

NLM AIDSLINE

Retrovirus-like particles in an Epstein-Barr virus-producing cell line derived from a patient with chronic progressive myelopathy.

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A B-lymphoblastoid cell line (LCL) of polyclonal origin was isolated from a 30-year-old male patient with a chronic progressive myelopathy clinically resembling multiple sclerosis (MS). The LCL expresses Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) encoded proteins and on transmission electron microscopy (EM) the LCL was shown to produce both EBV particles and retrovirus-like particles spontaneously. The LCL was negative for human retrovirus (HIV-I and HTLV-I) sequences by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Furthermore the patient was seronegative to these retroviruses including HTLV-II and HIV-II. We, therefore, suggest that the LCL is double-infected with EBV and a hitherto uncharacterized human retrovirus. The possible implications of these two viruses on development of diseases are discussed.

Adult Antigens, CD/ANALYSIS Cell Line, Transformed/MICROBIOLOGY/PATHOLOGY Diagnosis, Differential Fluorescent Antibody Technique Herpesvirus 4, Human/*ULTRASTRUCTURE Human HIV-1/ULTRASTRUCTURE HTLV-I/ULTRASTRUCTURE Inclusion Bodies, Viral/*ULTRASTRUCTURE Male Microscopy, Electron Multiple Sclerosis/*MICROBIOLOGY/PATHOLOGY Paraparesis, Tropical Spastic/*MICROBIOLOGY/PATHOLOGY Polymerase Chain Reaction Retroviridae/*ULTRASTRUCTURE Support, Non-U.S. Gov't JOURNAL ARTICLE

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