisposition; environmental factor; genetic association; genetic polymorphism; genetic variability; helper cell; HLA system; human; Human T cell leukemia virus 1; Human T cell leukemia virus infection; humoral immunity; immune response; immune system; immunogenetics; Iran; nonhuman; review; risk factor; spastic paraplegia; spinal cord disease; Th1 cell; Th2 cell; virus morphology; virus transmission

MeSH: Deltaretrovirus Infections; Human T-lymphotropic virus 1; Humans

Medline is the source for the MeSH terms of this document.

ISSN: 17351502 Source Type: Journal Original language: English

PubMed ID: 17237568 Document Type: Review

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