Human Herpesvirus 8–Associated Solid Lymphomas that Occur in AIDS Patients Take Anaplastic Large Cell Morphology

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Human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8; Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus) is a recently isolated human herpesvirus frequently identified in Kaposi's sarcoma, primary effusion lymphoma, and multicentric Castleman's disease. Here we report three cases of HHV-8-bearing solid lymphomas that occurred in AIDS patients (Cases 1-3). All three patients were homosexual men presenting extranodal masses in the lungs (Case 1) or skin (Cases 2 and 3), together with the presence of Kaposi's sarcoma (Case 1), primary effusion lymphoma (Case 2), or multicentric Castleman's disease (Case 3). These solid lymphomas exhibited anaplastic large cell morphology and expressed CD30, corresponding to the recent diagnostic criteria of anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL). The chromosomal translocation t(2;5)-associated chimeric protein p80^{NPM/ALK} was not observed in any of these cases. HHV-8 was detected in all of these cases by polymerase chain reaction, immunohistochemistry of HHV-8-encoded ORF73 protein, and in situ hybridization of T1.1. Epstein-Barr virus was detected only in Cases 2 and 3 by in situ hybridization. It is interesting that inoculation of a cell line obtained from a primary effusion lymphoma cell in Case 2 to severe combined immunodeficiency mice produced HHV-8positive and Epstein-Barr virus-negative tumors in inoculated sites. These tumor cells exhibited phenotypes of ALCL that were identical to the subcutaneous tumor cells of this particular patient. These findings clearly show that HHV-8 can associate with solid lymphomas and that it can take anaplastic large cell morphology. Those lymphomas should be distinguished from the classical ALCL as were defined by the revised European-American classification of lymphoid neoplasms even though morphology and a part of immunophenotype mimic that of classical ALCL.

KEY WORDS: Anaplastic large cell lymphoma, Human herpesvirus-8, Kaposi's sarcoma–associated herpesvirus, Multicentric Castleman's disease, Primary effusion lymphoma.

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Most of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-associated lymphomas take the morphology of diffuse large cell lymphoma, immunoblastic lymphoma, or Burkitt's lymphoma, whereas several cases in which lymphoma cells took anaplastic large cell morphology have been reported (1). Approximately 30 reported cases have used the term "AIDS-associated anaplastic large cell lymphomas (AIDS-ALCLs)" under the somewhat ambiguous definition of ALCL (2-6). Such AIDS-ALCLs were reported to occur much more frequently in extranodal organs, including the skin, lung, liver, bone marrow, and gastrointestinal tract (2-6). Their clinical courses were less favorable than the other AIDS-associated lymphomas. Indeed, the immunophenotype of these reported AIDS-ALCLs was confusing: Chadburn et al. (2) reported 10 cases of

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AIDS-ALCLs in which were included 4 T-cell, 1 B-cell, and 3 null-cell type lymphomas, whereas many of the cases reported by Nosari *et al.* (3) and Tirelli *et al.* (4) were the B-cell lymphomas. DePond *et al.* (6) reported two cases of human herpesvirus-8 (HHV-8)–associated solid lymphomas of null-cell type. It is interesting that DePond et al.'s cases occurred first as solid lymphomas and later developed lymphomatous effusion. The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) genome was detected in 30 to 50% of those AIDS-ALCLs cases, whereas the detailed pathogenesis of those AIDS-ALCLs has remained unclarified (2–6).

ALCL is a subtype of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) characterized by its peculiar, large anaplastic morphology and the expression of CD30 (7, 8). ALCL is classified as a T-/null-cell type lymphoma in the revised European-American classification of lymphoid neoplasm (7). There are some B-cell lymphomas that exhibit anaplastic large cell morphology, however, and although they were excluded from ALCL under this classification, they have been included in ALCL on other classifications, such as the updated Kiel classification (9), leaving some confusion or discrepancy in the definition of ALCL. The recent identification of chromosomal translocation t(2;5)-associated chimeric protein p80^{NPM/ALK} as the pathogenic molecule for approximately half of the ALCLs gave a new impact to the classification of ALCL (8, 10-13). Thus, ALCLs are currently classified first into $p80^{NPM/ALK}$ -positive and -negative cases (8, 12). The $p80^{NPM/ALK}$ -positive ALCLs seem to be a single disease, whereas the p80^{NPM/ALK}-negative cases are composed of heterogeneous diseases in terms of their lineage and probably also in their pathogenesis (8). The B-cell ALCLs, if this category is admitted, are included in the p80^{NPM/ALK}-negative ALCL (12). Meanwhile, under the strictest definition, the term ALCL is devoted to the p80^{NPM/ALK}-positive cases and cases identical in phenotype to those p80^{NPM/ALK}-positive cases, and under this definition, B-cell lymphomas that take anaplastic large cell morphology are excluded from ALCL (8).

Until now, three cases of solid AIDS-ALCLs were shown to have association with HHV-8 (Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus) (5, 6). Two of them occurred as secondary effusion lymphomas; the association of AIDS-ALCL with HHV-8 in those cases was suggested by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) study (6). The third case occurred as a solid lymphoma without effusion (5). HHV-8 is a recently identified human herpesvirus that is frequently identified in Kaposi's sarcoma, primary effusion lymphoma (PEL), and multicentric Castleman's disease (MCD) (14–17). PEL is a subtype of NHL in which neoplastic cells proliferate in the pleural, pericardial, or peritoneal effusion without forming a tumor mass (15, 16). Whereas a large portion of the AIDS-associated PELs bear HHV-8, there are only a small number of AIDS-associated solid lymphomas in which HHV-8 was identified in substantial quantities (18). HHV-8 is a DNA virus of 170 kbp (19). Based on the nucleotide sequence, HHV-8 encodes cellular homologues of various oncogenes and cytokines, including bcl-2, cyclin-D, interleukin-6 (IL-6), and G-protein coupled receptor (20). Among these, viral G-protein coupled receptor was reported to induce transformation and tumor formation on NIH3T3 cells (21). In addition, a specific viral gene expressed in PEL cells but not in Kaposi's sarcoma cells, K9, is believed to play a role in lymphomagenesis by HHV-8; however, no direct evidence has been reported (22).

Here we report three cases of HHV-8–associated solid lymphomas with anaplastic large cell morphology. We stress through this study that HHV-8 can associate with solid lymphomas and that such solid lymphomas can take anaplastic large cell morphology. Also, we stress that those cases should be distinguished as a different entity from the classical ALCLs as defined by the REAL classification.

CASE PRESENTATION

Case 1

A 59-year-old Japanese homosexual man developed a fever in June 1993. Upon laboratory examination, he was found to carry HIV. He complained of diarrhea and a high fever (39° C) in October. His CD4 count was 6 cells/ μ l. Chest x-ray revealed diffuse nodular shadows in all lobes of the lung. However, bronchial fibroscopy could not identify any pathogenic organisms, such as Pneumocystis carinii, Mycobacterium avium, or fungi. On October 12, a spike fever appeared with an increase of nodular shadows. Kaposi's sarcoma was noted in the oral cavity. Adriamycin, vinblastine, and bleomycin had been administered since October 28 without effect. Cytomegalovirus-related severe diarrhea and ileus developed into a terminal condition. The patient died on November 4, 1993. Autopsy revealed multiple nodular lesions in bilateral lungs. A tentative histopathologic diagnosis of these nodules was ALCL. Kaposi's sarcoma was noted in the stomach and left leg; the presence of PEL could not be confirmed because of purulent ascites and pleural effusion as a result of the perforation of the intestine.

Case 2

The clinical course of this patient was reported previously (23, 24). Briefly, a 45-year-old Japanese homosexual AIDS patient experienced respiratory distress and was admitted in August 1996. He was diagnosed as an HIV carrier with *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia. His CD4 cell count was 8 cells/ μ l. Pericardial effusion was noted in December 1996, from which typical PEL cells were identified. CHOP chemotherapy decreased the pericardial effusion; however, the patient died in May 1997 as a result of generalized cytomegalovirus infection. Upon autopsy, no pericardial effusion was noted. However, multiple fingertip-sized masses were noted on the chest wall. The tentative diagnosis of these masses with histopathologic survey was ALCL.

Case 3

A 30-year-old Japanese homosexual man who had a fever, generalized lymphoadenopathy, and hepatosplenomegaly was admitted in December 1997. Laboratory examination revealed anemia, thrombocytopenia, polyclonal hyperglobulinemia, and a high level of IL-6. HIV RNA was detected in the serum. His CD4 cell count was 50 cells/ μ l. A cervical lymph node biopsy revealed the typical morphology of MCD. Erythematous nodular lesions of fingertip size were noted in the cervical region. A biopsy revealed these lesions to be filled by large anaplastic lymphoid cells. Chemotherapy using vinblastine and cvclophosphamide reduced these skin lesions. The patient died in July 1998 because of MCD and hemorrhage. No evidence of Kaposi's sarcoma or PELs was detected.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry

Formalin-fixed tumor specimens obtained from these patients were embedded in paraffin, sectioned, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Immunohistochemistry was performed with mouse monoclonal antibodies including CD3 (A0452; DAKO, Glostrup, Denmark), CD20 (L26, DAKO), CD30 (BerH2, DAKO), CD43 (DF-T1, DAKO), CD45 (LCA, DAKO), CD45RO (UCHL-1, DAKO), CD68 (KP-1, DAKO), CD79a (JCB117, DAKO), CD138 (Syndecan-1; Serotec, Oxford, UK), epithelial cell membrane antigen (DAKO), IgG (DAKO), IgA (DAKO), Ig light chain kappa (DAKO), lambda (DAKO), antip80^{NPM/ALK} rabbit polyclonal antibody (Nichirei Co., Tokyo, Japan), and anti-HHV-8-ORF73 rabbit antiserum (25) as the primary antibodies. For the second and third phase reagents of immunostaining, a biotinylated F(ab')2 fragment of rabbit antimouse immunoglobulin (DAKO)/goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulin (DAKO) and peroxidase-conjugated Streptavidin (DAKO) were used. Details regarding the immunostaining have been described previously (26). The detailed specificity of anti-HHV-8-ORF73 rabbit antiserum was described previously (25). Briefly, this antibody recognized 220–230 kDa latent nuclear antigen in lysate of HHV-8–infected PEL cell lines in Western blot. In immunohistochemistry, almost all HHV-8–infected PEL cells and the spindle cells of Kaposi's sarcoma lesions were stained with this antibody specifically.

In Situ Hybridization

In situ hybridization (ISH) was performed to detect EBV-encoded small RNA-1 (EBER1) and HHV-8-T1.1/*nut-1*, which is specifically expressed in the lytic phase of HHV-8 infection (27). As a probe for the EBER1 gene, a digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled 30 base oligonucleotide 5'-aga cac cgt cct cac cac ccg gga ctt gta-3' was used (28), and for HHV-8-T1.1/ nut-1, a DIG-labeled 50 base oligonucleotide, 5'gag cgc tcc cag ctg ccg cac acc act tta gtc caa tgt tct tac act ac-3', was used (27). The DIG Oligonucleotide 3'-Tailing Kit (Boehringer Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany) was used for the labeling of the probe. The details of this method were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, deparaffinized slides were digested with proteinase K (10 µg/mL) at 37° C for 15 min and rinsed with 4% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 м phosphate buffer (PB; pH 7.2). The slides were treated with 0.2 M HCl for 10 min, rinsed with PB, and dehydrated with a graded series of ethanol. Hybridization was performed in 20 µl/slide of hybridization mixture consisting of 30% formamide, $2 \times$ SSC (0.15 м NaCl, 0.015 м sodium citrate), 1× Denhardt's solution (0.02% bovine serum albumin fraction V, 0.02% Ficoll type 400 and 0.02% polyvinylpyrrolidone), 150 μ g/mL single-stranded herring sperm DNA, 10% dextran sulfate, and 10 pmol/mL of the DIG-labeled oligonucleotide probe. After hybridization for 15 h at 37° C, the slides were rinsed at room temperature in $2 \times$ SSC for 10 min twice, $0.5 \times$ SSC for 10 min, and then DIG buffer 1 for 5 min three times. After the slides were blocked with the DIG buffer 2 for 30 min, they were rinsed with DIG buffer 1 for 3 min three times and incubated with 500 \times diluted anti-DIG antibody for 30 min at 37° C. Detection was performed with nitro blue tetrazolium salt.

Polymerase Chain Reaction

To determine the presence of HHV-8 DNA in lymphoma tissues, PCR analysis was performed. All of the DNA samples were confirmed to be amplifiable by the use of PCR primers specific for a conserved region of the human β -actin gene. PCR primers for HHV-8 were synthesized to amplify the 233 bp KS330₂₃₃ region of this virus (14). Each PCR reaction used approximately 0.2 μ g of genomic DNA, 100 pmol of each primer (5'-agc cga aag gat tcc acc at-3' and 5'-tcc gtg ttg tct acg tcc ag-3'), 2 units of Taq polymerase, 100 mM of each deoxynucleotide triphosphate, 1.5 тм Trishydrochloride (pH 9.0), and 0.1% Triton X-100 in a final volume of 50 µl. PCR amplification was carried out at 95° C for 2 min (1 cycle); 95° C for 1 min, 58° C for 1 min, and 72° C for 1.5 min (35 cycles); and 72° C for 5 min (1 cycle). Amplification was performed with a GeneAmp PCR System 9600 (Perkin-Elmer, Norwalk, CT). PCR products were visualized on 2% agarose gel containing ethidium bromide.

Inoculation of a PEL Cell Line TY-1 to Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Mice

A PEL cell line TY-1 was established from Case 2 (24). Briefly, lymphoma cells in the pericardial effusion of Case 2 were collected and grown in RPMI1640 supplemented with 20% fetal bovine serum, 10 ng/mL insulin (Sigma), 10 ng/mL transferrin (Sigma), and 10% supernatant of pericardial effusion. The addition of pericardial effusion was gradually reduced, and eventually the cells could grow without its addition. Single-cell cloning was performed, and the cell line obtained was named TY-1. TY-1 was characterized as a CD30-positive, HHV-8–positive, and EBV-negative lymphoma cell line (24).

TY-1 was injected into the abdominal cavity of 8to 10-week-old C.B. 17 severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)/SCID mice (SCID mice). 1×10^7 cells were inoculated in each SCID mouse. TY-1 cells injected were not pretreated by tissue plasminogen activator or n-butylate. Animals were euthanized with diethyl ether in accordance with the University of Tokyo guidelines for the care and handling of mice.

RESULTS

Histopathologic Analysis

Solid tumors from the three cases were extranodal lymphomas. In Case 1, multiple nodular lesions of up to fingertip size were observed in all lobes of the lungs. In Cases 2 and 3, tumors were observed in the dermis of the chest wall, both measuring approximately 2 cm in diameter (Figs. 1a–c). These three specimens shared the following histopathologic features: (1) anaplastic large blastic cell morphology with occasional horseshoeshaped/multiple nuclei with two or single prominent nucleoli; (2) much larger in size than the cells found in ordinal large cell lymphomas, with greater cytoplasmic volume; and (3) growing in a cohesive sheet-like pattern. This histology matched the current morphologic criteria for ALCL (7, 9).

Immunophenotypic Analysis

Immunohistologic analysis revealed that these three cases were positive for CD30 (Figs. 1d-f) and CD45 but negative for CD3, CD68, CD79a, CD138, IgG, IgA, Ig light chain kappa, and lambda (Table 1). The expression of CD30 was variable. In Case 2, almost all tumor cells expressed CD30, whereas only a small population of cells were stained in Cases 1 and 3. CD20 was positive in Case 3 but not in others. CD43 was positive in Case 2 (partially) and Case 3. Epithelial cell membrane antigen was positive in Case 1 but not in others. These results correspond to the immunophenotype of reported PEL (16), except for the expression of CD20 in one case (8). P80^{NPM/ALK} was not demonstrated in any of these cases. Concerning clonal identity of solid lymphoma and PEL of Case 2, we could present a Southern blot analysis, which revealed both a cutaneous solid lymphoma and PEL to show the same rearrangement pattern on the immunoglobulin gene (23).

Demonstration of HHV-8 by PCR, ISH, and Immunohistochemistry

On PCR analysis, bands compatible with HHV-8 genomic sequences were detected in all three cases (Fig. 2). ISH analysis exhibited positive signals for HHV-8-T1.1/nut-1 in all three cases (Figs. 1g-i). The number of signal-positive cells was small, consisting of 1 to 2% of all of the neoplastic cells, probably because T1.1/nut-1 is the lytic gene and thus is expressed in a limited number of infected cells (27). The nucleus was shown to be the main site of hybridization on signal-positive cells. Immunohistochemistry for HHV-8 ORF73 protein revealed that this antigen was detected in the nucleus of almost all of the tumor cells of Cases 2 (Fig. 3E) and 3 (data not shown). In Case 1, however, obvious positive signals were limited. Because the sample of Case 1 was derived from autopsy, its antigenicity was not well shown on other antigens. These data suggest that the lymphomas studied were infected with HHV-8 and were in latent phase mostly. A few EBER1-positive cells were detected in Cases 2 and 3, but not in Case 1 (Table 1).

Increase of Plasma Cells in the Bone Marrow

We incidentally noted an increase of plasma cells in the bone marrow of all of these cases. To confirm this finding, vertebral bone marrow pathology slides obtained at autopsy were studied. Histopathologic findings of the bone marrow were as follows: hypercellular bone marrow (fat/cell ratio was approximately $1/2 \sim 1/3$); no definitive neoplas-

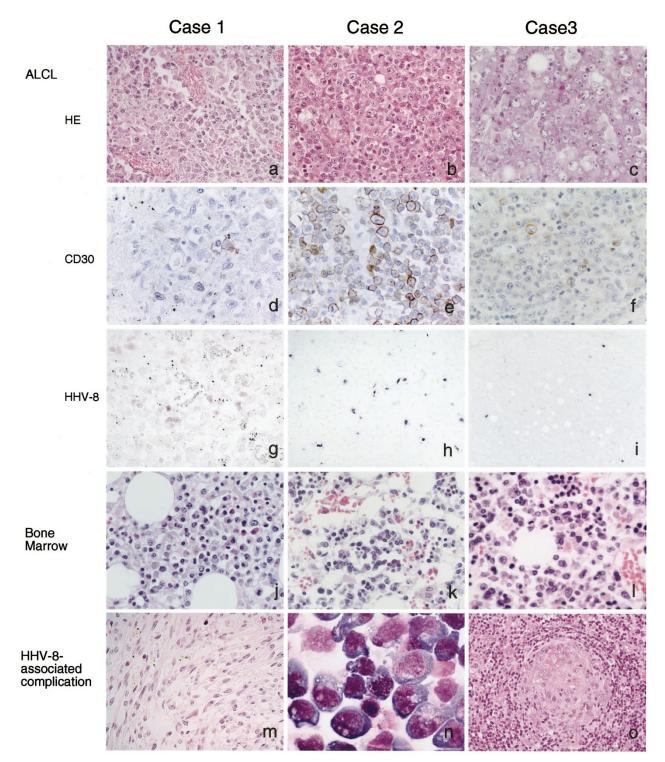


FIGURE 1. Histologic features of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome anaplastic large cell lymphoma. Case 1 (**a**, **d**, **g**, **j**, **m**), Case 2 (**b**, **e**, **h**, **k**, **n**), Case 3 (**c**, **f**, **i**, **l**, **o**). Hematoxylin and eosin staining of lymphoma (**a**–**c**), immunostaining for CD30 (**d**–**f**), *in situ* hybridization for human herpesvirus type 8 (**g**–**i**), hematoxylin and eosin staining of the bone marrow (**j**–**l**). Primary complications are shown in **m** (Case 1: Kaposi's sarcoma in the stomach), **n** (Case 2: primary effusion lymphoma in the pericardial effusion), and **o** (Case 3: multicentric Castleman's disease in the cervical lymph node). These three complications were known to be associated with human herpesvirus type 8.

tic cell infiltration; increase of plasma cells (22 cells per high power view in Case 1, 32 cells in Case 2, and 25 cells in Case 3, composing 11%, 16%, and 12% of the nucleated cells, respectively. Normally, the plasma cell count is less than 3% of the nucleated cells using the direct count method). Occasionally, plasma cells formed some nests in the stroma of the bone marrow.

TABLE 1		Pathologic	Findings	of	Cases	1-3
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	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
Age	59	45	30
Sex	Male	Male	Male
HIV status	+	+	+
CD4 (cells/ml)	6	8	50
ALCL			
Site	Lung	Skin	Skin
CD3	-	-	-
CD20	-	-	+
CD30	+	+	+
CD43	-	+ (partial)	+
CD45	+	+	+
CD45RO	+	-	-
CD68	-	-	-
CD79a	-	-	-
CD138	-	-	-
EMA	+ (partial)	-	-
IgG	-	-	-
IgA	-	-	-
Ig kappa	-	-	-
Ig lambda	-	-	-
p80 ^{NPM/ALK}	-	-	-
EBER1 (ISH)	-	+	+
HHV-8 (ISH)	+	+	+
HHV-8-associated	Kaposi's sarcoma P	rimary effusion	Multicenteric
complications	(oral, stomach)	lymphoma	Castleman's
		(pericardial	disease
		effusion)	(general
			lymph node)
Other	-		
complications	infection, HIV	infection, P.	
	encephalopathy	carinii	
		pneumonia,	
		diffuse alveolar	
		damage	

ALCL, anaplastic large cell lymphoma; EMA, epithelial cell membrane antigen; ISH, *in situ* hybridization; HHV-8, human herpes virus type 8; –, negative; +, positive; CMV, cytomegalovirus.

Tumor Formation in SCID Mice by PEL Cell Line Inoculation

To determine whether a cell line established from the PEL in Case 2 could form a tumor, we inoculated 1×10^7 TY-1 cells into the abdominal cavity of SCID mice. In 4 weeks, solid tumors of up to 1 cm in diameter were formed in the mesentery together with marked ascites (Fig. 3A). The neoplastic cells in the solid tumor took the anaplastic large cell morphology, proliferating in a sheet-like growth pattern (Fig. 3B). Also, ascites contained numerous large immunoblastic cells corresponding to TY-1 (24). An immunohistologic study revealed that the lymphoma cells from ascitic fluid and solid tumors shared identical immunophenotypes, such as being positive for CD30 and negative for CD3 and CD20. In addition, HHV-8 was detected in these lymphoma nodules by ISH (Fig. 3C), immunohistochemistry of HHV-8 ORF73 (Fig. 3D), and PCR (data not shown), whereas EBV was not detected by ISH or PCR (data not shown).

DISCUSSION

We described in this study three cases of AIDSassociated solid lymphomas carrying HHV-8/Kapo-

si's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus and exhibiting anaplastic large cell morphology. These findings clearly show that HHV-8 can associate with both solid lymphomas and effusion lymphomas. This study also showed that the HHV-8-associated solid lymphoma can take anaplastic large cell morphology that is hard to distinguish from classical ALCLs. Peculiarly, all of the HHV-8-associated solid lymphomas occurred in extranodal sites. Of these patients, Case 2 had an overlapping of typical PEL and Case 3 had an HHV-8-positive Castleman's tumor, but the presence of PEL could not be confirmed in Cases 1 and 3. Kaposi's sarcoma was found only in Case 1. In two cases, the solid lymphomas represented null-cell immunophenotype and the other case expressed B-cell markers; molecular analysis for the confirmation of their cell lineages was not performed.

There have been approximately 30 cases of AIDS-ALCL reported (2-6). In those reports, the term "ALCL" was used in a broad sense, based mostly on morphology. There is a great deal of debate regarding the diagnostic criteria of ALCL (6-9, 29, 30). Our view is that all possible efforts should be made to define each lymphoma subtype so that each subtype reflects a single disease entity. In this sense, ALCLs that express the p80^{NPM/ALK} chimeric protein constitute a single disease entity, whereas the remaining ALCLs represent various entities. Thus, cases that share identical pathogenetic mechanisms should be excluded from this heterogeneous group. Because it seems that the pathogenesis of these three cases is virtually identical in terms of their association with HHV-8, they should be separated from the category of ALCL. DePond et al. (6)

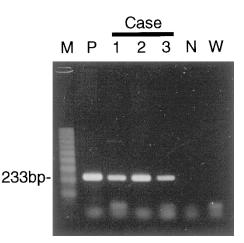


FIGURE 2. Demonstration of human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8) sequences with polymerase chain reaction. The KS330₂₃₃ region of HHV-8 was amplified by polymerase chain reaction. M, molecular weight marker (100 bp ladder marker); P, BCBL-1 cell line (HHV-8–positive primary effusion lymphoma cell line, positive control); 1–3, DNA extracted from lymphomas of Cases 1–3; N: Raji cell line (Epstein-Barr virus positive, HHV-8 cell line established from Burkitt's lymphoma, negative control); W, no DNA. All three cases were positive for HHV-8.

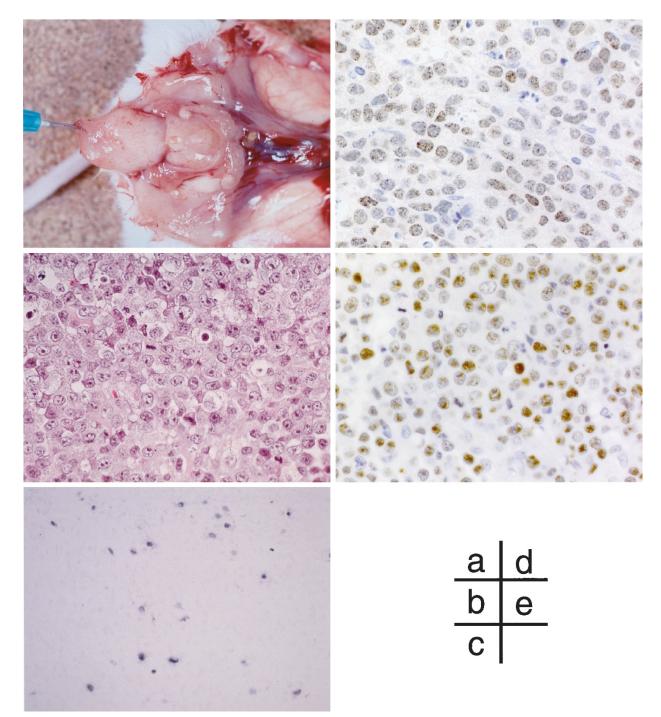


FIGURE 3. Inoculation of a primary effusion lymphoma cell line to severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) mice. **A**, tumor formation in a SCID mouse injected with TY-1. **B**, hematoxylin and eosin staining of tumor of **A**. Histologic feature of this neoplasm resembles anaplastic large cell lymphoma. **C**, these tumor cells were positive for human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8) by *in situ* hybridization. **D**, **E**, immunohistochemistry of HHV-8–encoded ORF73 protein. **D**, tumor of a SCID mouse. Dot-like positive signals are found in the nucleus of almost all cells. **E**, original lymphoma of Case 2. Almost all cells are positive for HHV-8 ORF73.

suggested the association of HHV-8 infection with solid lymphomas. Indeed, in their cases, the effusion lymphomas appeared later, whereas the demonstration of HHV-8 genome remained in PCR level in this study and we could demonstrate the localization of HHV-8 genome and protein definitely. Thus, we believe that these cases constitute the category HHV-8–associated lymphoma, as has been proposed by DePond *et al.* (6). In this sense, the HHV-8–associated lymphoma can take two forms: effusion lymphoma type and solid lymphoma type. Of course, it is evident from the present study that these two types can appear independently, as in Cases 1 and 3, or simultaneously, as in Case 2. HHV-8–associated lymphoma should be distinguished from the classical ALCLs as defined by the REAL classification by the negative expression of p80^{NPM/ALK} kinase, their B-/null-cell phenotype, and the presence of viral antigens. Actually, in the REAL classification, ALCL belonged to T-/null-cell lymphomas, whereas the present HHV-8-associated lymphoma exhibited the null- or B-cell phenotype. Also, we believe that the previously reported AIDS-ALCLs must be reevaluated to take into consideration the presence of HHV-8 infection. So far, the first report of HHV-8-associated lymphoma seems to have been presented by Cesarman et al. (15), in which a solid lymphoma occurred in the submandibular gland and PEL was found in the pleural effusion 5 months later. It might also be important to study the p80^{NPM/ALK}-negative ALCLs to determine whether part of them is related to HHV-8.

EBV was detected in Cases 2 and 3, but we do not think that EBV was an important factor in the progression of these lymphomas because the TY-1 cell line established from a lymphoma in Case 2 was EBV negative, and the solid tumors that occurred in SCID mice that were injected with TY-1 were also negative for EBV.

On the basis of the findings in Case 2 and the experimental inoculation of a PEL cell line into SCID mice, it is highly probable that the lymphoma cells took the form of the effusion lymphoma and the solid lymphomas originated from identical clones. How then, can identical tumor cells take two different forms? So far, we have no speculations that may help answer this question.

It is interesting that the reported PELs were of Bor null-cell immunophenotypes, whereas genetic analysis revealed B-cell genicity in most of the cases. This allows us to speculate that the present two null-cell-type solid lymphomas (Cases 1 and 2) may be of B-cell lineage. Expression of CD30 may be one of the common features in our three cases. CD30 expression is a hallmark of ALCL. Most of the true (classical) ALCLs were shown to express CD30. As shown in this study, the level of expression is variable in HHV-8-associated lymphoma, but they exhibit anaplastic large cell morphology. In addition, two cases of HHV-8-associated lymphoma reported by DePond et al. (6) did not express CD30. Thus, the expression of CD30 seems variable in HHV-8-associated lymphomas.

Finally, the increase of bone marrow plasma cells in these cases might be worth noting. The association of HHV-8 infection to an increase in serum IL-6 was recently confirmed (31). It is also known that PEL cells contain far more HHV-8 copies compared with HHV-8–infected Kaposi's sarcoma cells (15). Thus, it seems possible that those HHV-8–infected solid lymphomas also express this lymphokine, permitting bone marrow plasma cells to proliferate. Further investigation will be needed to support this speculation.

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