

AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses

AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aidsresearch>

Predominance of Human Lymphotropic T-cell Virus type 2 (HTLV-2) subtype b in urban populations of Argentina.

Journal:	<i>AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses</i>
Manuscript ID:	AID-2011-0311.R2
Manuscript Type:	Full Manuscript
Date Submitted by the Author:	n/a
Complete List of Authors:	Berini, Carolina; Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología Eirin, Maria; Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología Delfino, Cecilia; Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología Weissenbacher, Mercedes; Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología Biglione, Mirna; Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología
Keyword:	HTLV/STLV Molecular Biology, phylogenetics

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

1
2
3
4
5 1 **Manuscript Title:** Predominance of Human Lymphotropic T-cell Virus type 2 (HTLV-2)
6 2 subtype b in urban populations of Argentina.
7
8

9 3 **Running title:** HTLV-2b in urban populations of Argentina
10

11 4 **Authors:** Carolina A. Berini, PhD¹; Maria E. Eirin, PhD¹; Cecilia M. Delfino, BS¹;
12 5 Mercedes Weissenbacher, MD, PhD¹; Mirna M. Biglione, MD, PhD¹
13

14 6 **Institutional Affiliations:** ¹Centro Nacional de Referencia para el SIDA, Departamento de
15 7 Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos
16 8 Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
17

18 9 **Corresponding address and reprints:** Carolina A. Berini, Centro Nacional de Referencia
19 10 para el SIDA, Departamento de Microbiología, Parasitología e Inmunología, Facultad de
20 11 Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires. Paraguay 2155, Piso 11, C1121ABG, Buenos
21 12 Aires, Argentina. Telephone: +54-11-4508-3689/3671, Fax: 54-11-4508-3705, e-mail:
22 13 cberini@fmed.uba.ar
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

32 14
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

16

ABSTRACT

17 HTLV-2b infection has been described among aborigines from Northern Argentina,
18 while HTLV-2a has been described in an injecting drug user (IDU) from a Central region,
19 similar to the situation in Spain, USA and Brazil. In this study, 22 of the 26 strains analyzed
20 from blood donors and HIV-1+ individuals were HTLV-2b (84.6%) clustering with
21 Amerindian references, while 4 HIV-1+ (15.4%) were HTLV-2a. HTLV-2a sequences were
22 closely related to Brazilian references in contrast to the previous Argentinean IDU strain
23 which clustered with Africans and Amerindians from North America. In summary, these
24 findings show that HTLV-2b is the major strain circulating in an urban population of
25 Argentina. HTLV-2a/b could have been introduced from endemic South American
26 countries such as Brazil and due to the contact with other populations such as IDUs from
27 Europe despite its introduction due to the increasing internal migration of aborigines to big
28 urban centers. Considering this results and recent data about the dissemination of HTLV-1
29 in residents of Buenos Aires city, new studies among non-at-risk groups for HTLV-1/2
30 infection should be performed.

31 **Keywords:** HTLV-2, phylogeny, HIV-1, blood donors, Argentina

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

INTRODUCTION

Human T-Lymphotropic Viruses (HTLVs) and their analogues Simian T-Lymphotropic Viruses (STLVs) are collectively called Primate T-Lymphotropic Viruses (PTLVs) with PTLV-1, PTLV-2, and PTLV-3 being composed of both viruses (HTLV/STLV), respectively. The PTLV-4 group currently has only one member, HTLV-4, since a simian counterpart has yet to be identified¹. Human T-Lymphotropic virus type 1 and 2 were the first human retroviruses to be discovered in 1980 and 1982, respectively^{2,3}. While HTLV-1 infection is mainly associated with adult T-cell leukaemia and with a chronic neurological disorder, known as tropical spastic paraparesis/ HTLV-1 associated myelopathy (HAM/TSP)^{3,4}; HTLV-2 is not associated with a specific disease, but there is accumulating evidence that the infection may be related to neurological disorders similar to HAM/TSP and increased rates of infectious diseases⁵⁻⁸. Both retroviruses can be transmitted through sexual contact, blood transfusion and by sharing injecting equipment as well as from mother to child, mainly by prolonged breast-feeding⁹⁻¹².

These retroviruses are estimated to be infecting 15-20 million people in the world and is known to be endemic among aborigine groups throughout the Americas, certain Pygmy groups in Africa and injecting drug users (IDUs) worldwide¹³⁻²². In the Americas, an ethnic/geographic restriction of the infection has been observed being HTLV-1 detected in natives of the highlands from Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile and HTLV-2 among Amerindians from the lowlands of Venezuela, Colombia, Paraguay, and Brazil²³.

Phylogenetically, HTLV-2 is divided in three subtypes: HTLV-2a, HTLV-2b and HTLV-2d^{10, 24-26}. Subtype HTLV-2a is present mainly in IDUs of Brazil, USA, Northern Europe, South East Asia (Vietnam) and some original communities such as Navajo and Pueblo in the USA and Kayapo in Brazil^{18, 27-32}. HTLV-2b is present in Bakola Pygmies of Cameroon, inhabitants of Zaire and Gabon and is also predominantly distributed among Amerindian populations such as the Navajo, Pueblo and Seminole in the USA, the Guaymi

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

68 in Panama, the Guahibo in Venezuela, the Wayu and the Tunebo in Colombia and the
69 Tiriyo in Brazil^{18, 20, 32-36}. This subtype was also reported in IDUs in Southern Europe
70 (Italy and Spain) and urban populations in Brazil^{27, 30, 37, 38}. In Brazil, a unique HTLV-2
71 subtype was detected among IDUs, HIV-1 infected individuals and Amerindians, formerly
72 called HTLV-2c^{10, 24, 39, 40}. HTLV-2c was characterized by its separate clustering within
73 subtype HTLV-2a²⁴. This subtype possessed a long transactivating protein Tax similar to
74 HTLV-2b and the *env*, and LTR genomic regions similar to HTLV-2a, albeit complete
75 nucleotide sequences of several genomes had unequivocally demonstrated that the Brazilian
76 HTLV-2c strains were molecular variants of the HTLV-2a subtype^{35, 39, 41, 42}. Subtype d has
77 been found in an Efe Pygmy population in Congo, Africa²⁶.

Formatted: Highlight

78 In Argentina, similarly to other South American countries, an ethnic/geographic
79 restriction for HTLV-1/2 has been observed. There is a known endemic region for HTLV-1
80 infection in the Northwest among Aymara populations; and an HTLV-2 endemic region in
81 the Northern Gran Chaco among Tobas, Wichis and Pilagas^{43, 44}. On the other hand, the
82 infection has also been described among blood donors and different high-risk groups of the
83 country^{45, 46}. Concerning the phylogenetic characterization, while only subtype HTLV-2b
84 has been reported as endemic in Amerindians from Gran Chaco region, only one case of
85 HTLV-2a was described in a non-aboriginal HIV positive IDU from Rosario, Santa Fe,
86 Central area of Argentina^{9, 47}. The objective of this study was to carry out the phylogenetic
87 characterization and the subtyping of HTLV-2 positive individuals in an urban
88 population of Argentina.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Population studied

The present study included samples from 26 HTLV-2 positive individuals, seven of them referred to the National Reference Center for AIDS in Buenos Aires, Argentina for HTLV-1/2 diagnosis and 19 were HIV-1 seropositive individuals enrolled in a previous epidemiological study^{48, 49}. After a personal interview with healthcare staff, patients were invited to sign an informed consent. Institutional review board and the scientific ethical committee at the University of Buenos Aires approved the study protocols. Enrollment and data collection procedure details have been previously described elsewhere^{48, 49}.

Serology and molecular diagnosis for HTLV-1/2

Antibody screening for HTLV-1/2 was performed by particle agglutination technique (SERODIA-HTLV-I, FUJIREBIO, Tokyo, Japan) and reactive samples were subjected to Western Blot confirmation (HTLV blot 2.4, Genelabs Diagnostics, Science Park, Singapore). According to the manufacturer criteria, HTLV-2 positive samples showed reactivity to p19 or p24, GD21 and rgp46-II. Indeterminate and HTLV samples were subjected to an “in-house” nested-PCR to amplify *tax* and *pol* genes. Amplification of *pol* region was performed with outer primers SK-110-I/SK-111-I, SK-110-II/SK-111-II and inner primers pol 1.1/pol 3.1, pol 1.2/pol 3.2 for HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 respectively⁵⁰. Amplification of *tax* region was carried out with outer primers SK-43-I/SK-44-I, SK-43-II/SK-44 II and inner primers SK-43/SK-44 specific for HTLV-1/2^{50, 51}. The size of the PCR products were 135bp for *pol* of HTLV-1 and 137bp for *pol* of HTLV-2 and 128bp for both HTLV-1/2 *tax* amplification⁵¹.

Molecular and Phylogenetic analysis

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were obtained by Ficoll-Hypaque gradient separation (Pharmacia, Sweden). DNA was extracted using QIAamp DNA extraction kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). In order to perform the phylogenetic analysis,

1
2
3
4
5 118 the LTR was amplified by nested-PCR by using BSQF6/BSDR3 as outer primers, and
6
7 119 BSQF2/BSDR4 as inner primers, respectively (LTR 665bp, Mo genome reference,
8
9 120 position 8253-8918)^{32, 52}. Direct sequencing reactions were done by using an ABI Prism
10
11 121 Big Dye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Version 3.0 mixture (Applied
12
13 122 Biosystems). Sequences were generated on an ABI Prism[®] 3100 Genetic Analyzer
14
15 123 according to the manufacturers' instructions. Sequence alignment was carried out by using
16
17 124 Clustal W (BioEdit 7.0.4.1 sequence alignment editor) and hand optimization was
18
19 125 performed.^{53, 54} The phylogenetic analysis was performed by Neighbour Joining (NJ) by
20
21 126 using MEGA 4.0⁵⁵ and the topology obtained was confirmed by Maximum Likelihood
22
23 127 (ML) with the PHYML programme⁵⁵. The substitution model was chosen using
24
25 128 MODELTEST 3.0. The tree topology was visualized with TreeView
26
27 129 (<http://taxonomy.zoology.gla.ac.uk/rod/treeview.html>).

28 130 **Statistical analysis**

29
30 131 The similarity percentage data was obtained by comparing the studied and prototype
31
32 132 sequences belonging to each subtype (Kruskal-Wallis test). The estimated mean was 95%
33
34 133 Confidence Interval.

35 36 134 **RESULTS**

37 38 135 **Epidemiological features**

39
40 136 A total of 26 HTLV-2 positive individuals were studied of which 9 (34.6%) were
41
42 137 females and 17 (65.4%) males. Out of the total, seven were blood donors (BD) and 19 were
43
44 138 HIV-1 positive individuals of which 17 had a history of injecting drug use and the
45
46 139 remaining two had an HIV-1 positive partner. Considering the residing place one was a
47
48 140 resident of Formosa city in the Northern Province of Formosa (BDAR1), one was residing
49
50 141 in Ushuaia city, the Southernmost province of Tierra del Fuego (BDAR4) and the
51
52 142 remaining 24 individuals were residents of Buenos Aires city. Epidemiological and clinical
53
54 143 features of the study population are given in Table 1.

144 **Serological and molecular characterization**

145 Concerning the serological status, 22 (84,6%) samples were HTLV-2 seropositive
146 by Western Blot (complete profile), two (7,7%) (BDAR6 and BDAR7) were HTLV and
147 two (7,7%) exhibited an indeterminate pattern (according to the stringent criteria issued by
148 the HTLV European Research Network). The indeterminate samples (IDU2 and IDU9),
149 both belonging to the IDU population, showed different Western Blot profiles exhibiting
150 the bands corresponding to GD21, p24, p28, p32 and p53 (IDU2); and GD21 and p24
151 (IDU9), respectively. Amplification of *tax* and *pol* genes confirmed HTLV-2 infection in
152 both HTLV and seroindeterminate cases.

153 **Phylogenetic and Sequence analyses**

154 To construct a comprehensive phylogenetic dataset, the sequences reported here
155 were aligned with 76 HTLV-2 reference strains obtained from the GenBank database,
156 preferentially those belonging to neighbouring countries with high migration rates to
157 Argentina and reference sequences previously reported worldwide. An HTLV-2 reference
158 strain (PP1664) was used as outgroup. Once aligned, the dataset consisted of 596bp
159 corresponding to the 3'LTR region. Subtype HTLV-2d was consistently separated from
160 subtypes HTLV-2a and HTLV-2b while the former two subtypes showed a bootstrap value
161 of 84% supporting these two clusters.

162 Out of the 26 samples, four samples belonging to HIV-1 positive individuals (three
163 of whom were also IDUs and a partner of an HIV-1 seropositive individual) clustered
164 within subtype a, closer to Brazilian isolates ~~previously described as HTLV-2e~~. The
165 remaining 22 samples were HTLV-2 subtype b being 15 of them HIV-1 positive (14 IDUs
166 and a partner of an HIV-1 seropositive individual) while the other seven were blood donors
167 including one from Formosa province, HTLV-2 endemic area and one from Tierra del
168 Fuego province, a non-endemic area (Figure 1).

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

169 The four new HTLV-2a sequences from HIV individuals (HIVAR1, HIVAR2,
170 HIVAR14, HIVAR16) clustered with Brazilian references (BRPOA6, BRPOA8, BH223,
171 BH339, KAY73, BAIDU148, BAIDU25, Belem10, Kayapo78, KAYapo79) ~~belonging to~~
172 ~~the formerly called HTLV-2c subgroup~~ with a high bootstrap value (69%) and form a clear
173 distinct subgroup within subtype HTLV-2a (figure 1). The 22 remaining studied strains
174 including all the blood donors clustered within HTLV-2b subtype (bootstrap value: 84%),
175 being 20 of them closely related to previous isolations from Amerindians of Argentina,
176 Colombia, United States and African individuals including a healthy male from Gabon and
177 a Pygmy from Cameroon (Figure 1). Two HTLV-2b sequences belonging to two sisters
178 who were blood donors (BDAR6 and BDAR7) inhabiting Buenos Aires but having parents
179 from a province of the North of the country (Chaco) where HTLV-2 is present, clustered
180 with a bootstrap value of 75% with strains from Amerindians of Colombia (WYU1) and
181 Venezuela (G2) and also closely related to North American (SFIDU, SFIDU4) and
182 European (SPAN129) IDUs strains. Especially in the four cases in which the individuals
183 had a strong relation to endemic areas, there is a higher probability of having an Indian
184 origin.

185 The sequence analysis for HTLV-2a samples compared to MO as a reference,
186 revealed a similarity ranging from 96.1% (95% CI, 94.5-97.7) to 98.2% (95% CI, 96.9-
187 99.3). Regarding HTLV-2b, sequence similarity to NRA ranged from 98.5% (95% CI,
188 97.4-99.6) to 99.3% (95% CI, 98.3-99.8). Among the new HTLV-2a sequences, HIVAR1
189 and HIVAR2 were identical (100% similitude); HIVAR15 showed differences in two
190 nucleotide positions (T8502G and G8686C) respect to HIVAR1 and HIVAR2 with a 99.7%
191 (95% CI, 98.8-99.9) similarity; and HIVAR16 resulted the most different sequence
192 compared to HIVAR1, HIVAR2 and HIVAR15 with a similarity of 97.7% (95% CI, 96.4-
193 99.9) and 14 nucleotide changes (Table 2).

1
2
3
4
5 194 When analyzing HTLV-2b, 13 sequences (BDAR1, HIVAR3, HIVAR4, HIVAR6,
6
7 195 HIVAR7, HIVAR8, HIVAR10, HIVAR11, HIVAR12, HIVAR14, HIVAR17, HIVAR18,
8
9 196 HIVAR19) showed a 100% similarity. When comparing these 13 sequences with BDAR2
10
11 197 and BDAR4, they showed a similarity of 99.5% (95% CI, 98.5-99.9) with three nucleotide
12
13 198 changes (C8288T, A8321C and C8340T); BDAR5 revealed a similarity of 99.7% (95% CI,
14
15 199 98.8-99.9) with two nucleotide changes (G8347A and C8747G); HIVAR5, HIVAR9 and
16
17 200 HIVAR13 showed a similarity of 99.8% (95% CI, 99.1-99.7) with one nucleotide change
18
19 201 (G8597A, T8502G and A8366T, respectively) while for BDAR6 and BDAR7 were 99.2%
20
21 202 (95% CI, 98.1- 99.7) with five nucleotide changes (A8485T, C8503G, T8504G, G8531A
22
23 203 and T8596C).

24
25 204 The sequence analysis of these samples revealed 25 different polymorphisms within
26
27 205 subtype HTLV-2a and 20 in HTLV-2b (Table 2) compared to MO and NRA, respectively.
28
29 206 As shown in table 2, BDAR6 and BDAR7 were the most divergent sequences among
30
31 207 HTLV-2b, closer to strains from Colombian and Venezuelan Amerindians.

32 208

34 209 **DISCUSSION**

36 210 This study describes for the first time the phylogeny of HTLV-2 strains circulating
37
38 211 among urban populations in Argentina. Out of the 26 studied sequences, the majority of
39
40 212 them clustered within HTLV-2b as previously described in other South American countries
41
42 213 with an important Amerindian ethnic component. Moreover, this molecular genotype has
43
44 214 been described in previous studies conducted in New York City, Vietnam and Southern
45
46 215 Europe where HTLV-2b was more frequently found among IDUs populations. In contrast,
47
48 216 HTLV-2a is found as predominant among IDUs from other regions of USA, Northern
49
50 217 Europe (UK, Ireland and Sweden), Brazil and South East Asia (Vietnam) and also in
51
52 218 Amerindians such as Navajo and Pueblo in the USA and Kayapo in Brazil^{18, 27-32}. The only
53
54 219 study conducted in Argentina in 1996 in an IDU from Rosario (IVDUros) reported the

1
2
3
4
5 220 presence of one HTLV-2a sequence⁴⁷. **In contrast**, these results demonstrated that only four
6
7 221 among 26 of the new HTLV-2 analyzed strains (HIVAR1, HIVAR2, HIVAR15,
8
9 222 HIVAR16) clustered together with high bootstrap values within subtype a being subtype b
10
11 223 the major circulating strain of HTLV-2 among IDUs of Buenos Aires city. These sequences
12
13 224 were closely related to a group of HTLV-2a, subvariant c. While IVDUros was closer to
14
15 225 African and North American aborigine isolates, the new HTLV-2a sequences were found to
16
17 226 be closely related to Brazilian aborigine isolates suggesting the introduction of these strains
18
19 227 from Brazil.

20
21 228 On the other hand, our data shows that 84.6% (22/26) of the HTLV-2 strains circulating in
22
23 229 this studied population of Argentina belongs to subtype b. Out of the 22 HTLV-2b
24
25 230 sequences, 14 belonged to HIV-1 positive-IDU individuals Furthermore, all 7 blood donors
26
27 231 clustered within this subtype, suggesting that b is also circulating in blood donors in non-
28
29 232 endemic areas such as Buenos Aires and the Southernmost region of the country, Ushuaia.
30
31 233 These individuals did not report any risk factor except for BDAR3 who received a blood
32
33 234 transfusion. Within subtype b, the two blood donors who were sisters residing in Buenos
34
35 235 Aires positioned in a different cluster among Colombian, Venezuelan and Panamean strains
36
37 236 from aborigines (WYU1, Y5 and G12) suggesting some degree of molecular diversity,
38
39 237 which was also confirmed in the analysis of nucleotide similarity.

40 238 HTLV-2 subtype b was previously described as endemic in Amerindians, including
41
42 239 Pilagas and Wichis of Gran Chaco Region in Argentina. The presence of this subtype
43
44 240 among urban inhabitants of the country supports the theory that there had been significant
45
46 241 interaction between these groups and aborigine populations. The antecedents associated to
47
48 242 HTLV-2 infection were having received a blood transfusion and having relation to endemic
49
50 243 areas as four blood donors lived and/or had relatives coming from these areas. Moreover,
51
52 244 this data correlates to migrations of aborigines to big cities and the introduction of drugs in
53
54 245 this population. Although Buenos Aires city is considered non-endemic, a high migration

1
2
3
4
5 246 rate from HTLV-2 endemic areas, to the capital city has been observed over the last years.
6
7 247 There has also been a high rate of migration and tourism to and for Argentina, especially
8
9 248 from Southern Europe, USA and Brazil which could have contributed to the spread of
10
11 249 HTLV-2b in our country.

12
13 250 Regarding the sequence analysis of these samples, they revealed 25 different
14
15 251 polymorphisms within subtype HTLV-2a and 20 in HTLV-2b compared to MO and NRA
16
17 252 reference strains, respectively. It is not surprising that these positions in HTLV-2a could be
18
19 253 considered the total of differences supporting them in a divergent clade (subvariant c) from
20
21 254 MO, especially if we consider the sequence similarity analysis confirmed by the low
22
23 255 genomic variability of the studied strains (ranging from 1.9% to 3.9% for MO). Regarding
24
25 256 HTLV-2b, most of the samples showed the same substitutions and the sequence similarity
26
27 257 ranged from 0.7% to 1.5% compared to NRA. BDAR6 and BDAR7 were the most
28
29 258 divergent sequences among HTLV-2b, with nucleotide substitutions similar to strains from
30
31 259 Amerindians from Venezuela and Panama (Y5 and G12, respectively).

32
33 260 In summary, this is the first HTLV-2 phylogenetic study performed in urban
34
35 261 populations of Argentina, including individuals coming from the Northern and
36
37 262 Southernmost provinces of the country. Our study confirms the presence of HTLV-2a and
38
39 263 HTLV-2b as it occurs in other South American countries such as Brazil, suggesting a
40
41 264 common origin of these strains. It is highly probable that HTLV-2 originated in Africa and
42
43 265 was brought to the Americas with human migration across the Bering Strait 11,000 to
44
45 266 13,000 years ago^{40, 56, 57}. On the basis of archeological, anthropological and genetic
46
47 267 evidence, migration to South America may have occurred via two independent routes, one
48
49 268 leading directly towards the Amazon region and another along the Pacific Coast, paralleling
50
51 269 the Andes. These different migratory pathways taken by the Amerindian ancestors could
52
53 270 have resulted in the introduction of HTLV-2a in Argentina from Brazil and of HTLV-2b
54
55 271 being actively transmitted from aboriginal populations to, and subsequently within, urban

1
2
3
4
5 272 areas. Moreover, HTLV-2a could have also been introduced in urban areas of Argentina
6
7 273 due to the contact with other populations such as IDUs from Europe.
8

9 274 Besides, this study confirms the presence of HTLV-2a among HIV-1 positive
10
11 275 individuals of Argentina although HTLV-2b was the predominant subtype infecting this
12
13 276 population and blood donors suggesting its introduction by the increasing interaction with
14
15 277 aborigine populations.
16

17 278

18
19 279

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

20
21 280 This work was supported by the Agency of Scientific and Technologic Research
22
23 281 Projects (Secretaría de Ciencia y Técnica, SECYT, PRESTAMO BID PICT 2007- 01639).
24
25 282 Continuous support from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research
26
27 283 (CONICET) to CAB, MEE, CMD and MMB is appreciated.

28 284 The authors wish to thank all the study volunteers and the personnel from the NGOs
29
30 285 that participated in the recruitment of volunteers.
31

32 286

33
34 287

SEQUENCE DATA

35
36 288 The 26 LTR sequences presented here are available at GenBank with nucleotide
37
38 289 accession numbers: GenBank ID: JN222942 (BDAR1), GenBank ID: JN222943
39
40 290 (BDAR2), GenBank ID: JN222944 (BDAR3), GenBank ID: JN222945 (BDAR4),
41
42 291 GenBank ID: JN222946 (BDAR5), GenBank ID: JN222947 (BDAR6), GenBank ID:
43
44 292 JN222948 (BDAR7), GenBank ID: JN222949 (HIVAR1), GenBank ID: JN222950
45
46 293 (HIVAR2), GenBank ID: JN222951 (HIVAR3), GenBank ID: JN222952
47
48 294 (HIVAR4), GenBank ID: JN222953 (HIVAR5), GenBank ID: JN222954 (HIVAR6),
49
50 295 GenBank ID: JN222955 (HIVAR7), GenBank ID: JN222956 (HIVAR8), GenBank ID:
51
52 296 JN222957 (HIVAR9), GenBank ID: JN222958 (HIVAR10), GenBank ID: JN222959
53
54 297 (HIVAR11), GenBank ID: JN222960 (HIVAR12), GenBank ID: JN222961 (HIVAR13),

55 12
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5 298 GenBank ID: JN222962 (HIVAR14), GenBank ID: JN222963 (HIVAR15), GenBank ID:
6
7 299 JN222964 (HIVAR16), GenBank ID: JN222965 (HIVAR17), GenBank ID: JN222966
8
9 300 (HIVAR18) and GenBank ID: JN222967 (HIVAR19). The accession numbers of the
10
11 301 HTLV-2 LTR reference strains used in the phylogenetic analysis are as follow: PP1664
12
13 302 (GenBank ID: Y14570), Efe2 (GenBank ID: Y14365), GuyII (GenBank ID: AF262408),
14
15 303 BH223 (GenBank ID: AY509597), BH339 (GenBank ID: AY509599), BAIDU86
16
17 304 (GenBank ID: AF401492), Kay73 (GenBank ID: L42509), Tyrio80 (GenBank ID:
18
19 305 AF139391), SPWV (GenBank ID: AF139382), Kay139 (GenBank ID: L42508),
20
21 306 BRAZA21 (GenBank ID: U10253), Kayapo83 (GenBank ID: AF139390), OkInd15-8
22
23 307 (GenBank ID: U73015), IVDUros (GenBank ID: AF054272), PH230 (GenBank ID:
24
25 308 Z46838), Dub991(GenBank ID: AF032993), NOR2N (GenBank ID: U10258), MO
26
27 309 (GenBank ID: M10060), CH610 (GenBank ID: U46557), Pilaga (GenBank ID:
28
29 310 AF054271), SPAN129 (GenBank ID: U10265), ITA50A (GenBank ID: U10255), Gu
30
31 311 (GenBank ID: X89270), ny185 (GenBank ID: U10259), ITA47A (GenBank ID: U10254),
32
33 312 PUERBAG (GenBank ID: U10261), WYU1 (GenBank ID: U12792), G12 (GenBank ID:
34
35 313 L11456), SFIDU6-4 (GenBank ID: U73018), Y5 (GenBank ID: AF005395), PENN7A
36
37 314 (GenBank ID: U10260), SEM1051 (GenBank ID: U10264), NRA (GenBank ID: L20734),
38
39 315 FOR6 (GenBank ID: AF054273), OkInd14-17 (GenBank ID: U73009), PYGCAMI
40
41 316 (GenBank ID: Z46888), Gab (GenBank ID: Y13051), SEM1050 (GenBank ID: U10263)
42
43 317 and WYU2 (GenBank ID: U12794).
44
45
46 319
47
48 320
49
50 321
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

Formatted: Highlight

REFERENCES

- 1
2
3
4
5 322
6
7 323
8
9 324 1. Switzer WM, Salemi M, Qari SH, Jia H, Gray RR, Katzourakis A, Marriott SJ,
10 325 Pryor KN, Wolfe ND, Burke DS, Folks TM, Heneine W. Ancient, independent
11 326 evolution and distinct molecular features of the novel human T-lymphotropic virus
12 327 type 4. *Retrovirology* 2009;6:9.
13
14
15
16 328
17
18 329 2. Kalyanaraman VS, Sarngadharan MG, Robert-Guroff M, Miyoshi I, Golde D, Gallo
19 330 RC. A new subtype of human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV-II) associated with a T-
20 331 cell variant of hairy cell leukemia. *Science* 1982;218:571-3.
21
22
23
24 332
25
26 333 3. Poiesz BJ, Ruscetti FW, Gazdar AF, Bunn PA, Minna JD, Gallo RC. Detection and
27 334 isolation of type C retrovirus particles from fresh and cultured lymphocytes of a
28 335 patient with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 1980;77:7415-9.
29
30
31
32 336
33
34 337 4. Gessain A, Barin F, Vernant JC, Gout O, Maurs L, Calender A, de The G.
35 338 Antibodies to human T-lymphotropic virus type-I in patients with tropical spastic
36 339 paraparesis. *Lancet* 1985;2:407-10.
37
38
39
40 340
41
42 341 5. Biglione MM, Pizarro M, Salomon HE, Berria MI. A possible case of
43 342 myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis in an Argentinian woman with human T
44 343 lymphocyte virus type II. *Clin Infect Dis* 2003;37:456-8.
45
46
47 344
48
49 345 6. Modahl LE, Young KC, Varney KF, Khayam-Bashi H, Murphy EL. Are HTLV-II-
50 346 seropositive injection drug users at increased risk of bacterial pneumonia, abscess,
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3
4
5 347 and lymphadenopathy? *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr Hum Retrovirol* 1997;16:169-
6
7 348 75.
8
9 349
10
11 350 7. Murphy EL, Fridey J, Smith JW, Engstrom J, Sacher RA, Miller K, Gibble J,
12
13 351 Stevens J, Thomson R, Hansma D, Kaplan J, Khabbaz R, Nemo G. HTLV-
14
15 352 associated myelopathy in a cohort of HTLV-I and HTLV-II-infected blood donors.
16
17 353 The REDS investigators. *Neurology* 1997;48:315-20.
18
19 354
20
21 355 8. Silva EA, Otsuki K, Leite AC, Alamy AH, Sa-Carvalho D, Vicente AC. HTLV-II
22
23 356 infection associated with a chronic neurodegenerative disease: clinical and
24
25 357 molecular analysis. *J Med Virol* 2002;66:253-7.
26
27 358
28
29 359 9. Ferrer JF, Esteban E, Dube S, Basombrio MA, Segovia A, Peralta-Ramos M, Dube
30
31 360 DK, Sayre K, Aguayo N, Hengst J, Poiesz BJ. Endemic infection with human T cell
32
33 361 leukemia/lymphoma virus type IIB in Argentinean and Paraguayan Indians:
34
35 362 epidemiology and molecular characterization. *J Infect Dis* 1996;174:944-53.
36
37 363
38
39 364 10. Ishak R, Vallinoto AC, Azevedo VN, Lewis M, Hall WW, Guimaraes Ishak MO.
40
41 365 Molecular evidence of mother-to-child transmission of HTLV-IIc in the Kararao
42
43 366 Village (Kayapo) in the Amazon region of Brazil. *Rev Soc Bras Med Trop*
44
45 367 2001;34:519-25.
46
47 368
48
49 369 11. Lal RB, Gongora-Biachi RA, Pardi D, Switzer WM, Goldman I, Lal AF. Evidence
50
51 370 for mother-to-child transmission of human T lymphotropic virus type II. *J Infect Dis*
52
53 371 1993;168:586-91.
54
55 372

- 1
2
3
4
5 373 12. Lowis GW, Sheremata WA, Minagar A. Epidemiologic features of HTLV-II:
6 374 serologic and molecular evidence. *Ann Epidemiol* 2002;12:46-66.
7
8 375
9
10
11 376 13. Biglione M, Gessain A, Quiruelas S, Fay O, Taborda MA, Fernandez E, Lupo S,
12 377 Panzita A, de The G. Endemic HTLV-II infection among Tobas and Matacos
13 378 Amerindians from north Argentina. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 1993;6:631-3.
14
15 379
16
17 380 14. Black FL, Biggar RJ, Neel JV, Maloney EM, Waters DJ. Endemic transmission of
18 381 HTLV type II among Kayapo Indians of Brazil. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*
19 382 1994;10:1165-71.
20
21 383
22
23 384 15. de The G, Bomford R. An HTLV-I vaccine: why, how, for whom? *AIDS Res Hum*
24 385 *Retroviruses* 1993;9:381-6.
25
26 386
27
28 387 16. Echeverria de Perez G, Leon-Ponte M, Noya O, Botto C, Gallo D, Bianco N. First
29 388 description of endemic HTLV-II infection among Venezuelan Amerindians. *J of*
30 389 *Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 1993;6:1368-1372.
31
32 390
33
34 391 17. Ferrer JF, Del Pino N, Esteban E, Sherman MP, Dube S, Dube DK, Basombrio MA,
35 392 Pimentel E, Segovia A, Quirulas S, et al. High rate of infection with the human T-
36 393 cell leukemia retrovirus type II in four Indian populations of Argentina. *Virology*
37 394 1993;197:576-84.
38
39 395
40
41 396 18. Hjelle B, Wilson C, Cyrus S, Bradshaw P, Lo J, Schammel C, Wiltbank T,
42 397 Alexander S. Human T-cell leukemia virus type II infection frequently goes
43 398 undetected in contemporary US blood donors. *Blood* 1993;81:1641-4.
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

1
2
3
4
5 399
6
7
8 400 19. Lairmore MD, Jacobson S, Gracia F, De BK, Castillo L, Larreategui M, Roberts
9 401
10 402 BD, Levine PH, Blattner WA, Kaplan JE. Isolation of human T-cell lymphotropic
11 403 virus type 2 from Guaymi Indians in Panama. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*
12 404
13 405
14 406
15 407
16 408
17 409 20. Levine PH, Jacobson S, Elliott R, Cavallero A, Colclough G, Dorry C, Stephenson
18 410 C, Knigge RM, Drummond J, Nishimura M, et al. HTLV-II infection in Florida
19 411 Indians. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses* 1993;9:123-7.
20 412
21 413
22 414
23 415
24 416 21. Maloney EM, Biggar RJ, Neel JV, Taylor ME, Hahn BH, Shaw GM, Blattner WA.
25 417
26 418 Endemic human T cell lymphotropic virus type II infection among isolated
27 419 Brazilian Amerindians. *J Infect Dis* 1992;166:100-7.
28 420
29 421
30 422
31 423
32 424 22. Vrieling H, Reesink HW. HTLV-I/II prevalence in different geographic locations.
33 425
34 426
35 427
36 428
37 429
38 430 23. Slattery JP, Franchini G, Gessain A. Genomic evolution, patterns of global
39 431 dissemination, and interspecies transmission of human and simian T-cell
40 432 leukemia/lymphotropic viruses. *Genome Res* 1999;9:525-40.
41 433
42 434
43 435
44 436
45 437 24. Eiraku N, Novoa P, da Costa Ferreira M, Monken C, Ishak R, da Costa Ferreira O,
46 438 Zhu SW, Lorenc R, Ishak M, Azvedo V, Guerreiro J, de Oliveira MP, Loureiro P,
47 439 Hammerschlag N, Ijichi S, Hall WM. Identification and characterization of a new
48 440 and distinct molecular subtype of human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 2. *J Virol*
49 441
50 442
51 443
52 444
53 445
54 446
55 447
56 448
57 449
58 450
59 451
60 452

- 1
2
3
4
5 425
6
7 426 25. Hall WW, Takahashi H, Liu C, Kaplan MH, Scheewind O, Ijichi S, Nagashima K,
8
9 427 Gallo RC. Multiple isolates and characteristics of human T-cell leukemia virus type
10
11 428 II. *J Virol* 1992;66:2456-63.
12
13 429
14
15 430 26. Vandamme AM, Salemi M, Van Brussel M, Liu HF, Van Laethem K, Van Ranst M,
16
17 431 Michels L, Desmyter J, Goubau P. African origin of human T-lymphotropic virus
18
19 432 type 2 (HTLV-2) supported by a potential new HTLV-2d subtype in Congolese
20
21 433 Bambuti Efe Pygmies. *J Virol* 1998;72:4327-40.
22
23 434
24
25 435 27. The HTLV European Research Network. Seroepidemiology of the human T-cell
26
27 436 leukaemia/lymphoma viruses in Europe. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr Hum*
28
29 437 *Retrovirol* 1996;13:68-77.
30
31 438
32
33 439 28. Alcantara LC, Shindo N, Van Dooren S, Salemi M, Costa MC, Kashima S, Covas
34
35 440 DT, Vandamme AM, Galvao-Castro B. Brazilian HTLV type 2a strains from
36
37 441 intravenous drug users (IDUs) appear to have originated from two sources:
38
39 442 Brazilian Amerindians and European/North American IDUs. *AIDS Res Hum*
40
41 443 *Retroviruses* 2003;19:519-23.
42
43 444
44
45 445 29. Murphy EL, Mahieux R, de The G, Tekaiia F, Ameti D, Horton J, Gessain A.
46
47 446 Molecular epidemiology of HTLV-II among United States blood donors and
48
49 447 intravenous drug users: an age-cohort effect for HTLV-II RFLP type aO. *Virology*
50
51 448 1998;242:425-34.
52
53 449
54
55
56
57
58
59
60

- 1
2
3
4
5 450 30. Salemi M, Van Dooren S, Audenaert E, Delaporte E, Goubau P, Desmyter J,
6 451 Vandamme AM. Two new human T-lymphotropic virus type I phylogenetic
7 452 subtypes in seroindeterminates, a Mbuti pygmy and a Gabonese, have closest
8 453 relatives among African STLV-I strains. *Virology* 1998;246:277-87.
9 454
10
11 455 31. Switzer WM, Black FL, Pieniazek D, Biggar RJ, Lal RB, Heneine W. Endemicity
12 456 and phylogeny of the human T cell lymphotropic virus type II subtype A from the
13 457 Kayapo Indians of Brazil: evidence for limited regional dissemination. *AIDS Res*
14 458 *Hum Retroviruses* 1996;12:635-40.
15 459
16
17 460 32. Switzer WM, Pieniazek D, Swanson P, Samdal HH, Soriano V, Khabbaz RF,
18 461 Kaplan JE, Lal RB, Heneine W. Phylogenetic relationship and geographic
19 462 distribution of multiple human T-cell lymphotropic virus type II subtypes. *J Virol*
20 463 1995;69:621-32.
21 464
22
23 465 33. Dube S, Love JL, Dube DK, Leon-Ponte M, de Perez GE, Baroja ML, Bianco N,
24 466 Poiesz BJ. The complete genomic sequence of an HTLV-II isolate from a Guahibo
25 467 Indian from Venezuela. *Virology* 1999;253:181-92.
26 468
27
28 469 34. Duenas-Barajas E, Bernal JE, Vaught DR, Briceno I, Duran C, Yanagihara R,
29 470 Gajdusek DC. Coexistence of human T-lymphotropic virus types I and II among the
30 471 Wayuu Indians from the Guajira Region of Colombia. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*
31 472 1992;8:1851-5.
32 473
33
34 474 35. Shindo N, Alcantara LC, Van Dooren S, Salemi M, Costa MC, Kashima S, Covas
35 475 DT, Teva A, Pellegrini M, Brito I, Vandamme AM, Galvao-Castro B. Human

- 1
2
3
4
5 476 retroviruses (HIV and HTLV) in Brazilian Indians: seroepidemiological study and
6
7 477 molecular epidemiology of HTLV type 2 isolates. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*
8
9 478 2002;18:71-7.
10
11 479
12
13 480 36. Zaninovic V, Galindo J, Blank A. Enfermedades asociadas con el virus HTLV-1.
14
15 481 Fundación Mar, Cali, Colombia 1992.
16
17 482
18
19 483 37. Salemi M, Cattaneo E, Casoli C, Bertazzoni U. Identification of IIa and IIb
20
21 484 molecular subtypes of human T-cell lymphotropic virus type II among Italian
22
23 485 injecting drug users. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr Hum Retrovirol* 1995;8:516-20.
24
25 486
26
27 487 38. Zella D, Cavicchini A, Salemi M, Casoli C, Lori F, Achilli G, Cattaneo E, Landini
28
29 488 V, Bertazzoni U. Molecular characterization of two isolates of human T cell
30
31 489 leukaemia virus type II from Italian drug abusers and comparison of genome
32
33 490 structure with other isolates. *J Gen Virol* 1993;74 (Pt 3):437-44.
34
35 491
36
37 492 39. Ishak R, Vallinoto AC, Azevedo VN, Ishak Mde O. Epidemiological aspects of
38
39 493 retrovirus (HTLV) infection among Indian populations in the Amazon Region of
40
41 494 Brazil. *Cad Saude Publica* 2003;19:901-14.
42
43 495
44
45 496 40. Vallinoto AC, Ishak MO, Azevedo VN, Vicente AC, Otsuki K, Hall WW, Ishak R.
46
47 497 Molecular epidemiology of human T-lymphotropic virus type II infection in
48
49 498 Amerindian and urban populations of the Amazon region of Brazil. *Hum Biol*
50
51 499 2002;74:633-44.
52
53 500

- 1
2
3
4
5 501 41. Covas DT, Kashima S. Complete nucleotide sequences of the genomes of two
6 502 Brazilian specimens of human T lymphotropic virus type 2 (HTLV-2). *AIDS Res*
7 503 *Hum Retroviruses* 2003;19:689-97.
8
9 504
10
11
12 505 42. Lewis MJ, Novoa P, Ishak R, Ishak M, Salemi M, Vandamme AM, Kaplan MH,
13 506 Hall WW. Isolation, cloning, and complete nucleotide sequence of a phenotypically
14 507 distinct Brazilian isolate of human T-lymphotropic virus type II (HTLV-II).
15 508 *Virology* 2000;271:142-54.
16
17 509
18
19 510 43. Biglione M, Vidan O, Mahieux R, de Colombo M, de los Angeles de Basualdo M,
20 511 Bonnet M, Pankow G, De Efron MA, Zorrilla A, Tekaiia F, Murphy E, de The G,
21 512 Gessain A. Seroepidemiological and molecular studies of human T cell
22 513 lymphotropic virus type II, subtype b, in isolated groups of Mataco and Toba
23 514 Indians of northern Argentina. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses* 1999;15:407-17.
24
25 515
26
27 516 44. Fujiyoshi T, Li HC, Lou H, Yashiki S, Karino S, Zaninovic V, Oneegillo SG,
28 517 Camacho M, Andrade R, Hurtado LV, Gomez LH, Damiani E, Cartier L, Dipierri
29 518 JE, Hayami M, Sonoda S, Tajima K. Characteristic distribution of HTLV type I and
30 519 HTLV type II carriers among native ethnic groups in South America. *AIDS Res*
31 520 *Hum Retroviruses* 1999;15:1235-9.
32
33 521
34
35 522 45. Berini CA, Pando MA, Bautista CT, Eirin ME, Martinez-Peralta L, Weissenbacher
36 523 M, Avila MM, Biglione MM. HTLV-1/2 among high-risk groups in Argentina:
37 524 molecular diagnosis and prevalence of different sexual transmitted infections. *J Med*
38 525 *Virol* 2007;79:1914-20.
39
40
41
42
43
44 526

- 1
2
3
4
5 527 46. Blejer JL, Saguier MC, Salamone HJ, Carreras LA. [Determination of anti-HTLV-
6 528 I/II antibodies: Experience in 28,897 blood donations in Buenos Aires]. *Sangre*
7 529 (*Barc*) 1995;40:447-51.
8
9 530
10
11
12 531 47. Biglione M, Avila MM, Biglione J, Weisburd G, Libonatti O, Gessain A.
13 532 [Molecular characterization of HTLV-II from an intravenous drug addict with AIDS
14 533 in Argentina]. *Rev Argent Microbiol* 1996;28:139-42.
15
16 534
17
18 535 48. Pando MA, De Salvo C, Bautista CT, Eyzaguirre L, Carrion G, Feola M, Lado I,
19 536 Hoffman M, Biglione MM, Carr JK, Montano SM, Sanchez JL, Weissenbacher M,
20 537 Avila MM. Human immunodeficiency virus and tuberculosis in Argentina:
21 538 prevalence, genotypes and risk factors. *J Med Microbiol* 2008;57:190-7.
22
23 539
24
25 540 49. Weissenbacher M, Rossi D, Radulich G, Sosa-Estani S, Vila M, Vivas E, Avila
26 541 MM, Cuchi P, Rey J, Peralta LM. High seroprevalence of bloodborne viruses
27 542 among street-recruited injection drug users from Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Clin*
28 543 *Infect Dis* 2003;37 Suppl 5:S348-52.
29
30 544
31
32 545 50. Heneine W, Khabbaz RF, Lal RB, Kaplan JE. Sensitive and specific polymerase
33 546 chain reaction assays for diagnosis of human T-cell lymphotropic virus type I
34 547 (HTLV-I) and HTLV-II infections in HTLV-I/II-seropositive individuals. *J Clin*
35 548 *Microbiol* 1992;30:1605-7.
36
37 549
38
39 550 51. Tuke PW, Luton P, Garson JA. Differential diagnosis of HTLV-I and HTLV-II
40 551 infections by restriction enzyme analysis of 'nested' PCR products. *J Virol Methods*
41 552 1992;40:163-73.
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

- 1
2
3
4
5 553
6
7 554 52. Gessain A, Maucelere P, Froment A, Biglione M, Le Hesran JY, Tekaija F, Millan J,
8
9 555 de The G. Isolation and molecular characterization of a human T-cell lymphotropic
10
11 556 virus type II (HTLV-II), subtype B, from a healthy Pygmy living in a remote area of
12
13 557 Cameroon: an ancient origin for HTLV-II in Africa. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*
14
15 558 1995;92:4041-5.
16
17 559
18
19 560 53. Villafruela Mateos A, Arruza Echevarría A, Martín Bazaco J, Azurmendi Arin I,
20
21 561 Zabala Egurrola JA, C. PP. HTLV infection after renal transplant. *Arch Esp Urol*
22
23 562 2005;58:1064-1068.
24
25 563
26
27 564 54. Yoshida M, Miyoshi I, Hinuma Y. Isolation and characterization of retrovirus from
28
29 565 cell lines of human adult T-cell leukemia and its implication in the disease. *Proc*
30
31 566 *Natl Acad Sci U S A* 1982;79:2031-5.
32
33 567
34
35 568 55. Gascuel O. BIONJ: an improved version of the NJ algorithm based on a simple
36
37 569 model of sequence data. *Mol Biol Evol* 1997;14:685-95.
38
39 570
40
41 571 56. Black FL. Tracing prehistoric migrations by the viruses they carry: human T-cell
42
43 572 lymphotropic viruses as markers of ethnic relationships. *Hum Biol* 1997;69:467-82.
44
45 573
46 574 57. Maucelere P, Afonso PV, Meertens L, Plancoulaine S, Calattini S, Froment A, Van
47
48 575 Beveren M, de The G, Quintana-Murci L, Mahieux R, Gessain A. HTLV-2B
49
50 576 strains, similar to those found in several Amerindian tribes, are endemic in central
51
52 577 African Bakola Pygmies. *J Infect Dis* 2011; 203:1316-23.
53
54 578

Formatted: Highlight

TABLE 1. Epidemiological features of HTLV-2 seropositive blood donors and HIV-1 positive individuals of Argentina.

Group	Sample ID	Age/ gender	Residence place	Risk factors	HTLV-2 subtype
Blood donors	BDAR1	NI/F	Formosa	Born in an endemic area (Formosa)	HTLV-2b
	BDAR2	55/M	Buenos Aires	NOT KNOWN	HTLV-2b
	BDAR3	47/M	Buenos Aires	Born in Tucumán, blood transfusion	HTLV-2b
	BDAR4	45/M	Ushuaia	Born in an endemic area (Formosa)	HTLV-2b
	BDAR5	28/M	Buenos Aires	NOT KNOWN	HTLV-2b
	BDAR6	56/F	Buenos Aires	Parents from endemic area (Chaco)	HTLV-2b
	BDAR7	54/F	Buenos Aires	Parents from endemic area (Chaco)	HTLV-2b
HIV-1+	HIVAR1	23/F	Buenos Aires	SEX	HTLV-2a
	HIVAR2	31/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2a
	HIVAR3	39/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR4	26/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR5	35/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR6	43/F	Buenos Aires	SEX	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR7	28/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR8	32/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR9	28/F	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR10	21/F	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR11	24/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR12	28/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR13	45/F	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR14	30/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR15	29/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2a
	HIVAR16	31/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2a
	HIVAR17	28/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR18	29/M	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b
	HIVAR19	24/F	Buenos Aires	IDU	HTLV-2b

Note: IDU, Intravenous Drug Users; NI: no information ; SEX: sexual transmission

FIGURES

Figure 1: Rooted Neighbour joining (NJ) tree of 103 HTLV-2 strains based upon a 596-bp fragment of the 3'LTR region. All 26 Argentinean new sequences are marked with squares (HIV positive) (■) and dots (BD) (●). The STLV strain PP1664 was used as outgroup. Numbers on branches indicate the support for each node. The geographic origin of reference strains included in this analysis are as follows from the bottom to the top: PP1664 (Simian), Efe2 (Congo), GuyII (French Guyana), BH223 (Brasil), BH339 (Brasil), BAIDU86 (Brasil), Kay73 (Brasil), Tyrio80 (Brasil), SPWV (Brasil), Kay139 (Brasil), BRAZA21 (Brasil), Kayapo83 (Brasil), Oklnd15-8 (USA), IVDUros (Argentina), PH230 (Cameroon), Dub991(Ireland), NOR2N (Europe), MO (USA), CH610 (Paraguay/Argentina), Pilaga (Argentina), SPAN129 (Spain), ITA50A (Italy), Gu (Europe), ny185 (USA), ITA47A (Italy), PUERBAG (USA), WYU1 (Colombia), G12 (Panama), SFIDU6-4 (USA), Y5 (Venezuela), PENN7A (USA), SEM1051 (USA), NRA (USA), FOR6 (Argentina), Oklnd14-17 (USA), PYGCAM (Cameroon), Gab (Gabon), SEM1050 (USA) and WYU2 (Colombia).

