

Multinational cross-sectional study on provision of HTLV care for blood donors with HTLV reactive serology

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Background:

In most countries blood donation services (BDS) screen donors for several communicable diseases including HTLV-1. We are reporting if/how donors receive information and care once identified as having an HTLV-1 reactive serology.

Methods:

Available data on nine presumed interventions triggered through a reactive HTLV-1 serology were submitted by HTLV-1 clinicians based in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Martinique/France, Jamaica, Japan and UK.

Results: BDS in Brazil, France and UK follow protocols providing comprehensive HTLV-1 specific services. There is a large variation in care provision in other countries (table 1).

Table 1: HTLV-1 specific care provision for blood donors.

HTLV-1 specific interventions	Buenos Aires	Brisbane	Fort-de-France	Kingston	London	Rio de Janeiro	Tokyo
Results provided by a clinician knowledgeable about HTLV-1	Sometimes	Uncertain	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Sometimes

Automatic HTLV-1 confirmatory testing	Sometimes	Uncertain	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transmission to partners/children is discussed	Sometimes	Uncertain	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Support for partner notification/children testing is offered	Sometimes	No	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Uncertain
Follow up with HTLV-1 specialist	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
Examination is offered	Sometimes	No	Uncertain	No	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
HTLV-1 viral load & T cell lymphocyte count is offered	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Sometimes
Counselled about future pregnancies/breastfeeding	Sometimes	No	Yes	Sometimes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Long-term follow up	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No	Yes	Yes	Sometimes

Conclusion:

There is an international consensus on the need to exclude several communicable diseases in blood donations. While a donor with a reactive syphilis, HIV or HCV screen, can access information and health care for their condition relatively easy, this is not the case for HTLV-1 in many countries. There is an urgent need for an internationally standardized HTLV-1 pre-test and post-test counselling at BDS accompanied by an HTLV-1 referral pathway like Brazil, France and UK.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Nothing to declare.