

Table 2.5. Case-control studies of HTLV-I and ATLL

Reference, study location and period	Characteristics of cases	Characteristics of controls	Detection method	Exposure categories	No. of exposed cases	Relative risk (95% CI)	Adjusted potential confounders	Comments
Bartholomew <i>et al.</i> (1998) Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, 1992–1997	36 cases of ATLL with interviewed mothers. Case mean age at diagnosis, 34.8 yrs; mean age of mothers at interview, 65.3 yrs.	15 HAM/TSP cases with interviewed mothers. Case mean age at diagnosis, 36.7 yrs; mean age of mothers at interview, 66.7 yrs.	Anti-HTLV-1 by ELISA and western blot.	Maternal HTLV-1 antibody positivity ATLL HAM/TSP ATLL vs. HAM/TSP.	35 5	Percentage positivity 97.2% 33.3% $p < 0.001$		All patients were breastfed and no subject had a history of transfusion; The 1 HTLV-1 positive ATL case with a serogenative mother but with a seropositive father and sister suggests that the mother may have cleared or suppressed her HTLV-1 infection.

ATLL, Adult T-cell Leukemia; HAM/TSP, HTLV-1-Associated Myelopathy/Tropical Spastic Paraparesis