Reviewer's report

Title: Human T lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) proviral load induces activation of T-lymphocytes in asymptomatic carriers

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Reviewer: Sören Andersson

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study that moves the field of HTLV prognosis a bit forward. I have a few comments (for Minor Essential Revision).

1. Introduction, p 3, line 72. The immunodepression in HIV infection does is not only caused by destruction of CD4 T cells. Other factors, such as general immune activation and exhaustion, could be briefly mentioned.

2. Methods p5, line 109. The company address for Ficoll-Hypaque should be checked (could be correct, but Pharmacia Biotech has been merged with GE Healthcare and changed name).

3. Results, figures. The numbers of persons included in the different groups seem to vary between the text in the manuscript and the figures. Please check. Was there any selection of no. of samples analysed or were all included? Please clarify.


Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.