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Human T-lymphotropic virus type 1-associated myelopathy/tropical spastic paraparesis: clinical presentation and pathophysiology

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Abstract

HTLV-1-Associated Myelopathy /Tropical Spastic Paraparesis (HAM/TSP) is a slowly progressive neurodegenerative disorder in which lesions of the Central Nervous System (CNS) cause progressive weakness, stiffness, and a lower limb spastic paraparesis. In some cases, polymyositis, inclusion body myositis, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis-like syndromes are associated with HTLV-1. TSP was first described in Jamaica in 1888 and known as Jamaican peripheral neuritis before TSP was related to HTLV-1 virus, the first retrovirus being identified, and the disease is since named HAM/TSP. There is no established treatment program for HAM/TSP. Prevention is difficult in low-income patients (i.e., HTLV-1 infected breast feeding mothers in rural areas, sex workers). Thus, there is a need for new therapeutic avenues. Therapeutic approaches must be based on

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