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Epstein–Barr virus in pleural effusions: protagonist or pretender?

David T. Arnold¹, Tim Suri², Fergus Hamilton³, Anna Morley¹, Andrew Medford¹, Ian B. Vipond⁴, Peter Muir ⁴ and Nick A. Maskell¹

Affiliations: ¹Academic Respiratory Unit, School of Translational Health Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. ²School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. ³Dept of Microbiology, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK. ⁴Public Health England, South West Regional Laboratory, National Infection Service, Bristol, UK.

Correspondence: David T. Arnold, Level 2, Learning and Research Building, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, BS10 5NB, UK. E-mail: arnold.dta@gmail.com



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Previous studies have suggested an association between Epstein–Barr virus (EBV) and inflammatory pleuritis (IP). The incidence of IP in this 1005-patient cohort was 3%, with no evidence of increased pleural fluid EBV DNA compared to controls. <http://bit.ly/2lVGvNV>

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To the Editor:

Unilateral pleural effusions are a common diagnostic challenge for the respiratory physician. In the majority of patients, a diagnosis can be made according to medical history, computed tomography and pleural fluid analysis [1]. A proportion of patients will require a pleural biopsy but, following this, a minority will remain undiagnosed and are defined as having inflammatory pleuritis (IP) [2]. These patients often require extended follow-up to ensure effusion resolution and exclude malignancy.