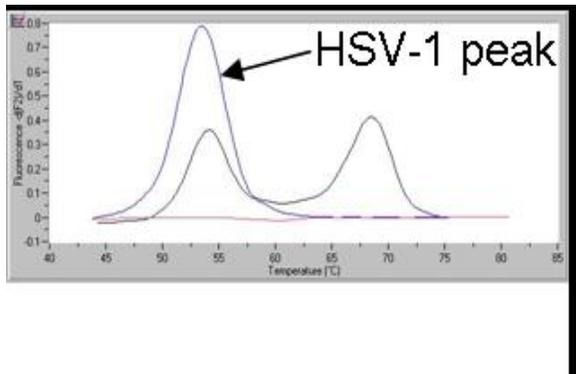


HSV 1/2 Detection and Typing

See Technical Bulletin- HSV 1 and 2 DNA Detection and Typing

Real time PCR detection and typing of Herpes Simplex is available for lesion swab, CSF and bronchial wash specimens. Real time PCR is a sensitive and specific method used to detect and characterize the type (HSV-1 or HSV-2) of virus present in a clinical sample.



Example of Real Time PCR analysis of HSV Detection and Typing

Herpes simplex is an infection that affects either the mouth or genital area. It is caused by two types of viruses, Herpes Simplex Virus 1 (HSV1) and Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV2). These two viruses are genetically similar. The primary difference is their “site of preference” or where they typically establish latency in the body. Although either virus can reside in either or both areas, HSV 1 prefers the trigeminal ganglion near the ear and HSV 2 the sacral ganglion near the spine. Once an infection occurs, the virus spreads to nerve cells and remains there for the life of the host. It may reactivate from time to time and cause symptoms or “outbreaks”.

The symptoms of Herpes include mouth sores, genital lesions, blisters or ulcers, fever blisters, fever (usually during the initial infection), and enlargement of lymph nodes in the neck or groin. HSV 1 is usually associated with infections of the lips, mouth and face and is the most common. It can be acquired in childhood and is transmitted by contact with infected saliva. HSV 1 can also cause genital herpes.

HSV 2 is generally associated with genital herpes and is sexually transmitted, although it can infect orally as well. It is possible to infect another person even when the infected person is not showing any symptoms. It is possible to have a cross infection of HSV1 and HSV 2 although research has indicated that an infection with oral HSV 1 can provide some immunity against an infection of HSV 2.

Herpes can also infect the fetus and cause congenital abnormalities. If a mother has an outbreak during delivery, it is possible to infect the newborn. Additional complications include meningitis, encephalitis, eczema, herpeticiform and keratoconjunctivitis. Prolonged or severe symptoms can be seen in individuals with compromised immune systems. There is no cure for herpes but antiviral medications are available to prevent future outbreaks.

Information compiled by Jeffrey Wisotzkey, Ph.D