

## Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I (HTLV-I) Transmission in north west of Iran

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**Background:** Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I (HTLV-I) is the etiologic factor for adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma and HTLV-I-associated myelopathy /tropical spastic paraparesis (HAMITSP), uveitis, arthropathy and infectious dermatitis.

The known routs of transmission are : from mother to child, predominantly through breastfeeding; via sexual intercourse and via parenteral transmission by transfusion of infected cellular blood products or sharing of needles and syringes.

**Purpose :** The aim of study was to detect routs of transmission of Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus Type I (HTLV-I) in north west of Iran.

**Methods:** Relatives of Five patients with adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma tested for HTLV-I/II antibodies to detect routs of transmission .

**Results:** Twenty eight person tested and thirteen were positive for HTLV-I/II antibodies. All of seropositive persons were native Iran-Azerbaijanians and no one had history of immigration, transfusion or other risks of parenteral or sexual transmission. This study showed in 3 of 5 families, transmission clearly occurred via mother to child and in 2 other probably by same route also.

**Conclusion:** Clinicians need to be alert to presence of HTLV-I infection and its complications in this and probably around areas in Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iraq.

