Case 2

A three year-old child developed fever, generalized lymphadenopathy\(^1\) and a peripheral blood WBC of 100,000.\(^2\) Eighty percent of the peripheral blood white cells were lymphoblasts. Antibody studies to cell surface markers on the leukemic lymphoblasts failed to distinguish B-cell versus T-cell acute leukemia.

\(^1\)enlarged lymph nodes
\(^2\)100,000 cells/\(\mu\)l

Questions for Case 2

(1) The prognosis and treatment of T-cell leukemia differs from that of B-cell acute leukemia; thus, it is important to distinguish between the two. What antibody tests are used to distinguish T-cell versus B-cell acute leukemia?

(2) Southern blots were performed on DNA extracted from the patient’s peripheral blood white cells, using J-region probes for the TCR\(\beta\) and Ig heavy-chain genes. Describe the patterns of the Southern blots if the cells were: (a) leukemic B-cells, or (b) leukemic T-cells. What would similar Southern blots of normal peripheral blood lymphocytes show?

(3) What is the difference between leukemia and lymphoma?