

1 **TITLE PAGE**

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5 **Full-length title: Dramatic HIV DNA degradation associated with spontaneous HIV**
6 **suppression and disease-free outcome in a young seropositive woman following her**
7 **infection**

8 **Short title (for the running head): Dramatic HIV DNA degradation postinfection**

9

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20

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25

ABSTRACT

26

27 Strategies to cure HIV-infected patients by virus-targeting drugs have failed to date. We
28 identified a HIV-1-seropositive woman who spontaneously suppressed HIV replication and
29 had normal CD4-cell counts, no HIV disease, no replication-competent virus and no cell HIV
30 DNA detected with a routine assay. We suspected that dramatic HIV DNA degradation
31 occurred postinfection. We performed multiple nested-PCRs followed by Sanger sequencing
32 and applied a multiplex-PCR approach. Furthermore, we implemented a new technique based
33 on two hybridization steps on beads prior to next-generation sequencing that removed human
34 DNA then retrieved integrated HIV sequences with HIV-specific probes. We assembled
35 ≈45% of the HIV genome and further analyzed the G-to-A mutations putatively generated by
36 cellular APOBEC3 enzymes that can change tryptophan codons into stop codons. We found
37 more G-to-A mutations in the HIV DNA from the woman than in that of her contaminator.
38 Moreover, 74% of the tryptophan codons were changed to stop codons (25%) or were deleted
39 as a possible consequence of gene inactivation. Finally, we found that this woman's cells
40 remained HIV-susceptible *in vitro*. Our findings show that she does not exhibit innate HIV
41 resistance but has been cured of it by extrinsic factors, a plausible candidate for which is the
42 gut microbiota.

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TEXT

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47 INTRODUCTION

48 The evolution of vertebrates has included the integration in their genomes of multiple
49 retrovirus sequences¹. Humans are not the exception to the rule as ≈8% of their genome
50 consist in retroviral DNA. Most integrated retrovirus sequences were inactivated by
51 substantial degradation, and only remain as relics of ancient retrovirus epidemics^{2,3}. This
52 general biological phenomenon that consists in the cannibalism of the DNA from viral
53 invaders has been revealed to be on-going in koalas with retroviruses causing an AIDS-like
54 syndrome⁴. Regarding HIV, the problem of prevention and cure of HIV infection has not been
55 solved since its discovery^{5,6}. Only two cases of HIV-1 remission have been described
56 following CCR5delta32/delta32 hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation^{7,8}. However, some
57 paths could open new therapeutic and preventive avenues. An alternative option to cure
58 patients of HIV might be to strengthen, if identified, natural antiviral defenses. A group of
59 cellular enzymes named APOBEC3 exists whose function is to destroy invading viruses,
60 including retroviruses⁹. The predominant role of APOBEC3s is to deaminate Cs that are
61 changed to Ts, which leads to G-to-A mutations in integrated viral DNA. The genomes of
62 HIV and SIV in great apes encode a protein, Vif, that inhibits their action¹⁰. However, it has
63 been evidenced in gorillas that a single mutation in the APOBEC3G gene can confer
64 resistance to SIV from chimpanzees by counteracting Vif activity¹⁰. In addition, it was
65 recently shown that a patient experienced a dramatic decrease in peripheral blood
66 mononuclear cell (PBMC) HIV-1 DNA load in response to a release of immunity by
67 monoclonal antibodies targeting PD-1¹¹, whose activity is known to be modulated by the gut
68 microbiota^{12,13}. Moreover, the regulation of immune responses by exogenous factors
69 including the microbiota is an emerging field in cancer immunotherapy^{12,13}. Thus, the

70 immune control of HIV infection under the influence of exogenous factors is not a theoretical
71 impossibility.

72 We previously described two HIV-1-seropositive patients who we believe might have
73 spontaneously cured of HIV^{14, 15}. Indeed, although they never received antiretrovirals, they
74 persistently have a suppressed HIV replication, normal CD4 T cell counts, and no HIV-related
75 disease for more than 10 years (one was HIV-diagnosed in 1985). In addition, no replication-
76 competent HIV was retrieved by culture, and HIV DNA was not detected in peripheral blood
77 mononuclear cells (PBMC) by our diagnosis assay. PBMC HIV DNA was only laboriously
78 obtained by performing hundreds PCR. While searching for other index cases to understand if
79 it is possible to be cured spontaneously of HIV, we investigated a third case.

80

81 **METHODS**

82 **Sample collection**

83 Samples were obtained from the patient in January 2015, September 2015 and January 2017
84 in an attempt to obtain the greatest number of HIV sequences from peripheral blood
85 mononuclear cells (PBMCs). Samples were obtained from the contaminator in January 2017.
86 Informed written consent was obtained from the patients. This study was approved by our
87 institution's ethics committee (ethics committee of IHU Méditerranée Infection) (N°2018-
88 001).

89 **PCR amplification, Sanger sequencing and multiplex PCR technique**

90 HIV-1 DNA Sanger population sequencing was performed as described previously¹⁴. All HIV
91 genes were targeted by at least one PCR system (supplementary information), and all PCRs
92 were conducted in quadruplicate. PCR positivity was determined based on obtaining an HIV
93 sequence by Sanger sequencing. A multiplex PCR technique called "Bortsch" was also
94 performed as described previously¹⁴.

95 **Human DNA depletion, HIV-1 DNA enrichment procedures and Illumina next-**
96 **generation sequencing of DNA extracted from the woman PBMCs**

97 *Human and HIV-1-specific probe design*

98 Whole human-specific probes (baits) were constructed as described in a previously developed
99 protocol¹⁶ with modifications¹⁷. A full-length human genome derived from a modern
100 reference individual (HapMap individual NA21732; Coriell Institute for Medical Research,
101 Camden, NJ) was used as a template to generate biotinylated RNA “bait” libraries spanning
102 the entire human genome. For the design of HIV-1-specific probes, full-length HIV-1
103 genomes or HIV-1 DNA fragments were fenestrated using a Perl script into a 120 nucleotide-
104 long fragment with a sliding window of 60 nucleotides. The targeted HIV-1 sequences were
105 genomes from the set of HIV-1 reference genomes of the Los Alamos National Institutes of
106 Health HIV sequence database
107 (<https://www.hiv.lanl.gov/content/sequence/NEWALIGN/align.html#comp>), HIV genomes
108 obtained from two patients whose cases were previously described¹⁴, and HIV-1 DNA that
109 had been recovered from the woman and her contaminator. The set of 20,000 probes was
110 synthesized by Arbor Biosciences (Arbor Biosciences, Ann Arbor, MI, USA).

111 *Library preparation for the next-generation sequencing*

112 DNA extraction was performed on 200 μ L of PBMCs ($\approx 2e5$ cells) collected from the woman,
113 using the EZ1 Virus Mini Kit v2.0 (Qiagen Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer’s
114 protocols. Five paired-end libraries were prepared using 1 ng of extracted DNA and MiSeq
115 Technology with the paired-end method and the Nextera XT kit (Illumina Inc., San Diego,
116 CA, USA). DNA was fragmented, and adaptors containing the Illumina P5/P7 primer
117 sequences and tags were added.

118 *Human DNA depletion procedure*

119 Five depletions of human nucleic acids were performed separately by hybridization of 50 μ L

120 of each prepared Illumina library (≈ 100 ng of DNA) with 500 ng of biotinylated human RNA-
121 bait library. Targeted fragment/probe heteroduplexes were captured using magnetic
122 streptavidin-harboring beads (MyOne Streptavidin C1 Dynabeads (Life Technologies,
123 Carlsbad, USA)), as previously described¹⁷. The unbound fraction (supernatant) was
124 concentrated and cleaned using 1.8 \times AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA,
125 USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol with elution into 30 μ l of 1X TE buffer. The
126 five purified fractions were then pooled and concentrated using a MinElute PCR Purification
127 Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's protocol with elution in 10 μ l of elution buffer.
128 To generate sufficient material for targeted enrichment, this product was amplified using eight
129 PCR amplification cycles with Illumina P5/P7 primers, before purification using a MinElute
130 PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen) and elution with 10 μ l of elution buffer.

131 ***Targeted HIV enrichment through hybridization capture***

132 A total of 500 ng of the human-depleted library was used to perform the targeted HIV
133 enrichment step involving hybridization with the HIV-specific probes using a myBaits target
134 capture kit (Arbor Biosciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions (Hybridization
135 Capture for Targeted NGS manual version 4.01). Hybridization-based capture reactions with
136 undiluted HIV-1 probes (500 ng) was performed at 65°C for 16 h. Streptavidin-coated
137 magnetic beads (myBaits kit) were added to the hybridization mixture, and the sample was
138 additionally incubated for 5 min at 65°C. After washing steps, beads were resuspended in 30
139 μ L of 10 mM Tris-Cl, 0.05% Tween-20 solution (pH 8.0-8.5). The captured DNA was
140 dissociated from beads by heating the suspension at 95°C for 5 min. HIV-1 DNA and human
141 albumin DNA were quantified by a multiplex real-time PCR assay as previously described¹⁴.

142 ***Next-generation sequencing and sequence read analysis***

143 The product of the HIV enrichment procedure was normalized according to the Nextera XT
144 protocol for pooling and sequencing on a MiSeq instrument (Illumina). A single run of 39 h in

145 2×250 base pairs (bp) was carried out for paired-end sequencing and cluster generation. Reads
146 were filtered based on their quality, generated paired reads were imported into the CLC
147 software (<https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com/products/clc-genomics-workbench/>) and
148 then assembled by mapping to the HIV genome GenBank accession no. K03455.1 (HIV-1
149 strain HXB2) and to sequences obtained from the woman and contaminator PBMCs. Reads
150 identified as corresponding to HIV sequences were exported as fasta and SAM files.

151 **Comparisons of HIV-1 sequences obtained from the woman PBMCs and her**
152 **contaminator PBMCs and analysis of G-to-A mutations and of substitution of**
153 **tryptophan codons by stop codons**

154 A custom script written in Python language was used to analyze the SAM file generated from
155 the mapping of reads obtained by next-generation sequencing and to count differences in
156 amino acids between HIV sequences recovered from the PBMCs of the woman and her
157 contaminator. In addition, alignments of nucleotide sequences obtained by Sanger and next-
158 generation sequencing were performed using the MUSCLE program¹⁸. The phylogenetic
159 analysis was performed using the MEGA6 software (www.megasoftware.net) with the
160 neighbor-joining method. Nucleotide sequences were merged into a Microsoft Excel file
161 using sequences from the HIV-1 K03455.1 genome (HXB2 strain) or those obtained from the
162 contaminator PBMCs as references. An alignment was also performed using the same
163 sequences after their translation into amino acids from the three open reading frames using the
164 Transeq online tool (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/st/emboss_transeq/) and amino acid
165 sequences from the proteins of the HXB2 strain as references, and these aligned sequences
166 were merged into the Microsoft Excel file. G-to-A mutations and substitution of tryptophan
167 codons by stop codons were searched using the Microsoft Excel software.

168 **HIV culture assay**

169 Testing for PBMC resistance to HIV was conducted as previously described^{14, 19}.

170 **Supplementary material**

171 HIV sequences obtained in the present study are available at [https://www.mediterranee-](https://www.mediterranee-infection.com/acces-ressources/donnees-pour-articles/hiv/)
172 [infection.com/acces-ressources/donnees-pour-articles/hiv/](https://www.mediterranee-infection.com/acces-ressources/donnees-pour-articles/hiv/) or have been submitted to
173 GenBank (submission ID: 2225641).

174

175 **RESULTS**

176 The patient is a 37-year-old woman sexually infected with HIV-1 between 2002 and 2004 by
177 a single partner and diagnosed as seropositive in July 2006 (see Supplementary Fig. S1
178 online). She never received antiretrovirals except in 2012 during the third trimester of her
179 pregnancy (zidovudine, 300 mg/d). Nevertheless, to date, she has persistently had normal
180 CD4 T lymphocyte counts (mean value between 2006 and 2018, $1,221 \pm 172/\text{mm}^3$) and
181 remained free of HIV-related disease. In addition, HIV RNA was not detected in plasma using
182 commercialized PCR assays on ten occasions during follow-up, and no replication-competent
183 HIV was retrieved by coculture. Moreover, no PBMC HIV DNA was detected by routine
184 diagnostic tests¹⁴ on six occasions between 2010 and 2018. However, the woman's PBMCs
185 were found to be susceptible to the HIV-1 NL4-3 strain. This finding indicates that this
186 woman acquired the capability to combat HIV after her infection and suggests the role of an
187 extrinsic factor. Moreover, she was not infected with a defective HIV strain, as in her
188 contaminator, a 30-year-old man HIV-diagnosed in 1990, the HIV DNA load was 350
189 copies/million PBMCs, and the CD4 T cell count fell to $<200/\text{mm}^3$, which required
190 antiretroviral therapy.

191 Based on these findings and our previous work¹⁴, we suspected that the HIV genome
192 in this young woman had been drastically degraded after its integration. We attempted to
193 obtain fragments of HIV DNA from her PBMCs and assess their degradation by using
194 thorough molecular procedures and the contaminator's HIV sequences as a reference. We

195 used different strategies to retrieve the maximum number of HIV sequences from the PBMCs
196 of this woman in whom standard assays had failed to detect HIV DNA. First, we performed
197 nested PCR targeting HIV sequences from the literature, including with a multiplex PCR
198 technique¹⁴. During these steps, HIV sequences were obtained by Sanger sequencing from 26
199 (7%) of 392 nested PCRs performed on the woman PBMCs (Table 1). The mean PCR product
200 size was 251±201 nucleotides, 54% being shorter than 200 nucleotides, and they assembled
201 into 3,254 nucleotide-long noncontiguous fragments classified as HIV-1 subtype B (Fig. 1).
202 HIV sequences obtained from the woman matched those of the near full-length HIV genome
203 (9,337 nucleotides) recovered from the PBMCs of her partner, confirming that this patient
204 was the contaminator and that the young woman was infected with a nondefective viral strain
205 and eliminating a contamination. Second, for the first time, we implemented a technique using
206 two successive steps of uptake on probe-coated beads. The two steps consisted of human
207 DNA depletion with human DNA-targeting probes followed by HIV DNA enrichment with a
208 set of HIV probes complementary to the contaminator HIV sequences. This enriched HIV
209 DNA was thereafter nonspecifically amplified and sequenced by Illumina next-generation
210 sequencing. We obtained 73 reads through this procedure that increased the length of the
211 assembled HIV genome by 17% (1,133 nucleotides) (Fig. 2a; see Supplementary Information
212 online). Overall, by these three approaches and carrying out hundreds of manipulations, we
213 obtained a set of noncontiguous fragments covering 4,387 nucleotides of the integrated HIV
214 DNA of this young woman.

215 Then, as the genome of the HIV strain that infected this young woman had been
216 obtained from her contaminator, we were able to determine the number of G-to-A mutations
217 attributed to APOBEC3G activity in her HIV DNA, and specifically the number of tryptophan
218 codons eliminated either by their change to stop codons or because fragments of DNA
219 containing the tryptophan codons were lost. G-to-A mutations were observed in the woman's

220 HIV DNA at 152 (16%) positions of the HIV DNA from the contaminator that only harbored
221 G, and a G-to-A excess was detected in the woman compared to her contaminator, notably for
222 the genes encoding HIV reverse transcriptase; integrase; Vif, which counteracts APOBEC3G;
223 Vpr; Vpu; and Env gp120 (Table 2; see see Supplementary Table S1 online). We thereafter
224 determined that HIV sequences of the woman only covered 47 (52%) of the 91 tryptophan
225 codons of the HIV genome; however, they were all present in sequences retrieved from the
226 contaminator (Table 3; Fig. 2b). In the woman's HIV DNA, changes from a tryptophan codon
227 to a stop codon were observed 5 times in *vif* and *gp120* envelope genes, 4 times in integrase
228 gene, and twice in *gag*, reverse transcriptase, *vpr* and *vpu* genes, contrasting with no such
229 changes in HIV DNA from the contaminator. With regard to HIV sequences generated by
230 next-generation sequencing of DNA from the woman PBMCs, 67 (74%) of the 91 tryptophan
231 codons present in the contaminator HIV DNA were either retrieved but changed to stop
232 codons (as observed for 17 (63%) of 27 tryptophan codons on average (Table 4)) or located in
233 HIV-1 DNA regions that we did not retrieve as a possible consequence of their degradation or
234 loss. Thus, G-to-A mutations, the absence of codon coverage, or both states combined were
235 significantly more frequent at tryptophan codons than at any other codon. Overall, we found
236 that G-to-A mutations generating stop codons occurred in at least one sequence at 23 (49%) of
237 the 47 covered tryptophan codons (at 9 and 16 of those covered by Sanger and next-
238 generation sequencing, respectively) in viral sequences recovered from the woman, whereas
239 no such change was detected in HIV sequences obtained from the contaminator at any of the
240 91 covered tryptophan codons. Taken together, these findings suggest that APOBEC3G
241 activity was greater in the woman than in her contaminator and this increased activity induced
242 a dramatic degradation of integrated PBMC HIV DNA after infection. The detection of
243 several stop codons in the Vif-encoding gene is particularly worthy of note because this
244 protein counteracts APOBEC3G by triggering its degradation²⁰. In addition, APOBEC3G

245 DNA sequencing in the patient did not show mutations compared to reference sequences at
246 Vif-APOBEC3 interaction sites, oligomerization/encapsidation sites, and N- and C-terminal
247 active sites (see see Supplementary Fig. S2 online).

248

249 **DISCUSSION**

250 We present here evidence that a young woman was infected with HIV, as she is seropositive
251 and HIV sequences were eventually retrieved from her PBMCs using ultrasensitive methods,
252 but after infection spontaneously and thoroughly degraded the HIV genomes integrated in her
253 DNA. This occurred through G-to-A mutations, which is the signature of APOBEC3 cellular
254 enzymes, and led to gene inactivation by changing tryptophan codons into stop codons.
255 Clinically, the woman never developed immunodeficiency or HIV-related symptoms, which
256 suggests that she was cured of HIV¹⁵. The fate of HIV infection was totally different in her
257 contaminator although both individuals where infected with a same HIV strain. These
258 findings highlight that the different outcome relied on host response to infection, not on the
259 viral strain. The woman harbored far less abundant and more degraded HIV DNA than her
260 contaminator, revealing a more extensive action of APOBEC3 enzymes. In humans, greater
261 APOBEC3G amounts in blood resting memory CD4 cells was associated with lower PBMC
262 HIV DNA levels²¹. In addition, increased rates of G-to-A mutations were observed among
263 HIV-seropositive individuals who spontaneously suppress HIV replication^{14, 22}.

264 The present case is critical because it shows that some individuals are likely to
265 inactivate integrated HIV after infection. As this woman's cells remained susceptible to HIV
266 infection, this phenomenon appears to be linked to extrinsic factors. A possible explanation is
267 that the microbiota of this woman hyperactivated APOBEC3 enzymes. Preliminary work has
268 highlighted that bacterial components could stimulate the expression of APOBEC3G and
269 enhance its activity on integrated HIV, which is certainly a path worthy of exploration²³. The

270 modulation of the immune response by the digestive microbiota, in particular in the ileum
271 where lymphocytes pass several times per day, is one of the keys that may open the way to
272 new therapeutic strategies to fight HIV, as has been reported in the oncology field for which
273 specific gut microbes are shown to drastically modulate responses to cancer
274 immunotherapies.¹³.

275

276

277 **Contributors**

278 DR and PC designed the study. CD provided clinical data. PC, JD, OOG, MG and AL
279 performed the molecular biology or bioinformatic analyses. PC, CD, CT, AL and DR
280 analysed the study data. DR and PC wrote the manuscript. All authors revised or reviewed the
281 manuscript critically and approved the final version.

282

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291 The funders of the study had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data
292 interpretation, and writing of the report. All authors had full access to the data in the study and
293 the corresponding author had final responsibility for the decision to submit for publication.

294

295 **Competing interests**

296 The authors declare no competing interests.

297

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- 359
- 360

FIGURE LEGENDS

361

362

363 **Figure 1.** Phylogenetic analysis of HIV reverse transcriptase sequences obtained from the
364 PBMC DNA of the woman and her contaminator.

365 The HIV-1 genome fragment analyzed here corresponds to a 671-nucleotide alignment
366 generated from sequences of the reverse transcriptase-encoding gene and corresponding to
367 nucleotides 2,596-3,266 of the HIV-1 genome GenBank accession no. K03455.1. Sequences
368 obtained from the present cases are indicated by a bold white font and a black (CP3, woman)
369 or a gray (CP5, contaminator) background. The 10 sequences with the highest BLAST score
370 recovered from the NCBI GenBank nucleotide sequence database
371 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/>), labeled with BH Gbk (for best BLAST hit
372 GenBank) and indicated by a green font, and from our local sequence database, labeled with
373 BH IHU (for best BLAST hit IHU-Méditerranée Infection) and indicated by a blue font, were
374 incorporated in the phylogeny reconstruction. Nucleotide alignments were performed using
375 the MUSCLE software (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle/>). The evolutionary history
376 was inferred in the MEGA6 software (<http://www.megasoftware.net/>) using the neighbor-
377 joining method and the Kimura 2-parameter method. The percentage of replicate trees in
378 which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (1,000 replicates) is shown
379 next to the branches. The tree is drawn to scale, with branch lengths in the same units as those
380 of the evolutionary distances used to infer the phylogenetic tree; the scale bars indicate the
381 number of nucleotide substitutions per site. Bootstrap values >50% are labeled on the tree.
382 NGS, next-generation sequencing.

383

384 **Figure 2.** Condensed view of the location and number of HIV DNA fragments recovered
385 from the PBMCs of the woman using Sanger and next-generation sequencing (a) and

386 coverage of tryptophan stop codons in the HIV-1 genome by HIV sequences retrieved from
387 the woman and contaminator PBMCs by Sanger or next-generation sequencing (b).

388 a: The number of nucleotide sequences per 100 nucleotide positions corresponds to the sum of
389 sequences covering each nucleotide position per window of 100 nucleotides.

390 b: All 91 tryptophan stop codons covered by Sanger sequencing products obtained from the
391 contaminator's PBMCs. Green indicates G nucleotides, red indicates A nucleotides, black
392 indicates T or C nucleotides. Regarding sequences generated from the woman PBMCs, areas
393 in dark and light gray indicate tryptophan codons not covered by any sequences obtained by
394 both Sanger and next-generation sequencing or by one of these sequencing strategies,
395 respectively.

396

397

TABLES

398

399 **Table 1.** Proportions of positive HIV DNA test results for PCR systems used on DNA of peripheral blood mononuclear cells from HIV
 400 seropositive cases and controls

401

Patients	PCR testing		<i>P</i>
	Number performed	Number of positives (%)	
Present case: woman	392	26 (7)	$\left. \begin{array}{l} <1e-5 \\ <1e-5 \\ <1e-5 \\ <1e-5 \end{array} \right\} 0.006$
Contaminator	59	25 (42)	
Case No. 1 ¹⁴	218	44 (20)	
Case No. 2 ¹⁴	253	34 (13)	

402

403 Cases No. 1 and No. 2 are two patients whose cases were previously reported ¹⁴ and from whom HIV could neither be detected by standard PCR assays
 404 nor cultured, whereas very small amounts of HIV DNA could be laboriously retrieved from peripheral blood mononuclear cell DNA.

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408 **Table 2.** G-to-A mutations detected in HIV DNA fragments obtained by Sanger or next-
409 generation sequencing from woman PBMCs at G-harboring positions in the contaminator's
410 HIV DNA

411

HIV-1 gene	Number of positions harboring G-to-A mutations	
	Number	%
<i>gag</i>	15	12
<i>pol protease</i>	6	15
<i>pol reverse transcriptase</i>	20	9
<i>pol RNase H</i>	6	29
<i>pol integrase</i>	45	26
<i>vif</i>	30	23
<i>vpr</i>	13	17
<i>tat</i>	4	9
<i>vpu</i>	17	33
<i>rev</i>	4	11
<i>env gp120</i>	17	19
<i>env gp41</i>	1	3
<i>nef</i>	2	13

412

413

414 **Table 3.** Tryptophan-to-stop codon mutations detected in HIV DNA fragments obtained from
 415 the woman and contaminator PBMCs by Sanger and next-generation sequencing

HIV-1 gene	Number of sequences harboring mutations generating tryptophan codon-to-stop codon changes	
	Woman PBMCs (Sanger/NGS)	Contaminator PBMCs
<i>gag</i>	-/2	0
<i>pol protease</i>	-/1	0
<i>pol reverse transcriptase</i>	0/2	0
<i>pol integrase</i>	0/4	0
<i>vif</i>	1/5 (1 in common)	0
<i>vpr</i>	1/2 (1 in common)	0
<i>tat</i>	0/-	0
<i>vpu</i>	2/0	0
<i>rev</i>	-/-	0
<i>env gp120</i>	5/0	0
<i>env gp41</i>	-/-	0
<i>nef</i>	-/-	0

416

417 -, no sequence; NGS, next-generation sequencing

418 **Table 4.** G-to-A mutations detected in HIV DNA fragments obtained from the woman PBMCs by next-generation sequencing in reference to
 419 HIV DNA obtained from the contaminator PBMCs

HIV-1 codons *	Numbers				P			
	Total in the HIV genome	Covered by NGS reads	Not mutated (mean)	Mutated (mean)	Uncovered vs covered by NGS reads	Mutated vs not mutated	Lost vs not mutated	Mutated or lost vs not mutated
A	188	59	36	23	-	-	-	-
C	55	14	12	2	-	-	-	-
D	125	35	29	6	-	-	0.0388	-
E	227	75	45	30	-	-	-	-
F	86	26	19	7	-	-	-	-
G	226	80	57	23	-	-	-	-
H	72	22	16	7	-	-	-	-
I	212	77	48	29	-	-	-	-
K	211	77	56	21	-	-	-	-
L	260	74	55	20	-	-	-	-
M	62	24	15	9	-	-	-	-
N	147	42	34	8	-	-	-	-
P	176	62	41	21	-	-	-	-
Q	180	65	45	20	-	-	-	-
R	192	52	33	19	-	-	-	-
S	168	56	39	17	-	-	-	-
T	170	46	36	10	-	-	-	-
V	184	65	40	25	-	-	-	-
W	88	27	10	17	-	0.0189	0.0009	0.0051
Y	80	33	23	10	-	-	-	-

420
 421
 422

-, >0.05; * Named according to the IUPAC amino acid notation (<https://iupac.org/>; W= tryptophan); NGS, next-generation sequencing

Fig. 1

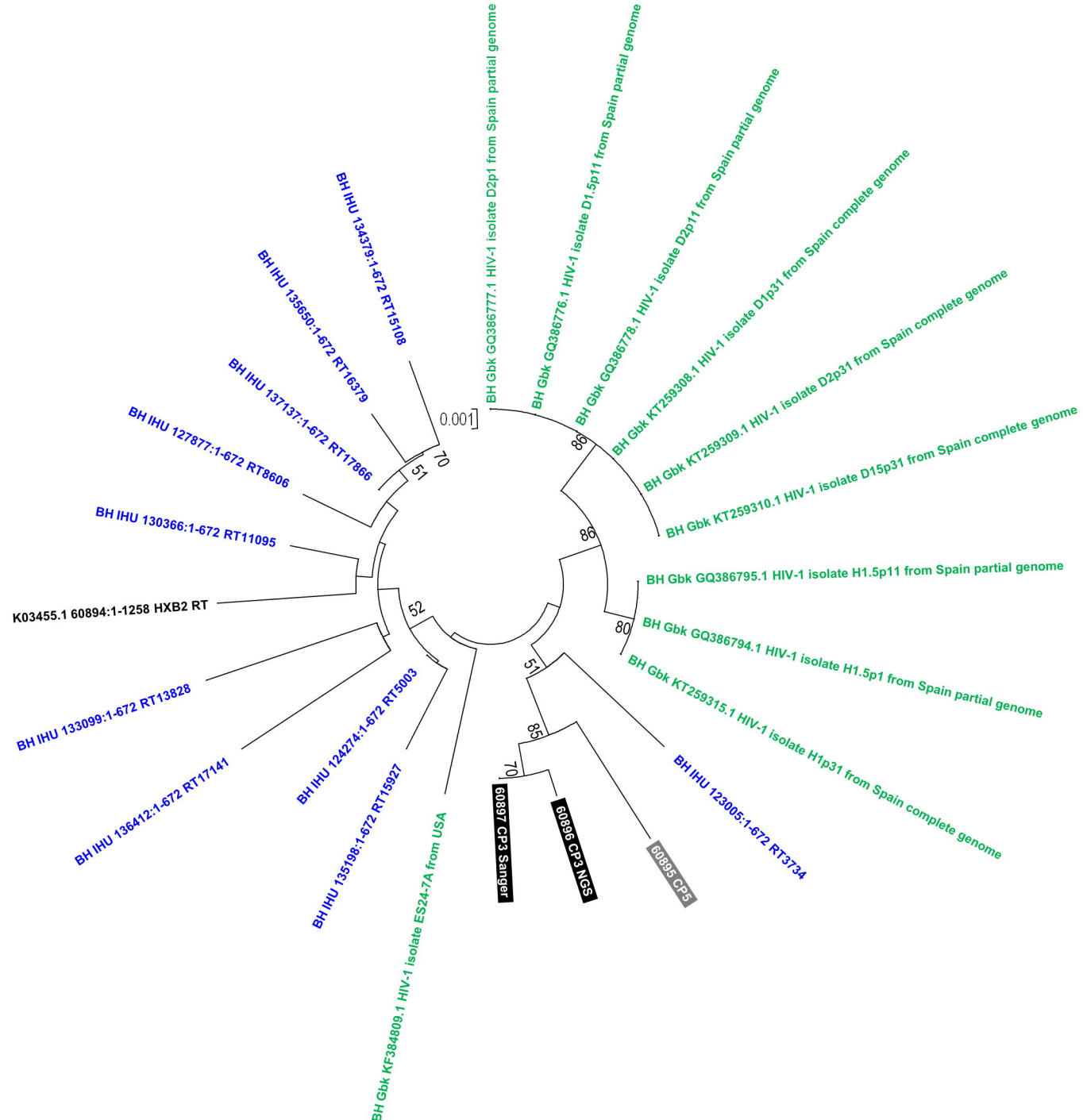


Fig. 2 Map of HIV-1 genome K03455 and of its genes

