

# Viral diseases: **Herpes**

Microbiology III

# Herpes

- The term *herpes* Greek: *to creep*
- Occur as spreading cutaneous **lesions** of varied causes.
- **Herpes simplex** is a viral infection caused by the **herpes simplex virus (HSV)**.
- Infections are categorized based on the part of the body infected.
- **Oral herpes – HSV-1**
- **Genital herpes - HSV-2**



# Herpes viruses (HSV)

- The HSV are a unique group of **enveloped DNA viruses** that affect humans & animals.
- The HSV family includes over a 100 species.
- They show great diversity in pathology and biology.
- The only common feature is their property of establishing **latent infection**.

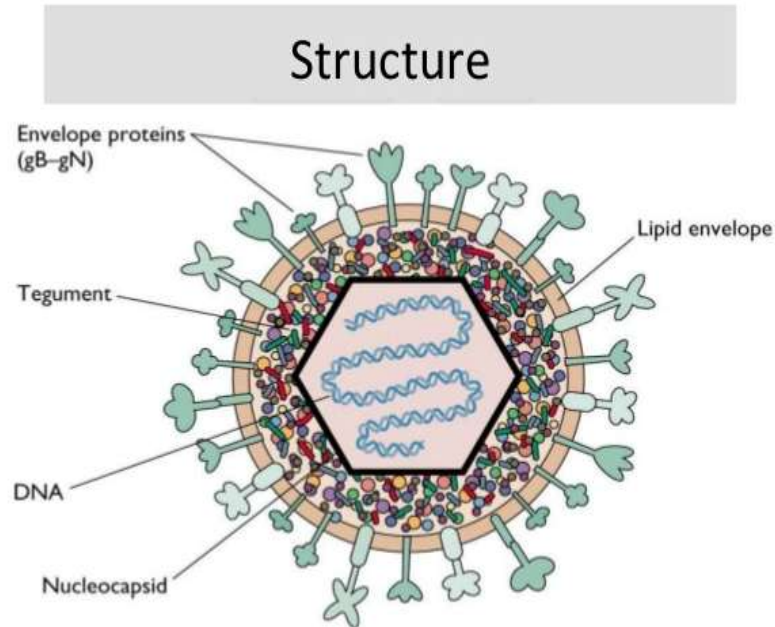
# Classification of HSV:

- The family *Herpesviridae* has been divided into three subfamilies:
  1. *Alpha herpesvirinae* (e.g. *Herpes simplex virus*).
  2. *Beta herpesvirinae* (e.g. *Cytomegalovirus*).
  3. *Gamma herpesvirinae* (e.g. *Epstein-Barr virus*).
- Eight different HSV are known – primary host are humans.

**Table 64–1.** Human herpesviruses

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Subfamily</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>
Human herpesvirus 1	Alpha	Herpes simplex virus type 1	HSV-1
Human herpesvirus 2	Alpha	Herpes simplex virus type 2	HSV-2
Human herpesvirus 3	Alpha	Varicella-zoster virus	VZV
Human herpesvirus 4	Gamma	Epstein-Barr virus	EBV
Human herpesvirus 5	Beta	Human cytomegalovirus	CMV
Human herpesvirus 6	Beta	Human B cell lymphotropic virus	HHV-6
Human herpesvirus 7	Beta	RK virus	HHV-7

# Morphology of Herpesviruses



- Icosahedral capsid
- Size: 120-200nm in diameter
- Genome: linear ds DNA
- Enveloped with spikes
- Tegument: amorphous region btw envelope & capsid
- Replication and assembly occur in nucleus of infected cell

- **Human** is only natural host for HSV.
- It is also known as **Human Herpesvirus (HHV)**.
- HSV are of two types:
- **HSV1 and HSV2**.
- Structurally and morphologically similar.
- Distinguished by:
  - **Antigens** - using type specific monoclonal Ab
  - **Restriction endonuclease pattern** of their genome
  - **Site of lesions**

## **Mode of transmission:**

- Direct contact with lesion fluid or saliva
- Sexual transmission; genital herpes
- Perinatal route; child gets Herpes during birth from infected mother
- Congenital transmission; it is rare



# Replication cycle:

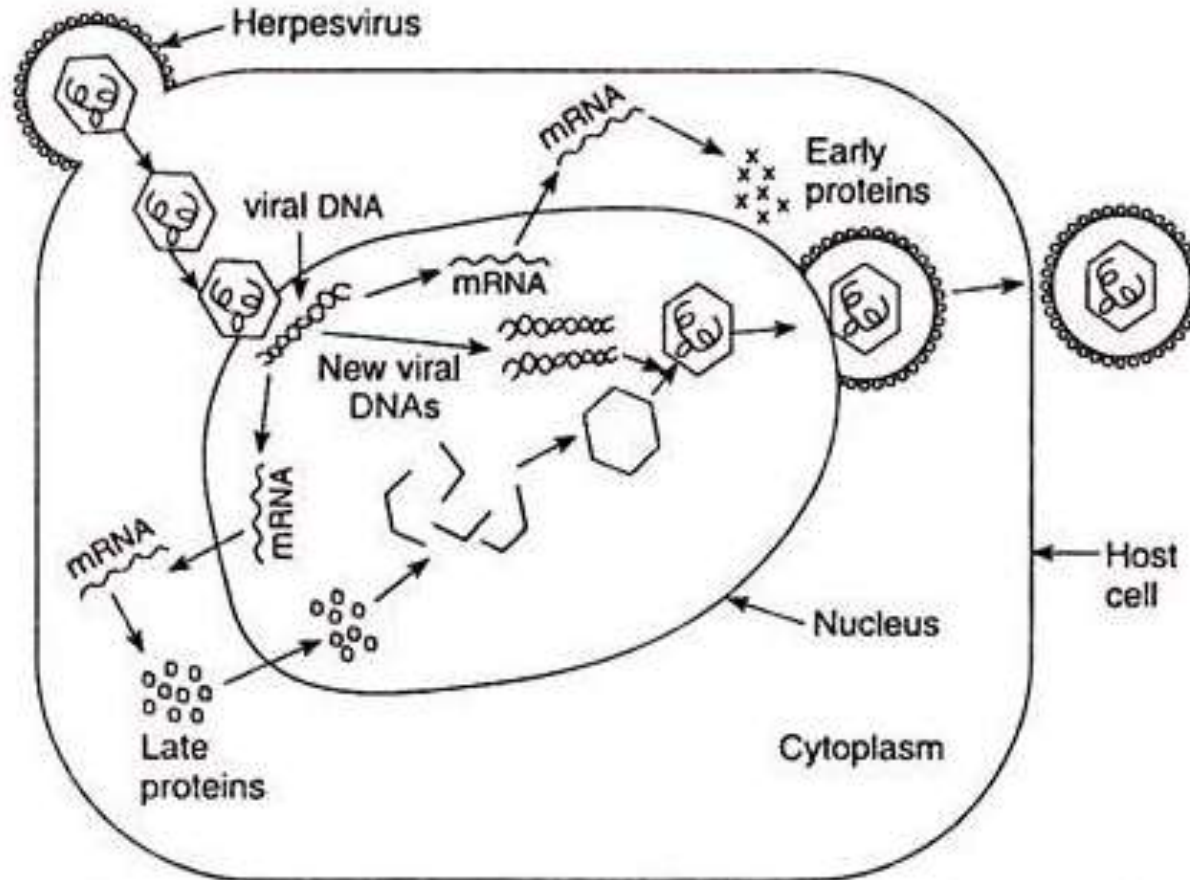










FIG. 14.6. Replication of herpesvirus genome and the formation of new viral particles.

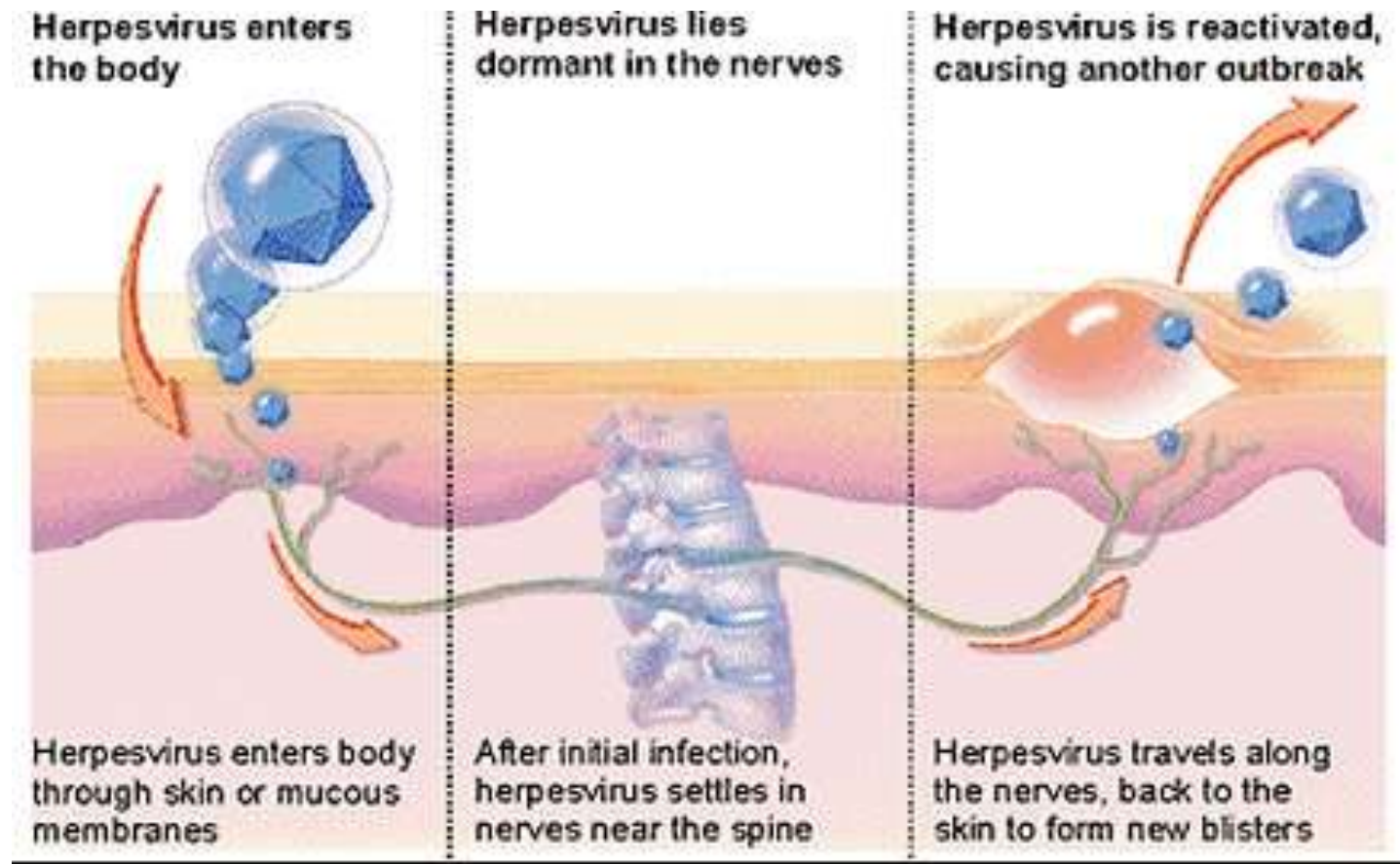
# Pathogenesis:

- Virus enter through **skin and mucus membrane** and multiply locally.
- Virion interacts with specific **cell surface receptor** through its **glycoprotein spike**.
- HSV1 and HSV2 have several cell surface receptor
- They uses one of them for entry in host cell.

- Binding of glycoprotein  trigger fusion of viral envelope with host cell membrane
- fusion  release of nucleo-capsid   
cytoplasm  transported to nucleus

- Nucleus of host cell  virus replication occur immediately.
- Viral gene will be transcribed  virus protein synthesis  Replication of virus genome  Assembly of progeny viruses.

# Pathogenesis



1. Primary infection
2. Latent infection
3. Recurrent infection

# Primary infection:

- HSV1 infection:
- are usually limited to oropharynx
- transmitted by respiratory droplet or saliva whereas
- HSV2 infection:
- usually transmits by genital route.

- Primary infection of Herpes results -
- **Vesicle formation** under the layer of keratinized squamous epithelium cell.
- Vesicle – filled with **fluid** – contains:
  - multinucleated giant cells
  - eosinophilic intranuclear inclusions bodies
  - inflammatory cell
  - cellular debris

- After primary infection – virus invades – local **nerve ending**
- Travel from **retrograde** intra axonal flow to sensory root ganglia where they further multiply.
- The virus settle within neuron in sensory ganglia and remain **latent**.



## **Latent infection:**

- During latency – no viral particles are produced.
- Does not causes any demonstrable damage in neuron.
- This latency phase – reactivated periodically in some individuals
- Causes recurrent oral and genital lesion.

## Recurrence herpes:

- The **virus travels back** – neuron and multiply – mucosal epithelial cell – producing **lesion** at the **same spot** each time.
- They are **less severe**, more localized and of **shorter duration** than that of primary infection due to presence of past immune response.

## **Clinical manifestation:**

- Cutaneous or skin infection
- Mucosal or Oropharyngeal infection
- Ophthalmic or eye infection
- Nervous system infection
- Visceral herpes
- Genital herpes
- Congenital herpes

## □ Cutaneous or skin infection:

- It is characterized by fever blister on face, cheeks, chin, around mouth and forehead.

## □ Mucosal or Oropharyngeal infection: (mouth)

- It is characterized by **vesicular lesion** on oral mucosa, tongue and lips.
- The lesions subsequently **rupture** and **coalesce** together leaving behind **ulcerated plaques**.
- Pharyngitis and tonsillitis manifests with fever, malaise, headache and sore throat.

- Ophthalmic or eye infection:
  - Follicular conjunctivitis
  - Corneal blindness
- Nervous system infection:
  - Herpes encephalitis; caused by HSV-1
  - Herpes meningitis; caused by HSV-2
- Visceral herpes:
  - Pneumonitis
  - Hepatitis

- Genital herpes:

- Mostly caused by HSV-2
- Primary genital herpes is asymptomatic caused by both HSV-1 and HSV-2.
- Recurrent is more frequent in HSV-2
- Characterized by fever, pain, dysuria, mucoid urethral discharge with enlarged inguinal lymph node

- Congenital herpes:

- Caused by HSV-2
- Manifested as infection of eye, mouth, skin and more commonly a disseminated infection with multiple organ involvement.

# Laboratory diagnosis:

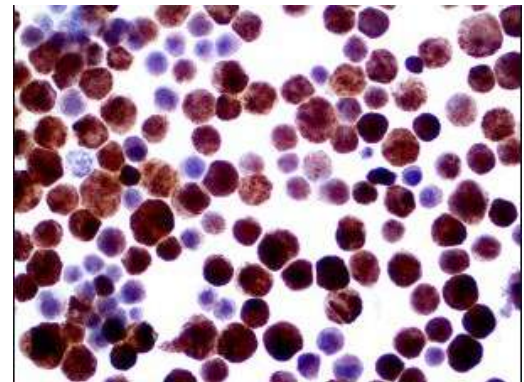
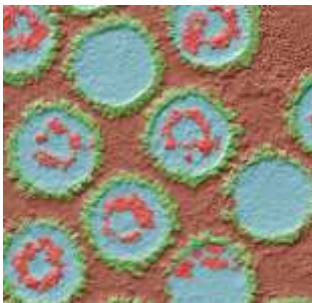
## Specimens:

- Saliva
  - vesicle fluids
  - conjunctival fluids
  - corneal scrapping
  - skin swab
  - CSF
- Depends upon site of infection

## Microscopy:

- Tzanck smear preparation:
- Smear is prepared from **lesion** and stained with 1% aqueous solution of **toluidine blue** for 15 seconds.
- **Multinucleated giant cells** are visualized in positive smear.
- **Giemsa stain** can also be used to see inclusion bodies.

## Electron microscope





- **Virus Culture:**
  - Primary human embryonic kidney cell line culture
  - Hela cell
  - Human amnion
  - Hep2
- Cytopathic effect should be visualized within 1-3 days.
- **Serology:**
  - ELISA
  - Neutralization test
  - Complement fixation test (CFT)
  - Immunofluorescent test

# Serology test

## Herpes IgG and IgM Antibody Testing

### IgG Antibodies



Detectable after  
initial infection



Distinguish between  
HSV-1 and HSV-2, not  
oral vs. genital

### Both



Assessed via  
blood work



Cannot distinguish  
between oral and  
genital herpes



Indicate infection's  
presence and timing

### IgM Antibodies



Detectable 7-10  
days after infection



Elevated up to 2 weeks



Most useful for detecting  
acute infection

- Molecular diagnosis:
- **PCR**, DNA probe

## □ Treatment:

- **Acyclovir**: orally or parenterally
    - Ganciclovir
    - Viderabine
    - Famiciclovir
- } orally
- **Idoxuvidine**: topically
    - eye
    - skin infection

Thank you

