

# Clinical Markers and Risk for CSF HSV DNA Persistence in Neonatal Disseminated and Central Nervous System Infection

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## Introduction

Infants diagnosed annually with HSV infection, >30% have CNS disease. Twenty-four percent of infants with HSV infection at lumbar puncture indicated to confirm infection. For those with positive PCR at the end of the therapy (pHSV), treatment is indicated until negative PCR result. Risk factors for and clinical characteristics of HSV infection are lacking.

## Objective

To determine the characteristics of neonatal HSV from 2003-2014 at our children's hospital and define clinical and lab work associated with pHSV.

## Methods

Infants of age with possible HSV infection from an ID tracking list. Clinical, lab, and outcome data was collected on those with positive HSV PCR result – those with negative HSV PCR result and those with pHSV were included. PCR testing was performed in the Hospital Microbiology Lab. Descriptive statistics were analyzed for analysis.

## Results

90 charts were reviewed. 46 neonates had HSV infection, 20 with SEM, 9 with CNS disease, 17 with disseminated disease (12 with CNS disease). Of those with HSV in the CSF, 3 were excluded. 4/18 patients had pHSV and were treated for ≥28 days. Baseline characteristics and lab work were similar in both groups.

Table 1: Characteristics of patients with pHSV at admission

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4
Classification of HSV Disease	D-CNS	CNS	D-CNS	CNS
HSV Type	HSV-II	HSV-II	HSV-II	HSV-II
Liver Dysfunction*	Yes	No	Yes	No
Thrombocytopenia <sup>†</sup>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Seizures	No	Yes	No	Yes
Age at onset of illness (d)	11	37	4	13
Symptoms prior starting acyclovir (d)	3	0	1	2

\* = ALT greater than 2 times the normal range

<sup>†</sup> = Platelet count < 150 x 10<sup>3</sup>/μL

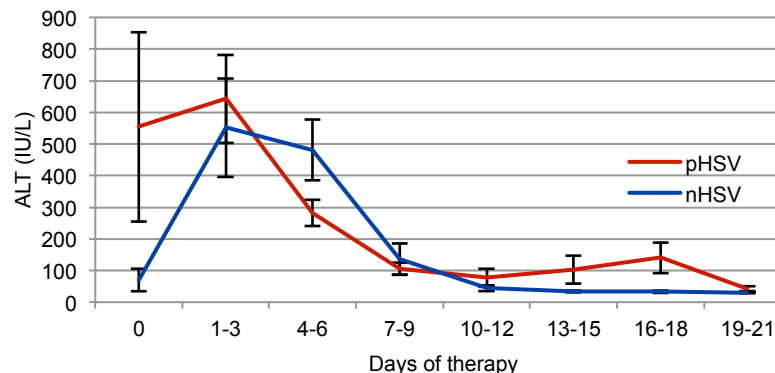


Figure 1: Values of AST over the course of hospitalization

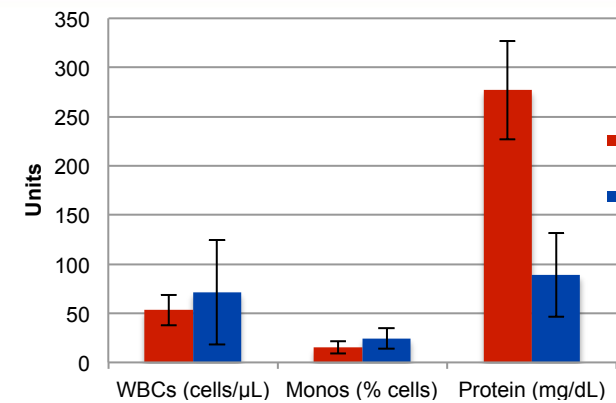


Figure 2: CSF studies from second lumbar puncture in infants with HSV CNS disease

Table 2: Neurodevelopmental outcomes

Characteristic	pHSV (n=4)	Negative HSV DNA, n=14
Seizure activity after 14 days of acyclovir treatment	2 (50%)	0 (0%)
Cortical blindness	2 (50)	0 (0)
Motor delay	3 (75)	2 (14)
Developmental delay	3 (75)	3 (21)
Moderate-to-Severe Impairment <sup>†</sup>	3 (75)	3 (21)

\* = one patient died shortly after completing therapy, so n=14 for this value

<sup>†</sup> = according to a protocol developed by RJ Whitley, MD and the NIAID Center for Global Health

## Conclusions

Infants with pHSV had similar presentation to those who were negative at the end of therapy. Severe disease during the clinical and lab work was noted in pHSV infants, characterized by transaminitis, persistent seizure activity, and CSF protein at the end of therapy. Worse neurodevelopmental outcomes were noted in pHSV infants.