Low prevalence of HTLV-1 antibodies in the serum of patients with tropical spastic paraplegia from the Ivory Coast

A high prevalence of human T-lymphotropic virus type I (HTLV-1) antibodies has been reported in the serum of patients with tropical spastic paraplegia (TSP), from various parts of the world. This disease is also present in West Africa, where, as in other tropical regions, no obvious aetiology was discovered.

To discover the possible link between TSP and HTLV-1 antibodies in West Africa, the serum of 20 patients from the Ivory Coast was collected. All patients fulfilled the clinical diagnosis of TSP as previously described for TSP. Other causes of paraparesis were excluded by clinical and paraclinical inves-
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