



No association of xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related leukemia virus-related virus with prostate cancer or chronic fatigue syndrome in Japan

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Abstract

Background: The involvement of xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV) in prostate cancer (PC) and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is disputed as its reported prevalence ranges from 0% to 25% in PC cases and from 0% to more than 80% in CFS cases. To evaluate the risk of XMRV infection during blood transfusion in Japan, we screened three populations—healthy donors (n = 500), patients with PC (n = 67), and patients with CFS (n = 100)—for antibodies against XMRV proteins in freshly collected blood samples. We also examined blood samples of viral antibody-positive patients with PC and all (both antibody-positive and antibody-negative) patients with CFS for XMRV DNA.

Results: Antibody screening by immunoblot analysis showed that a fraction of the cases (1.6–3.0%) possessed anti-XMRV Gag antibodies regardless of their gender or disease condition. Most of these antibodies were highly specific to XMRV Gag capsid protein, but none of the individuals in the three tested populations retained strong antibody responses to multiple XMRV proteins. In the viral antibody-positive PC patients, we occasionally detected XMRV genes in plasma and peripheral blood mononuclear cells but failed to isolate an infectious or full-length XMRV. Further, all CFS patients tested negative for XMRV DNA in peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

Conclusion: Our data show no solid evidence of XMRV infection in any of the three populations tested, implying that there is no association between the onset of PC or CFS and XMRV infection in Japan. However, the lack of adequate human specimens as a positive control in Ab screening and the limited sample size do not allow us to draw a firm conclusion.

Background

Xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV), a gammaretrovirus found in humans, is possibly associated with certain diseases [1,2]. The virus was first identified in prostate cancer (PC) by using a pan-viral microarray. XMRV RNA was detected in eight of 22 R462Q homozygous patients, but in only one of 66 patients with RQ or RR (wild-type [WTT]) alleles of the *RNAseL2* gene [1], an important component of the innate antiviral response [3]. Schlaiberg et al. [4] found XMRV proteins in nearly 25% of PC specimens and reported that XMRV infection is associated with high-grade PC. Conversely, XMRV RNA was detected in only 1.2% of PC cases in a German study [5], and neither XMRV RNA nor anti-XMRV antibodies (Abs) were detected in PC patients in another German cohort [6]. Furthermore, in a recent study, XMRV RNA was detected in the blood of 67% of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and 3.6% of healthy individuals [2]. Lo et al. [7] found murine leukemia virus (MLV)-related sequences in genomic DNA of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) in 32 of 37 (86.5%) CFS patients and three of 44 (6.8%) healthy blood donors. However, the absence of XMRV infection in CFS patients has been reported in several countries [8–12]. These conflicting results have provoked serious debates about XMRV detection methods and patient characteristics [13].

XMRV can infect many human cell lines by using XPRI as a receptor, similar to other xenotropic murine

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資料4

XMRVに関する文献報告(続報)(平成23年6月27日)

血液事業部会運営委員会委員 岡田 義昭

文献番号	文献名	報告国	要約
1	Furuta R, Miyazawa T, Sugiyama T, et al., <i>Retrovirology</i> 2011, Mar 17;8:20 No association of xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus with prostate cancer or chronic fatigue syndrome in Japan	日本	日本の前立腺癌患者67人、慢性疲労症候群患者100人、健康人500人の血液を用いてXMRVの感染リスクを評価した。XMRVの gagのCAタンパクに対する抗体陽性者がいたが、XMRV由来の他のウイルス抗原に対する抗体陽性者はいなかった。CA抗体陽性の前立腺癌患者の末梢単核球からXMRVの遺伝子が検出されたが、再現性が乏しく、また培養法を用いてもXMRVを分離することはできなかった。一方、慢性疲労症候群患者の血漿及び末梢単核球からXMRVの遺伝子を核酸増幅法で検出したが全て陰性であった。これらの結果は、日本の前立腺癌や慢性疲労症候群の発症とXMRV感染との関連がないことを示唆している。
2	Shin H, Bateman L, Schlaiberg R, et al., <i>J Virol</i> 2011, May 4. [Epub ahead of print] No evidence of murine-like gammaretroviruses in CFS patients previously identified as XMRV-infected	米国	同じ地域に住む100例の慢性疲労症候群患者と200例の健康人の血液から、1)XMRV及びXMRV類似ウイルスの遺伝子、2)これらのウイルスに対する抗体、3)高感受性細胞を使用したウイルス分離、をブラインドで実施したが、全て陰性であった。また、過去2年間繰り返して陽性とされた14例のCFS患者を同様に検査したが1例もXMRV及びXMRV類似のウイルス遺伝子、抗体は検出できなかった。さらにTaq polymerase中に少量のマウスDNAがコンタミしていることを発見し、これによってNATの5%が陽性となった。
3	Knox K, Carrigan D, Simmons G, et al., <i>Science</i> 2011, Jun 2 [Epub ahead of print] No evidence of murine-like gammaretroviruses in CFS patients previously identified as XMRV-infected	米国	ネバダ州の1つの医療機関から提供された過去にXMRV陽性と判断された43名を含む慢性疲労症候群患者61名の血液を核酸増幅法、血清学的検査、感染性ウイルスの検出、等を用いて再評価したところ、XMRVや他のマウス白血球ウイルス(MLV)は全く検出されなかった。以前 <i>science</i> に掲載された「慢性疲労症候群から高率にXMRVが検出された」という報告に用いられた多くの検体を提供した同一の医療機関からの検体であることから、診断や患者の集団の差からこれらの結果の不一致を説明できない。原因として、核酸増幅法に用いる酵素に添加されているマウス単クローン抗体や実験室で用いられているマウス単クローン抗体からMLVの遺伝子が検出されること、細胞で継代したXMRV(VP82DU145)は塩基配列に複数の変異が認められたが検体から検出された複数のXMRVの塩基配列はVP82や22RV1由来のものと同じであったこと、等から実験室内での検体へこれらの遺伝子が混入したと思われる。さらにXMRVや異種指向性MLVは検体によって不活化されることから、実際には人では感染が成立できないことも示唆された。
4	Paprotka T, Delviks-Frankenberry K, et al., <i>Science</i> 2011, Jun 2. [Epub ahead of print] Recombinant origin of the retrovirus XMRV	米国	XMRVを産生するヒト前立腺癌株のCWR22Rv1とCWR-R1はCWR22株由来である。CWR22はヌードマウスで継代された細胞株であり、継代の初期の細胞株からはXMRVは検出されなかった。一方、継代に用いたマウスからPreXMRV-1とPreXMRV-2の2つのプロウイルスが検出され、前半と後半でそれぞれXMRVと99.92%のホモロジーがあり、2つのプロウイルスが組み換えを起こし、XMRVになったと考えられる。この組み換えが別々に生じる可能性は低く、ヒトの疾患と関連したXMRVはヒトサンプルへの混入のためであることを示している。
5	Alberts B, <i>Science</i> 2011, Jun 2 [Epub ahead of print] Editorial expression of concern	米国	文献3と4はLombardiらが <i>science</i> に発表した「慢性疲労症候群患者の67%からXMRVが検出された」という2009年の論文が、実験室内や解析に用いた試薬へのウイルスのコンタミだったことを強く支持している。そのためLombardiらの論文の正当性に懸念があるので彼らの論文にこれらの懸念があることを添付した。XMRVと慢性疲労症候群との因果関係の有無についてNIHの後援によって研究が行われており、 <i>science</i> 誌としては結果を待っている。

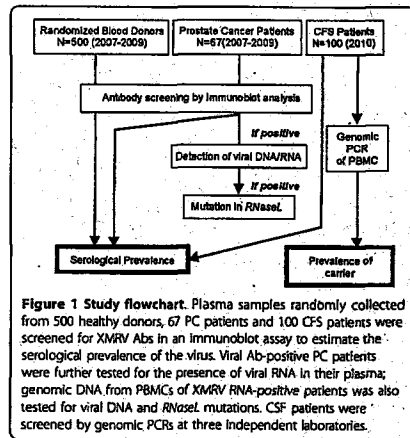
retroviruses [14-16], and XMRV replication appears to be enhanced in cells with a defective interferon-gamma (IFN γ) intracellular pathway [17]. In terms of *in vivo* infection, the route of transmission, infectivity to humans, and pathogenesis of XMRV are largely unknown; therefore, its potential risk as a transfusion-transmissible infectious agent remains to be clarified.

Many blood service organizations worldwide, including those in Japan, have yet to establish a transfusion policy for XMRV, although in a few countries (e.g., Canada) blood donations are restricted from individuals previously diagnosed with CFS. To investigate the prevalence of XMRV in healthy Japanese individuals as well as in PC patients, we started screening blood samples in 2007 from donors in Osaka prefecture and PC patients in Nishiwaki City, a rural area of Hyogo prefecture close to Osaka prefecture, as a pilot study of XMRV infection. On the basis of Lombardi et al.'s results of XMRV infection in CSF patients and, to a lesser extent, in the healthy population [2], we also screened blood samples from CFS patients. We found that a proportion of the donors and patients had Abs against the XMRV Gag capsid (CA), but XMRV genes were barely detectable. These results suggest that although the presence of human infection with XMRV or XMRV-related viruses in Japan cannot be denied, such infection is likely to be limited.

Results

Study design

Our study design, summarized in Figure 1, was not standardized because the screening process for donors

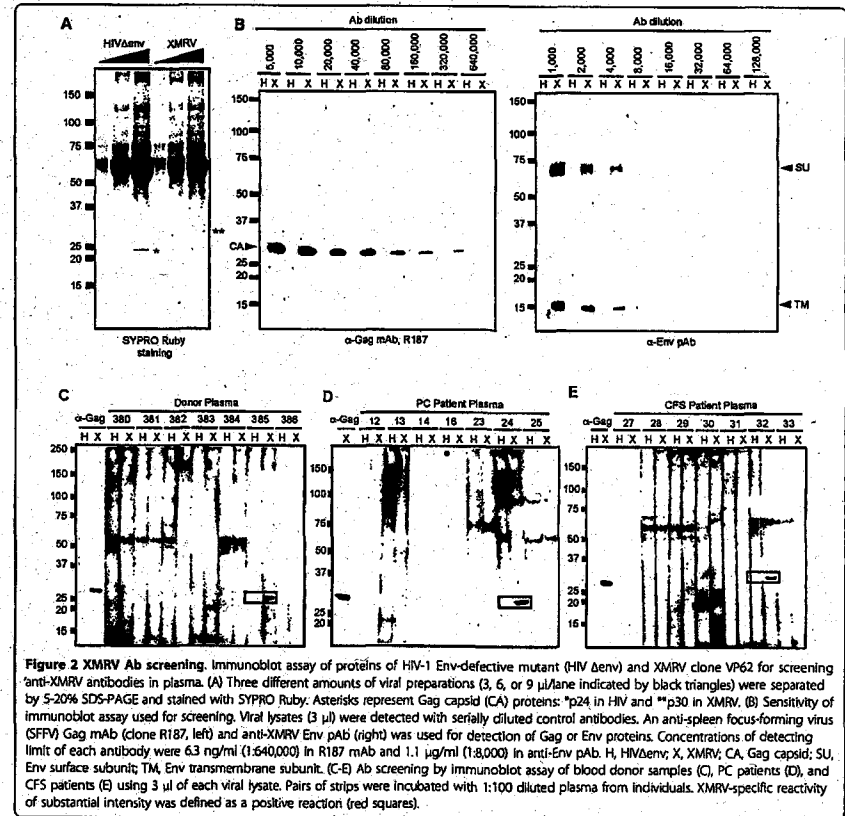


and PC patients was not implemented simultaneously with that for CFS patients. We employed different methods to detect XMRV nucleic acids at different stages of the study, but the same Ab-screening test was used consistently throughout. All plasma samples were screened for XMRV Abs by immunoblot assay to calculate the serological prevalence of XMRV. Plasma samples of viral Ab-positive PC patients were further screened for XMRV RNA. Moreover, PBMCs of PC patients whose plasma was positive for XMRV RNA were examined for the presence of XMRV genes and for *RNaseL* mutations in genomic DNA [1,18]. Plasma samples of CFS patients were simultaneously screened for XMRV Abs and genomic DNA according to published methods [1,2,6]. We did not examine XMRV DNA or RNA in the donor blood samples because, at present, the Japanese Red Cross Society does not have consensus for the genetic analysis of donor blood samples for research purposes, except for the analysis of blood types.

Screening for XMRV Abs

To examine Abs against XMRV by immunoblotting, concentrated viral particles were used as antigens. When the same volume of XMRV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-1 lysate as a negative control was analyzed by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and gel staining, we observed a comparable amount of Gag CA proteins in each preparation (Figure 2A, asterisks). The minimum amount of each virus lysate in which CA protein was detectable by gel staining with SYPRO Ruby (3 μ l) was used to assess sensitivity of the immunoblot assay by end point dilutions of an anti-Gag monoclonal antibody (mAb) (clone R187; Figure 2B, left) or an anti-Env rabbit polyclonal antibody (pAb) (Figure 2B, right). The detection limit of the screening assay was estimated as 6.3 ng/ml (1:640,000) for R187 mAb and 1.1 μ g/ml (1:8,000) for anti-Env pAb.

In the Ab screening, we observed many nonspecific signals. Most of these reacted with both strips at the same mobility, and some weak bands were occasionally detected on either XMRV or HIV-1, or both strips at the position of the CA proteins, probably because of a large amount of CA protein on the strips. Therefore, we regarded such nonspecific signals as false positives, and considered that a band observed on the XMRV strip, but not on the HIV-1 strip, showing signal intensity comparable with that detected using the control anti-Gag mAb was positive for XMRV when the strips were blotted with 100 times-diluted plasma samples (red squares in Figure 2C-E). We identified 12 positive plasma samples: eight from the donors, two from PC patients and two from CFS patients. The prevalence of XMRV calculated from the immunoblot assay was 1.6%



in blood donors, 3.0% in PC patients, and 2.0% in CFS patients ($p > 0.05$). Because XMRV was originally identified in PC samples [1], we analyzed whether there was a gender difference in the prevalence of XMRV; however, no significant difference between male and female subjects was noted (Table 1).

Characterization of screening-positive Abs

Because we observed Abs against only the Gag CA protein in the Ab-screening assay, we examined test plasma for reactivity against recombinant Gag and Env proteins (Figure 3A-3C). For recombinant Gag protein, we expressed glutathione S transferase (GST)-fused Gag CA

protein of XMRV derived from 22Rv1 cells. The sensitivity of the immunoblot assay using the GST-CA protein was about eight times higher than that used in the screening assay (Figure 3A, 1:5,120,000 dilution corresponding to 0.78 ng/ml R187 mAb). All screening-positive plasma, but not screening-negative plasma, tested positive for GST-CA proteins (Figure 3B), suggesting that the screening-positive plasma specifically recognized XMRV CA. In the upper panel of Figure 3B, D51, P24 and C32, plasma shows some signals migrating close to that of the Env surface subunit (SU). However, these were likely to be nonspecific as we observed similar signals on the paired HIV strip at the same position

Table 1 Summary of anti-Gag Ab reactivities in study population

Population	Gender	Ab negative	Ab positive	Total	Prevalence (%)
Healthy donors	M	336	5	341	1.5
	F	156	3	159	1.9
Total		492	8	500	1.6
Patients with PC	M	65	2	67	3.0
Patients with CFS	M	31	0	31	0
	F	67	2	69	2.9
Total		98	2	100	2.0

No significant differences in prevalence were observed between the donors and the patients with PC and between the donors and the patients with CFS. Further, there were no significant differences in prevalence between the male and the female donors.

in the screening immunoblot assay (data not shown for D51, and Figure 2D and 2E for P24 and C32, respectively). We examined the reactivity of the test plasma against a recombinant histidine-tagged Env surface subunit protein (rSU) of a xenotropic MLV [19], in which the detection limit determined by endpoint dilutions was 1.1 µg/ml (1:8,000 dilution in Figure 3C, left), but detected no Abs against the Env SU protein in plasma samples (Figure 3C, right). An immunoblot assay after native-PAGE was also negative for Abs against Env proteins (Figure 3D). Detection limits in the native-PAGE were 6.3 ng/ml for anti-Gag mAb (R187) and 8.5 µg/ml for anti-Env pAb (data not shown).

To examine the specificity of the screening-positive plasma samples, we performed an additional immunoblot assay against proteins from Moloney murine leukemia virus (MoMLV), which has approximately 83% amino acid homology in the Gag region with XMRV. We observed multiple patterns of cross-reactivity (Figure 3E). Most screening-positive plasma samples were recognized exclusively with XMRV Gag CA (e.g., patient 24 in Figure 3E), but some showed weak cross-reactivity with Gag CA of MoMLV (donor 359 in Figure 3E). In another case, almost the same level of signal was detected against Gag CA of XMRV and MoMLV (donor 385 in Figure 3E). Plasma that predominantly reacted with MoMLV Gag was not observed. The Ab specificities are summarized in Table 2.

The serological prevalence of XMRV calculated using only the highly specific Ab was 1.0% in the donors, 1.5% in PC patients, and 1.0% in CFS patients. Again, there were no statistically significant differences in prevalence between blood donors and patients with either PC or CFS. We are unable to determine whether the anti-Gag CA Abs we identified would indicate XMRV infection or not, until panel plasma or serum samples collected

from human subjects definitely infected with XMRV become available. Therefore, we tentatively regard those individuals who retain these Abs as suspicious cases.

Detection of XMRV RNA in the plasma of PC patients

In April 2008, we examined XMRV RNA from the plasma of two screening-positive PC patients (P24 and P28) by nested RT-PCR: only one patient (P24) had positive results for XMRV RNA with Gag-specific primers (Figure 4A). The sequence of the amplified PCR product was 99.8% (412/413), identical to that of XMRV VP62 (data not shown). However, we could not conclude that the PCR product was derived from XMRV infection because this fragment did not contain an XMRV-specific 24 nucleotide deletion in the gag region [1]. The patient's malignant prostate tissue was not available because it had already been removed and was not deposited in the hospital.

In August 2008, we collected whole blood from this patient to examine RNASEL mutations at amino acid positions 462 [1,18] and 541 [20], and found a WT residue at 462 and a low-risk amino acid residue (Glu) at 541 (data not shown). We tried to isolate infectious or full-length XMRV from PBMCs of this patient, but were unsuccessful. We also found that the test results of the nested PCR assay, in which detection limit was approximately 1.5 cell equivalents of genomic DNA from 293T cells infected with 22Rv1 cell-derived XMRV (Figure 4B), using PBMC-extracted genomic DNA were not reproducible (Figure 4C). In November 2009, the whole blood of P24 became available again and was tested for XMRV DNA and RNA. Although the plasma still tested positive for Abs against XMRV Gag CA, neither XMRV RNA nor DNA was detected with the same method used in April 2008 (data not shown). We further examined XMRV RNA from plasma and supernatants of co-cultured P24 PBMCs with LNCap-FGC cells using one-step RT-PCR, but both tested negative for the XMRV Gag gene (Figure 5A). We performed real time PCR on genomic DNA extracted from PBMCs, which is capable of amplifying a fragment of the Env gene with a detection limit of four copies/reaction, but the additional PCR tests of P24 were negative for the XMRV gene (Figure 5B and 5C). These data suggested that the amount of XMRV in the blood of the Ab-positive PC patient was limited, if the virus still existed. Alternatively, it remains possible that the results of the original P24 PCR tests were false positive.

Detection of XMRV DNA in PBMCs of CFS patients

To examine the prevalence of XMRV in CFS cases, we screened CFS patients for XMRV DNA in PBMCs at three independent laboratories. Figure 6 shows the representative results with two primer sets. The

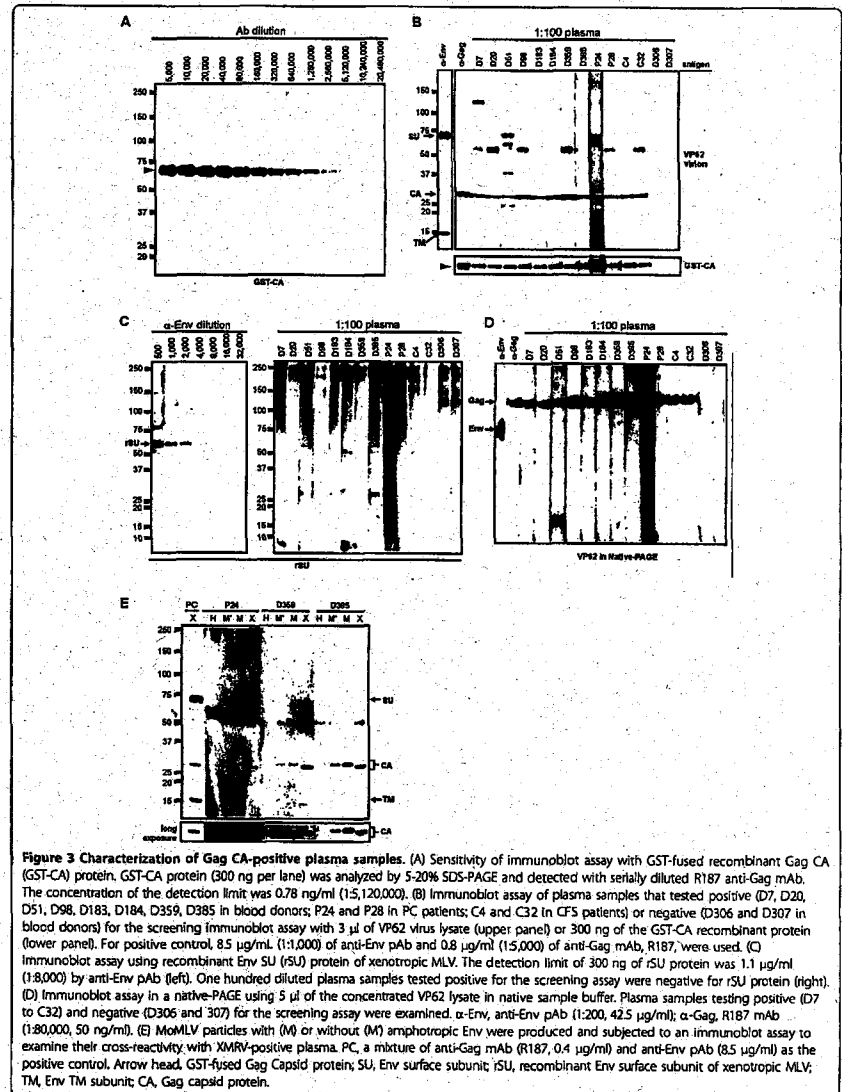


Figure 3 Characterization of Gag CA-positive plasma samples. (A) Sensitivity of immunoblot assay with GST-fused recombinant Gag CA (GST-CA) protein. GST-CA protein (300 ng per lane) was analyzed by 5-20% SDS-PAGE and detected with serially diluted R187 anti-Gag mAb. The concentration of the detection limit was 0.78 ng/ml (1:15,120,000). (B) Immunoblot assay of plasma samples that tested positive (D7, D20, D51, D98, D183, D184, D359, D385 in blood donors; P24 and P28 in PC patients; C4 and C32 in CFS patients) or negative (D306 and D307 in blood donors) for the screening immunoblot assay with 3 µl of VP62 virus lysate (upper panel) or 300 ng of the GST-CA recombinant protein (lower panel). For positive control, 8.5 µg/ml (1:1,000) of anti-Env pAb and 0.8 µg/ml (1:5,000) of anti-Gag mAb, R187, were used. (C) Immunoblot assay using recombinant Env SU (rSU) protein of xenotropic MLV. The detection limit of 300 ng of rSU protein was 1.1 µg/ml (1:8,000) by anti-Env pAb (left). One hundred diluted plasma samples tested positive for the screening assay were negative for rSU protein (right). (D) Immunoblot assay in a native-PAGE using 5 µl of the concentrated VP62 lysate in native sample buffer. Plasma samples testing positive (D7 to C32) and negative (D306 and 307) for the screening assay were examined. α-Env, anti-Env pAb (1:200, 42.5 µg/ml); α-Gag, R187 mAb (1:80,000, 50 ng/ml). (E) MoMLV particles with (M) or without (M) amphotropic Env were produced and subjected to an immunoblot assay to examine their cross-reactivity with XMRV-positive plasma. PC, a mixture of anti-Gag mAb (R187, 0.4 µg/ml) and anti-Env pAb (8.5 µg/ml) as the positive control. Arrow head, GST-fused Gag Capsid protein; SU, Env surface subunit; rSU, recombinant Env surface subunit of xenotropic MLV; TM, Env TM subunit; CA, Gag capsid protein.

Table 2 Cross-reactivities with MoMLV proteins

Population	(-)	(+)
Healthy donors	5	3
Patients with PC*	1	
Patients with CFS	1	1
Total	7	4

The XMRV Ab-positive cases were categorized as having (+) or not having (-) cross-reactivities with Gag proteins of MoMLV.

*Cross-reactivity was not examined in one Ab-positive patient with PC (P28) because additional plasma from this patient was not available.

sensitivities of our PCR tests with primer sets indicated in Figure 6A were determined using genomic DNA extracted from 293T cells infected with 22Rv1 cell-derived XMRV (Figure 6B and 6C). The detection limit of both PCR tests was calculated as approximately 1.5 cell equivalents of genomic DNA from 293T cells infected with 22Rv1 cell-derived XMRV. In screening PCR tests, we observed several nonspecific bands but the XMRV gene was not amplified as shown in Figure 6D. Although bands of a similar size to that expected were occasionally observed, sequencing analysis indicated that they contained human genomic DNA rather than XMRV genes (data not shown).

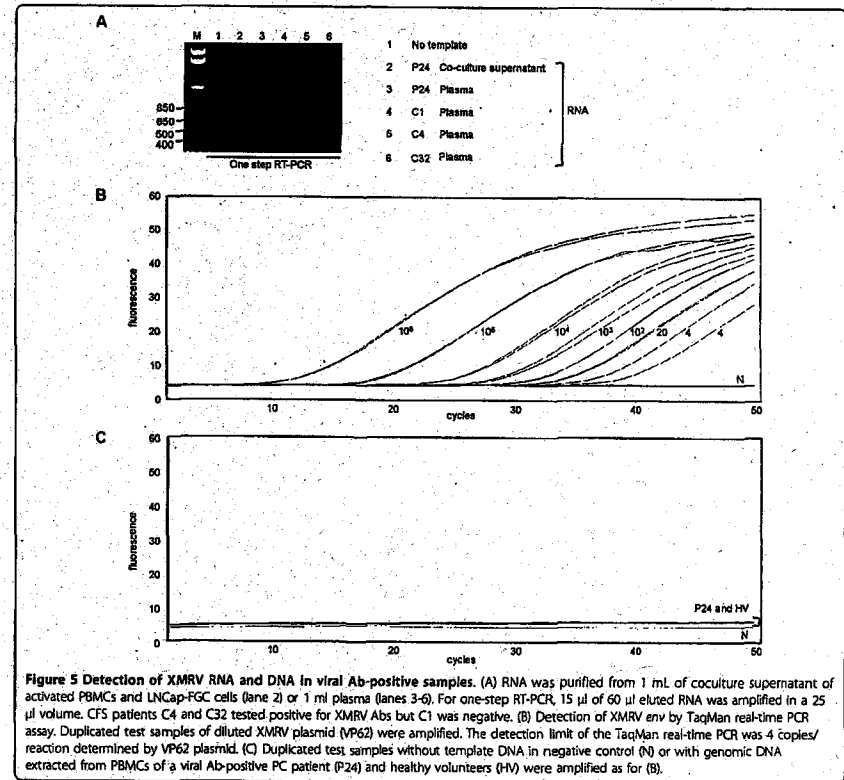
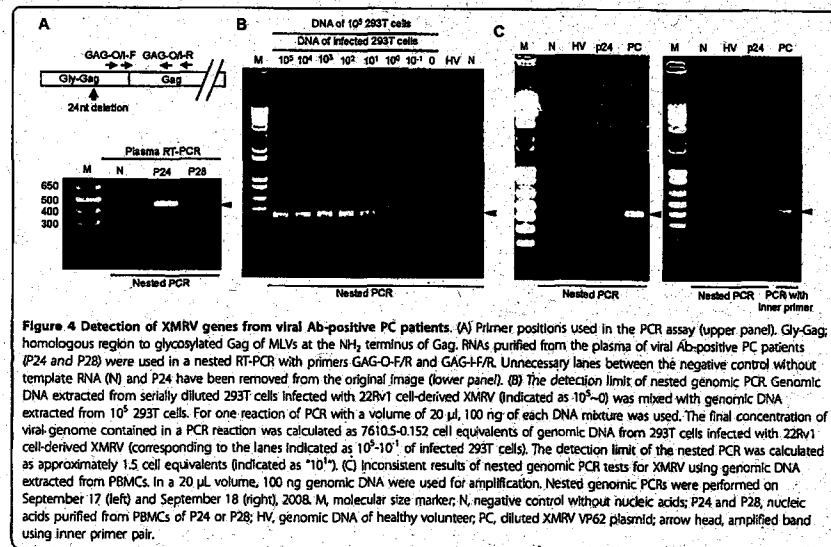
In the Japanese Red Cross Osaka Blood Center, we performed nested RT-PCR analysis of the *gag* region

by using plasma RNA (Figure 5A), and a real-time TaqMan PCR assay of genomic DNA to amplify the *env* region (data not shown) if the patients tested positive for Abs. We observed no positive results from the PCR assays performed at the three independent laboratories or this additional PCR test, indicating that there were no detectable amounts of XMRV DNA in the blood of CFS patients, although two of 100 patients tested positive for the XMRV Gag Ab (Figure 2E, 3B, and 3D, and Table 1).

Discussion

In this study, we identified a small number of people who possessed Abs against XMRV Gag CA, regardless of gender or disease condition (PC and CFS), but none of the individuals in the three tested populations retained strong Ab responses to multiple XMRV proteins. We were unable to isolate XMRV from the blood of PC patients and detected no XMRV genes in the blood of any CFS patients.

We screened blood donors and patients with PC and CFS for XMRV Abs using a similar method to that developed as our in-house confirmatory test for human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV)-1 infection in Japanese blood donors in the late 1980s, as no XMRV-positive human plasma was available to validate XMRV Ab tests.



Unlike HTLV and HIV infection, XMRV-positive plasma bound only to Gag CA proteins in our study. However, in feline gammaretrovirus infections, immune responses are not always strong enough to induce a detectable amount of Abs [21]. In an animal study of XMRV infection, Qiu and colleagues [22] found that rhesus macaques intravenously inoculated with 3.6 × 10⁶ 50% tissue culture infective dose of XMRV showed good Ab responses against Env SU, Env transmembrane subunit (TM), and Gag proteins. In this animal model, transient viremia was observed for less than 2 weeks, but the Ab responses prolonged over 100 days post-inoculation and declined thereafter without boosting, despite high-dose viral inoculation [22]. These data suggest that XMRV

replication is relatively limited *in vivo* to induce lasting immune responses compared with HIV and HTLV infection. Alternatively, the anti-Gag CA Abs we observed could account for cross-reactivity with other immunogens, although seven of 11 Ab-positive plasma samples showed high specificity to XMRV Gag (Figure 3E and Table 2). In addition, Western blotting of 2262 blood donors by Qiu and colleagues identified two blood donors positive for anti-p30 (CA) Ab and one positive for anti-gp70 (Env SU) [22]. These Ab-positive blood donors showed no multiple reactivities to viral antigens, as observed in the present study, but the prevalence of the single antigen-reactive donor was much lower than that in our current result (0.13% vs. 1.6%,

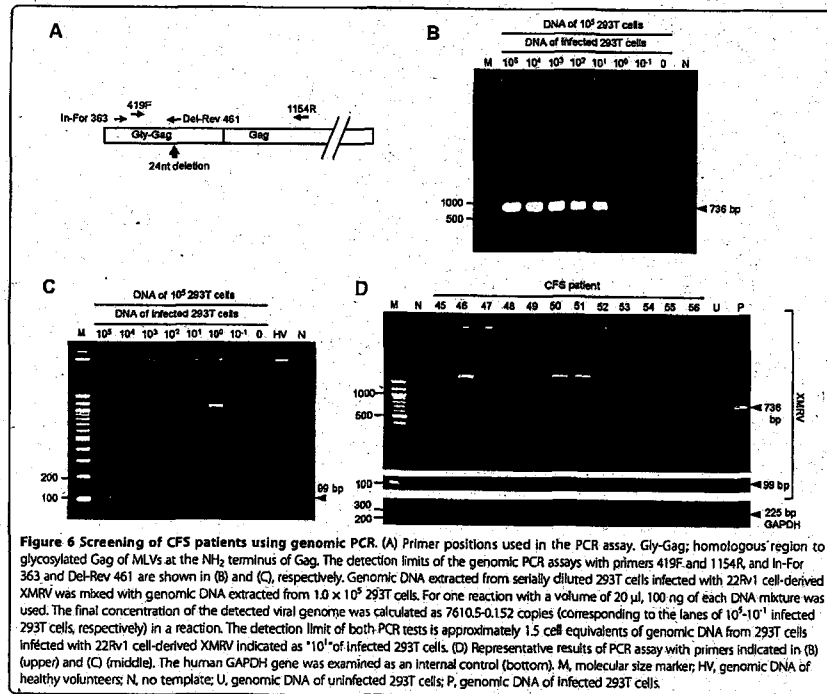


Figure 6 Screening of CFS patients using genomic PCR. (A) Primer positions used in the PCR assay. Gly-Gag; homologous region to glycosylated Gag of MLVs at the NH₂ terminus of Gag. The detection limits of the genomic PCR assays with primers 419F and 1154R, and In-For 363 and Del-Rev 461 are shown in (B) and (C), respectively. Genomic DNA extracted from serially diluted 293T cells infected with 22Rv1 cell-derived XMRV was mixed with genomic DNA extracted from 1.0 × 10⁵ 293T cells. For one reaction with a volume of 20 μl, 100 ng of each DNA mixture was used. The final concentration of the detected viral genome was calculated as 7610.5-0.152 copies (corresponding to the lanes of 10⁵-10¹ infected 293T cells, respectively) in a reaction. The detection limit of both PCR tests is approximately 1.5 cell equivalents of genomic DNA from 293T cells infected with 22Rv1 cell-derived XMRV indicated as 10¹ of infected 293T cells. (D) Representative results of PCR assay with primers indicated in (B) (upper) and (C) (middle). The human GAPDH gene was examined as an internal control (bottom). M, molecular size marker; HV, genomic DNA of healthy volunteers; N, no template; U, genomic DNA of uninfected 293T cells; P, genomic DNA of infected 293T cells.

respectively). It is possible that the positive reaction to CA protein might include more cross-reactivity in our study. Further investigation of human plasma collected from individuals clearly infected with XMRV is required to verify our Ab screening results.

At the beginning of our study, the presence of XMRV in the blood of PC patients had not been reported; however, we speculated that XMRV might infect blood cells similar to the infection of PBMCs by other gammaretroviruses [23]. We obtained positive nested RT-PCR results on plasma collected from the Ab-positive PC patient only with extensive PCR conditions of 50 cycles using outer and inner primer pairs (Figure 4A, P24). We were, however, unable to consistently detect the XMRV gene in the same patient 4 and 15 months later using freshly collected blood samples. Co-cultivation of activated PBMCs by Concanavalin A and IL-2 with the LNCap-FGC cell line, which is highly susceptible to XMRV [17], gave rise to devastating LNCap-FGC cell

death (data not shown), and we were unable to detect XMRV genes in the cell culture (Figure 5A). Our data suggest that P24 was perhaps infected with XMRV or some related viruses, but viral replication in the blood was somewhat limited. If this is the case, the prevalence of XMRV in PC patients (one of 67 patients) would be relatively close to that previously reported [5]. We cannot, however, exclude the possibility that the positive P24 signal in the PCR assays was caused by contamination, as discussed recently [24-26]. We did not PCR-amplify mouse-derived genetic materials [24,25] because of the lack of remaining P24 test sample that tested positive for XMRV PCR, although we did use a hot start Taq polymerase that is inactivated not by anti-Taq mouse mAbs but by chemical modification in our RT-PCR test [26].

We were unable to detect XMRV DNA or RNA in CFS patients, in accordance with the results of some previous studies [8-12]. It is unlikely that our detection

procedures caused such a big difference from those studies that reported a prevalence of 67% or 86.5% [2,7], because all studies employed highly sensitive PCR methods. The difference may instead be explained by the characteristics of patient populations. All CFS patients in our study met the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) diagnostic criteria [27]; however, the currently employed diagnosis of CFS is not based on objective and quantitative measures but on the claims of patients and some authorized criteria.

Although our results of Ab screening are ambiguous, we conclude that XMRV infection is not involved in the onset and/or progression of PC and CFS in the population we screened. Even if the Abs we detected, or at least the XMRV-specific ones, were caused by XMRV infection, there was no statistically significant difference in the serological prevalence of XMRV among the three populations of the study. Moreover, the negative or inconsistent PCR results in the Ab-positive patients can be explained by the limited replication of XMRV *in vivo*. Alternatively, by assuming that the Ab reaction is attributable to cross-reactivity, the negative PCR results likely indicate the absence of XMRV infection in patients. In either case, our results do not support an association between XMRV and CFS, in line with previous findings [8-12].

Retroviral integration is theoretically harmful to the host cell because it disrupts the host genome. To reduce the risk of XMRV infection during blood transfusion, a reliable screening strategy should be established. The implementation of such a screening or inactivation protocol for blood products, however, will be influenced by the evaluation of the prevalence of XMRV by a universal test with high sensitivity and specificity, which must be urgently developed.

Conclusions

Our data for Japanese blood donors, PC patients and CFS patients imply that there is no association between the onset of PC or CFS and XMRV infection, although the lack of adequate human specimens as a positive control and the limited sample size do not allow us to draw an ultimate conclusion.

Methods

Sample collection

Plasma samples randomly collected from healthy donors ($n = 500$) at the Japanese Red Cross-Osaka Blood Center between December 2006 and May 2009 were subjected to XMRV Ab screening. All donors had negative results in the routine tests at the Center: antigen testing of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human parvovirus B19; Ab testing against HBV, hepatitis C virus (HCV), HIV-1, HIV-2, HTLV-1, and syphilis; nucleic acids of HIV-1,

HIV-2, HBV, and HCV. All procedures in the donor screening study were performed according to the guidelines of the Japanese Red Cross Society, which do not permit the detection of nucleic acids from unapproved viruses.

All patients with PC enrolled in this study ($n = 67$) received medical treatment at Nishiwaki City Hospital (Hyogo Prefecture, Japan) between December 2007 and December 2009, when plasma samples were collected, and provided written informed consent. Whole blood samples in ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) were separated by centrifugation, and the plasma was stored at -80°C until use. PBMCs of the patients who tested positive for XMRV Abs and RNA were used for RNA-SELEX sequencing and viral isolation. This study was approved by the ethical committee of Nishiwaki City Hospital.

CFS patients in this study fulfilled the 1994 CDC Fukuda criteria [27] and received medical treatment at the Fatigue Clinic Center, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan between April and August 2010. Most of the patients were female (69%) with an age distribution of 17-62 years (mean, 38 years). The mean interval from disease onset to blood collection was 126.5 months (11-337 months). Duplicated tubes of 4 ml of whole blood in EDTA were used for Ab screening and genomic PCR assay. Whole blood samples were also collected into sodium heparin tubes (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ) for cell culture. All blood samples were conveyed to the Japanese Red Cross Osaka Blood Center and genomic DNA was purified from them on the same day. Three aliquots of genomic DNA purified from one patient were independently analyzed at three laboratories. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine and all blood samples were collected with written informed consent.

Cell lines and culture

Human 293T and 22Rv1 cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (CRL-1537 and CRL-2525, respectively; ATCC, Manassas, VA). Human prostate cancer cell line LNCap-FGC was obtained from the RIKEN Cell Bank (Tukuba, Japan), and the GP293 packaging cell line was purchased from Clontech Laboratories (Mountain View, CA). These cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified essential medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and antibiotics. Rat hybridoma cell line R187 was obtained from ATCC (CRL-1912) and maintained in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 50 nM 2-mercaptoethanol, 10% FBS, and antibiotics. Before collecting the culture supernatant, the growth medium was replaced with CD Hybridoma medium (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA)

supplemented with 8 mM L-glutamine. For recombinant Env production, Sf9 and High Five cells (Invitrogen) were maintained in Sf-900 III SFM and Expressed Five medium (Invitrogen), respectively.

Control antibodies

IgG proteins in culture supernatants from R187 cells, prepared against SFV Gag and able to react with Gag capsid proteins from a wide variety of gammaretroviruses [28], were purified using a protein G affinity column (MabTrap Kit; Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ). For anti-Env Abs, rabbits were immunized with a mixture of two peptides (PRVPIGPNPV[C] of Env SU and [C]QEEQLAAHTDLG of Env TM; [C] indicates an additional cysteine residue for peptide purification), and their antisera were collected and purified after five immunization steps with a Protein A affinity column (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK). Concentrations of the purified R187 mAb and anti-Env pAb were 4.0 mg/ml and 8.5 mg/ml, respectively.

Antibody screening

An infectious XMRV molecular clone, pcDNA3.1-VP62, was provided by Dr. R. H. Silverman. To produce the viral particles, 293T cells were transfected with pcDNA3.1-VP62 by a liposome method (Lipofectamine LTX; Invitrogen). Two days after transfection, the culture supernatant was collected, filtered, and concentrated 20 times by centrifugation at 20,000 × g for 4 h at 4°C. The concentrated virus was suspended in a Laemmli SDS sample buffer. As a negative control, we prepared an env-defective HIV-1 virus (pNLΔenv, provided by Dr. A. Adachi) by using the same method as for XMRV. A MoMLV-derived retrovirus vector was produced using the GP293 cell line, with or without transfection of an amphotropic Env expression vector (provided by Dr. D. R. Littman). Viral proteins were separated by 5–20% gradient SDS-PAGE and either stained with SYPRO Ruby (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) or transferred to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Osaka, Japan) cut into strips. After blocking with 5% skimmed milk in Tris-buffered saline (TBS), the strips were incubated with 1:100 diluted donor or patient plasma samples at 4°C overnight. After washing with TBS containing 0.05% Tween-20, the strips were incubated with 1:5,000 diluted horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated anti-human IgG Ab (GE Healthcare), and detected by ECL Plus (GE Healthcare). For endpoint dilutions, a pair of strips was blotted with 0.8 μg/ml–6.25 ng/ml (1:5,000–1: 640,000) R187 mAb and detected using 1:5,000 diluted HRP-conjugated anti-rat IgG (H+L) secondary Ab (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA) for Gag, or blotted with 8.5 μg/ml–66.4 ng/ml (1:1,000–

1:128,000) anti-Env pAb and detected using 1:2,500 diluted HRP-conjugated anti rabbit IgG (GE Healthcare).

Other Immunoblot assays

To produce GST-fused XMRV Gag CA protein, a 789-bp fragment of the CA gene was amplified using genomic DNA of 293T cells infected with XMRV derived from 22Rv1 cells, and cloned into the pET-42b(+) vector (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany). The GST-CA protein was purified by a Glutathione-Sepharose 4B column (GE Healthcare) from bacterial lysate of BL21 Star (DE3) (Invitrogen) transformed by the GST-fused CA expression plasmid. To produce His-tagged recombinant Env SU of xenotropic MLV [19], a PCR-amplified env SU region was cloned into pcDNA3.1myc/His (Invitrogen) followed by subcloning of an env-His DNA fragment into the Bac-to-Bac Baculovirus Expression System (Invitrogen). The supernatant of Sf9 cells transfected with the bacmid was used for infection of HighFive cells. Recombinant Env proteins collected from the culture supernatant of infected cells were purified using a HisTrapHP column (GE Healthcare). In the native-PAGE, concentrated viruses were suspended with native sample buffer (Native Sample Buffer; Bio-Rad) and separated on a 5–20% gel in a Tris-glycine buffer (25 mM Tris-Cl, 192 mM glycine, pH 8.4). The subsequent procedures were for the Ab-screening immunoblot assay.

Detection of viral nucleic acids

For RT-PCR analysis of Ab-positive PC patient samples (Figure 4A), RNA was isolated from 500 μl of plasma using the PureLink Viral RNA/DNA Kit (Invitrogen), and 8 μl of the 10 μl eluted RNA was reverse-transcribed using Superscript III (Invitrogen) with random hexamer primers in a total reaction volume of 10 μl. In the nested PCR assay, 3 μl cDNA or 100 ng genomic DNA of PBMCs was amplified in a 20 μl volume with primer pairs GAG-O-F/R and GAG-I-F/R [1] and AmpliTaq Gold DNA polymerase (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) for 50 cycles: The PCR cycling conditions were as follows: activation at 95°C for 5 min; then 50 cycles of 95°C for 15 s, 60°C for 15 s, and 72°C for 60 s (30 s in the second-round PCR); with a final extension at 72°C for 7 min.

To extract genomic DNA from CFS patients, 4 ml of whole blood in EDTA were centrifuged at 1500 × g for 10 min at room temperature, and 200 μl of the buffy coat were transferred to a 2 ml tube for DNA purification using the QIAamp Blood Mini Kit (Qiagen GmbH, Hilden, Germany). We divided 180 μl of eluted DNA equally into three tubes for analysis at three independent laboratories: Department of Research, Japanese Red Cross Osaka Blood Center, and the Laboratories of Signal Transduction and Viral Pathogenesis, Institute for

Virus Research, Kyoto University, Japan. PCR of 1 μg genomic DNA in a 50 μl reaction was performed with primer pairs GAG-O-F/R and GAG-I-F/R [1] for nested genomic PCR (data not shown) or 419F and 1154R [2] and In-For363 and n-Rev536 [6] for single PCR. In the genomic PCRs, we used PrimeSTAR GXL DNA polymerase (Takara Bio, Shiga, Japan) with the following conditions: activation at 98°C for 2 min; then 45 cycles of 98°C for 10 s, 63°C for 15 s, and 68°C for 45 s; and a final step at 68°C for 2 min. For one-step RT-PCR (Figure 5A), RNAs were purified from 1 ml of 4-day culture supernatants of P24 PBMCs activated with 10 ng/ml concanavaline A (J-Oil Mills, Tokyo, Japan) and 100 U/ml IL-2 (e-Bioscience, San Diego, CA) and maintained with LNCap-FGC cells or patient plasma using a QIAamp Ultrasense Virus Kit (Qiagen). One-step RT-PCR was performed using 15 μl of 60 μl eluted RNA and a 419F and 1154R primer pair [2] and the following conditions: reverse transcription at 50°C for 30 min; activation at 95°C for 15 min; then 45 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 57°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 1 min; and a final extension at 72°C for 10 min.

TaqMan real-time PCR tests were performed with 200 ng of genomic DNA, Universal Probelibrary, and FastStart TaqMan Probe Master (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) in a total reaction volume of 20 μl with a Rotor-Gene Q thermal cycler (Qiagen). Primer and probe sequences are as follows: 5'-cctagtgccaccacaacat-3' (Env forward), 5'-ggcccaggctctgtatgta-3' (Env reverse), and 5'-FAM-gctccagg-3' (Env probe, #1 of Universal Probelibrary). The following condition was used: 1 cycle of 95°C for 10 min, and 50 cycles of 95°C for 15 s and 60°C for 45 s.

RNAseq mutation

In patients whose serum tested positive for XMRV RNA, mutations of RNAseq at amino acid positions 462 [18] and 541 [20] were examined as previously described [1,20]. PCR-amplified genomic DNA fragments were sequenced using an ABI PRISM 3100 genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems).

Statistics

Non-parametric analysis was performed with the Mann-Whitney U-test to determine any statistical significance in the data: A p value of less than 0.05 was considered to be significant.

Abbreviations

Ab: antibody; ATCC: American Type Culture Collection; CDC: Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; CFS: chronic fatigue syndrome; EDTA: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; FBS: fetal bovine serum; HBV: hepatitis B virus; HCV: hepatitis C virus; HIV: human immunodeficiency virus; HRP: horseradish peroxidase; HTLV: human T-lymphotropic virus; IFNγ: interferon-gamma; MLV: murine leukemia virus; PAGE: polyacrylamide gel

electrophoresis; PBMC: peripheral blood mononuclear cell; PC: prostate cancer; SDS: sodium dodecyl sulfate; TBS: Tris-buffered saline; XMRV: xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus; WFT: wild-type.

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Authors' contributions

RAF conceived and designed the study, coordinated the collaboration, carried out the Ab screening and PCR tests, and drafted the manuscript. TM designed the study, coordinated the collaboration for studies of XMRV infection in CFS patients and attempted to isolate XMRV. TS recruited PC patients and carried out immunohistochemical testing of prostate tissues (data not shown). HK helped in designing the study and recruiting CFS patients. YI developed the real-time PCR test; ES conducted the Ab screening and PCR tests of CFS patients and attempted to isolate XMRV. NM conducted the PCR tests of CFS patients. VN and KY helped in designing the study and recruiting CFS patients. RS participated in the development of the real-time PCR test. KY participated in the Ab screening. FH helped in designing the study and drafting the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Absence of XMRV and other MLV-related viruses in patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Running Title: Absence of XMRV and other MLV-related viruses in CFS

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27 **Abstract**

28 *Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) is a multi-system disorder characterized by prolonged and*
29 *severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest. Attempts to treat CFS have been largely ineffective*
30 *primarily because the etiology of the disorder is unknown. Recently CFS has been associated*
31 *with xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV) as well as other murine leukemia*
32 *virus (MLV)-related viruses, though not all studies have found these associations. We collected*
33 *blood samples from 100 CFS patients and 200 self-reported healthy volunteers from the same*
34 *geographical area. We analyzed these in a blinded manner using molecular, serological and viral*
35 *replication assays. We also analyzed samples from patients in the original study that reported*
36 *XMRV in CFS. We did not find XMRV or related MLVs, either as viral sequences or infectious*
37 *virus, nor did we find antibodies to these viruses in any of the patient samples, including those*
38 *from the original study. We show that at least some of the discrepancy with previous studies is*
39 *due to the presence of trace amounts of mouse DNA in the Taq polymerase enzymes used in*
40 *these previous studies. Our findings do not support an association between CFS and MLV-*
41 *related viruses including XMRV and off-label use of antiretrovirals for the treatment of CFS*
42 *does not seem justified at present.*

43 **Introduction**

44 *Chronic fatigue syndrome, a disorder characterized by severe debilitating fatigue along with*
45 *variable presence of post-exertion malaise, joint and muscle aches, headache, sore throat, tender*
46 *lymph nodes, unrefreshing sleep and cognitive deficits, has had an uncertain etiology since its*
47 *recognition. An estimated 0.4 to 4% of the US population suffers from this disease (9, 17, 18).*
48 *While a series of infectious agents and environmental toxins have been proposed to be linked*
49 *with CFS, none have been universally associated (2). In late 2009, XMRV, a recently discovered*
50 *retrovirus was detected in the blood of 68% of patients with CFS (12). More recently, another*
51 *study detected sequences related to XMRV, viz. those belonging to a polytropic murine leukemia*
52 *virus (PMV) in 86.5% of CFS patients and in only 6.8% of healthy controls (11). There have also*
53 *been studies that failed to detect XMRV in CFS patients in the US (6, 21, 24), in Europe (3, 5,*
54 *25) and in China (7). However, there were several confounding factors with many of these*
55 *studies including differences in patient characterization, differences in geographical locations of*
56 *patients vs. controls, differences in samples (whole blood vs. leukocytes vs. plasma), and many*
57 *differences in methods used to detect virus. For example, both studies that found a retroviral*
58 *association in CFS selected their patients and controls from completely different geographical*
59 *regions (11, 12). This approach could result in a spurious association if regional differences*
60 *among prevailing viruses result in detection of virus from one region but not from another.*
61 *Control populations were often small, as few as 43 in one study (25), and patient and control*
62 *samples were often collected at different times, sometimes several years apart (11), leaving open*
63 *the possibility that patient samples might have been handled more – and thus possibly*
64 *contaminated more easily than controls. Furthermore, in all except a subset of samples from one*
65 *study (12), investigators were not blinded to the identity of samples. In all but two studies that*

66 failed to detect virus in association with CFS (5, 24), only PCR-based assays were used, thus
67 relying heavily on conservation of retroviral sequences. The limits of detection, reproducibility
68 and precision of the assays used in different studies were not known, making it difficult to
69 distinguish the lack of ability to detect XMRV from a genuine absence of XMRV from samples.
70 Furthermore, tests that had resulted in more frequent detection of XMRV, such as growth of
71 virus in cultured cells (14), were not used in subsequent studies. Adequate controls for each step
72 of the analysis, such as controls that would flag contamination occurring during the nucleic acid
73 extraction process, were mostly lacking. Furthermore, the number of negative controls should
74 equal or exceed the expected prevalence of the virus in the control population. It is not clear if
75 any of the studies employed more than one negative control per experiment, which would be
76 important for the detection of a low incidence of sample contamination. Finally, none of the
77 studies tested samples from the same patients that were found to be positive in the original study
78 by Lombardi *et al* (12). In line with our own recommendations for an accurate study (23) we
79 incorporated all of these factors in the design of the investigation reported here, and have
80 performed what we believe is the most comprehensive study to date on the proposed association
81 of XMRV and other related viruses with CFS.

82
83 We enrolled 105 CFS patients, including 100 who fulfilled both the 1994 case definition of the
84 CDC (4) as well as the criteria defined by the Canadian consensus document on myalgic
85 encephalomyelitis ME/CFS (1). Patients and 200 healthy volunteers were all from the greater
86 Salt Lake City area. Blood samples from both patients and healthy volunteers were prospectively
87 collected and processed in parallel. In conjunction with a third-party phlebotomy service, we also
88 collected, in a blinded manner, samples from 14 patients in the cohort used in the original CFS-

89 XMRV study performed at the Whittemore Peterson Institute (WPI) (12). For virus detection, we
90 utilized four different TaqMan qPCR assays, PCR assays that had resulted in detection of
91 XMRV or MLV-like sequences in previous studies (11, 12) and an ELISA, to look for XMRV
92 sequences and antibodies in all of our samples. A subset of samples was analyzed by Western
93 blots. From some samples we also attempted to grow virus in cell culture, a technique outlined
94 in the original study (12) and though labor-intensive, has been proposed to be the most sensitive
95 method for viral detection (14). All samples were processed and tested in a blinded manner.

96 97 **Materials and Methods**

98 **Patient and participant selection**

99 We initially identified 150 patients from a clinic that specializes in the diagnosis and
100 management of CFS and fibromyalgia. All patients had been diagnosed with CFS using the
101 CDC-Fukuda criteria (4) in a clinical setting by a board certified clinician (LB). The vast
102 majority of these patients had been serially assessed and managed by LB for many years to
103 verify the CFS diagnosis as primary and to treat symptoms and any comorbid conditions. Each
104 patient was subjectively assigned a severity score by the clinician (1 = severely ill, dependent on
105 help; 2 = moderate to severely ill, not able to sustain a regular schedule of part-time work or
106 school; or 3 = moderately ill, able to sustain at least part-time work or school). All subjects were
107 recruited for the study by telephone contact within a one-week period, starting with the more
108 impaired, until 105 patients had successfully enrolled. At enrollment, subjects were screened to
109 determine if they met the Canadian consensus criteria (1), and all but 5 qualified for both case
110 definitions. Subjects were administered the Rand SF-36 (26). The participants were 68% female
111 which is consistent with females being afflicted with CFS in greater numbers.

112
 113 Controls consisted of 100 healthy males and 100 healthy females by self-report, all employed at
 114 Salt Lake City. Participants were recruited via email and enrolled after informed consent under
 115 University of Utah IRB protocol #7740.

116

117 **CFS onset, duration and life impact:**

118 CFS onset was reported to be associated with viral-like symptoms in 72% of patients. Seventeen
 119 patients had participated in the Phase III Clinical trial of Ampligen (AMP516), which required
 120 viral-like onset inclusion criteria. Age of CFS onset was under 50 years in 92% of all enrolled,
 121 with 16% under age 20, 76% age 20-50, and 8% over 50. Average duration of illness was 16
 122 years, ranging from 2 to 60 years. The patients had been under the care of the CFS clinician for
 123 an average of 6 years, with 80% from 5-10 years, the fewest under care for 2 months and the
 124 longest 16 years. Patients had been sick an average of 9 years before initial consultation at the
 125 clinic.

126

127 To assess life impact of CFS, the subjects were administered the Rand SF-36 on the day of the
 128 blood draw. Developed as a 36 item self-report instrument for the Medical Outcomes Study, the
 129 SF-36 assesses overall health status through 8 subscale domains: 1) health-related limitations in
 130 physical functioning, 2) limitations in social functioning, 3) limitations of usual life role
 131 activities due to physical factors, 4) limitations of usual life role activities due to emotional
 132 factors, 5) pain, 6) emotional well-being/psychological distress, 7) energy/fatigue, and 8) general
 133 health (26). Using the Rand scoring method, scores on these 8 subscales range from 0 for most
 134 severe symptoms to a best score of 100. In our sample of patients, 78% of participants scored

135 <50 on the Physical Function subscale, 88% of participants scored 0 on the Role Functioning due
 136 to Physical Factors subscale, and 92% of participants scored <25 on the Energy/Fatigue subscale.
 137 These scores indicate a high level of physical disability and limitations on ability to work, to care
 138 for home or family, or perform self-care due to physical factors in this sample.

139

140 **Participant characteristics**

141 The average age of females was 34.6 yr (median 30 yr) and average BMI (Body Mass Index)
 142 23.7. Twenty percent had a family history of prostate cancer, 18 of which included blood-
 143 relatives (4% did not know about family history of prostate cancer). One female reported a
 144 diagnosis of fibromyalgia, and 17% reported a family history of CFS/fibromyalgia, 14 of which
 145 included blood-relatives (4% did not know about family history of CFS/Fibromyalgia). The
 146 average age of males was 34.6 yr (median 33 yr) and the average BMI was 27.6. No participant
 147 had ever been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Fourteen percent had a family history of prostate
 148 cancer, 12 of which included blood-relatives (1% did not know family history of prostate
 149 cancer). No males reported a diagnosis of fibromyalgia; however 13% reported a family history
 150 of CFS/fibromyalgia, 10 of which were blood-relatives.

151

152 **Blood sampling protocol**

153 Immediately after arrival at the clinic, subjects were given full details about the study verbally
 154 and in writing, had all questions answered, and provided informed consent in writing according
 155 to a protocol approved by the University of Utah IRB. For 15 min on average, they sat quietly
 156 and completed self-report questionnaires, then had blood drawn. The clinical research division of
 157 ARUP Laboratories, Salt Lake City, Utah, collected blood samples from all 300 individuals

158 within a period of 3 weeks. Blood was collected into 8.5ml vacutainer tubes (Becton-Dickinson);
 159 2 EDTA and 1 serum separator. After allowing the blood to clot at room temperature for 30 min,
 160 the serum separator tube was spun for 10 min at 3,000 rpm. Serum aliquots of 1 ml were frozen
 161 in cryovials at -80°C. From the EDTA tubes, 1ml of whole blood was removed and stored at -
 162 80°C in cryovials (Nunc). The remaining volume was spun for 10 min at 3,000 rpm and plasma
 163 aliquots of 1ml were frozen in cryovials at -80°C. The buffy coats were removed and combined
 164 into a 15ml falcon tube for each individual and 7ml of ACK lysis buffer (28) was added to the
 165 tube to clear red blood cells. The tube was inverted 5 times, incubated at room temperature for
 166 10 minutes, and centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellet
 167 resuspended in 10ml of wash buffer (PBS, 2mM EDTA). After spinning for 5 min at 3,000 rpm,
 168 the pellet was divided into three aliquots: one in 1ml of fetal calf serum containing 10% v/v
 169 DMSO, another in 1ml of RLT buffer containing guanidine isothiocyanate and 1% beta-
 170 mercaptoethanol (Qiagen), and the third without any buffer. All aliquots were stored in cryovials
 171 at -80°C.

173 Nucleic acid extraction from buffy coat and whole blood

174 Nucleic acid from buffy coat was extracted using the DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen)
 175 following manufacturer's directions. One extraction control was included for every 7 samples
 176 that were extracted.

177 PCR – quantitative and nested

178 All qPCRs were done using the TaqMan probe system on a 7900HT Real Time PCR System
 179 with a standard 96-well block module (Applied Biosystems). Each 20µl reaction contained 1x
 180

181 TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix, 900nM forward and reverse primers, 250mM TaqMan
 182 probe, and 400-1,000 ng of DNA or 5µl of water. Thermocycling conditions were 50°C for 2
 183 min, 95°C for 10 min, followed by 45 cycles of 95°C for 15 sec and 60°C for 1 min. Four XMRV
 184 amplicons were used, 63bp in LTR, 157bp in *gag*, 65bp product in *pol*, and 86bp product in *env*.
 185 The 63bp LTR product was composed of 47F (5'- AATAAAGCCTTTTGCTGTTTGCA-3'),
 186 109R (5'- GAGGAGACCCTCCAAGGAA-3'), and 74MGB (5'-6FAM-
 187 AAGCGTGGCCTCGC-MGB-3'). The 157bp *gag* product was composed of 505F (5'-
 188 GAATTTTTCGTTTCGGTTTTACG-3'), 663R (5'-TCCCCAGTGCTGCAAGGT-3'), and
 189 618MGB (5'-TET-ACAGACCGTAACTACC-MGB-3'). The 65bp *pol* product was composed
 190 of 4552F (5'- CGAGAGGCAGCCATGAAGG-3'), 4616R (5'-
 191 GCGTATACGGGGTTGAGTCC-3'), and 4572MGB (5'-6FAM-
 192 AGTTCTAGAAACCTCTACACTC-MGB-3'). The 86bp *env* product was composed of 6356F
 193 (5'- GGATGCCCCCAAACATG-3'), 6441R (5'- GGACCTGGCGGGTCAGA-3'), and
 194 6393MGB (5'-6FAM- TCCACTGGGGCCGAC-MGB-3'). VAMP assay to assess DNA
 195 integrity was composed of 3613F (5'- CCCACACTTCTGTTTTCG-3'), 3690R (5'-
 196 CAGCATCTCTCTACCCCTTCA-3'), and 3645MGB (5'-TET-
 197 AGCAGGGATATCTAAGC-MGB-3'). IAP assay to look for mouse DNA contamination was
 198 composed of IAP-F (5'- GCCGCGCCACATTC-3'), IAP-R (5'-
 199 CGCAGATTATTTGTTTACCACTTAGAA-3'), and IAP-MGB (5'-TET-
 200 CCGTTACAAGATGGTGCTGA-3'). MluI assay to look for XMRV plasmid contamination
 201 was composed of Mlu1-F (5'- GGTGGCCCCCTTGCC-3'), Mlu1R (5'-
 202 AGTTAGCTGCTGCATCCTT-3'), and Mlu1-MGB (5'-6FAM-CGTGGTAGCAGCCAT-
 203 MGB-3').

204 For the nested PCR, we made 2 modifications to the original protocol (11). We used 1.0 U of
 205 Platinum Taq instead of 0.5 U, and added dUTP to the mastermix to prevent subsequent PCR
 206 contamination with amplicons.

207

208 XMRV SU recombinant protein

209 Forward primer with XhoI site 5'-ATTATCCTCGAGCAACGTGACAGCCCTCAC-3' and
 210 reverse primer with HindIII site 5'-ATTATCAAGCTTCTTTCAAAGTGGCCATAAA-3' were
 211 used to PCR amplify SU from pXMRV1 (22). Forward primer with NheI site 5'-
 212 ATTATCGCTAGCTACTGAATGGCGGTTCA-3' and reverse primer with XhoI site 5'-
 213 ATTATACTCGAGGGAGCCGGCGAAGCAGTA-3' were used to PCR amplify the signal
 214 peptide (SP) from pNCA. PCR products were purified and digested with their respective
 215 restriction enzymes: XhoI and HindIII for SU fragment, NheI and XhoI for SP fragment.
 216 Mammalian expression vector pcDNA3.1myc-His(-)A (Invitrogen) was digested with NheI and
 217 HindIII. Digested SU fragment, SP fragment, and vector were ligated to make pXSUSP and
 218 transformed into bacteria, DNA prepared and verified by sequencing, and transfected into 293T
 219 cells with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). Supernatant was collected after 72 hr, tested by
 220 western blot assays, and purified using His-Pur Cobalt columns (Pierce) following
 221 manufacturers' directions.

222

223 ELISA with human sera

224 150ng of purified XMRV SU protein diluted in PBS was absorbed onto 96-well Maxisorp Flat-
 225 Bottom Immuno plates overnight at 4°C (Nunc). Plates were washed five times with detergent-
 226 free high salt wash buffer (0.030M Potassium Phosphate, 0.080M Sodium Phosphate, 2.90M

227 NaCl, pH 7.2), and blocked with Seablock (Thermo) for 1 hr at RT. Human sera was then added
 228 at a 1:150 dilution in Seablock with 0.05% Tween20. Following incubation for 2 hr at RT, plates
 229 were washed five times with high salt wash buffer with 0.05% Tween20 and a 1:15,000 dilution
 230 of HRP-conjugated AffiniPure F(ab')₂ fragment goat anti-human IgG antibody was added
 231 (Jackson ImmunoResearch). The plates were then incubated for 1 hr at RT, and washed again
 232 five times with high salt wash buffer with 0.05% Tween20. TMB substrate was added and
 233 allowed to incubate for 30 min at RT. Development was stopped with 1N sulfuric acid and the
 234 absorbance was measured at 450nm and 650nm. Results were expressed as OD450-OD650 to
 235 correct for irregularities in the plate.

236

237 Western blot assays with human sera

238 5µg of purified XMRV SU protein or 5µg of uninfected 293T cell lysate was diluted in 2x
 239 sample buffer (2% SDS, 50mM Tris [pH 6.8, 10% glycerol] and heated for 5 min at 99°C.
 240 Proteins were loaded into 4-20% gradient Precise Protein Gels (Pierce) in 1x Tris/HEPES/SDS
 241 running buffer (Pierce). The gel was run at 150V for 50 min. Transfer to PDVF Immobilon-FL
 242 membrane (Millipore) occurred in chilled transfer buffer (25mM Tris, 192mM Glycine, 20%
 243 methanol) at 20V for 40 min in semi-dry apparatus (Bio-Rad). Membrane was blocked in 5%
 244 milk (1xPBS, 0.01% Tween-20) for 1 hr. Membranes probed with human serum diluted 1:50 in
 245 5% milk overnight at 4°C. Membranes were washed 4 times with PBST (1x PBS, 0.01% Tween-
 246 20) and probed with goat-anti-human-IR-700 (Rockland) at 1:10,000 in 5% milk for 2 hr at RT.
 247 Membranes were washed 4 times with PBST before imaging on Odyssey Scanner (Licor).

248

249 Viral replication assay using spin inoculation

250 This protocol was adapted from the one used in the original study that found XMRV in CFS (12)
 251 with extensive help from Dr. Frank Ruscetti (Leukocyte Biology Section, NCI). LNCaP cells
 252 (15,000 cells/well of 6-well tray with 300 μ l RPMI) were inoculated with 100 μ l of plasma from
 253 patients or controls. Trays were centrifuged at 900xg for 5 min, overlaid with 500 μ l of RPMI and
 254 incubated overnight at 37°C in a 5% CO₂-air mix. An additional 2 ml of RPMI was added the
 255 following morning. When cells became confluent, they were trypsinized and transferred to a T-
 256 25 flask, and when that became confluent, the cells were transferred into a T-75 flask. Cells were
 257 passaged for at least 6 weeks, and at week 2, 4 and 6, cells were lysed into RIPA buffer (Tris
 258 50mM pH 7.4, NaCl 150mM, SDS 0.1%, sodium deoxycholate 0.5%, TritonX100 1% + Roche
 259 Complete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail) for analysis by Western blots, and into guanidium
 260 isothiocyanate containing AL buffer (Qiagen) for extraction of DNA and qPCR analysis.

261 Western blot on spin inoculation samples

262 Similar to western blot protocol above except 20 μ g to 30 μ g of whole cell lysate was
 263 electrophoresed. membranes were probed with anti-XMRV rabbit anti-serum (22) at 1:10,000
 264 and rat anti-tubulin (Millipore) at 1:10,000 overnight at 4°C, followed by goat-anti-rabbit-IR-700
 265 (Rockland) at 1:10,000 and goat-anti-rat-IR-800 (Rockland) at 1:10,000 for 2hr at room
 266 temperature.

267 Results

268 Patient selection and study design

269 We enrolled 105 patients from a Salt Lake City clinic that specializes exclusively in the
 270 diagnosis and management of CFS and fibromyalgia. All patients had been diagnosed with CFS

273 in a clinical setting using the CDC-Fukuda criteria (4) by a board certified internal medicine
 274 specialist, a clinician with 20 years of experience with CFS (LB). At enrollment, subjects were
 275 screened to determine if they also met the Canadian consensus criteria (1), and all but 5 qualified
 276 for both case definitions. The patients were 68% female, with an average age of 48 years (range
 277 20-70), and 90% of them lived within a 50-mile radius of Salt Lake City, Utah. For details on
 278 onset, severity, and duration of illness, see *Materials and Methods*. Controls consisted of 100
 279 males and 100 females, all healthy by self-report, average age 35 years, and living in the greater
 280 Salt Lake City area. The participants completed a questionnaire to assess their health, height,
 281 weight, personal and family histories of prostate cancer and CFS (see *Materials and Methods*).
 282 Both the healthy volunteers and patients were primarily Caucasian, reflecting the local
 283 population. All healthy volunteers were employed full time. Among the CFS patients, a total of
 284 43% were unable to work or attend college even part time, including 13% who were on
 285 disability.
 286
 287 The Clinical Research department of ARUP Laboratories, Salt Lake City, Utah, collected blood
 288 samples from all 300 individuals within a period of 3 weeks (see *Materials and Methods* and Fig.
 289 1). Anticoagulated whole blood was separated into white blood cells (for DNA isolation and
 290 qPCR assays) and plasma (for inoculation of cultured cells to assay for viral replication). Whole
 291 blood was also allowed to clot and the serum used for ELISA and Western blots assays designed
 292 to detect anti-XMRV antibodies.
 293
 294 qPCR assays for XMRV are sensitive to at least five viral copies.

295 In order to be confident of detecting XMRV in clinical samples, we developed our PCR assays to
 296 the robust and reliable standards of clinically used assays. We developed four distinct qPCR
 297 (TaqMan) assays that target different regions of the XMRV proviral sequence. One targeting the
 298 *pol* gene region, has been used extensively by us (22) and others (15, 21, 25), and of all the
 299 published PCR-based tests for XMRV, has been shown to be the most specific (8). We improved
 300 on the sensitivity of this assay so that it could reliably detect at least 5 viral copies of XMRV
 301 DNA (see Fig. 2A). To allow for possible variations in viral sequence in our subjects, we
 302 developed three additional qPCR tests that targeted the LTR, *gag* and *env* regions of XMRV
 303 proviral DNA. We characterized each of these assays in detail to determine their limits of
 304 detection, specificity and reproducibility. Assay characteristics for the LTR qPCR are shown in
 305 Fig. 2B. We could reliably detect less than 5 copies of XMRV plasmid DNA in a background of
 306 400 ng of human placental DNA, and the assay was linear over a large range, viz. 5000 to 5
 307 copies of viral DNA. This sensitivity was matched by the assays targeting the *env* and *pol*
 308 regions. The *gag* assay was also able to reliably detect at least 5 viral copies with an average of 3
 309 cycles delay in crossing the threshold (threshold cycle, C_t , see Fig. 2C). We also demonstrated
 310 that the assays had good precision and reproducibility as demonstrated by the R^2 values of C_t s
 311 being close to 1. To determine intra-run precision, 4 different amounts of XMRV plasmid DNA,
 312 ranging from 5 copies to 5000 copies, were amplified in 3 different reactions in the same run. To
 313 determine inter-run precision, the 4 different levels of XMRV DNA were amplified in 3 different
 314 runs on 3 different days. The assays had good intra-run precision with a mean CV of 0.99%, and
 315 also good inter-run precision, with a mean CV of 1.36%. We also verified that the tests were
 316 specific for XMRV and did not detect other common human pathogens, including other human
 317 retroviruses (Fig. 2C).

318

319 Blood from CFS patients and healthy volunteers is negative for XMRV by qPCR

320 Using our four qPCR assays, we looked for XMRV and related viral sequences in DNA made
 321 from white blood cells of 100 CFS patients and 200 healthy volunteers. We did not find any
 322 positive samples even when reactions were carried out to 45 cycles. Positive control reactions
 323 were reliably positive for 50 and 5 copies of XMRV plasmid DNA. To verify that the DNA
 324 extracted from samples was of adequate and comparable quality, each sample was also tested by
 325 a qPCR targeting a single copy gene, VAMP2 (vesicle associated membrane protein 2) (22), and
 326 was found to be positive at a C_t of 21 to 23 cycles. Water controls that were subjected to the
 327 same extraction method as samples were consistently negative. Each plate of 96 PCRs also
 328 contained 12 wells with water instead of template DNA; these were always negative, as
 329 expected.

330

331 Absence of XMRV anti-SU antibodies in serum of CFS patients and healthy volunteers

332 Infection of Rhesus macaques with XMRV has shown that the most prominent antibody
 333 response is to the XMRV Env protein, gp70 (SU) (16). We tested serum from CFS patients and
 334 healthy volunteers for reactivity to recombinant XMRV-SU protein in an ELISA that we
 335 developed. Rabbit anti-XMRV antisera were used as controls. We found no difference in the
 336 reactivity to XMRV-SU protein between patients and healthy volunteers ($p=0.541$, Kruskal-
 337 Wallis test) (Fig. 3). Samples with reactivity higher than 2 SD from the mean were tested by
 338 Western blotting against recombinant His-tagged XMRV-SU protein. For controls on the
 339 Western blots, we used a His-tagged protein that is unrelated to XMRV, as well as uninfected

340 cell lysates. While we saw a good response with the XMRV antisera, no reactivity was seen with
341 any of the human sera.

342

343 Absence of infectious XMRV in plasma of CFS patients and healthy volunteers

344 Inoculating cultured cells with patient plasma and monitoring for evidence of XMRV replication
345 has been proposed to be the most sensitive method for XMRV detection in plasma samples from
346 CFS patients (14). Because of the labor-intensive nature of this method, we decided to perform
347 this procedure on a subset of our samples ($n=65$) chosen by a random number generator. We
348 inoculated LNCaP cells with 100 μ l of plasma from 31 patients and 34 healthy volunteers, and
349 passaged the cells weekly for 6 weeks. 13 negative controls and 2 positive controls were also
350 included. Only one culture was handled at a time to prevent any cross-contamination. After
351 weeks 2, 4 and 6, cultures were lysed and analyzed by Western blots (Fig. 4) and by qPCR for
352 XMRV. No XMRV protein or DNA was detected in any of the cultures.

353

354 Mouse DNA is present in a reagent used in previously published nested PCR assay

355 Since we were unable to find any evidence of XMRV using our sensitive qPCR assays,
356 serological methods or viral growth assays, we decided to test our samples using the PCR assay
357 first used in the original study that found XMRV in CFS (12). Another study utilized a modified,
358 nested version of this assay to discover the presence of polytropic murine leukemia virus-like
359 sequences in CFS (11). Using this assay, we found approximately 5% of our samples to be
360 positive for products of the expected size, regardless of whether they were patients or healthy
361 volunteers. It was possible that our samples were contaminated with XMRV plasmid DNA, even
362 though work with the plasmid is done in a separate laboratory. We decided to test for this

363 possibility with qPCR primers flanking a restriction site for endonuclease MluI that had been
364 introduced during the construction of our infectious clone (22). Thus, the laboratory plasmid can
365 be distinguished from a wild isolate of XMRV by a qPCR assay where the probe would bind to
366 the MluI site. Fig. 5A shows that the peak fluorescence from the reporter for plasmid pAO-H4,
367 which does not have the MluI site, is consistently lower than the MluI containing plasmid
368 pXMRV1 at varied copy numbers. Using this assay, we determined that none of the positive
369 reactions were due to contamination with the XMRV infectious clone.

370

371 We next checked if our samples were contaminated with mouse DNA, since that has been shown
372 to be a potential source of XMRV-like sequences (15, 19). Based on an assay first introduced by
373 Oakes *et al* (15), we developed a qPCR TaqMan assay to detect small amounts of contaminating
374 mouse DNA. This assay targeted the sequences coding for intracisternal A-type particles (IAP),
375 which are present in approximately 2000 copies per diploid genome of many mouse strains (13).
376 As seen in Fig. 5B, our qPCR assay was linear down to as little as 62.5fg of C57BL/6 mouse
377 DNA and could reproducibly detect as little as 625 ag of mouse DNA per reaction, making it a
378 remarkably sensitive method for detection of contaminating mouse DNA. Using this assay, we
379 determined that our samples did not contain any mouse DNA, and the nested PCRs could not be
380 positive due to mouse DNA in the samples.

381

382 When repeating the nested PCR assays, we noticed that the initially positive samples were not
383 consistently positive in subsequent nested assays. However, the proportion of positive reactions
384 remained constant at approximately 5%. Even though extraction and amplification controls (1
385 per 7 samples) were consistently negative, we suspected that contamination of a PCR reagent

386 might cause the lack of reproducibility and the consistent positivity rate of 5%. We tested 36
387 replicates of genomic DNA from uninfected LNCaP cells with the nested PCR and found that 2
388 produced a positive result (Fig. 5C for a subset of the data). Sequencing these products revealed
389 MLV-related sequences that ranged from 95 to 100% in similarity to those published previously
390 (11, data not shown). In contrast to the nested PCR results, this DNA tested consistently negative
391 with all our XMRV qPCR assays and the IAP qPCR assay for detection of trace amounts of
392 mouse DNA. We next tested each component of the nested PCR using the IAP qPCR assay in
393 replicates of 8. We discovered that both recombinant Taq polymerase (Invitrogen) and the
394 Platinum Taq polymerase (Invitrogen) tested positive for IAP sequences. Furthermore, adding
395 increasing amounts of both Taq polymerases resulted in progressively lower C_t (Fig. 5D). Along
396 similar lines, when increasing amounts of both Taq polymerases were used as a template for the
397 *gag* qPCR, positivity also increased. Positive reactions were obtained with four different batches
398 of Taq polymerase. ABI's Ampliqa Gold Taq polymerase contained in the mastermix of all of
399 our qPCR TaqMan assays did not contain any IAP sequences (Fig. 5D), indicating that it was
400 free of mouse DNA. When adding additional Ampliqa Gold Taq polymerase as template for the
401 IAP qPCR assay as was done with the other polymerase preparations, all reactions remained
402 negative. Contamination of Taq polymerase preparations with mouse RNA has been reported in
403 an independent study (20). Taken together, our analysis shows that certain Taq preparations
404 contain very small amounts of mouse DNA that can cause false-positive reactions when used in
405 highly sensitive assays for XMRV.

406
407 **Blinded subset of samples from the original XMRV-CFS study was negative for XMRV**

408 To test if we could detect XMRV in samples that had previously tested positive or negative for
409 XMRV, we obtained a subset of samples from the original cohort that was used to make the
410 association of XMRV with CFS (12). Using a third-party phlebotomy service that collected
411 blood samples in home visits, we obtained blinded whole blood and serum samples from 14
412 individuals. These individuals had repeatedly tested positive in the last two years when tested by
413 the labs at the WPI, though this information was not available to us till the completion of our
414 study. The Clinical Research department at ARUP Laboratories received these specimens and
415 processed the blood using the same protocols as for our healthy volunteers and CFS patient
416 samples. Thus the samples were never opened in a research lab where XMRV might be present –
417 until they reached us. We tested these samples using all of the assays we developed – four qPCR
418 assays, ELISA and Western blots. None of the samples contained any evidence of XMRV.
419 Serologically, there was no difference in the reactivity to XMRV-SU between healthy volunteers
420 and the WPI cohort (p -value = 0.467, Kruskal-Wallis test), indicating that there was no
421 detectable antibody response that was specific to XMRV in the WPI cohort. Furthermore, we
422 also analyzed the WPI samples using tests utilized in the two studies that found XMRV or
423 XMRV-like viruses in CFS, viz. a PCR assay for *gag* sequences, both in single-round (12) and
424 nested formats (11), and a test for viral growth in cultured cells (12). Neither of these tests
425 revealed any evidence of XMRV.

426 427 **Discussion**

428 We examined blood samples from 100 CFS patients and 200 regionally matched healthy
429 volunteers. The patients met both CDC-Fukuda and Canadian criteria for CFS/ME, and over
430 70% reported the association of a flu-like illness with the onset of their disorder. All blood

431 samples had been freshly collected, blinded, processed, and analyzed identically. Special care
432 was taken to avoid contamination using proper controls during DNA extraction, spin inoculation,
433 and PCR analysis. Despite using a number of carefully characterized tests that were capable of
434 detecting small amounts of XMRV and related MLVs, we did not detect XMRV in any of our
435 samples. These tests consisted of sensitive qPCR assays, ELISA and Western blots that we
436 developed. We also performed PCR assays for *gag* sequences used in the studies that found
437 XMRV or XMRV-like viruses in CFS (11, 12). In addition, we used a viral replication assay
438 used in the original study that made the association between XMRV and CFS (12), and was
439 claimed to be the most sensitive assay for XMRV detection. Extending these negative findings,
440 and adding more validity to our study was our inability to detect any XMRV in samples from
441 patients that had tested positive for XMRV in the original study. We report here a repeat testing
442 of samples obtained from CFS patients that were recruited, diagnosed and defined as positive
443 exemplars of XMRV infection by the investigators who performed the original WPI-based study.
444 This testing was performed in an independent laboratory (ours), using many of the same
445 techniques as in the original study. To our knowledge, this is the first study to report negative
446 findings after a full repetition of all assay methods in patients who have previously tested
447 positive for XMRV.
448
449 Our experience has taught us that the detection of XMRV in blood is fraught with difficulties. In
450 our own laboratory, starting with aliquots of samples from the same patients that we report here,
451 we initially found some samples to be positive for XMRV. DNA from these aliquots had been
452 extracted on a biorobot (Qiagen) in a 96-well format. Twelve wells spread throughout the plate
453 served as negative extraction controls, and a few of these also tested positive. It turns out that a

454 few months prior to extracting our blood samples, the same biorobot had been used to extract
455 DNA from tissue culture cells that had been infected with XMRV. Despite the several months
456 interval between the two extractions and the use of sterile, disposable reagents in the biorobot,
457 we obtained false positives in our negative extraction controls and some patient samples. Once
458 we abandoned the biorobot, and used new aliquots of samples to extract DNA manually, we did
459 not find any patient or healthy volunteer samples to be positive. We continued this process of
460 extreme care not to contaminate samples in all of our techniques, especially the viral replication
461 assay. Because the viral replication assay consists of passaging cells inoculated with patient
462 samples and controls inoculated with infectious XMRV, every week for 6-8 weeks, this assay is
463 especially vulnerable to contamination. We prevented this by handling only one set of cultures in
464 the biosafety cabinet at a time, and meticulously decontaminated the cabinet between cultures
465 with 70% ethanol and UV irradiation. This made the viral replication assay very time-consuming
466 and labor-intensive, and we could perform it only on a subset of our samples. But it is easy to see
467 how the sample extraction and tissue culture processes might be the most vulnerable to
468 contamination, providing a possible explanation for why the 14 samples from individuals tested
469 repeatedly by the WPI over a period of two years were positive in their hands and negative in
470 ours. Our early false positive findings did have one benefit: they confirmed beyond a doubt that
471 our assay methods were highly sensitive to even tiny quantities of XMRV, and thus we would
472 have every expectation of detecting it if it had been present in any of the samples we tested.
473
474 The presence of mouse DNA in PCR reagents emphasizes the critical importance of proper
475 controls and carefully chosen, sensitive assays to detect trace amounts of mouse DNA. Sato *et al.*
476 (20) found that Platinum Taq polymerase (Invitrogen) contained RNA from polytropic

477 endogenous MLV using a sensitive RT-PCR kit. This is not too surprising because the mouse
478 monoclonal antibody used to prevent enzyme activity prior to heat activation might be the source
479 of mouse DNA in the enzyme. What was surprising, however, was our finding mouse sequences
480 in Invitrogen's recombinant Taq polymerase that is expressed in *E. coli*; we are not sure what the
481 source of mouse DNA is, in this case. We did confirm, however, that Applied Biosystems'
482 Amplitaq Gold polymerase that was used in all of our qPCRs, both here and in previous studies
483 (5, 22, 25) did not contain any detectable mouse DNA. Lo *et al.* used the finding of negative
484 results with the mouse mitochondrial semi-nested PCR assays to support the assertion that their
485 samples were free of mouse DNA. Like others (15, 19), we propose the detection of IAP
486 sequences instead of mouse mitochondrial DNA as a better approach to look for contamination.
487 We demonstrate that our qPCR assay for IAP sequences is exquisitely sensitive and can detect
488 attogram quantities of mouse DNA.

489
490 The question remains how mouse DNA in the Taq polymerase could lead to a disproportionate
491 number of positives in patients versus controls in the two studies linking XMRV to CFS. It is
492 possible, as has been suggested before (27), that patient samples were handled more than control
493 samples and thus had a higher likelihood of contamination. In our study, both patient and control
494 samples were handled in the same manner with the same frequency, in a blinded manner. We
495 also suggest that any planned studies proposed to screen for XMRV carefully check their
496 reagents, equipment, and all possible - and seemingly not possible - sources of contamination
497 with exogenous XMRV and mouse DNA. Obviously, all such studies should be conducted with
498 careful blinding of investigators and staff to prevent unintended experimental bias.
499

500 Unlike molecular and cell culture amplification assays, serological assays have the advantage of
501 being difficult to contaminate. However, serological assays are still susceptible to false positives
502 because of non-specific binding of antibodies to related antigens. Serologically, our patient
503 samples appear indistinguishable from controls, as do the samples from the WPI cohort. It is
504 possible that assays that have found anti-XMRV reactivity in CFS patients are due to cross-
505 reactivity to related antigens.

506
507 Given the lack of evidence for XMRV or XMRV-like viruses in our cohort of CFS patients, as
508 well as the lack of these viruses in a set of patients previously tested positive, we feel that that
509 XMRV is not associated with CFS. We are forced to conclude that prescribing antiretroviral
510 agents to CFS patients is insufficiently justified and potentially dangerous. It is also vital to state
511 that there is still a wealth of prior data (2, 10) to encourage further research into the involvement
512 of other infectious agents in CFS, and these efforts must continue.

513

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- 615

616 **Figure Legends**

617 **Fig. 1. Study scheme** showing collection, processing, and analysis of blood samples from CFS
618 patients and healthy volunteers:

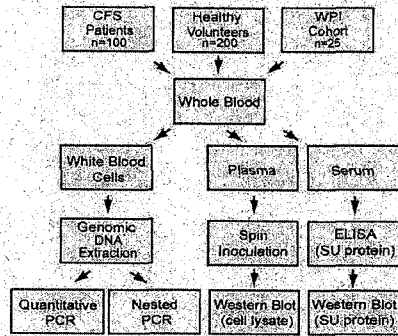
619 **Fig. 2. Defining qPCR assay characteristics.** A. Reproducibility of all XMRV qPCR assays
620 (*pol*, *env*, LTR, *gag*), performed in triplicate with pXMRV1 template amounts of 500, 50 and 5
621 copies. R^2 values show high reproducibility for each assay. B. Sensitivity of XMRV LTR qPCR
622 assay with a FAM reporter showing that the assay was linear with as low as 5 copies of
623 pXMRV1 template added in a background of 400 ng of human placental DNA. R_0 is the
624 difference in fluorescence between the FAM reporter and the standard reference ROX dye. C.
625 Testing for cross reactivity (or specificity) of XMRV qPCR assays against other common human
626 pathogenic viruses. A positive clinical sample or plasmid DNA from a variety of common
627 pathogenic viruses was amplified using the LTR and *pol* (*shIN*) qPCR assays. No significant
628 cross-reactivity was seen with any of the following: BK virus, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Epstein
629 Barr virus (EBV), Enterovirus (EV), Human Herpes virus 6 Variant A (HHV6-A), Human
630 Herpes virus 6 Variant B (HHV6-B), Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Human
631 metapneumovirus (HMPV), Influenza A virus (FLUA), and Influenza B virus (FLUB). Each
632 sample was extracted with an exogenous internal control plasmid IC2, containing *C. elegans*
633 *pax1/9* gene fused to GFP, added to each aliquot of whole blood prior to sample extraction. This
634 internal control plasmid was co-amplified with each sample to identify potential inhibitors of
635 PCR and to monitor extraction efficiency. Extraction was efficient as seen from the IC C_t s
636 ranged between 33.5 and 35.9.

637 **Fig. 3. ELISA to measure reactivity of human sera against recombinant XMRV-SU**
638 **protein.** Sera from CFS patients (black bars), healthy males (light grey bars) and healthy females

639 (dark grey bars) in reaction with gp70 Env (SU) fragment tested in three replicates. Arrow
640 indicates average OD values using XMRV anti-serum at 1:10,000 (22).

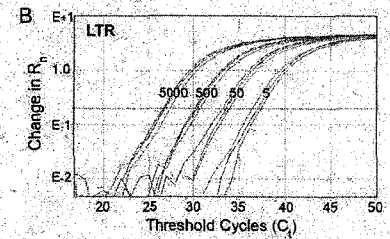
641 **Fig. 4. Western blot analysis** on a subset of CFS patients (P) and controls (C) six weeks after
642 spin inoculation of plasma onto cultured LNCaP cells. Cell lysates from XMRV infected cells
643 probed with rabbit anti-XMRV antisera are shown in lane (+). Lane (-) represents cell lysates
644 from uninfected cells probed with rabbit anti-XMRV antisera. M = molecular weight marker. To
645 indicate loading amounts, the same gel was probed with anti-tubulin antibody (bottom).

646 **Fig. 5. Nested PCR assay.** A. MluI qPCR assay to detect pXMRV1 contamination. The 5' end
647 of the probe spans the MluI restriction site that was introduced to create pXMRV1. pAO-H4,
648 which does not have the MluI restriction site has lower peak fluorescence as well as a delay in
649 C_t s for the same copy numbers of plasmid. B. Sensitivity of the IAP qPCR assay for different
650 amounts of C57BL/6 mouse DNA ranging from 62.5 ng to 625 μ g, all in the presence of 400 ng
651 of human placental DNA. C. Nested PCR on a small set of samples, showing ~5% samples to be
652 positive for MLV *gag* sequences using NP116/NP117 (11). LNCaP genomic DNA show in lanes
653 G. Lane (-) represents negative control. Lane 1 shows 100bp ladder. D. Detection of mouse DNA
654 in Platinum Taq (PT Taq, Invitrogen) and Recombinant Taq (RT Taq, Invitrogen), but not in
655 AmpliTaq Gold (AAG Taq, ABI). For each qPCR assay, the left column shows number of
656 replicates that are positive, and the right column shows the average C_t at which positivity occurs.
657 The more XMRV-specific *pol* qPCR assay (in triplicates) was consistently negative, but IAP and
658 *gag* assays (eight replicates each) were both positive as more Platinum or Recombinant
659 Invitrogen Taq was used as template.



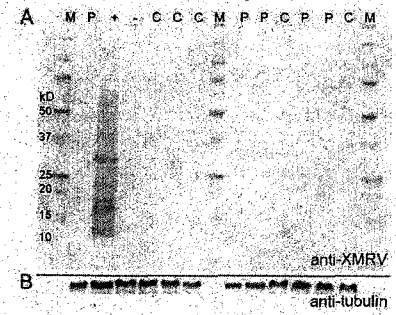
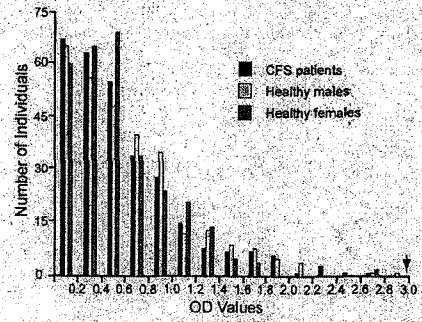
A

qPCR assay	pXMRV1 Template Amounts			R ²
	500 copies	50 copies	5 copies	
<i>pol</i>	30.1	33.5	36.3	0.989
<i>env</i>	29.5	33.1	36.3	0.993
LTR	30.4	33.6	36.9	0.992
<i>gag</i>	32.6	35.8	39.9	0.989



C

Template	<i>pol</i> C _t	IC C _t	LTR C _t	IC C _t
BK	0	33.5	0	34.5
CMV	0	34.5	0	34.4
EBV	0	34.4	0	34.8
EV	0	34.9	0	35.8
HHV6-A	0	34.7	0	35.4
HHV6-B	0	34.6	0	33.7
HIV	0	34.9	0	34.5
HMPV	0	34.7	0	34.3
FLUA	0	35.3	0	34.9
FLUB	0	34.4	0	34.9

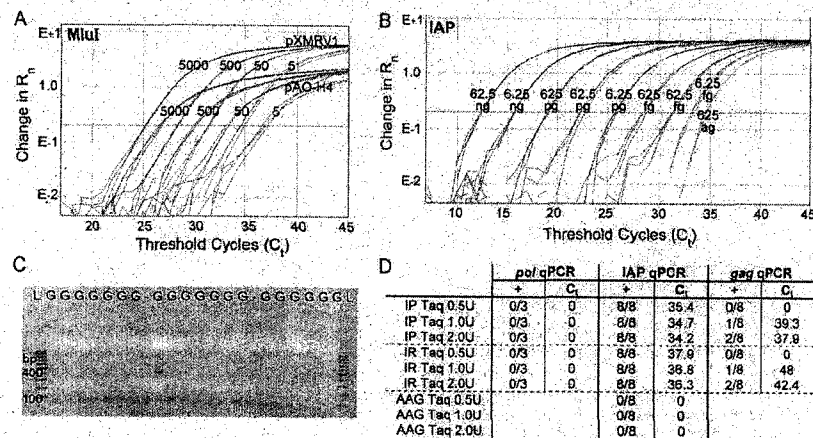


No Evidence of Murine-Like Gammaretroviruses in CFS Patients Previously Identified as XMRV-Infected

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Murine-like gammaretroviruses (MLVs), most notably XMRV [xenotropic murine leukemia virus (X-MLV)-related virus], have been reported to be present in the blood of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). We evaluated blood samples from 61 patients with CFS from a single clinical practice, 43 of whom had previously been identified as XMRV-positive. Our analysis included polymerase chain reaction and reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction procedures for detection of viral nucleic acids and assays for detection of infectious virus and virus-specific antibodies. We found no evidence of XMRV or other MLVs in these blood samples. In addition, we found that these gammaretroviruses were strongly (X-MLV) or partially (XMRV) susceptible to inactivation by sera from CFS patients and healthy controls, which suggested that establishment of a successful MLV infection in humans would be unlikely. Consistent with previous reports, we detected MLV sequences in commercial laboratory reagents. Our results indicate that previous evidence linking XMRV and MLVs to CFS is likely attributable to laboratory contamination.

Xenotropic retroviruses, first discovered in mice, have the unusual characteristic of being endogenous to animal species, i.e., integrated into the animal's genome, but not able to re-infect cells from that species. However, as the name (*xenos*, foreign) implies, these viruses can infect cells from other animal species. The xenotropic murine leukemia virus (X-MLV), for example, infects cells from several species including humans but cannot infect many mouse cells (1-3). One

particular virus within this group, XMRV (xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus), has been reported to be present in a subset of human prostate tumors (4) and in blood samples from patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) (5). Other murine-related gammaretroviruses (MLVs) have also reportedly been detected in CFS patients (6). The infection of humans with these viruses is controversial. Investigators evaluating independent cohorts of CFS patients have failed to detect XMRV or other MLV (7-12), and contamination of human clinical material (13, 14) and reagents (e.g., Taq polymerase) (15) with mouse DNA containing MLV-like sequences has been reported.

To investigate these discrepancies in a more direct manner, we performed an extensive virological evaluation of blood samples from two human populations with a clinical diagnosis of CFS (16), many of whom had been diagnosed previously as XMRV-infected. The first (P1) consisted of 41 CFS patients ranging in age from 5 years to 73 years who came from a private medical practice (Sierra Internal Medicine, Incline Village Nevada). Twenty-six of the CFS subjects (63%) were female and 15 (37%) were male; the female median age was 52 years (range 5 to 72 years) and male median age was 49 years (range 20 to 73 years). These patients were an unselected, sequentially enrolled population submitted for diagnostic testing to Wisconsin Viral Research Group (WVRG), and were therefore a true cross-section of the patients in the medical practice. Thirty-seven of these 41 patients had been tested previously for XMRV infection by the following assays: whole blood PCR, serum PCR, or viral XMRV culture with PCR (17).

These evaluations were performed by a commercial (VIPDx, Reno, NV) or research laboratory (Whittemore Peterson Institute [WPI], Reno, NV). Twenty-six were reported as being XMRV positive and 11 were reported as being negative. Blood samples used from this patient cohort were archived diagnostic specimens and, therefore, exempt from IRB consideration [46.101 (b)(4), Code of Federal Regulations].

The second population (P2) came from the same medical practice and subjects were selected largely on the basis of a previous positive diagnosis for XMRV infection. This patient cohort included 29 CFS patients, 26 of whom (89.6%) had tested positive for XMRV in at least one of the three virus assays listed above, and/or had antibodies to XMRV detected in a commercial (VIPDx) or research laboratory (WPI) (5) (table S1). Twenty of the patients (69%) were female and 9 (31%) were male with a median age of 52 years. Nine of these subjects were also part of P1 (table S1). Fresh blood samples were used for viral culture and testing (see supporting online material). For the serum inactivation studies, seven healthy UCSF laboratory workers, ranging in age from 21 to 72 years, served as controls. These volunteers were afebrile without signs of any illness. This research received approval of the Human Subjects Committee at the University of California, San Francisco. All participants signed IRB-approved consent forms.

We initially assessed the peripheral blood leukocytes from the 41 subjects in P1 for XMRV DNA using nested PCR targeting *gag* (primers 419F/1154R and 445F/870R) and *env* (primers 5922F/6273R and 5937F/6198R). The sensitivity of these PCR assays is at least 10 XMRV genomes per reaction (table S3). No XMRV DNA was detected in any sample (see Fig. 1A for representative data). Notably, a chart review of the 41 patients revealed that 19 had two blood samples drawn on the same day by the same phlebotomist, with one sample submitted to VIPDx and the other to WVRG. For XMRV analysis, VIPDx used diagnostic technologies identical to those utilized in previous studies on XMRV and CFS (5). The chart review indicated that 53% (10/19) of the blood samples were reported by the commercial laboratory as being positive for XMRV DNA. This difference in our results (0/19) versus the chart review results (10/19) was statistically significant ($p < 0.0004$, two-sided Fisher's Exact test).

Our failure to detect XMRV DNA in patient population P1 prompted us to undertake a more

extensive study of patient population P2. We used multiple methodologies to evaluate P2 blood samples for the presence of (i) nucleic acids derived from XMRV or MLV; (ii) infectious XMRV and MLV; and (iii) XMRV-specific antibodies (17). Ficoll-Hypaque purified peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were evaluated by RT-PCR procedures directly or after activation with phytohemagglutinin (PHA; 3 μ g/ml for 3 days) using primers and protocols described by others (6) and previously demonstrated to be highly sensitive for detection of XMRV and MLVs (6, 18). In addition, plasma was evaluated by RT-PCR in a similar manner. No MLV was found in the PBMC or plasma of these 29 CFS patients (Table 1, Fig. 1B). The positive control, consisting of the 730 bp fragment of XMRV amplified from prostate cancer cell line, 22Rv1, was able to detect at least 10 copies of XMRV *gag* DNA per reaction; second-round PCR detected 1-10 copies/reaction (table S3).

We next investigated whether infectious XMRV or MLV was detectable in the P2 blood samples. The patients' PBMCs were added to duplicate plates of early-passaged mink lung cells to enhance detection of X-MLV and maintained for 5 days (2, 19, 20). The PBMCs were then removed and the mink lung cells passed weekly for 3 weeks. Culture fluids were then evaluated for infectious XMRV or MLV by monitoring the induction of focus formation in the mink S+L- cell line (19, 20), by measuring RT activity in the cell culture fluids (21), and by PCR analysis (11, 18). We also looked for infectious virus in culture fluids from 19 patient PBMCs that had been cultured for 1-3 weeks after PHA stimulation. As summarized in Table 1, we did not detect XMRV or MLV in any of the patient samples.

A previous study reported that 50% (9/18) of patients with CFS had plasma antibodies reactive with XMRV (5). We evaluated 60 plasma samples from P1 and P2 patients for the presence of XMRV-specific antibodies by means of two direct format chemiluminescence immunoassays (CMIA) using either transmembrane p15E or envelope gp70 recombinant proteins of XMRV (22). These assays can detect antibodies to other MLVs. None of the 60 plasma samples from these CFS patients was reactive in the p15E CMIA (Fig. 2A). One of the 60 samples was weakly reactive in the gp70 CMIA with a sample/cut-off (S/CO) value of 5.4 (Log N of S/CO = 1.68). However, the plasma was not positive by Western blot

(WB) assay using purified XMRV viral lysate as well as recombinant gp70 protein (22) (Fig. 2B). It was therefore considered negative.

Further studies of antiviral responses in the P2 population assessed whether serum samples from these patients could inactivate X-MLV and XMRV. Previous work (23) had indicated that X-MLV is sensitive to inactivation by sera from healthy individuals, most likely by human complement (24-26); conceivably, CFS patient sera are deficient in this activity. X-MLV and XMRV were mixed with unheated or heated human sera from 7 healthy subjects and from 19 CFS patients (17). Both viruses were susceptible to inactivation by unheated, complement-containing sera from both groups; over a 2-log reduction in virus infectivity was noted in several cases. XMRV was less susceptible to inactivation than X-MLV (Fig. 3) most likely reflecting the passage of XMRV through human cells, which renders the virus less sensitive to human complement (24-26). These results, as well as other reports showing restriction of XMRV replication in human cells (27, 28), suggest that an established MLV infection in humans is unlikely.

Because neither XMRV or MLV sequences or infectious virus could be detected in the blood of the 61 CFS patients in our P1 and P2 populations, we explored whether XMRV and MLV sequences might be present in research reagents used to detect these viruses. While our own studies were underway, other investigators considered the same possibility (29) and reported that mouse DNA and MLV sequences were detectable in reagents and tissues used for RT-PCR (13-15), particularly the mouse monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) in Taq polymerase preparations (15). Notably, we detected MLV sequences not only in 3/5 Taq polymerases that utilize MAbs, but also in 9/17 other MAbs-containing reagents used in research laboratories (table S2) including antibodies to CD4, CD8, and CD14. Sequencing of these PCR products revealed a high degree of sequence homology with known MLV sequences from laboratory strains; they most closely resembled the MLV sequences reported by others in the blood of CFS patients (6) (figs. S1 and S2). Bioreagent contamination, however, does not adequately explain the detection of XMRV by Lombardi et al. (5). We have found that the DNA sequences of 3 XMRV proviruses they described are identical to that of VP62, which is the prototype XMRV cloned from prostate cancer tissue (4). Long-term

passage of VP62 led to proviruses with accumulated multiple point mutations (fig. S3). As suggested by others (30), independently derived XMRV DNA sequences should show increased genetic diversity compared to the VP62 clone sequence. Therefore, the remarkable conservation of the WPI-XMRV sequences is most consistent with laboratory contamination with the original infectious VP62.

In conclusion, we have found no evidence that XMRV or other murine-like gammaretroviruses are present in blood samples from 43 CFS patients who were previously reported to be infected by XMRV (5, 6). Notably, over a period of several months, 7 of our subjects were studied on two occasions; 2 subjects, on three occasions. Because our blood samples were obtained from CFS patients from the same clinical practice that provided the majority of patients described in the early XMRV report (5), differences in the patient cohort or clinical diagnosis cannot account for the discrepancies between our findings and the previous observations. We believe that the detection of MLV in human blood in previous studies (5, 6) reflects contamination of reagents used to assess their presence and/or contamination of human samples during laboratory manipulation of the infectious XMRV clone, VP62 (5). In addition, our studies indicate that X-MLV and XMRV are fully or partially inactivated by human serum, suggesting that these viruses could not readily establish a human infection. Since an activated immune system has been observed in CFS patients (31), the possibility of another infectious agent(s) being associated with this illness merits continual attention.

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Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/1204963/DC1

Materials and Methods

Figs. S1 to S3

Tables S1 to S3

References

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Fig. 1. (A) Representative nested gag PCR results using genomic DNA (gDNA) from P1 patient leukocytes, A negative control (water, lane 0) and two positive controls (XMRV gag plasmid at 10 and 100 copies/reaction) were included in each run. As control, patient DNA was also tested with single-round PCR for RNaseH (17). DNA markers (M) and the positions of expected PCR products are annotated. **(B)** Representative nested RT-PCR results on P2-PBMC samples. Positive and negative controls are shown: Ten-fold serial dilutions of XMRV gag plasmid control start at 1000 copies/reaction. Negative controls for each reaction step were tested in triplicate: *RNA/DNA extraction negative control, **RT control, and ***PCR control.

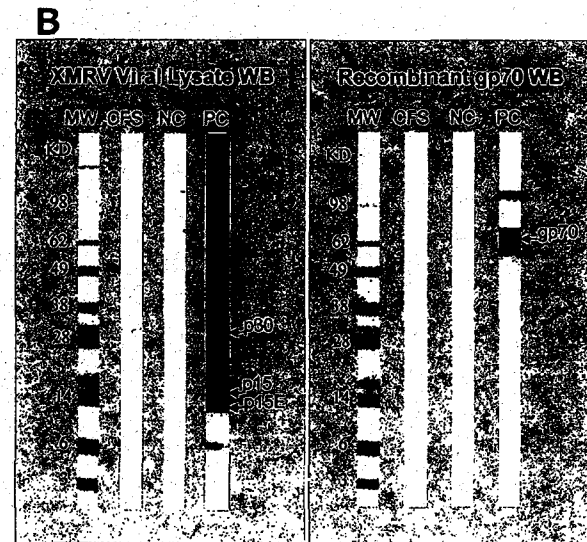
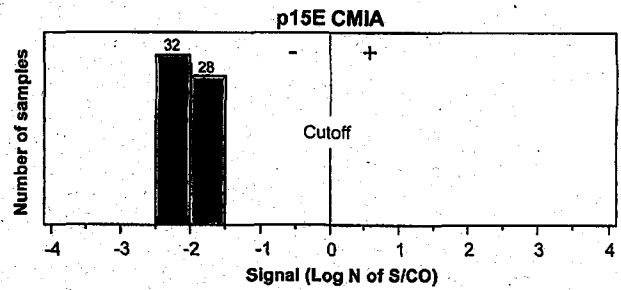
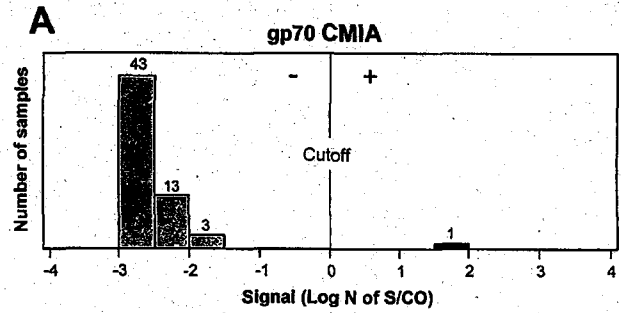
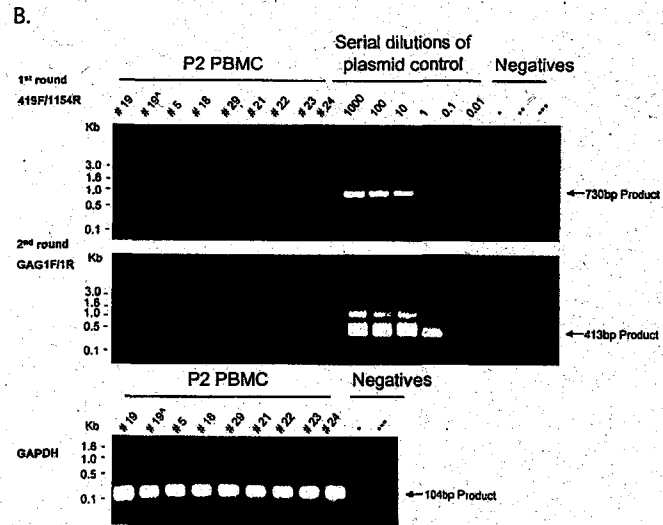
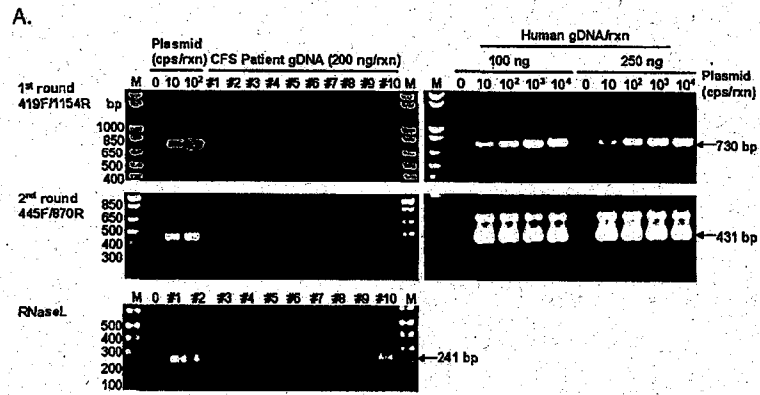
Fig. 2. Evaluation of 60 CFS plasma samples for the presence of XMRV antibodies. **(A)** Two recombinant protein-based CMIA were used to detect specific antibodies to XMRV gp70 and p15E proteins (17). The X axis represents the CMIA signal in a unit of natural log-transformed ratio of sample signal to the cutoff signal (Log N S/CO). **(B)** Western blot analysis of gp70 CMIA reactive CFS sample using native XMRV viral proteins and mammalian-expressed recombinant gp70 protein. Sample keys: the gp70 CMIA-reactive (CFS) sample 09-7571, Positive control (PC) of antisera of XMRV-infected macaque, negative control (NC) of normal blood donor and Molecular weight (MW) markers in kilodaltons (KD).

Fig. 3. Effects of Human Serum on Xenotropic MLV and XMRV. Shown is the percent serum inactivation of virus, as measured by induction of focus formation in mink S+L cells by untreated X-MLV and XMRV (17). Representative results are shown. Unheated sera from 12 other CFS patients gave similar findings with nearly complete inactivation of X-MLV and partial to high inactivation of XMRV. X-MLV was obtained from NZB mouse cells and propagated in mink lung cells (20). XMRV was obtained from the human prostate cell line (22Rv1). For the five studies conducted, the control virus titers measured as focus formation in mink S+L cells were: 126, 430, 168, 246, 208 foci (X-MLV); 84, 376, 208, 284, 206 foci (XMRV). N, control; P, CFS patient (see table S1); black bars, X-MLV unheated sera; shaded bars, X-MLV heated sera; white bars, XMRV unheated sera; hatched bars, XMRV heated sera.

Table 1. Summary of assays used to evaluate blood samples from CFS patients in population P2. Information about the CFS patients is provided in table S1. Two subjects were studied twice within a 3-month period (table S1) and gave the same results.

Assay	Percent XMRV-positive (n)
PCR analysis of PBMC-derived DNA	0 (0/31)
RT-PCR analysis of patient plasma	0 (0/31)
PBMC culture fluids*	0 (0/19)
Reverse transcriptase assay of supernatants from mink lung cells passed after PBMC co-culture*	0 (0/30)†

*infectious virus assay: Fluids were tested for infectious virus production by reverse transcriptase (RT) and the mink S+L cell assays (see text) (17). †Insufficient cells were available for these studies from subject #24.



Recombinant Origin of the Retrovirus XMRV

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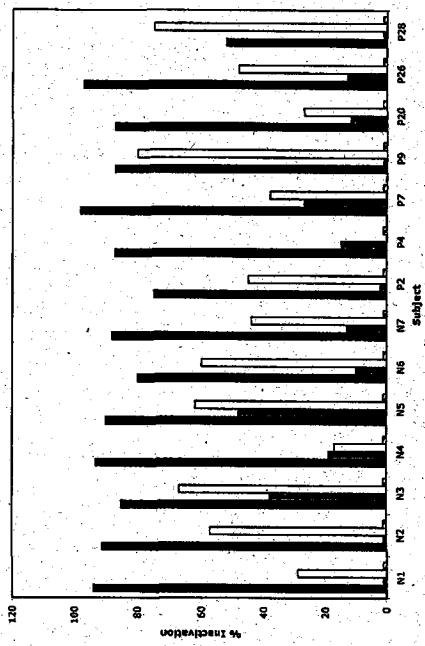
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The retrovirus XMRV (xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus) has been detected in human prostate tumors and in blood samples from patients with chronic fatigue syndrome, but these findings have not been replicated. We hypothesized that an understanding of when and how XMRV first arose might help explain the discrepant results. We studied human prostate cancer cell lines CWR22Rv1 and CWR-R1, which produce XMRV virtually identical to the viruses recently found in patient samples, as well as their progenitor human prostate tumor xenograft (CWR22) that had been passaged in mice. We detected XMRV infection in the two cell lines and in the later passage xenografts, but not in the early passages. In particular, we found that the host mice contained two proviruses, PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2, which share 99.92% identity with XMRV over >3.2-kilobase stretches of their genomes. We conclude that XMRV was not present in the original CWR22 tumor but was generated by recombination of two proviruses during tumor passaging in mice. The probability that an identical recombinant was generated independently is negligible (~10⁻²⁵); our results suggest that the association of XMRV with human disease is due to contamination of human samples with virus originating from this recombination event.

Murine leukemia viruses (MLVs) are retroviruses belonging to the genus *Gammaretrovirus* that cause cancers and other diseases in mice, and they are divided into the ecotropic, amphotropic, polytropic, and xenotropic classes on the basis of their receptor usage. Xenotropic MLVs cannot infect cells from inbred mice but can infect cells from other species, including humans. Xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV) was isolated from a human prostate cancer (PC) in 2006 and has been reported to be present in 6 to 27%

of human PCs (1, 2) and in the peripheral blood of 67% of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) patients (3). The assertion that XMRV is circulating in the human population has been challenged by several studies that have failed to detect XMRV in multiple cohorts of PC and CFS patients or healthy controls [reviewed in (4)]. Endogenous xenotropic MLVs can infect human tumors during passage through nude mice (5), and it has been suggested that XMRV may have arisen in this manner (5, 6). In addition, XMRV replication is highly sensitive to human APOBEC3s and tetherin (7–11), making it doubtful that XMRV replication occurred efficiently in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells of CFS patients as previously reported (3).

The human PC cell line CWR22Rv1 (hereafter 22Rv1) (12) produces infectious XMRV essentially identical in sequence to that obtained from patients. 22Rv1 contains ≥10 proviral copies/cell (13), and was proposed to have been derived from an XMRV-infected tumor. This cell line was derived from a xenograft (CWR22) that was established from a primary prostate tumor at Case Western Reserve University and serially passaged in nude mice (14, 15). To explore the origin of the virus in 22Rv1 cells, we analyzed various passages of the CWR22 xenograft as well as a subline of the CWR22 xenograft (2152) from which the 22Rv1 cell line was established (12), and another prostate cancer cell line, CWR-R1, which was also derived from CWR22 (16). Fig. 1A traces the timeline of the serial xenograft transplants of CWR22 up to the derivation of the cell lines 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 and indicates (bold letters) the samples that were available for analysis. Nude mouse strain(s) maintained by Charles River (NU/NU) and Harlan Laboratories (Harlan Sprague Dawley [Hsd]) are likely to have been used for *in vivo* passages of the xenograft (17). DNA samples from passage 3 (777, Fig. 1A) and an unknown early passage (736) were obtained along



with samples from a 7th passage, CWR22-9216R and CWR22-9218R. A xenograft tumor from the early 7th passage was independently propagated at the University of California, Davis using Hsd nude mice (CWR22-8R and 8L). Total nucleic acid from relapsed androgen-independent tumors (CWR22R) 2152, 2524, 2272, and 2274 and the 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines was available for analysis (14).

We verified that the xenograft samples (736, 777, 9216R, 9218R, 8R and 8L) and the 22Rv1 or CWR-R1 cell lines were all derived from the same person by performing short tandem repeat (STR) analysis at 7 loci (Fig. 1B and fig. S1). The probabilities that the xenografts and the two cell lines have the same allele patterns for these loci by chance are 1.6×10^{-13} and 6.3×10^{-13} , respectively.

To quantify the amount of XMRV DNA in the CWR22 xenografts, we developed a real-time PCR primer-probe set that specifically detected XMRV *env* and excluded murine endogenous proviruses present in BALB/c and NIH3T3 genomic DNA (Fig. 1C). We used quantitative PCR of 22Rv1 DNA to estimate 20 proviruses/cell and used the 22Rv1 DNA to generate a standard curve. The CWR22 xenografts had significantly fewer copies of XMRV *env* (<1–3 copies/100 cells) compared to the 22Rv1 cells (2000 copies/100 cells). The CWR-R1 cell line had ~3000 copies/100 cells, and the NU/NU and Hsd nude mice, thought to have been used to passage the CWR22 xenograft, had 58 and 68 copies/100 cells, respectively. Since xenograft tumors are expected to contain a mixture of human and mouse cells, we quantified the amount of mouse DNA by analyzing mouse intracisternal A-type particle (IAP) DNA as previously described (18, 19). Approximately 0.3–1% of the total DNA from all 6 xenografts consisted of mouse DNA (Fig. 1D); this result is consistent with the <1–3 XMRV *env* sequences/100 cells detected in the same samples (Fig. 1C).

We characterized XMRV and related sequences in the xenografts, cell lines, and nude mouse strains by PCR and DNA sequencing (Fig. 2). Using primers previously used to clone and sequence XMRV from 22Rv1 cells (8), we determined that all the XMRV proviruses in the CWR-R1 and 22Rv1 cell lines are identical in sequence, with the exception of some rare hypermutated proviruses (Fig. 2A and figs. S2 and S3). Next, we developed several primer sets to specifically amplify XMRV sequences and exclude endogenous murine retroviruses (fig. S2). Primers that specifically amplified XMRV were used to perform PCR on DNA from the late-passage xenografts 2152, 2524, 2272 and 2274; sequencing confirmed the presence of these XMRV sequences in these tumors (Fig. 2A and fig. S3A; boxed in Fig. 1A).

We used the same XMRV-specific primer sets to amplify and sequence DNA from early passage xenografts (736, 777, 8L, 8R, 16R, and 18R; Fig. 2B); the results showed that

XMRV *env*, but not *gag* sequences were present (sequencing coverage summarized in fig. S3), indicating that the early xenografts did not contain XMRV. However, we did find that early xenografts contained a previously undescribed XMRV-related provirus that we have named PreXMRV-1 (Fig. 2B). The complete sequence of PreXMRV-1 was determined from the early passage xenografts, the NU/NU and Hsd strains, and the CWR-R1 cell line. PreXMRV-1 and consensus XMRV differed by only one base in a 3211-nt stretch of the genome encoding the 3' half of *pol* and the 5' 2/3 of *env*. In addition, the LTRs were nearly identical; PreXMRV-1 had a single adenine deletion relative to XMRV in a run of 6 adenines. The two genomes differed by 10% over the remaining 3.5-kb stretch of *gag-pro-pol* and by 9% in a 600-nt stretch at the 3' end of *env*. PreXMRV-1 is replication defective because of a 16-nt deletion in *gag* and a +1 frameshift mutation in *pol*. Late-passage xenografts 2524 and 2274, but not 2152 and 2272, also contained PreXMRV-1. The detection of low levels of XMRV *env* sequence in the early xenografts (Fig. 1C) can be attributed to the PreXMRV-1 proviruses present in the contaminating mouse DNA. Overall, these results indicate that PreXMRV-1 is an endogenous murine provirus that is present in the NU/NU and Hsd strains, but neither of these strains contains XMRV (the PCR and sequencing coverage are detailed in fig. S3, A and B).

To screen for the presence of endogenous XMRV in mouse strains, we developed an XMRV-specific PCR assay based on sequence differences in the LTR and *gag* leader regions that excluded all known endogenous murine retroviruses (fig. S2). A survey of 45 laboratory mouse strains and 44 wild mice failed to detect XMRV (fig. S4). In a search for proviruses that might contain XMRV-specific sequence features, we found a second previously undescribed endogenous provirus that we named PreXMRV-2 (Fig. 2C). A portion of PreXMRV-2 corresponds to an 1124-nt sequence of an endogenous provirus from the 129X1/SvJ mouse genome (Acc. No. AAHY0159188.1) (6, 20). The sequence of PreXMRV-2 revealed that *gag*, *pol*, and *env* reading frames are open and can potentially express functional proteins. A 3.6-kb stretch encompassing the *gag* leader region and *gag-pro-pol* differs by one base from the consensus XMRV (99.9% identity); in addition, a ~700-nt region of *env* is 99% identical to XMRV; however, the LTRs and the remaining viral genome differ by 6–12% from consensus XMRV. Phylogenetic analysis indicates that PreXMRV-1 groups with xenotropic viruses whereas PreXMRV-2 appears to be a recombinant, grouping with polytropic and modified polytropic viruses for certain stretches of its genome (fig. S5).

We screened 15 mouse strains, which included 12 nude mice, for the presence of XMRV, PreXMRV-1, and PreXMRV-2 using XMRV-specific primers, primers that

amplified XMRV or PreXMRV-1, and PreXMRV-2-specific primers (Fig. 2D and fig. S2). None of the mouse strains contained XMRV and only the Hsd and the NU/NU outbred nude strains contained PreXMRV-1 (Fig. 2D and fig. S6). Six of the 15 mouse strains contained PreXMRV-2, but only the NU/NU and Hsd mice contained both PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 (Fig. 2D and fig. S6). It should be noted that since the Hsd and the NU/NU are outbred strains, individual mice differ in their endogenous proviruses. NU/NU mice showed variation in the presence of these two endogenous proviruses, and two out of five animals tested contained both (fig. S6). The 22Rv1 cell line contained only XMRV as confirmed by sequence analysis; however the CWR-R1 cell line contained both XMRV and PreXMRV-1. The CWR-R1 cell line has been reported to contain contaminating mouse cells (21) (and see IAP signal, Fig. 2D), which is likely to be the source of the PreXMRV-1 sequences.

We used the same specific primer sets to determine the distribution of XMRV, PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 in early and late xenografts (Fig. 2E). None of the early xenografts (736, 777, 9216R, 9218R, 8R and 8L), but all of the late xenografts (2152, 2524, 2272, and 2274) and both cell lines were positive for XMRV. The primers used to detect PreXMRV-1 could also detect XMRV; sequencing analysis of the PCR products from all of the early xenografts detected only PreXMRV-1, but both XMRV and PreXMRV-1 were detected from the late xenografts 2524 and 2274 (Fig. 2B). Amplification with PreXMRV-2-specific primers revealed the presence of this provirus in early xenografts 736, 777, 8R and 8L, and late xenografts 2272 and 2274 (Fig. 2, C and E, and fig. S3C). The variable detection level of PreXMRV-2 in the late xenografts could be due to individual differences in the outbred mice, and by extension, in the mouse DNA in these samples.

Comparison of the PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 sequences revealed that the regions of near identity to XMRV are reciprocal and largely non-overlapping. We therefore hypothesized that recombination between these two retroviruses resulted in the formation of XMRV. As shown in Fig. 3A, reverse transcriptase template switching events during minus-strand DNA synthesis can form a recombinant that is essentially identical to the sequences of all of the XMRVs reported to date, and differing from the consensus XMRV by only 4 nucleotides. The six switching events occurred in 20–73 nucleotide stretches that are identical between PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 (Fig. 3A, red numbers, fig. S7A). Of the four nucleotide differences between the predicted recombinant and consensus XMRV, only the A→G change at position 790 results in a conservative valine-to-isoleucine amino acid substitution; the other 3 substitutions are silent. The 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines as well as VP42 have an A at position 790, whereas all other

XMRV isolates have a G at position 790. The insertion of an A at position 8092 occurred within a run of 6 adenines; frameshift mutations commonly occur in such homopolymers during retroviral replication (22). A comparison of the predicted recombinant to the available XMRV sequences is shown in fig. S7B. The available XMRV sequences all have the same six recombination junctions predicted in the hypothetical recombinant, and differ from the consensus XMRV by 3–14 nucleotides. These differences may be the result of errors during PCR or sequencing, or mutations during the passage of XMRV in another cell line. Phylogenetic analysis supports the predicted recombinant virus as the precursor of the virus in the CWR22 xenografts, the 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines, and all XMRVs isolated and sequenced from patients (Fig. 3B) (23).

Our findings indicate that virus derived from two previously undescribed murine endogenous retroviruses, PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2, most likely underwent retroviral recombination to generate XMRV during *in vivo* passaging of the CWR22 xenograft in nude mice. The fact that both parental endogenous proviruses were present in some of the nude mouse strains used for *in vivo* passaging of the xenografts indicates that there were opportunities for this recombinant to form and spread in the tumor cells that were the progenitors of the 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines. Only 6 template switching events, which is close to the average of 4 template switches per replication cycle (24), are needed to generate a recombinant that is both essentially identical and ancestral to all XMRV sequences characterized to date from cell lines and patients (Fig. 3B). We have estimated the probability that the exact set of template switching events occurred independently is 1.3×10^{-12} (fig. S8) (23), making it very likely that contamination of human samples with XMRV originating from the relapsed CWR22 xenografts or either of the two cell lines, perhaps through other intermediate cell lines, contributed to its reported association with PC and CFS. Our results and conclusions relate to XMRV detection by isolation of virus of this specific sequence (1–3), and do not directly address detection of antibodies or viral antigens (25, 26), or PCR detection of related but distinct MLV sequences (27). We note, however, that most “XMRV-specific” PCR assays may detect PreXMRV-1 or -2 proviruses in contaminating mouse DNA, and that specific detection of XMRV requires the use of primers that flank a crossover site.

The alternative possibility is that recombination between PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 occurred during mouse evolution, giving rise to an endogenous XMRV provirus that is present in mice and can occasionally infect humans. We think this possibility is remote because analysis of the early xenografts, which contained contaminating nude mouse DNAs, failed to detect XMRV. Furthermore, we were unable

to detect XMRV in a screen of 89 inbred and wild-derived mouse strains including 17 individual nude mice (fig. S4) (23).

We conclude that XMRV was generated as a result of a unique recombination event between two endogenous MLVs that took place around 1993–1996 in a nude mouse carrying the CWR22 PC xenograft. Since the probability that the same recombination event could occur independently by random chance is essentially negligible, any XMRV isolates with the same or nearly the same sequences identified elsewhere originated from this event (23).

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Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/science.1205292/DC1

Materials and Methods

Figs. S1 to S8

Table S1

References

1 February 2011; accepted 5 May 2011

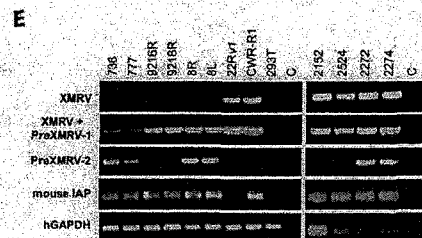
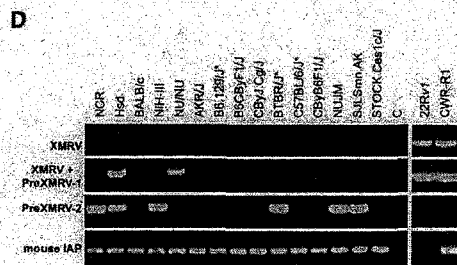
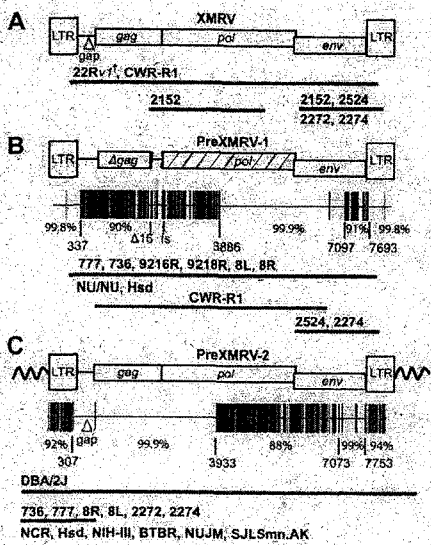
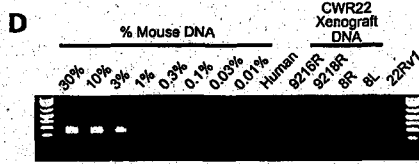
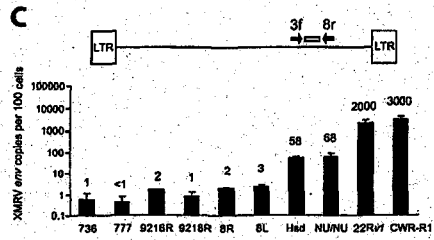
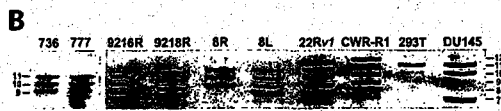
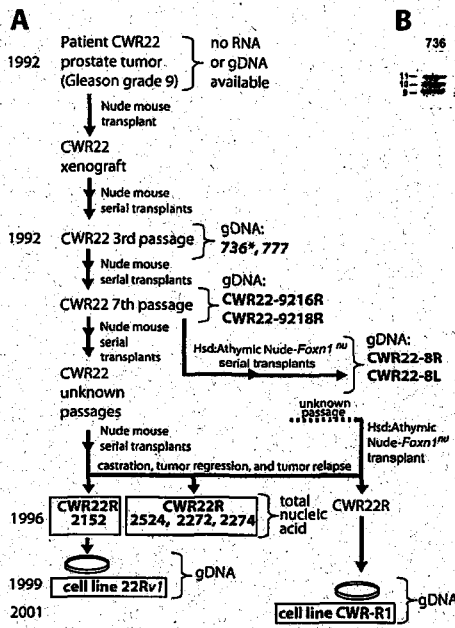
Published online 2 June 2011; 10.1126/science.1205292

Fig. 1. Characterization of CWR22 xenografts and XMRV-related sequences. (A) Genesis of 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines. Bold letters indicate samples from which genomic DNA (gDNA) or total nucleic acid was available for analysis. XMRV-positive samples are boxed. *, unknown early passage. (B) Short tandem repeat (STR) analysis. Representative D7S280 allele pattern of xenografts, 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 cell lines, along with analysis of six additional loci (fig. S1). An allelic ladder is shown on left and right of gel. (C) Quantitative real-time PCR to detect XMRV *env* sequences. Calculated copies/100 cells are indicated above each bar. (D) IAP assay to quantitate the amount of mouse DNA present in the xenograft gDNAs.

Fig. 2. PCR and sequencing analysis of XMRV and XMRV-related sequences from xenografts, cell lines, and nude mouse strains. Using specific primer sets (fig. S2), cloned PCR products from the xenografts, 22Rv1, CWR-R1, or mouse strains were sequenced. Approximate length and location of sequences determined from samples that were positive for XMRV (A), PreXMRV-1 (B) and PreXMRV-2 (C) are shown as red bars beneath each provirus. Details of primers

and numbers of cloned products sequenced are shown in figs. S2 and S3. Hypermut plots (see fig. S3 for details), which indicate nucleotide mismatches relative to XMRV as color-coded vertical lines, are shown for PreXMRV-1 (B) and PreXMRV-2 (C), together with the percent identity to consensus XMRV for different regions of each provirus (nucleotide numbers refer to the 22Rv1 XMRV sequence [FN692043]). PreXMRV-1 has a 16-nt deletion (Δ 16) in *gag* and a frameshift (fs) in *pol* making its replication defective while PreXMRV-2 *gag*, *pol*, and *env* reading frames are open. Mouse strains (D) and xenograft and PC cell lines (E) were analyzed by PCR for the presence of XMRV. PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2. Mouse IAP and human GAPDH serve as positive controls for the presence of mouse and human DNA, respectively. For both (D) and (E) the primer set used to detect PreXMRV-1 can also detect XMRV. For ease of comparison, the 22Rv1 and CWR-R1 gel lanes from (E), which were run in parallel, are duplicated in (D). DNAs in (D) and (E) were all amplified with the same PCR primer master mix. †We previously determined the full-length sequence of XMRV from 22Rv1 cells (8). Δ gap refers to the 24-bp deletion in the *gag* leader characteristic of XMRV. All mouse strains shown in (D) are nudes except for those indicated with *.

Fig. 3. Predicted recombinant between PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 is nearly identical to XMRV. (A) Alignment of Hypermut plots of PreXMRV-1 and PreXMRV-2 reveals the reciprocal and largely nonoverlapping regions of near identity to XMRV. The direction of minus-strand DNA synthesis catalyzed by reverse transcriptase, and predicted template switching events (numbered 1–6) are shown. The lengths of nucleotide identity within the presumed template switching regions are indicated in red numbers. The predicted recombinant and the 4 nucleotide differences with consensus XMRV are shown. The nucleotide numbers refer to numbers of the 22Rv1 XMRV (Acc. No. FN692043). Note that nucleotide 8092 is within the U3 region, and is present in both LTRs (boxes). A5 and A6 refer to homopolymeric runs of 5 and 6 adenines, respectively. The A>G change at 790 results in an isoleucine (I) to valine (V) substitution. (B) Phylogenetic tree of all full-length XMRV sequences to date and the predicted recombinant implicates the predicted recombinant as the ancestor of all sequenced XMRV isolates. The tree shown is an enlargement of the XMRV-specific portion of the complete endogenous MLV tree (fig. S5A) (23).



Editorial Expression of Concern

Bruce Alberts

Editor-in-Chief

In the issue of 23 October 2009, *Science* published the Report "Detection of an infectious retrovirus, XMRV, in blood cell of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome," a study by Lombardi *et al.* purporting to show that a retrovirus called XMRV (xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus) was present in the blood of 67% of patients with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) compared with 3.7% of healthy controls (1). Since then, at least 10 studies conducted by other investigators and published elsewhere have reported a failure to detect XMRV in independent populations of CFS patients. In this week's edition of *Science Express*, we are publishing two Reports that strongly support the growing view that the association between XMRV and CFS described by Lombardi *et al.* likely reflects contamination of laboratories and research reagents with the virus. In the first Report, "Recombinant origin of the retrovirus XMRV" (2), T. Paprotka *et al.* trace the ancestry of XMRV and provide evidence that the virus originated when two mouse leukemia viruses underwent recombination during experimental passage of a human prostate tumor xenograft in mice in the 1990s. A combination of sequencing, phylogenetic, and probability analyses lead Paprotka *et al.* to conclude that laboratory contamination with XMRV produced by a cell line (22Rv1) derived from these early xenograft experiments is the most likely explanation for detection of the virus in patient samples. In the second Report, "No evidence of murine-like gammaretroviruses in CFS patients previously identified as XMRV-infected" (3), K. Knox *et al.* examined blood samples from 61 CFS patients from the same medical practice that had provided patient samples to Lombardi *et al.*, including 43 patients who had been diagnosed previously as XMRV-positive. Comprehensive assays by Knox *et al.* for viral nucleic acids, infectious virus, and virus-specific antibodies revealed no evidence of XMRV in any of the samples.

The study by Lombardi *et al.* (1) attracted considerable attention, and its publication in *Science* has had a far-reaching impact on the community of CFS patients and beyond. Because the validity of the study by Lombardi *et al.* is now seriously in question, we are publishing this Expression of Concern and attaching it to *Science*'s 23 October 2009 publication by Lombardi *et al.*

The U.S. National Institutes of Health is sponsoring additional carefully designed studies to ascertain whether the association between XMRV and CFS can be confirmed. *Science* eagerly awaits the outcome of these further studies and will take appropriate action when their results are known.

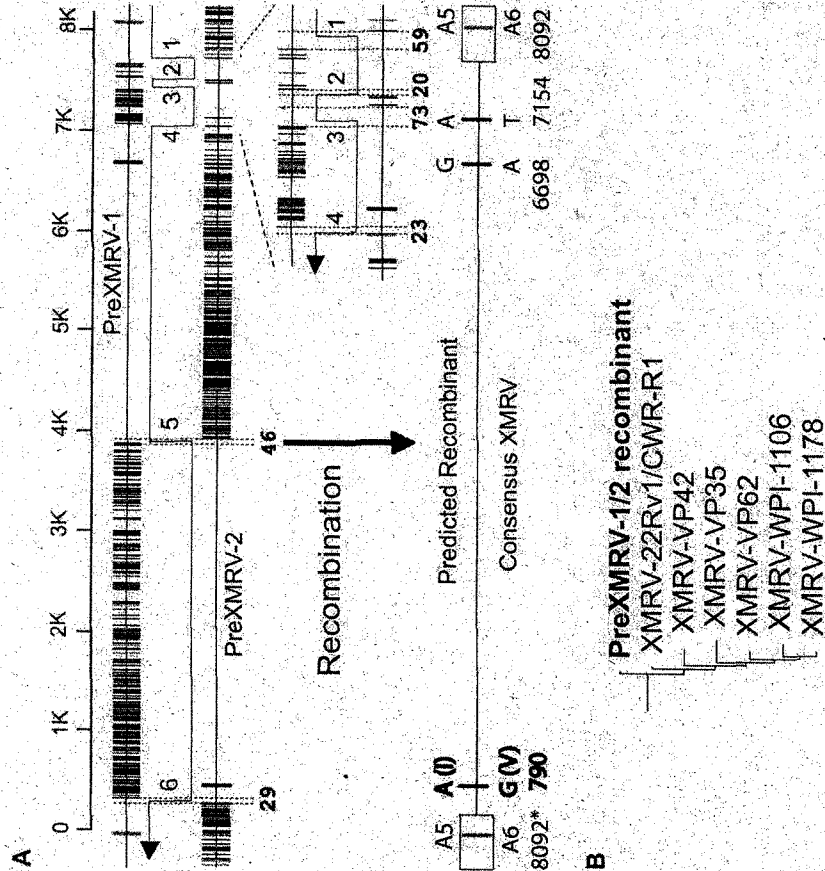
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17 May 2011; accepted 26 May 2011

Published online 2 June 2011; 10.1126/science.1208542

Include this information when citing this paper.



1. 血液センターの被災状況
2. 血液製剤の安定供給と献血者の安定的確保
3. 福島第一原子力発電所事故にかかる対応
4. 計画停電の影響
5. 身元不明者の特定にかかる協力

2

資料5

東日本大震災への対応

平成23年6月27日



日本赤十字社
Japanese Red Cross Society

1

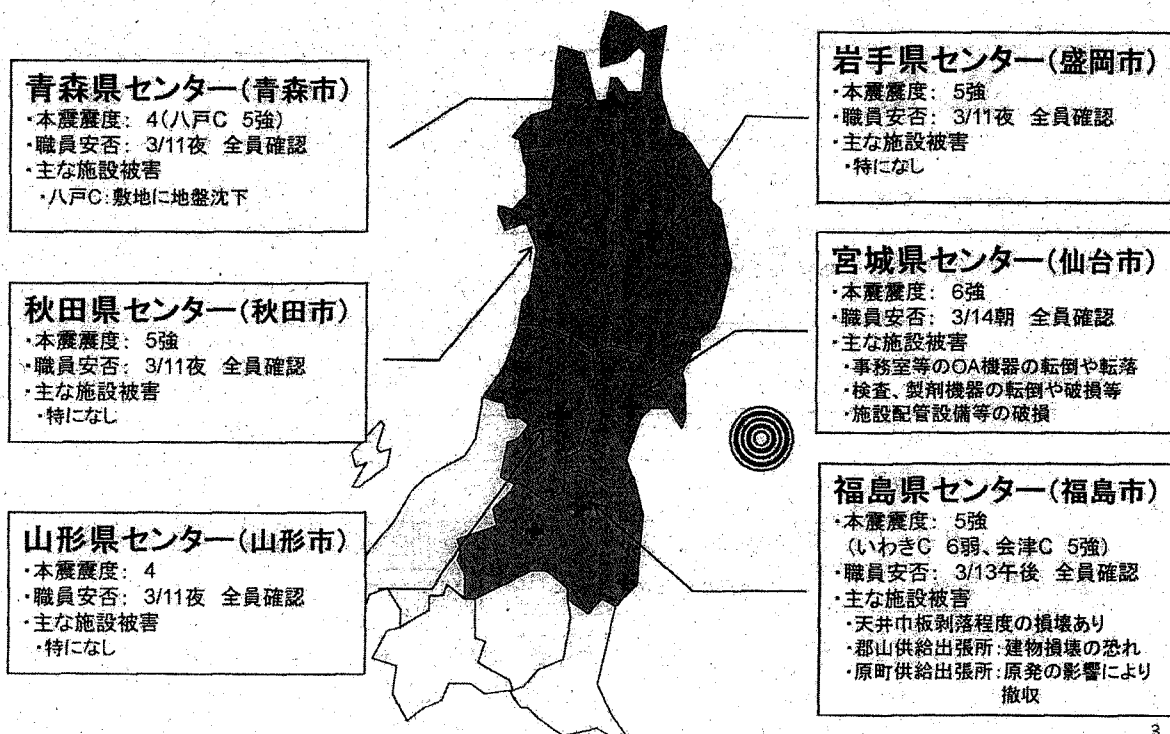
ライフラインの復旧と各業務の再開日

	ライフラインの復旧			献血受入再開日		検査・製剤再開日	
	電気	ガス	水道	固定施設	移動採血	検査	製剤
青森C	3/12	—	—	3/13	3/14	宮城C再開まで 東京Cで実施	3/13
八戸C	3/12	—	—	3/14			
岩手C	3/12	—	—	4/20	4/18	4/18	4/18
宮城C	3/12	3/27	3/22	4/18	5/1 (受入可能な会場 から再開)	4/13	4/13
秋田C	3/12	—	—	3/13	3/14	宮城C再開まで 東京Cで実施	3/13
山形C	3/12	—	—	3/13	3/14	宮城C再開まで 埼玉Cで実施	宮城C再開まで 新潟Cで実施
福島C	—	—	3/18	4/18	5/1 (受入可能な会場 から再開)	4/18	4/18
会津C	—	—	—	4/25			
いわきC	—	3/14	4/8	4/26			

検査: 東北各県の検査業務は宮城Cに集約
製剤: 岩手C、山形Cの製剤業務は宮城Cに集約

4

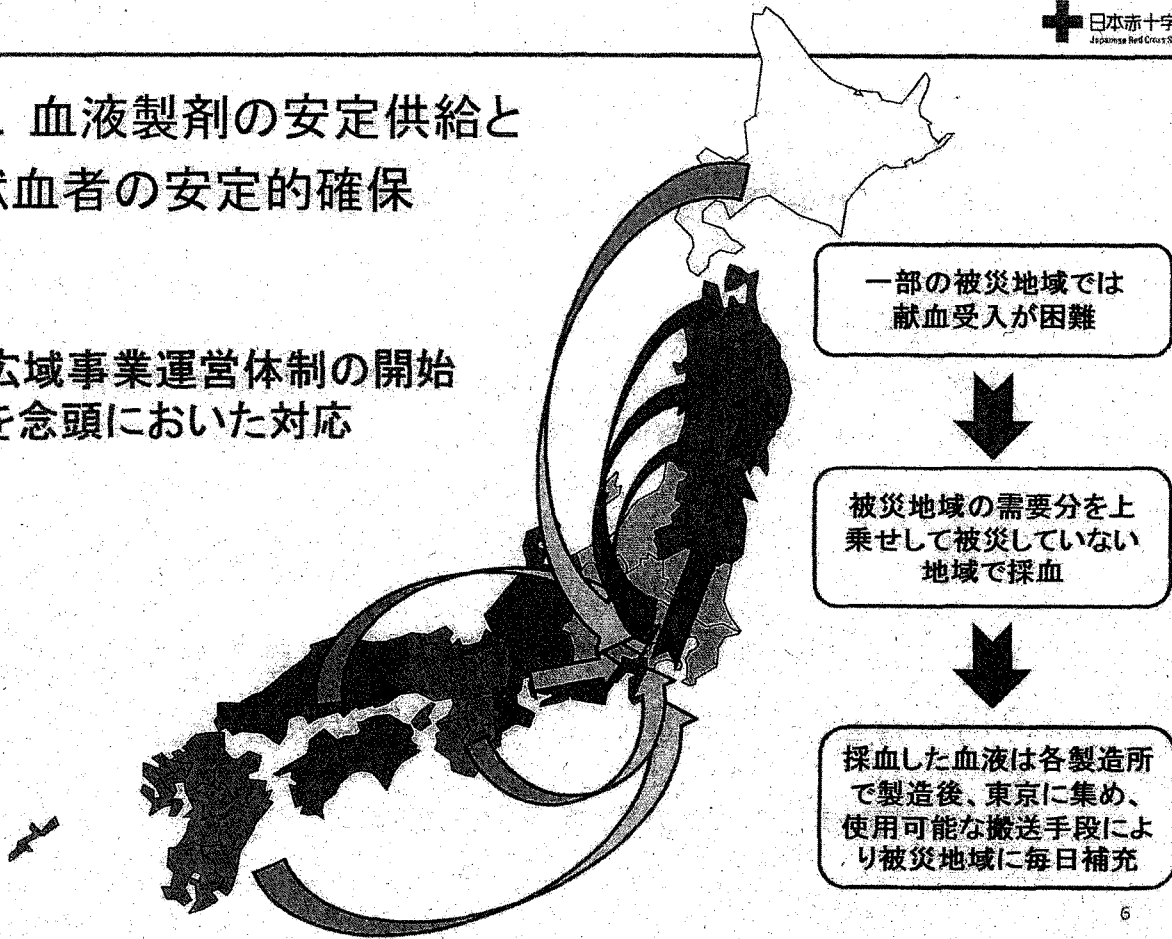
1. 血液センターの被災状況



3

2. 血液製剤の安定供給と 献血者の安定的確保

広域事業運営体制の開始
を念頭においた対応



6

被災地域における安定供給への影響

- 医療機関と連絡がとれない(有線電話・携帯電話ともに不通)
 - 医療機関に直接訪問し血液製剤を供給(巡回供給)
- 燃料の不足(ガソリン、軽油)
 - 緊急車輛の燃料補給にも苦慮
 - 公共交通機関の不通、一般車輛の燃料補給が困難なことにより職員の通勤に支障(基幹センターである宮城県センター供給業務を中心として、全国の血液センターから緊急車輛8台、延べ100人の支援)
- 停電により自家発電装置のない供給施設等の血液製剤等は母体の血液センターへ搬送
- 被災地域での献血受入は困難

5

血液製剤(赤血球製剤)の在庫保有率の推移

適正在庫数(過去一年間の平日の平均1日需要量の3日分を目安)を100%としている

ブロック	3月11日	3月21日	3月31日	4月11日	献血者数対前年同月比※	
					400mL献血	血小板献血
北海道	154%	263%	194%	203%	107.0%	119.0%
宮城	175%	172%	157%	177%	61.7%	39.0%
東京	200%	245%	209%	180%	104.8%	98.5%
愛知	190%	283%	282%	229%	113.4%	113.4%
大阪	180%	262%	246%	192%	114.5%	108.4%
岡山	170%	236%	267%	195%	115.3%	108.3%
福岡	167%	371%	397%	200%	131.4%	119.9%
合計	183%	263%	249%	195%	109.5%	102.1%

※【参考】平成23年3月分における400mL献血者数及び血小板献血者数の対前年同月比(献血者速報値)

8

震災後のブロック間 受払状況

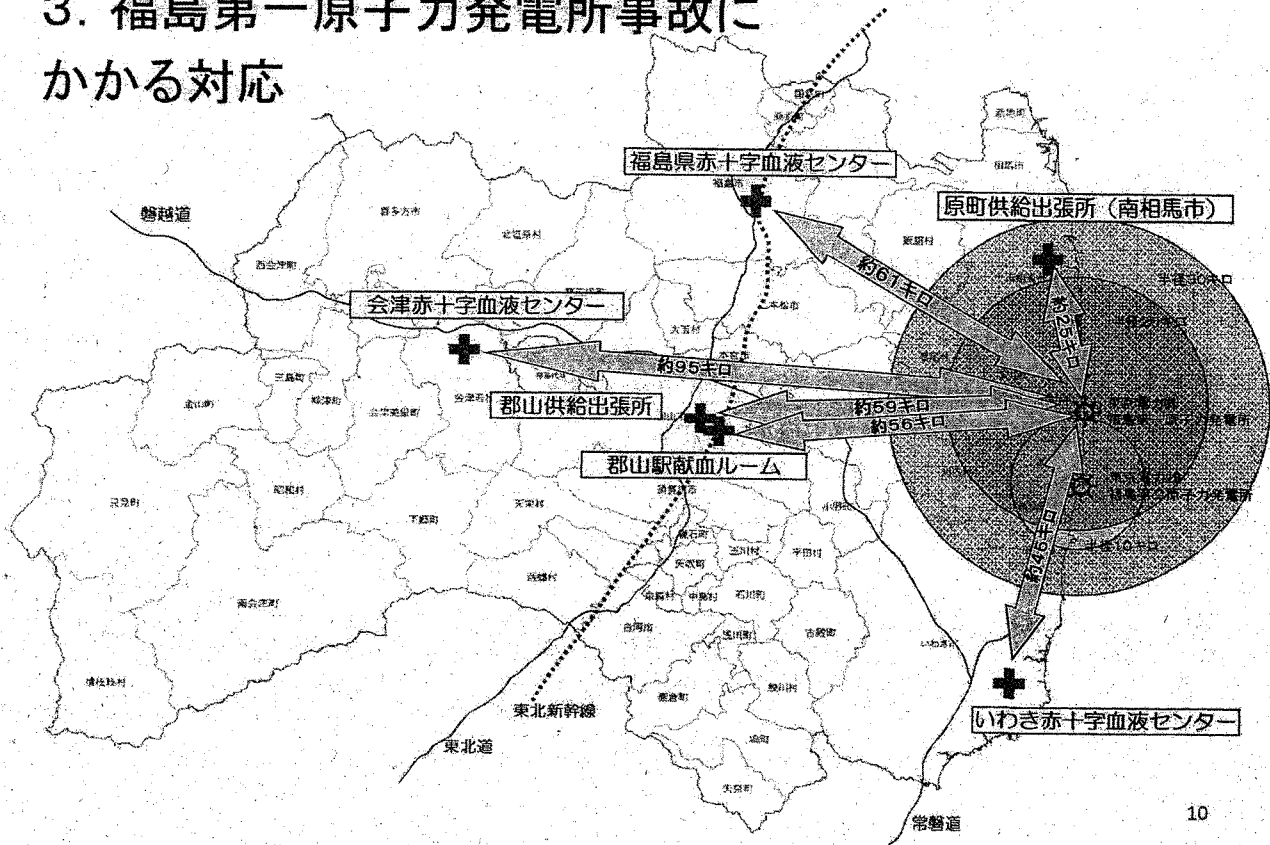
(単位:換算)

ブロック	赤血球製剤				血小板製剤			
	受入		払出		受入		払出	
	3/12~3/31	4/1~4/30	3/12~3/31	4/1~4/30	3/12~3/31	4/1~4/30	3/12~3/31	4/1~4/30
北海道	0	20	491	2,375	20	0	2,500	4,015
宮城	12,285	26,651	0	0	31,500	38,325	0	0
東京	156	17,601	9,720	21,820	27,735	43,280	29,390	38,700
愛知	2	1	152	5,272	30	160	6,100	11,295
大阪	3	422	1,049	4,365	60	60	10,430	13,265
岡山	38	210	0	3,027	85	175	5,530	8,810
福岡	0	2	1,072	8,048	330	225	5,810	6,140
合計	12,484	44,907	12,484	44,907	59,760	82,225	59,760	82,225

全国的な支援体制により安定供給を確保

7

3. 福島第一原子力発電所事故にか かる対応



10

— 安定供給への対応 — — 一時期に偏ることのない継続的な献血へのお願い

〔日赤ホームページに3月13日に掲載(一部を抜粋)〕

皆様からのご協力によりまして、現時点におきましては、医療機関からの需要に安定的に血液をお届けできております。

しかしながら、血液製剤は有効期限があることから、一時期に献血者が集中すると、期限切れが発生し、医療機関への安定供給に支障をきたす恐れがあります。

皆様からの善意の献血を無駄にすることなく最大限に被災地の医療に活用するため、一時期に偏ることのない継続的な献血が必要でありますので、何卒ご理解のうえ、今後とも献血へのご支援を賜りますようよろしくお願いいたします。

4. 計画停電の影響

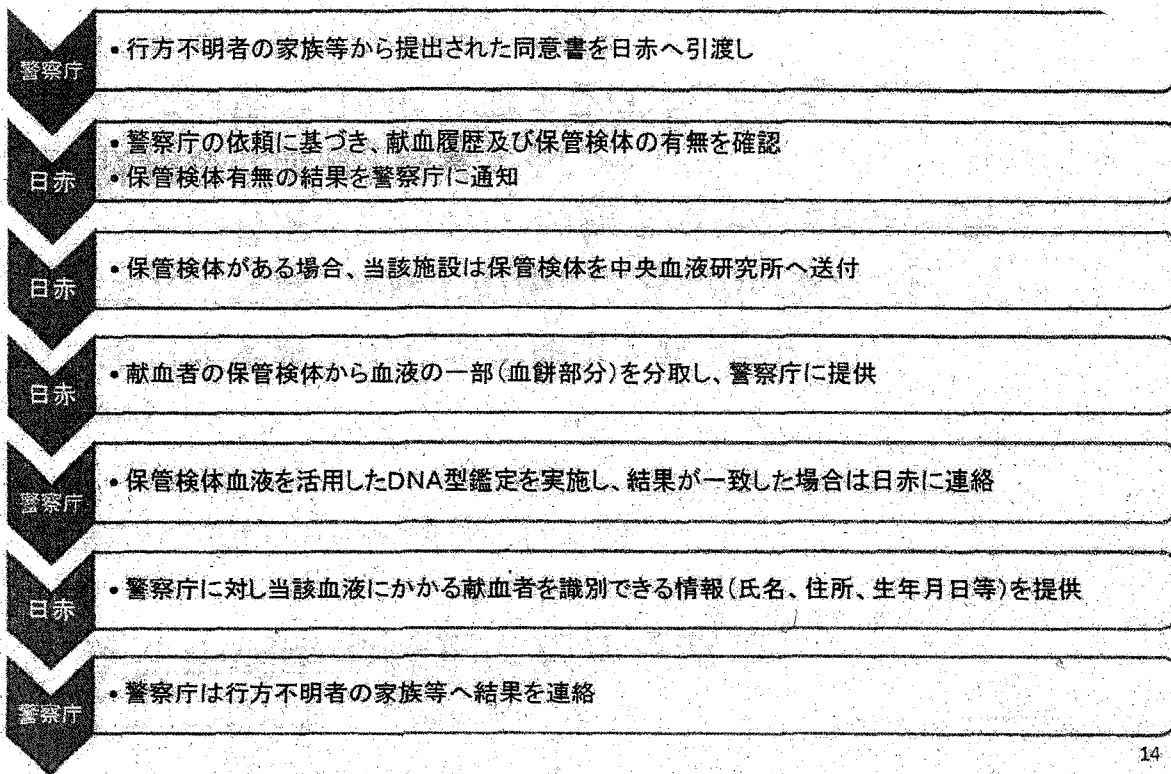
- 対象地域の献血ルームでは受付時間の変更(時間短縮)
- 検査・製剤業務の作業時間の延長(夜間対応等)

12

- 南相馬市・原町供給出張所(第一原発から約25km)の業務休止
→ 半径20km~30km圏内の地域住民に対する国からの自主避難指示を受け3月13日に撤収し、在庫を福島センターに移管し、福島センターからの供給に切替える
- いわきセンター(第一原発から約45km)の貯留保管新鮮凍結血漿の移管
→ 非難区域が拡大する事態を想定し、移送に時間がかかる貯留保管新鮮凍結血漿(約6,500本)を3月18日に九州血液センターへ移管
現在も業務は継続中
- 供給時における放射能対策
→ 線量計を配備し、30km圏内を走行する場合は携帯

11

全体的な流れ



5. 身元不明者の特定にかかる協力

非常時における例外措置として協力

【条件】

- ① 東日本大震災の行方不明者であること
- ② 本人の家族、親族の要請によるものであること
- ③ 本人の特定のためのDNA鑑定のためののみ使用すること
- ④ 使用後は血液を廃棄すること
- ⑤ 検体保管の目的に支障を及ぼすことがないこと
(提供する血液は微量であること)

I. 採血基準の改正内容

「安全な血液製剤の安定供給の確保等に関する法律施行規則の一部を改正する省令の施行について」(平成 23 年 3 月 11 日付け薬食発 0311 第 1 号厚生労働省医薬食品局長通知)により、採血基準が以下のとおり改正された(施行時期 平成 23 年 4 月 1 日)。

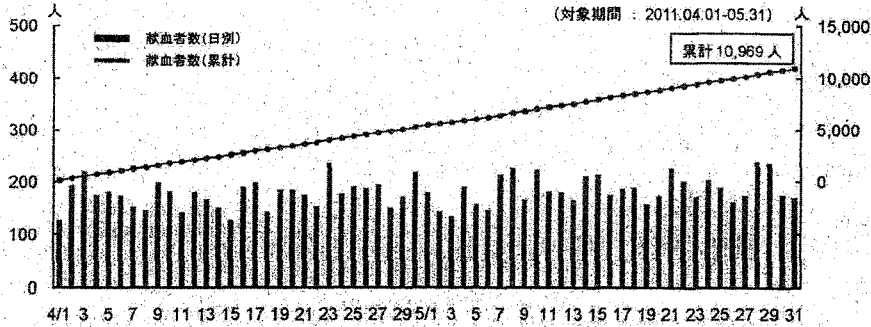
1. 健康診断の方法の見直し
 - ・健康診断の方法から血液比重検査を削る。
2. 全血採血基準の見直し
 - (1) 共通
 - ・血液比重に係る部分を削る。
 - (2) 200mL 全血採血
 - ・男性に限り、献血可能な者の血色素量の下限値を「12g/dl」から「12.5g/dl」に引き上げる。
 - (3) 400mL 全血採血
 - ・男性に限り、献血可能な者の年齢の下限を「18 歳」から「17 歳」に引き下げる。
 - ・男性に限り、献血可能な者の血色素量の下限値を「12.5g/dl」から「13g/dl」に引き上げる。
3. 血小板成分採血基準の見直し
 - ・男性に限り、献血可能な者の年齢の上限を「54 歳」から「69 歳」に引き上げる(65 歳から 89 歳までの者については、60 歳から 64 歳までの間に献血の経験がある者に限る。)

改正採血基準の実施状況(報告)

2. 血小板成分献血者数(55-69歳の男性)の推移

対象となる献血者数は10,969人であった。血小板成分献血者(男性)の合計は107,927人であり、55-69歳男性の血小板成分献血者数の構成比は10.2%であった(グラフ2)。今後、同様の協力状況が継続された場合、年間で約66,000人になるものと推定される。

(グラフ2)



	18-54歳	構成比	55-69歳	構成比	計	構成比
平成22年度	103,290	100.0%	—	—	103,290	100.0%
平成23年度	96,958	89.8%	10,969	10.2%	107,927	100.0%

*4-5月(2ヵ月間)の比較

II. 採血基準の改正に伴う献血状況

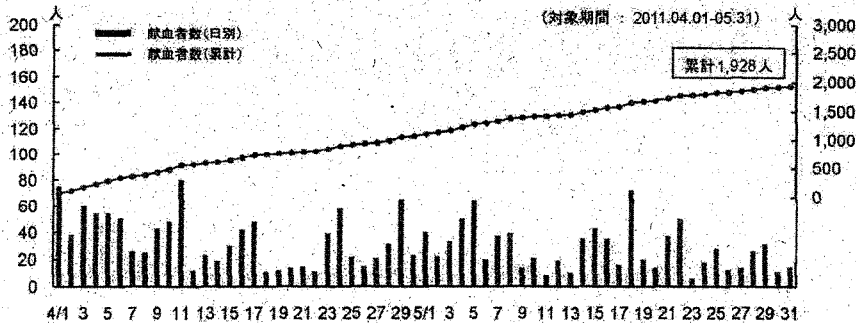
日本赤十字社では、平成23年4月1日から、改正された採血基準による献血受入を開始した。それに伴う献血の状況及び開始前後の広報展開について、以下のとおり概要を報告する。

なお献血状況の対象期間は、平成23年4月1日から平成23年5月31日までの2ヵ月間とした。

1. 400mL献血者数(17歳男性)の推移

対象となる献血者数は1,928人であった。また、17歳男性全血献血者の合計は2,439人であり、400mL献血者数の構成比は79.0%であった(グラフ1)。今後、同様の協力状況が継続された場合、年間で約12,000人になるものと推定される。

(グラフ1)



	200mL献血	構成比	400mL献血	構成比	計	構成比
平成22年度	1,653	100.0%	—	—	1,653	100.0%
平成23年度	511	21.0%	1,928	79.0%	2,439	100.0%

*4-5月(2ヵ月間)の比較

[参考]

I テレビCM放映(別添1参照)

1. 番組提供(全国放送)

放送局名	番組名	放送日	放送曜日	放送時間
日本テレビ	Going! Sports&News	平成23年3月5日, 13日, 19日, 27日	土, 日	23時55分-24時35分
TBS	激闘大家族 SP 東京下町5つ子ちゃん成長期 2011	平成23年3月8日	火	19時56分-21時48分
	世界進出バラエティー メイドイン JAPAN	平成23年3月22日	火	19時00分-20時54分
	紳助社長のプロデュース大作戦 SP	平成23年3月29日	火	19時00分-20時54分
フジテレビ	LIVE2010 すばると! (土曜日)	平成23年3月5日, 19日	土	24時15分-25時05分

*上記番組中に30秒のCMを1回又は2回放映したこと。

2. スポット放映

地区	放送局名				
北海道	札幌テレビ	北海道放送	北海道文化放送	北海道テレビ	-
東北	青森放送	青森テレビ	青森朝日放送	テレビ岩手	IBC岩手放送
	岩手めんこいテレビ	岩手朝日テレビ	岩手朝日テレビ	宮城テレビ	東北放送
	仙台放送	東日本放送	秋田放送	秋田テレビ	秋田朝日放送
	山形放送	テレビユー山形	さくらんぼテレビ	山形テレビ	福島中央テレビ
	テレビユー福島	福島テレビ	福島放送	-	-

5

3. 血色素量の下限値の引き上げにより献血できなかった方(男性)の推移

200mL献血希望者122人については、血色素量の下限値の引き上げ(12.0g/dl → 12.5g/dl)により採血基準を満たしていないことから、献血ができなかった。

また、400mL献血希望者6,861人については、血色素量の下限値の引き上げ(12.5g/dl → 13.0g/dl)により、6,209人(献血希望者の90.5%)が献血できなかった状況である一方で、200mL献血、血小板成分献血及び血漿成分献血での協力者は652人であった(献血希望者の9.5%)。

(単位:人)

血色素量 12.0-12.4	献血希望者	献血できなかった方	献血協力者
200mL献血	122	122	-

*血色素量の下限値の引き上げにより200mL全血採血基準を満たさない群

(単位:人)

血色素量 12.5-12.9	献血希望者	献血できなかった方	400mL献血以外での献血協力者			
			200mL献血	血小板成分献血	血漿成分献血	計
400mL献血	6,861	6,209	582	31	39	652

*血色素量の下限値の引き上げにより400mL全血採血基準を満たさない群

4. 広報展開

また、広報展開として、①テレビCMの放映、②新聞43紙(全国紙3紙、各地域で購読率の高い地方紙36紙、スポーツ紙全国版4紙計3,700万部)への掲載、③ラジオ番組での周知、④ポスターの作製(B2判5,000部、B3判5,000部)、掲出、及び⑤日本赤十字社HPへの関連情報の掲載並びに各献血会場でのデジタルサイネージ(映像配信機器)を用いた周知等を実施した(参考)。

II 新聞広告掲載(別添 2 参照)

1. 掲載紙

全国紙(読売新聞・朝日新聞・日本経済新聞)3紙・地方主要紙 36紙・全国版スポーツ新聞(スポーツ報知、日刊スポーツ、スポニチ、サンケイスポーツ)4紙の合計 43紙 合計 約 3,700万部

2. 掲載規格

全 5 段モノクロ

3. 掲載日

平成 23 年 3 月 1 日から 31 日までの間 各紙 1 回

III ラジオ番組での告知

JFN38 局ネットにより毎週月曜日から金曜日の午前 6 時 30 分から 10 分間放送している「LOVE in Action」において、逐次、採血基準の一部改正に係る情報を提供したこと。

IV ポスター製作及び配布等

採血基準の一部改正に係るポスター(別添 3 参照)を 1 万部(B2 判 5,000 枚、B3 判 5,000 枚)、A4 判クリアファイル(別添 4 参照)を 40 万部(A4 判)、各々製作して各血液センターに配布するとともに、各献血ルームに整備してあるデジタルサイネージ(映像配信機器)においてもポスター情報を掲出したこと。

また、献血推進団体等に配布することを目的に、当該採血基準の一部改正に係るリーフレット(別添 5 参照)を制作し、より詳細な情報の周知を図ったこと。さらに、献血 Walker(一般国民向け献血推進小冊子)に関連記事を掲載したこと(別添 6 参照)。

地区	放送局名				
関東甲信越	日本テレビ	フジテレビジョン	テレビ新潟	新潟放送	新潟総合テレビ
	新潟テレビ 21	山梨放送	テレビ山梨	—	—
東海北陸	北日本放送	チューリップテレビ	富山テレビ	テレビ金沢	北陸放送
	石川テレビ	北陸朝日放送	福井放送	福井テレビ	テレビ信州
	信越放送	長野放送	長野朝日放送	静岡第一テレビ	静岡放送
	テレビ静岡	静岡朝日テレビ	中京テレビ	中部日本放送	東海テレビ
	メ〜テレ	—	—	—	—
近畿	讀賣テレビ	関西テレビ	—	—	—
中四国	日本海テレビ	山陰放送	山陰中央テレビ	西日本放送	山陽放送
	岡山放送	瀬戸内海放送	広島テレビ	中国放送	テレビ新広島
	広島ホームテレビ	山口放送	テレビ山口	山口朝日放送	四国放送
	南海放送	あいテレビ	テレビ愛媛	愛媛朝日テレビ	高知放送
	テレビ高知	高知さんさんテレビ	—	—	—
九州沖縄	福岡放送	RKB 毎日放送	テレビ西日本	九州朝日放送	サガテレビ
	長崎国際テレビ	長崎放送	テレビ長崎	長崎文化放送	熊本県民テレビ
	熊本放送	テレビ熊本	熊本朝日放送	テレビ大分	大分放送
	大分朝日放送	宮崎放送	テレビ宮崎	鹿児島読売テレビ	南日本放送
	鹿児島テレビ	鹿児島放送	琉球放送	沖縄テレビ	琉球朝日放送

*各放送局の空き時間帯に放映を依頼したこと(平成 23 年 3 月 18 日から 31 日までの間)。

別添3(ポスター)

献血にご協力いただける皆様へ
平成23年4月1日から

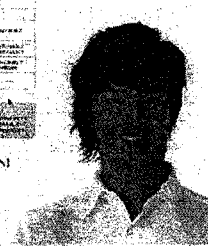
年齢条件などの採血基準が一部改正になります。

(改正内容)

1. 献血にご協力いただける方の年齢の拡大
(1) 男性に限り、40歳未満の献血者が男性の方の年齢の下限を「18歳」に引き上げます。
(2) 男性に限り、18歳未満の献血者が男性の方の年齢の上限を「17歳」に引き上げます。
*献血者(17歳以下)は、18歳未満の未成年者として扱われます。
2. 貧血疾患(ヘモグロビン濃度)の下限値の引き上げ
(1) 男性に限り、200mg/L未満の献血者が男性の方の貧血疾患の下限値を「120mg/L」から「125mg/L」に引き上げます。
(2) 男性に限り、400mg/L未満の献血者が男性の方の貧血疾患の下限値を「125mg/L」から「130mg/L」に引き上げます。
*献血者(17歳以下)は、18歳未満の未成年者として扱われます。

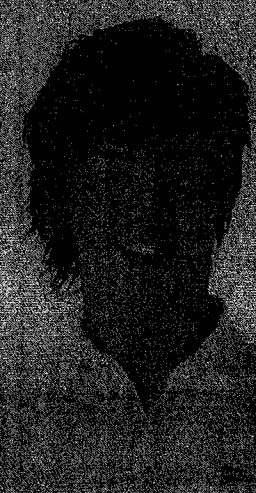
項目	改正前	改正後
男性の年齢	18歳以上40歳未満	18歳以上40歳未満 (17歳未満の未成年者として扱われます)
女性の年齢	18歳以上55歳未満	18歳以上55歳未満
貧血疾患(ヘモグロビン濃度)	男性: 120mg/L以上 女性: 110mg/L以上	男性: 125mg/L以上 女性: 110mg/L以上

詳しくは日本赤十字社のホームページへ
日本赤十字社 献血 www.jrc.or.jp



日本赤十字社
献血事業本部

別添4(クリアファイル)




LOVE in Action

9

別添1(テレビCM)

TVCF「石川記念会館」献血基準変更告知」篇(15秒)




クリアファイル

献血基準の変更についてお知らせします。
詳しくはホームページへ

別添2(新聞広告)

献血基準の変更についてお知らせします。
年齢条件などの採血基準が一部改正になります。



詳しくはホームページへ

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1. 男性400mL献血年齢引き下げ(18歳→17歳)による影響

平成28年4月～5月

表1. 献血者数

献血者合計		男性		女性		計
年齢	人数	人数	割合	人数	割合	人数
16~18歳	6,927	4,223	60.8%	2,704	39.2%	6,927
19~20歳	431,191	258,299	59.9%	172,892	39.9%	431,191
21~29歳	1,523	923	60.6%	600	39.4%	1,523
30~39歳	511	328	64.2%	183	35.8%	511
40~49歳	519	311	59.9%	208	40.1%	519
50~59歳	2,653	1,397	52.7%	1,256	47.3%	2,653
60歳以上	13,397	6,674	49.8%	6,723	50.2%	13,397
合計	1,453,008	868,824	59.8%	584,184	40.2%	1,453,008

表2. VVR発生数

献血者合計		男性		女性		計
年齢	人数	人数	割合	人数	割合	人数
16~18歳	94	54	57.4%	40	42.6%	94
19~20歳	3,149	1,743	55.4%	1,406	44.6%	3,149
21~29歳	10	6	60.0%	4	40.0%	10
30~39歳	2	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	2
40~49歳	16	9	56.2%	7	43.8%	16
50~59歳	313	181	57.8%	132	42.2%	313
60歳以上	281	141	50.2%	140	49.8%	281
合計	3,243	1,743	53.8%	1,500	46.2%	3,243

表3. VVR発生率

献血者合計		男性		女性		計
年齢	割合	割合	割合	割合	割合	割合
16~18歳	1.06%	0.76%	0.66%	1.33%	1.13%	0.87%
19~20歳	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%	0.66%
21~29歳	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%
30~39歳	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%	0.39%
40~49歳	2.73%	2.73%	2.73%	2.73%	2.73%	2.73%
50~59歳	2.67%	2.67%	2.67%	2.67%	2.67%	2.67%
60歳以上	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%	1.10%
合計	0.87%	0.87%	0.87%	0.87%	0.87%	0.87%

20110627
日本赤十字社血液事業本部

別添5(リーフレット)

献血者ご自身の年齢が17歳未満の場合、年齢条件などの献血基準が一部改正になります。

Q&A

Q1. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる時間帯はありますか？
A1. 献血できる時間帯は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ時間帯で献血できます。

Q2. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる場所はありますか？
A2. 献血できる場所は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ場所で献血できます。

Q3. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる回数や頻度はありますか？
A3. 献血できる回数や頻度は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ回数や頻度で献血できます。

別添6(献血Walker)

石川遼 × ゆず

年齢条件などの献血基準が一部改正になります。

Q&A

Q1. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる時間帯はありますか？
A1. 献血できる時間帯は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ時間帯で献血できます。

Q2. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる場所はありますか？
A2. 献血できる場所は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ場所で献血できます。

Q3. 年齢条件が17歳未満の場合、献血できる回数や頻度はありますか？
A3. 献血できる回数や頻度は、17歳未満の献血者には、17歳以上の献血者と同じ回数や頻度で献血できます。

Press Release

平成23年6月24日
医薬食品局血液対策課
(担当・内線) 課長 三宅 (2900)
企画官 安田 (2901)
(代表電話) 03(5253)1111
(直通電話) 03(3595)2395

報道関係者 各位

フィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関の追加調査について

平成16年12月9日に公表したフィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関を対象として、平成19年11月7日付で実施した追加調査の結果について、平成23年6月10日までに回収した医療機関からの回答を取りまとめた状況をお知らせいたします。

1 回答状況

(1)追加調査実施期間 平成19年11月7日～12月5日(※1)
(ただし、現在も回収中)

(※1) (1)の調査以降、平成20年8月25日及び平成21年1月16日にも元患者の方へのお知らせ状況等について再度調査を行っており、(3)回答施設数以降はそれらの結果を反映したものである。

(2)追加調査対象施設数 医療機関 6,610施設
(平成16年公表施設のうち、所在地等が不明であった施設を除いた医療機関)

(3)回答施設数

- 平成16年公表時に存続していた5,397施設のうち、5,291施設(98%)から回答があった。
- なお、このほか平成16年公表時に廃院等していた1,213施設のうち、508施設から回答があった。

2 主な調査結果

(1)投与の年月について回答があった医療機関数と元患者数
医療機関数 932施設
元患者数 14,219人 (投与年別は別表)

(2)上記以外に、過去に投与の事実をお知らせしたという記録が残されているが、現在では投与の年月は特定できないとする回答があった医療機関数と元患者数
医療機関数 102施設
元患者数 349人

(3) (1)と(2)の合計
医療機関数 1,011施設(※2)
元患者数 14,568人

(※2)厚生労働省ホームページ「C型肝炎ウイルス検査受診の呼びかけ(フィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関名の再公表について)」の公表医療機関等リスト上の該当医療機関の「備考」欄に、「フィブリノゲン製剤を投与されたことが判明した元患者の方がいる」との報告あり。」と記載した。

(4)元患者の方への投与の事実のお知らせの状況

		元患者数
お知らせした		8,665人 (59%)(※3)
お知らせしていない		5,903人 (41%)
理由	投与後に原疾患等により死亡	1,938人 (13%)
	連絡先が不明又は連絡がつかない	2,832人 (19%)
	肝炎ウイルス検査の結果が陰性	463人 (3%)
	今後お知らせする予定である	235人 (2%)
	その他(未記入含む)	435人 (3%)
合計		14,568人

(※3)元患者の方に一人でも投与の事実をお知らせした医療機関は841施設であった。

(別表)

(5) 診療録等の保管状況

平成6年以前の診療録等が次のいずれかにより保管されている施設数
(括弧内は調査対象施設数に対する割合)

	2,045 施設 (31%) (※4)
(内訳) (※5)	
診療録(カルテ)	1,498 施設 (23%)
手術記録あるいは分娩記録	1,578 施設 (24%)
製剤使用簿	136 施設 (2%)
処方箋	144 施設 (2%)
輸液箋あるいは注射指示箋	276 施設 (4%)
レセプトの写し	83 施設 (1%)
入院サマリーあるいは退院サマリー	296 施設 (4%)
その他の書類	296 施設 (4%)

(※4) 平成16年の調査では「昭和63年6月30日以前にフィブリノゲン製剤を投与した記録(診療録、使用簿など)が保管されていますか。」との設問であったのに対し、今回の調査では、「平成6年以前のカルテ等の各種書類が保管されていますか。」との設問であったため、保管していると回答した施設の割合が異なったと思われる。

(※5) 厚生労働省ホームページ「C型肝炎ウイルス検査受診の呼びかけ(フィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関名の再公表について)」の公表医療機関等リスト上の「カルテ等の有無」欄に、平成6年以前のカルテ等の記録が一部でも保管されている場合、△印を付していたが、さらに保管されている記録の保管期間、保管状況等を記載した。

投与の年月について回答があった元患者数の投与年別の内訳

投与年	人数
昭和 39年	0人
40年	7人
41年	8人
42年	12人
43年	16人
44年	18人
45年	19人
46年	22人
47年	25人
48年	34人
49年	48人
50年	47人
51年	67人
52年	89人
53年	127人
54年	199人
55年	332人
56年	441人
57年	572人
58年	979人
59年	1,509人
60年	1,777人
61年	2,459人
62年	3,001人
63年	1,736人
平成 元年	235人
2年	178人
3年	104人
4年	62人
5年	52人
6年	44人
計	14,219人

Press Release

平成23年6月27日
医薬食品局血液対策課
(担当・内線) 課長 三宅 (2900)
企画官 安田 (2901)
(代表電話) 03(5253)1111
(直通電話) 03(3595)2395

報道関係者 各位

国立病院等におけるフィブリノゲン製剤投与に係る診療録等の精査
状況等の調査結果について

平成22年7月12日付けで実施いたしましたフィブリノゲン製剤投与に係る診療録等の精査状況等調査について、対象医療機関ごとの調査結果をとりまとめましたので、公表いたします。

1. 調査方法

(1) 対象施設について

平成16年12月以降ホームページに公表しているフィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関のうち、国立高度専門医療研究センター病院、(独)国立病院機構の病院、労災病院、国立障害者リハビリテーションセンター病院、社会保険病院、厚生年金病院、船員保険病院及び国立大学病院の合計252施設です。(平成22年7月現在)

(2) 調査事項

平成22年7月12日付けで、カルテ、手術記録・分娩記録、製剤使用簿、処方箋等の記録の状況、フィブリノゲン製剤の納入本数等について追加調査を実施しました。

2. 調査結果(別添のとおり)

【概要】(平成22年7月現在(重複有り))

(1) 平成6年以前の診療録等の記録がある医療機関(一部記録がある医療機関も含む)	215 機関	85.3%
(ア) 全ての記録について網羅的に確認した医療機関	21 機関	(9.8%)
(イ) 次の記録について網羅的に確認した医療機関	120 機関	(55.8%)
① フィブリノゲン製剤の納入時期に絞って記録を確認した医療機関	80 機関	(37.2%)
② 特定の診療科に絞って記録を確認した医療機関	18 機関	(8.4%)
③ 診療録とは別に保管されている記録等で対象を絞って記録を確認した医療機関	38 機関	(17.6%)
※重複あり		
(ウ) 記録の確認の実施を検討中の医療機関	6 機関	(2.8%)
(エ) 調査時点で、網羅的な確認につき回答がなかった医療機関	68 機関	(27.0%)
(2) 平成6年以前の診療録等の記録がない医療機関	37 機関	14.7%
(※問合せのあった方について診療録等の記録を確認した医療機関	217 機関	86.1%

3. フィブリノゲン製剤の投与事実のお知らせ状況

対象施設のうち、107施設で合計4,108名のフィブリノゲン製剤の投与事実が確認されており、元患者の方等へのお知らせ状況は以下のとおり(平成22年4月22日時点)。

投与判明者数	4,108 名 (100%)	
お知らせした	2,260 名 (55.0%)	
お知らせしていない	1,848 名 (45.0%)	
理由	投与後に原疾患等により死亡	594 名 (14.5%)
	肝炎ウイルス検査の結果が陰性	107 名 (2.6%)
	今後お知らせする予定	60 名 (1.5%)
	連絡先が不明又は連絡がつかない	1,055 名 (25.7%)
	その他(患者の特定ができていない)	32 名 (0.8%)

4. 留意事項

- (1) 調査結果は、協力頂いた医療機関より提供された情報をそのまま掲載しています。
- (2) 調査結果の記載内容は、今後、医療機関から追加報告があった場合等に随時修正します。

【被災病院】

施設名	所在地	施設ID	リスト上の施設名	カルテ等の管理										カルテ等の 管理状況等	カルテ等の 納入期間	納入本数		
				カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況				カルテ等の 管理状況	
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県山形市中国町1-2-23	270	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	232
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 北海道中央労務院	北海道厚別区厚別4丁目5-195	195	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 北海道中央労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	38
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 北海道中央労務院 甘支センター	北海道札幌市東区南1丁目2-1	207	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 北海道中央労務院 甘支センター	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	63
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	青森県八戸市大字白根町字西之宮1	303	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成2年	686
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東北労務院	宮城県仙台市青葉区台原4-3-21	372	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東北労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	379
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 秋田労務院	秋田県大館市外野下下野2-20	781	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 秋田労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成2年	41
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	青森県むつ市市内津崎町西3-3	388	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成2年	150
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	長崎県神埼市水舎町1-9-19	1856	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 青森労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成2年	62
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 千葉労務院	千葉県市川市東台2-1-19	1792	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 千葉労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成3年	40
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	東京都中央区東大塚4-1-3-21	1854	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	68
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区中野本町1-1-1	295	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	22
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	東京都港区南青山3-3-2	2832	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和57年～平成4年	61
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	新潟県上越市東町1-7-12	278	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 東京労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成4年	28
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区大馬路9-9-2	2912	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成元年	64
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 鹿児島労務院	鹿児島県市川町西町2-2-5	3283	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 鹿児島労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和56年～平成6年	17
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	3541	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成3年	548
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	3778	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和62年	1
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 大阪労務院	大阪府東淀川区東横町1-7-2	6341	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 大阪労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	911
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	4631	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成元年	80
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	4632	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成3年	332
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	5299	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成元年	302

施設名	所在地	施設ID	リスト上の施設名	カルテ等の管理										カルテ等の 管理状況等	カルテ等の 納入期間	納入本数		
				カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況				カルテ等の 管理状況	
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-9-9	8185	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	646
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8386	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	59
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8387	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	123
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8388	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成5年	227
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8389	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和57年～平成4年	7
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8390	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	36
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8391	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和60年	7
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8392	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	57
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8393	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	30
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8394	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和57年～平成5年	3
独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	山形県酒田市中区南町1-10-2	8395	独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構 山形労務院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	昭和55年～平成6年	5

【国立障害者リハビリテーションセンター病院】

施設名	所在地	№	リスト上の施設名	カルテ等の管理						平成6年以前のカルテ等の保管期間、保管状況等	カルテ等の 管理状況	納入期間	納入未読
				カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況				
国立障害者リハビリテーションセンター病院	埼玉県所沢市東本4-1	3527	国立障害者リハビリテーションセンター病院	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12	
【カルテ等保管期間】 カルテ：昭和54年7月～現在 レポート等：平成2年1月～現在													

【社会保険病院・厚生年金病院・船員保険病院】

施設名	所在地	№	リスト上の施設名	カルテ等の管理						平成6年以前のカルテ等の保管期間、保管状況等	カルテ等の 管理状況	納入期間	納入未読
				カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況	カルテ等の 管理状況				
【社会保険病院】													
北国社会保険中央病院	北国道北府中町西原中 条2丁目2-1	26	北国社会保険中央病院									明、記簿なし	不明
北海道社会保険病院	北海道札幌市東区南一条5丁目2-1	80	北海道社会保険病院									明、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和62年
社会保険病院	宮城県仙台市青葉区東町3-1	55	社会保険病院	○	○							全、周	昭和55年 ～平成2年
社会保険病院	宮城県仙台市青葉区中町2丁目14-8	55	社会保険病院									明、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～平成元年
佐賀社会保険病院	佐賀県佐賀市東区2-2	78	佐賀社会保険病院									明、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和63年
生協社会保険病院	栃木県宇都宮市南町1-1	119	生協社会保険病院 (注：(社) 全国社会保険協会連合会宇都宮支部)	○	○							周	昭和55年 ～昭和60年
社会保険 群馬中央総合病院	群馬県前橋市紅雲町1-7-1	127	社会保険 群馬中央総合病院	○	○							周	不明
埼玉社会保険病院	埼玉県さいたま市南区和歌山4-9-3	136	埼玉社会保険病院									周、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和62年
社会保険 大宮総合病院	埼玉県さいたま市北区錦町4-5-3	174	社会保険 大宮総合病院	○								周、時刻	昭和55年 ～昭和62年
千葉社会保険病院	千葉県千葉市中央区中央1-3-2	182	千葉社会保険病院	○								周	昭和57年 ～昭和61年
社会保険 船橋中央病院	千葉県船橋市南0-1-3	184	社会保険 船橋中央病院	○								全、周、時刻	昭和55年 ～平成2年
社会保険 中央総合病院	東京都港区南青山3-2-1	190	社会保険中央総合病院									周、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和62年
社会保険 藤田総合病院	東京都大田区南町2-1-2	192	社会保険藤田総合病院									周、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和63年
社会保険 横浜中央病院	神奈川県横浜市中区山下2-5-5	217	社会保険 横浜中央病院									周、記簿なし	昭和55年 ～昭和63年
山崎社会保険病院	神奈川県川崎市磯区田町2-9-1	257	山崎社会保険病院	○	○							周	不明～昭和61年
社会保険 船橋野病院	神奈川県横浜市磯野区野原1-2-3	261	社会保険 船橋野病院									記簿なし	昭和62年
社会保険 荻野病院	富山県高岡市東水田町1-5	269	社会保険 荻野病院									周、記簿なし	不明
豊後社会保険病院	福岡県豊後市神門1-6	265	豊後社会保険病院	○								周	不明
海井社会保険病院	福井県福井市山崎2丁目5-2	307	海井社会保険病院	○								周	昭和55年 ～昭和57年
社会保険 高浜病院	福井県大飯郡高浜町高浜町7-14-2	308	社会保険 高浜病院	○								全	不明
社会保険 山形病院	山形県平野町3-8-3	309	社会保険 山形病院									記簿なし	昭和63年
埼玉社会保険病院	埼玉県有馬町土庫12-1-6	322	埼玉社会保険病院	○								周、時刻、時刻	昭和55年 ～平成2年
社会保険 桜ヶ丘総合病院	静岡県静岡市清水区桜ヶ丘1-3-2	324	社会保険 桜ヶ丘総合病院									周、記簿なし	昭和56年 ～昭和62年

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企画官 安田(2901)
(代表電話) 03(5253)1111
(直通電話) 03(3595)2395

平成22年度フィブリノゲン製剤納入医療機関への 訪問調査の結果について

1. 調査の目的

フィブリノゲン製剤の納入が確認されている厚生労働省所管の医療機関及び国立大学法人の医療機関に対し、診療録等の保管状況を確認するとともに、投与事実の確認作業の実態等を把握するため、厚生労働省職員による訪問調査を実施した。

2. 調査期間及び調査対象施設

訪問調査は、平成22年9月24日から開始し、平成23年3月1日に終了した。調査対象施設は、以下の34医療機関であった。

(1) 国立高度専門医療センター

国立がん研究センター中央病院、国立国際医療研究センター病院

(2) 独立行政法人国立病院機構病院

北海道がんセンター、函館病院、高崎総合医療センター、西埼玉中央病院、名古屋医療センター、京都医療センター、神戸医療センター、姫路医療センター、兵庫青野原病院、呉医療センター、都城病院

(3) 労災病院

中部労災病院、神戸労災病院、中国労災病院、山口労災病院

(4) 社会保険病院

札幌社会保険総合病院、北海道社会保険病院、社会保険船橋中央病院、社会保険中央総合病院、社会保険京都病院、社会保険神戸中央病院、社会保険下関厚生病院、佐賀社会保険病院、社会保険宮崎江南病院

(5) 国立大学法人の医療機関

東京医科歯科大学医学部附属病院、東京大学医学部附属病院、東京大学医科学研究所

附属病院、神戸大学医学部附属病院、山口大学医学部附属病院、佐賀大学医学部附属病院、宮崎大学医学部附属病院、鹿児島大学病院

3. 調査結果

(1) 問い合わせに対する対応について

元患者の方及びそのご家族の方(以下「元患者の方等」という。)からの問い合わせに対しては、今回の調査対象であった34の全医療機関において、保管されている診療録等の記録を確認の上回答するなど、誠実な対応がなされていた。

(2) 診療録等の保管状況及び精査方法について

34の医療機関のうち、22の医療機関において、平成6年以前の診療録等は保管されていたが、保管方法は個々の医療機関により異なっており、それぞれ次のような対応がなされていた。

① 22の医療機関のうち、10の医療機関では、特定の診療科や、フィブリノゲン製剤の納入が確認された診療年に対象を絞る等して、網羅的な診療録等の記録の精査を行っていた。また、フィブリノゲン製剤の投与事実が確認され、元患者の方等の連絡先が判明した場合には、お知らせがなされていた。

これら10の医療機関のうち、

- i) 7の医療機関では、診療録が診療科別又は診療年別に保管されていたため、特定の診療科又は診療年に絞った精査がなされていた。
- ii) 3の医療機関では、診療録とは別にレセプトデータ、薬剤供用簿と連動する会計カード等が保管されており、これら記録等の精査がなされていた。

② 22の医療機関のうち、12の医療機関では、診療録等の記録が保管されていたが、網羅的な診療録等の記録の精査は行われていなかった。しかし、医事課等に担当者を置き、元患者の方等からの問い合わせに対して、必要に応じて、医師が診療録等を直接精査して投与事実の確認が行えるよう体制がとられていた。

- i) 8の医療機関では、大量の診療録が患者ごとに一括して管理されていた(1患者1カルテ)。
- ii) 3の医療機関では、大量の診療録が入院ごとに一括して管理され(1入院1カルテ)診療年別に管理されていた。
- iii) 1の医療機関では、診療録は残っていなかったものの、別に入院サマリーが診療科ごとに作成され、保管されていた。

(3) 訪問調査対象医療機関の投与のお知らせ状況について

34の医療機関のうち、18の医療機関で、合計887名のフィブリノゲン製剤の投与事実が確認されており、元患者の方等へのお知らせ状況は以下のとおりであった。(平成23年6月24日現在)

投与判明者数	887名	(100%)
お知らせした	424名	(47.8%)
お知らせしていない	463名	(52.2%)
理由	投与後に原疾患等により死亡	227名 (25.6%)
	肝炎ウイルス検査の結果が陰性	41名 (4.6%)
	連絡先が不明又は連絡がつかない	188名 (21.2%)
	その他(患者の特定ができていない)	7名 (0.8%)

4. 今後の対応

今般の訪問調査の結果を踏まえて、以下の対応を行うこととする。

- (1) 全てのフィブリノゲン製剤納入医療機関に対して、投与事実の確認のための参考として、今般の訪問調査の結果を情報提供し、特に、以下を依頼する。
 - i) 今般の訪問調査では、診療録とは別に保管されていた記録等を精査することにより投与の事実が確認された事例があった。そのため、診療録とは別に保管されている記録等の有無について改めて確認いただき、確認された場合には、フィブリノゲン製剤の投与事実の有無を確認していただくこと。併せて、投与の事実が確認され、元患者の方等の連絡先が判明した場合には、元患者の方等へお知らせいただくこと。
 - ii) 引き続き、診療録等の保管や元患者の方等からの問い合わせに対して、誠実に対応できるよう、院内での体制整備を図っていただくこと。
- (2) 診療録等について網羅的な確認がされていない医療機関に対して、引き続き、確認をいただくよう協力を依頼する。
- (3) 厚生労働省のホームページ上で提供している医療機関における診療録等の保管状況等に関する情報を継続的に更新することにより、引き続き、国民に最新の情報をお知らせする。

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報道関係者 各位

平成23年度フィブリノゲン製剤納入先医療機関
訪問調査について

1 趣旨

フィブリノゲン製剤の納入が確認されている厚生労働省所管の医療機関及び国立大学法人の医療機関に対し、診療録等の保管状況を確認するとともに、投与事実の確認作業の実態等を把握するため、平成23年度は、以下の要領で訪問調査を実施する。

2 調査対象施設

厚生労働省所管の医療機関及び国立大学法人の医療機関のうち、過去に訪問調査が実施されていない158医療機関(別添参照)

3 調査のスケジュール

年度内を目途に訪問調査の結果をとりまとめ、公表を行う予定。

(参考)

過去のフィブリノゲン製剤の納入が確認されている医療機関への訪問調査は、厚生労働省所管の医療機関等に対して、平成20年度に46施設、平成21年度に15施設、平成22年度に34施設に対して実施済みである。

(別 添)

○調査対象施設

1. 独立行政法人国立高度専門医療研究センター

- (1) 国立国際医療研究センター国府台病院
- (2) 国立成育医療研究センター
- (3) 国立長寿医療研究センター

2. 独立行政法人国立病院機構病院

- (1) 帯広病院
- (2) 弘前病院
- (3) 宮城病院
- (4) 福島病院
- (5) 霞ヶ浦医療センター
- (6) 宇都宮病院
- (7) 沼田病院
- (8) 東埼玉病院
- (9) 千葉医療センター
- (10) 千葉東病院
- (11) 下志津病院
- (12) 東京病院
- (13) 横浜医療センター
- (14) 石川病院
- (15) 福井病院
- (16) 甲府病院
- (17) 東長野病院
- (18) まつもと医療センター
- (19) 信州上田医療センター
- (20) 長良医療センター
- (21) 静岡てんかん・神経医療センター
- (22) 静岡富士病院
- (23) 静岡医療センター

- (24) 東名古屋病院
- (25) 三重病院
- (26) 宇多野病院
- (27) 舞鶴医療センター
- (28) 南京都病院
- (29) 大阪南医療センター
- (30) 兵庫中央病院
- (31) 和歌山病院
- (32) 米子医療センター
- (33) 松江医療センター
- (34) 浜田医療センター
- (35) 岡山医療センター
- (36) 南岡山医療センター
- (37) 東広島医療センター
- (38) 徳島病院
- (39) 東徳島医療センター
- (40) 香川小児病院
- (41) 四国がんセンター
- (42) 東佐賀病院
- (43) 長崎病院
- (44) 長崎医療センター
- (45) 別府医療センター
- (46) 西別府病院
- (47) 沖縄病院

3. 独立行政法人労働者健康福祉機構病院

- (1) 北海道中央労災病院
- (2) 北海道中央労災病院せき損センター
- (3) 釧路労災病院
- (4) 東北労災病院
- (5) 秋田労災病院
- (6) 福島労災病院
- (7) 鹿島労災病院

- (8) 千葉労災病院
- (9) 東京労災病院
- (10) 関東労災病院
- (11) 燕労災病院
- (12) 新潟労災病院
- (13) 富山労災病院
- (14) 浜松労災病院
- (15) 旭労災病院
- (16) 関西労災病院
- (17) 和歌山労災病院
- (18) 山陰労災病院
- (19) 岡山労災病院
- (20) 香川労災病院
- (21) 愛媛労災病院
- (22) 九州労災病院
- (23) 九州労災病院門司メディカルセンター
- (24) 長崎労災病院
- (25) 熊本労災病院
- (26) 総合せき損センター

4. 国立障害者リハビリテーションセンター病院

5. 社会保険病院

- (1) 仙台社会保険病院
- (2) 宮城社会保険病院
- (3) 秋田社会保険病院
- (4) 宇都宮社会保険病院
- (5) 社会保険群馬中央総合病院
- (6) 埼玉社会保険病院
- (7) 社会保険大宮総合病院
- (8) 千葉社会保険病院
- (9) 社会保険蒲田総合病院
- (10) 社会保険横浜中央病院

- (11) 川崎社会保険病院
- (12) 社会保険相模野病院
- (13) 社会保険高岡病院
- (14) 金沢社会保険病院
- (15) 福井社会保険病院
- (16) 社会保険高浜病院
- (17) 社会保険山梨病院
- (18) 岐阜社会保険病院
- (19) 社会保険桜ヶ丘総合病院
- (20) 三島社会保険病院
- (21) 社会保険中京病院
- (22) 四日市社会保険病院
- (23) 社会保険滋賀病院
- (24) 奈良社会保険病院
- (25) 社会保険紀南病院
- (26) 健康保険鳴門病院
- (27) 社会保険栗林病院
- (28) 宇和島社会保険病院
- (29) 社会保険久留米第一病院
- (30) 健康保険人吉総合病院
- (31) 健康保険天草中央総合病院
- (32) 健康保険八代総合病院
- (33) 健康保険南海病院

6. 厚生年金病院

- (1) 登別厚生年金病院
- (2) 東北厚生年金病院
- (3) 東京厚生年金病院
- (4) 星ヶ丘厚生年金病院
- (5) 玉造厚生年金病院
- (6) 厚生年金高知リハビリテーション病院
- (7) 九州厚生年金病院
- (8) 湯布院厚生年金病院

7. 船員保険病院

- (1) せんぼ東京高輪病院
- (2) 横浜船員保険病院
- (3) 大阪船員保険病院

8. 国立大学法人病院

- (1) 北海道大学病院
- (2) 旭川医科大学病院
- (3) 弘前大学医学部附属病院
- (4) 東北大学病院
- (5) 秋田大学医学部附属病院
- (6) 山形大学医学部附属病院
- (7) 筑波大学附属病院
- (8) 群馬大学医学部附属病院
- (9) 千葉大学医学部附属病院
- (10) 新潟大学医歯学総合病院
- (11) 富山大学附属病院
- (12) 金沢大学附属病院
- (13) 福井大学医学部附属病院
- (14) 山梨大学医学部附属病院
- (15) 信州大学医学部附属病院
- (16) 岐阜大学医学部附属病院
- (17) 浜松医科大学医学部附属病院
- (18) 名古屋大学医学部附属病院
- (19) 三重大学医学部附属病院
- (20) 滋賀医科大学医学部附属病院
- (21) 京都大学医学部附属病院
- (22) 大阪大学医学部附属病院
- (23) 鳥取大学医学部附属病院
- (24) 島根大学医学部附属病院
- (25) 岡山大学病院
- (26) 広島大学病院

- (27) 徳島大学病院
- (28) 香川大学医学部附属病院
- (29) 愛媛大学医学部附属病院
- (30) 高知大学医学部附属病院
- (31) 九州大学病院
- (32) 長崎大学病院
- (33) 熊本大学医学部附属病院
- (34) 大分大学医学部附属病院
- (35) 琉球大学医学部附属病院
- (36) 岡山大学病院三朝医療センター
- (37) 九州大学病院別府先進医療センター