

**HERPES HOMINIS VIRUS, HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS**

V14.12

OIE  BALAI  EU AHL 

VIRUS

HHV or HSV 1/2, *Herpesviridae*ZOOONOSIS 

SUSCEPTIBLE ANIMAL GROUPS	TRANSMISSION	CLINICAL SIGNS	SEVERITY	TREATMENT	PREVENTION AND CONTROL
Humans and non-human primates Also threeshrews	Direct contact Airborne	Conjunctival, oral and cutaneous vesicles and ulcers, rhinitis, conjunctivitis, ataxia, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures and death	Mostly asymptomatic, but often fatal in marmosets, tamarins, owl monkeys and threeshrews	Acyclovir and valacyclovir	Avoid contact between susceptible animals and humans with clinical herpes

<b>FACT SHEET COMPILED BY</b> M. Brack, DPZ, Göttingen, Germany	<b>LAST UPDATE</b> August 2015
<b>FACT SHEET REVIEWED BY</b> H. Niphuis, Primate viral diagnostics, BPRC, Rijswijk, The Netherlands	
<b>DISEASE AGENT</b> <i>Herpes hominis virus</i> (HHV) 1 and 2 (family <i>Herpesviridae</i> ), and indigenous HHV1/2-like alphaherpesvirus in wild-living chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, gorillas, gibbons, mandrills, baboons, talapoins, guenons, mangabeys, patas, saimiri, and spider monkeys. Synonyms: <i>Herpes simplex virus</i> (HSV) 1/2, <i>Herpesvirus hominis</i> 1/2, <i>Human herpesvirus</i> 1/2, <i>Human alphaherpesvirus</i> 1/2.	
<b>SUSCEPTIBLE ANIMAL GROUPS</b> Humans but also non-human primates (NHP): great apes (Pongidae), gibbons (Hylobatidae), capuchin, squirrel monkeys (Cebidae), sakis (Pitheciinae), marmosets, tamarins (Callitrichidae), owl monkeys (Aotidae), lemurs (Lemuridae). Also threeshrews (Scandentia).	
<b>ZOOONOTIC POTENTIAL</b> Zooanthroponotic (from human to animals).	
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b> Worldwide.	
<b>TRANSMISSION</b> Direct contact or airborne.	
<b>INCUBATION PERIOD</b> 2-14 days but variable.	
<b>CLINICAL SIGNS</b> Great apes and humans: oral and pharyngeal vesicles and ulcers, vesicles on the lips and nose, conjunctival lesions, pustules,	

vesicles and/or ulcerated lesions of the genitalia, listlessness, anorexia.

Infant great apes and other NHP: conjunctival, oral and cutaneous lesions, dyspnea, rhinitis, keratitis, weakness, depression, anorexia, excessive salivation, nasal discharge, myoclonus, ataxia, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures and deaths.

Deaths have been reported in marmosets, tamarins, owl monkeys and threeshrews.

#### **PATHOLOGY AND POST MORTEM FINDINGS**

In apes and spider monkeys: vesicular lesions in chest, arms, legs, soles and face; myocardial, pulmonary, hepatic, splenic, adrenal or CNS necrosis with Cowdry type A intranuclear inclusion bodies.

In *Hylobates spp.*: excoriations, vesicles or ulcers at labial commissures, nonsuppurative encephalitis.

In *Aotus trivirgatus*: focal necrosis in all organs including the brain.

*Pithecia pithecia* and callitrichids show oral and labial ulcerations and inclusion body encephalitis.

#### **DIAGNOSIS**

Virus isolation and PCR.

#### **SAMPLES REQUIRED FOR LABORATORY ANALYSIS**

Swabs or biopsies from lesions, serum or whole blood.

#### **TREATMENT**

Acyclovir, valacyclovir or trisodium phosphonoformate. Acyclovir reported as non-effective in *Pithecia pithecia*.

#### **PREVENTION**

Avoid contact between susceptible animals and humans with clinical herpes.

#### **CONTROL**

Many apes and monkeys are antibody-positive so latent infections are highly possible. Determination of HHV1/2 free status is difficult.

Suggested disinfectants for housing facilities: soap, UV-light, heat.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Not notifiable under OIE 2019, BALAI (Council Directive 92/65/ECC) or AHL (Regulation EU 2016/429).

#### **CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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#### **RELEVANT DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES**

1. Friedrich Schiller Uni. Jena  
Winzerlaer Straße 10, 07745 Jena, GERMANY  
Tel: 03641 6573 00 / Email: [peter.wutzler@med.uni-jena.de](mailto:peter.wutzler@med.uni-jena.de)
2. PVD-BPRC,  
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Tel: +31 15 284 2784 / Email: [pvd@bprc.nl](mailto:pvd@bprc.nl)
3. Local medical laboratories

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