

# Viruses and Leukaemia, Is leukaemia preventable?!

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## Summery

The Human T-lymphotropic virus Type 1 (HTLV-I) is a human RNA retrovirus that is known to cause a type of cancer, referred to as adult T-cell leukaemia and lymphoma, and a demyelinating disease called HTLV-I associated myelopathy / tropical spastic paraparesis (HAM/TSP).

HTLV-I is one of a group of closely related primate T lymphocytic viruses (PTLVs).

Members of this family that infect old-world primates are called Simian T-lymphotropic viruses.

To date, four types of HTLVs (HTLV-I, HTLV- II, HTLV\_III, and HTLV-IV), have been identified. The HTLVs are believed to originate from interspecies transmission of STLVs.

The original name for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, was HTLV-III; this term is no longer in use. (1). (<http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/HTLV-III>.)

The HTLV\_I genome is diploid, composed of two copies of a single-stranded RNA virus whose genome is copied into a double-stranded DNA form that integrates into the host cell genome, at which point the virus is referred as provirus.

A closely related virus is bovine leukaemia virus BLV.

This begs the question if all leukaemias are virally related are leukaemias preventable with or through the use of antiviral agents.

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