

WHAT IS HTLV?

Human T-cell lymphotropic viruses type I and II (HTLV-I and HTLV-II) are related exogenous human retroviruses. HTLV-I has mainly been etiologically linked with a lymphoproliferative disease known as adult T-cell leukaemia' (AT), a chronic myelopathy known as 'tropical spastic paraparesis' (TSP), and also with other inflammatory conditions. HTLV-II infections have so far not been associated with any type of leukaemia or other disease. Most HTLV II-infected individuals remain completely asymptomatic. The virus is transmitted in three ways: 1) from mother to child, 2) by blood transfusion and 3) via sexual contact. HTLV is endemic in Central and West Africa, the Caribbean, and parts of South America, Japan, and Melanesia/Australia. In Europe and America, HTLV is frequently detected in intravenous drug users [1].

[1] Gessain A, Cassar O. Front Microbiol 2012;3:388

WHAT IS THE DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF INNO-LIA™ HTLV I/II SCORE?

To prevent transmission of HTLV, anti-HTLV blood virus screening is performed and repeatedly reactive samples should be confirmed by Western Blot, immunoblot or PCR. Because of the differences in the epidemiologic and clinical correlates of HTLV-I and HTLV-II, an effort to type the infection should be made [2]. Since the INNO-LIA™ HTLV I/II Score is a line immunoassay that confirms the presence of anti-HTLV I/II and also differentiates between HTLV-I and HTLV-II infections, the INNO-LIA™ HTLV I/II assay is the method of choice for anti-HTLV I/II confirmatory testing.

[2] CDC Recommendations for Counseling Persons Infected with Human T-Lymphotrophic Virus, Types I and II. June 25, 1993 / 42(RR-9);1-13

CAN INNO-LIA™ HTLV I/II SCORE DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN HTLV-1 AND HTLV-2 TYPES?

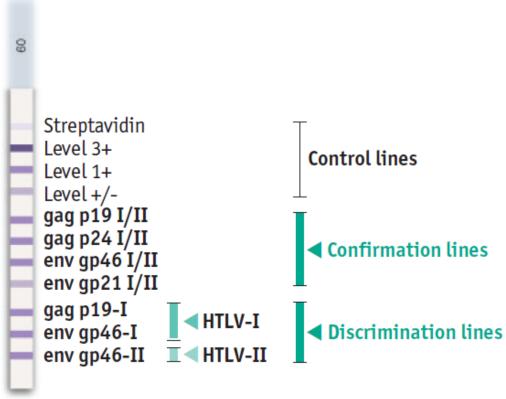
Yes, differentiation of HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 is possible because the assay uses well-defined antigens derived from HTLV-I and HTLV-II immunodominant proteins. The antigens are either recombinant proteins or synthetic peptides that are purified and fixed on a nylon membrane. The antigenicity exhibited by these proteins and peptides is either common to HTLV-I and HTLV-II antibodies or type-specific to one of the two viruses allowing confirmation and discrimination in a single assay. Two gag bands (p19 I/II, p24 I/II) and two env (gp46 I/II, gp21 I/II) bands are applied as non-type-specific antigens, used to confirm the presence of antibodies against HTLV-I/II. The type-specific antigens (gag p19-I, env gp46-I) specific for HTLV-I and (env gp46-II) specific for HTLV-II, enable differentiation of HTLV-I and HTLV-II infections.

WHAT DOES A 'NORMAL' STRIP LOOK LIKE?

A 'normal' strip shows reactivity on the three control lines: level 3+, 1+ and +/-. The strip can be interpreted as positive, negative or indeterminate for HTLV I/II antibodies. Confirmation is only possible with samples that score positive on the confirmation bands. Discrimination between HTLV-II type is only possible with samples that score also positive on the discrimination bands.







WHERE IS THE PRODUCT USED?

The INNO-LIA™ HTLV I/II Score is used in blood banks, clinical and hospital laboratories.

CAN THE ASSAY BE AUTOMATED?

Yes, Fujirebio Europe N.V. has 2 automation options with different throughput.

- Auto-LIA[™] 48 and Auto-LiPA[™] 48 (48 samples)
- AutoBlot 3000 (H) (20 samples)

The interpretation of the strips can be done by visual analysis (reading card included in the kit) or by the LiRAS™ for Infectious Diseases interpretation software. With the LiRAS™ for Infectious Diseases, the interpretation for all infectious diseases INNO-LIA™ Score products (HCV, HIV, Syphilis and HTLV) can be automated.

CAN I RUN DIFFERENT INNO-LIA™ SCORE PRODUCTS TOGETHER?

Yes, the INNO-LIA™ Score reagents are interchangeable except the sample diluent (assures high sensitivity/specificity) but reagents with different lot numbers should not be mixed.

