19th World

Hematology Congress

11th International Conference and Exhibition on Advanced Cell and Gene Therapy

conferenceseries.com

March 15-16, 2021

London, UK

Mirna Biglione, J Hematol Thrombo Dis 2021, Volume 09

Leukemia associated with Human T Lymphotropic Virus type 1 (HTLV-1) and intrafamily transmission of infection in a non endemic area of Argentina

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A dult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATLL) is an hematological disease caused by human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) that develops after 20 years of incubation preferentially when the infection is acquired by vertical transmission. In cases of transmission by transfusion or organ transplant, this time is reduced from 3 months to 3 years. Acute ATLL is difficult to diagnose because it is unusual and has a rapid progression to death. In the Argentine Northwest, where the virus is endemic, ATLL is more frequent, however it is also detected continuously in the rest of the country. The treatment of choice, in the first instance, is the combined use of antivirals. We present a case of acute ATLL developed in a 59-year-old man from Santiago del Estero from which intra-familial transmission of HTLV-1 infection was identified.