

## Unique Features of Herpesviruses

**Herpesviruses have large, enveloped icosahedral capsids containing double-stranded DNA genomes.**

Herpesviruses encode many proteins that regulate messenger RNA and DNA synthesis and the shutoff of the host cell DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis.

Herpesviruses encode enzymes (**DNA polymerase**) that promote viral DNA replication and that are good targets for **antiviral drugs**.

DNA replication and assembly occur in the nucleus; virus buds from nuclear membrane and is released by exocytosis and cell lysis.

Herpesviruses can cause **lytic, persistent, latent**, and for EBV, **immortalizing infections**.

Herpesviruses are ubiquitous. Cell-mediated immunity is required for control.

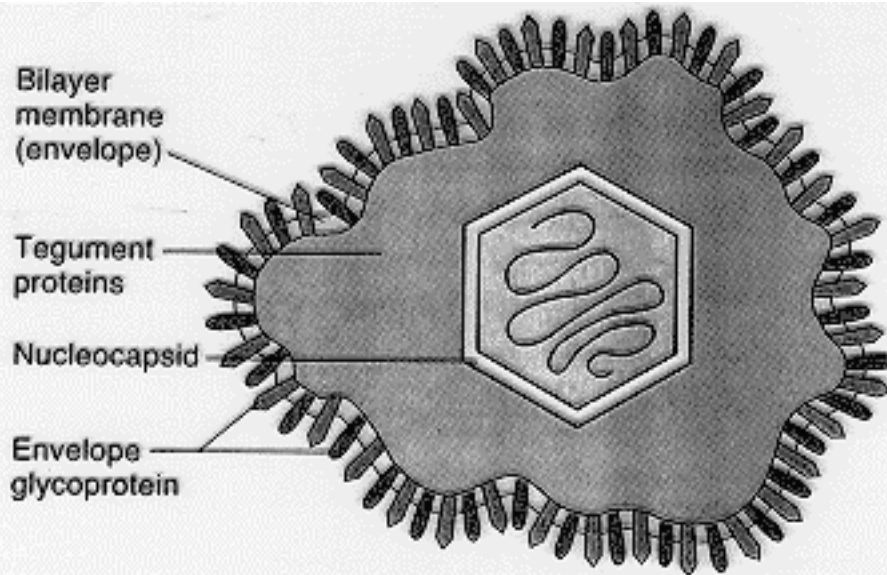
Table 33-2. Classification of human herpesviruses.

Subfamily	Growth Cycle	Biologic Properties		Genus	Examples		
		Cytopathology	Latent Infections		Official Name	Common Name	
Alphaherpesvirinae	Short	Cytolytic	Neurons	Simplexvirus	Human herpesvirus 1	Herpes simplex virus type 1	
					Human herpesvirus 2	Herpes simplex virus type 2	
				Varicellovirus	Human herpesvirus 3	Varicella-zoster virus	
Betaherpesvirinae	Long	Cyomegatic	Glands, kidneys	Cytomegalovirus	Human herpesvirus 5	Cytomegalovirus	
					Fosserovirus	Human herpesvirus 6	Human herpesvirus 6
					Human herpesvirus 7	Human herpesvirus 7	
Gammaherpesvirinae	Variable	Lymphoproliferative	Lymphoid tissue	Lymphocryptovirus	Human herpesvirus 4	Epstein-Barr virus	
				Masarnovirus	Human herpesvirus 8	Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus	

**TABLE 51-1** Properties Distinguishing the Herpesviruses

SUBFAMILY	VIRUS	PRIMARY TARGET CELL	SITE OF LATENCY	MEANS OF SPREAD
<b>ALPHAHERPESVIRINAE</b>				
Human herpesvirus 1	Herpes simplex type 1	Mucoepithelial cells	Neuron	Close contact
Human herpesvirus 2	Herpes simplex type 2	Mucoepithelial cells	Neuron	Close contact (sexually transmitted disease)
Human herpesvirus 3	Varicella-zoster virus	Mucoepithelial cells	Neuron	Respiratory and close contact
<b>GAMMAHERPESVIRINAE</b>				
Human herpesvirus 4	Epstein-Barr virus	B cells and epithelial cells	B cell	Saliva (kissing disease)
Human herpesvirus 8	Kaposi's sarcoma-related virus	—	—	Saliva
<b>BETAHERPESVIRINAE</b>				
Human herpesvirus 5	Cytomegalovirus	Monocyte, lymphocyte, and epithelial cells	Monocyte, lymphocyte, and ?	Close contact, transfusions, tissue transplant, and congenital
Human herpesvirus 6	Herpes lymphotropic virus	T cells and ?	T cells and ?	Respiratory and close contact?
Human herpesvirus 7	Human herpesvirus 7	T cells and ?	T cells and ?	?

? indicates that other cells may also be the primary target or site of latency.



**Table 41.1. Human Herpesviruses**

Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV-1)

Herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV-2)

Varicella-zoster virus (VZV)

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)

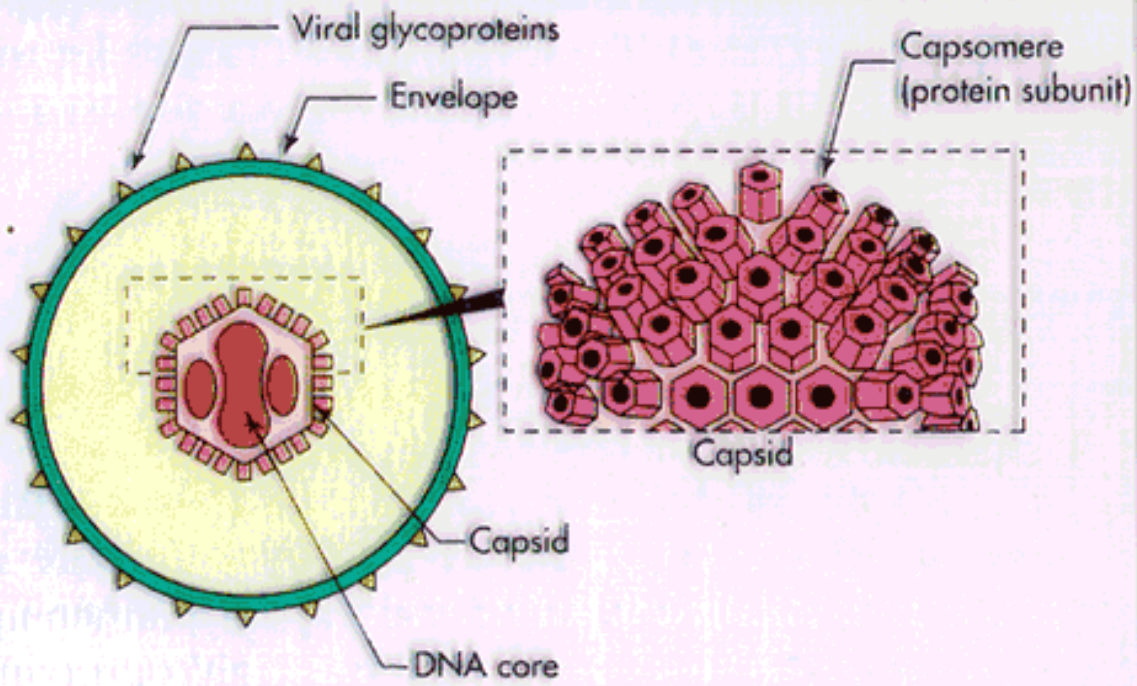
Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)

Human herpesvirus type 6 (HHV-6)

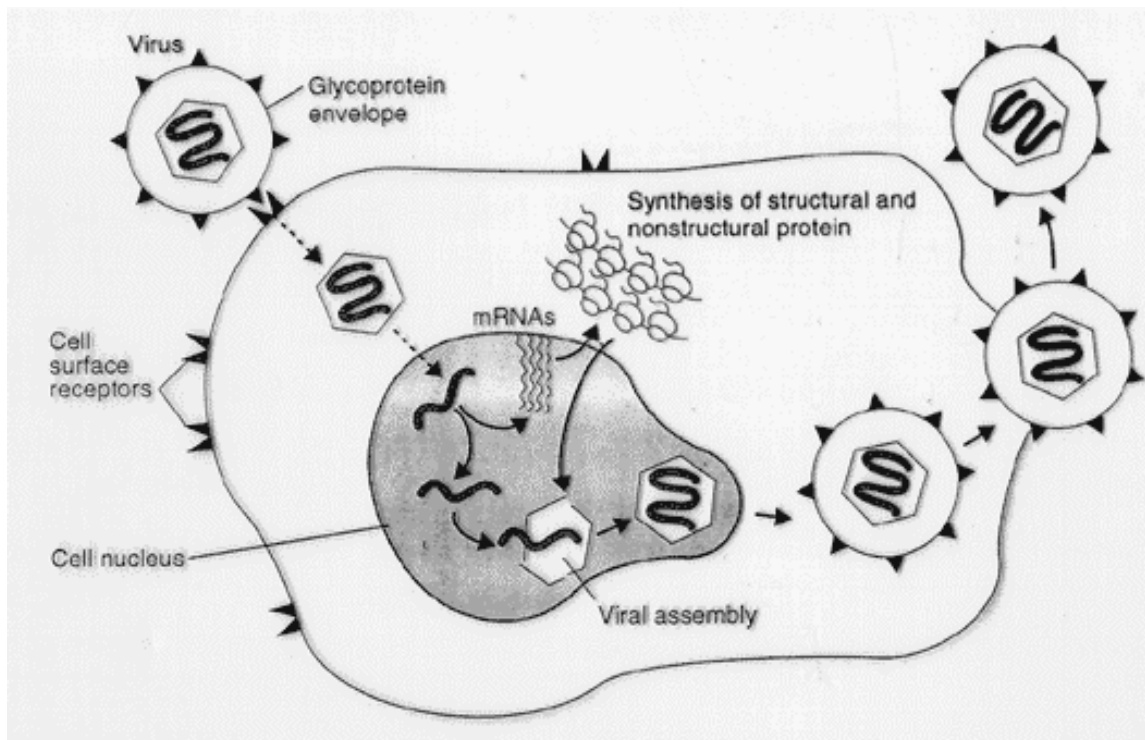
Human herpesvirus type 7 (HHV-7)

Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (HHV-8)?

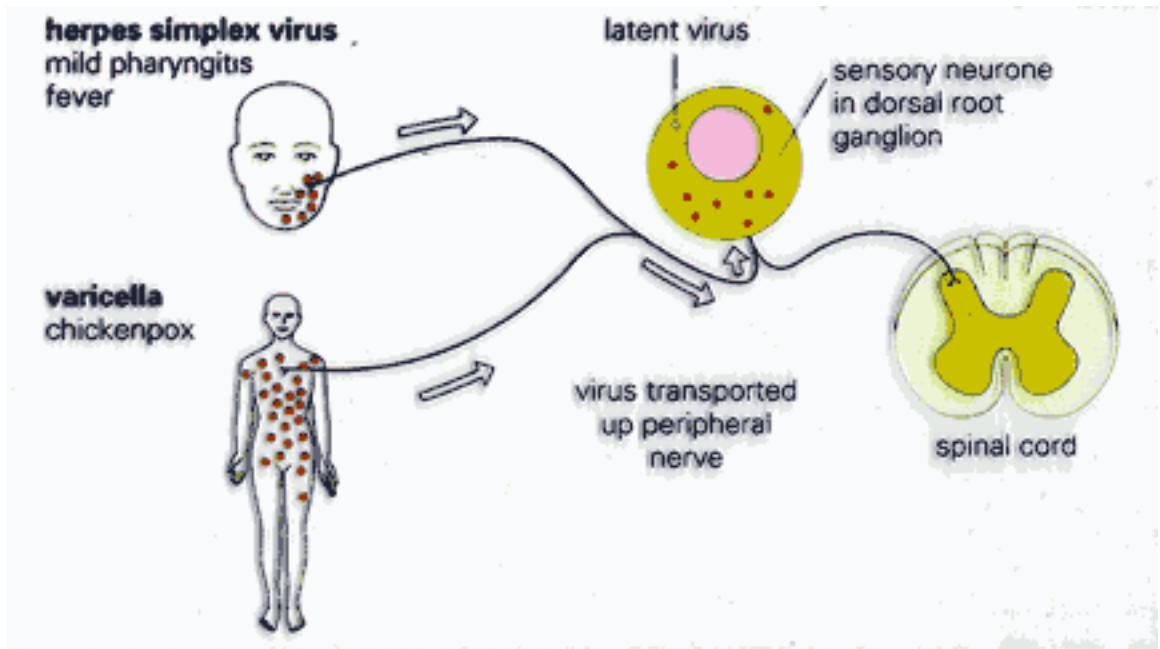
### Schematic structure of herpes group viruses



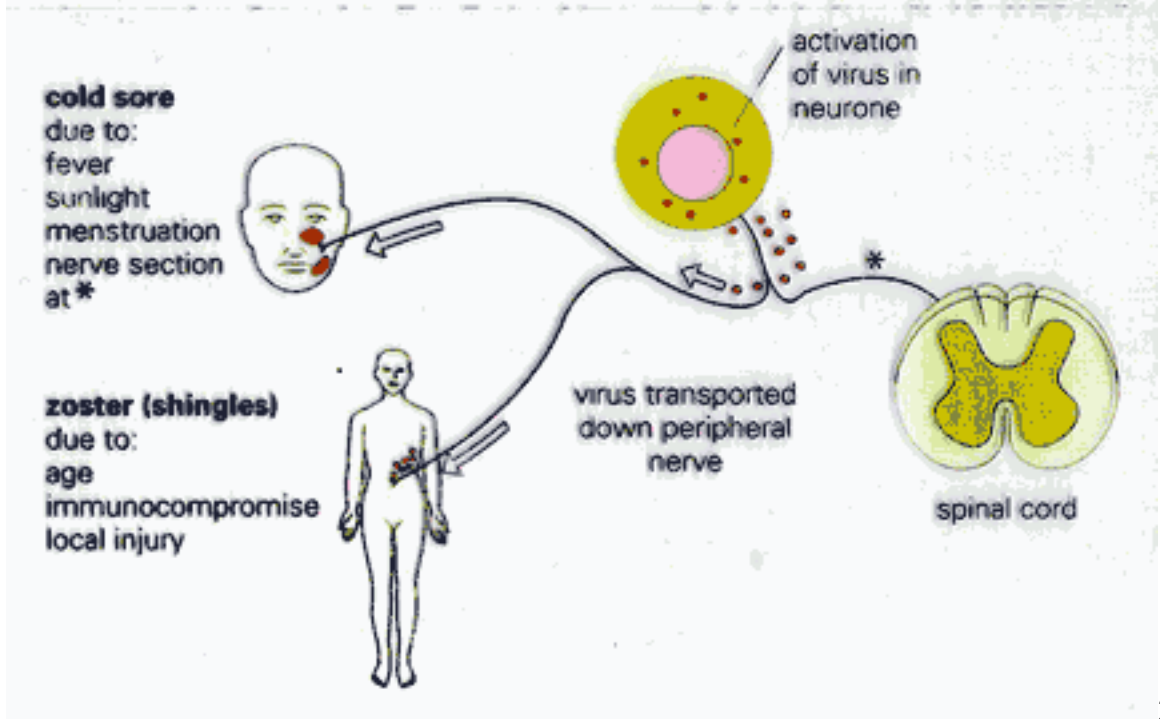
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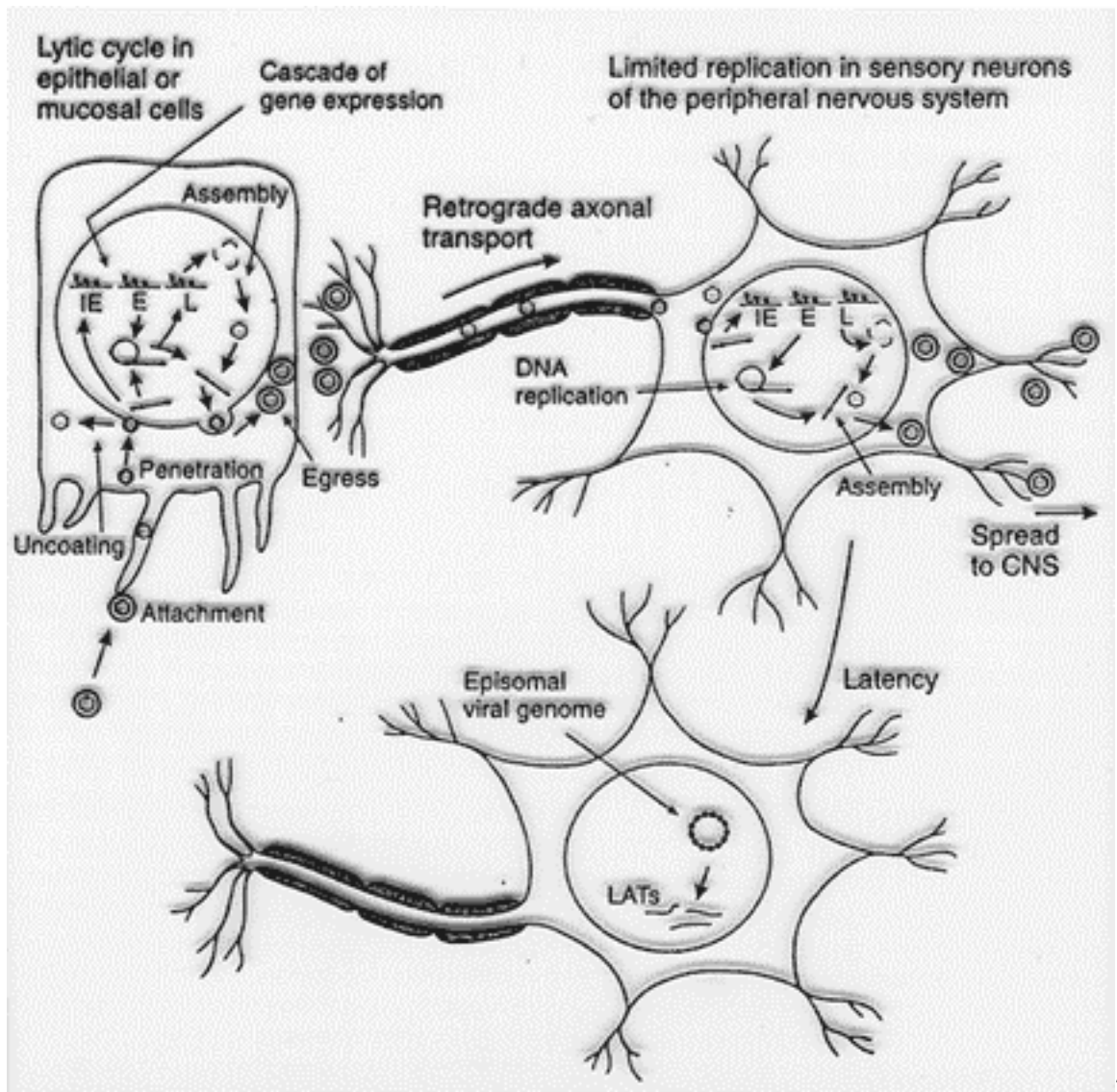


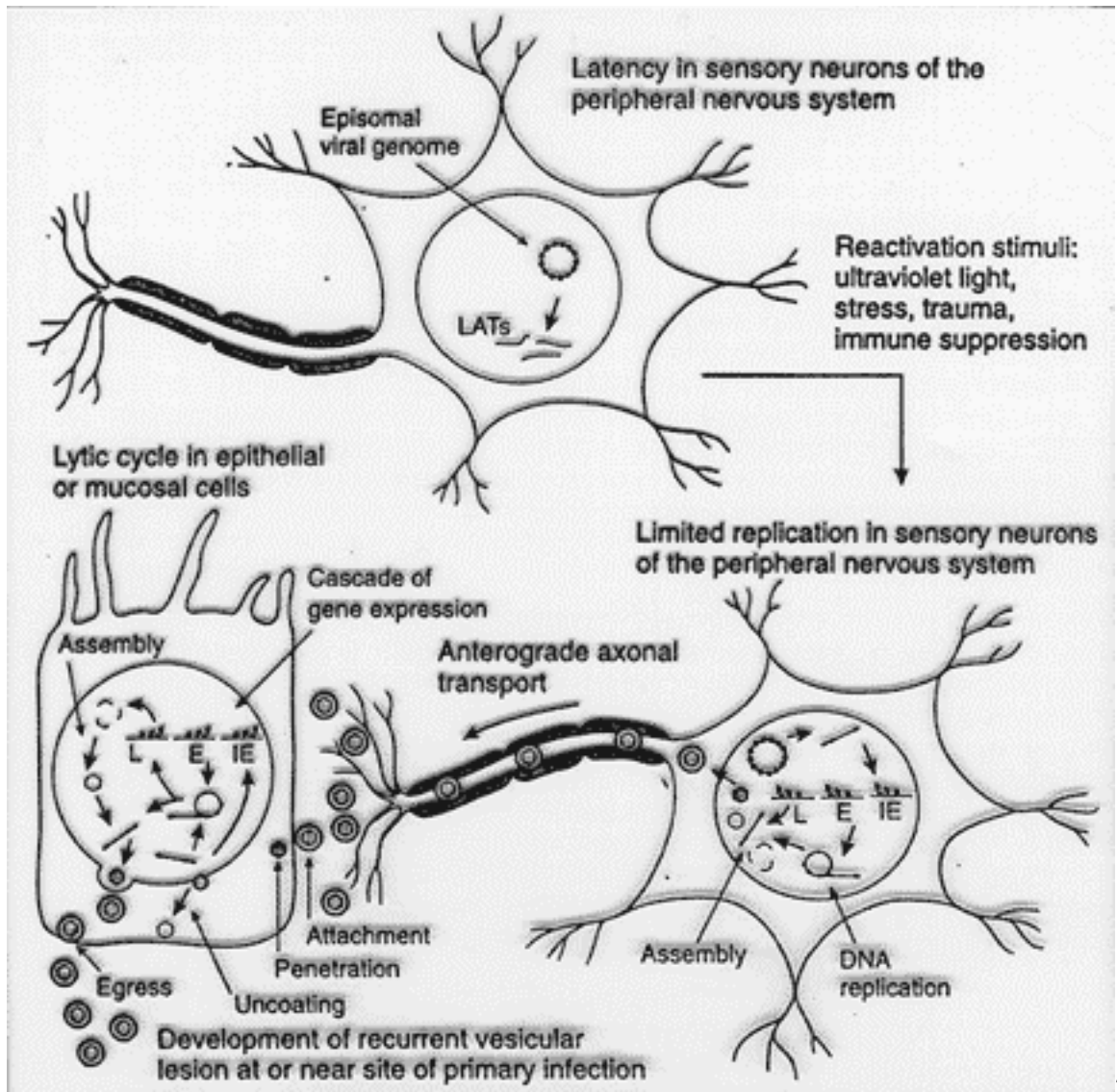
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**recurrence**









Disease is initiated by direct contact and depends on infected tissue (e.g., oral, genital, brain).

Virus causes direct cytopathology.

Virus avoids antibody by cell-to-cell spread (syncytia).

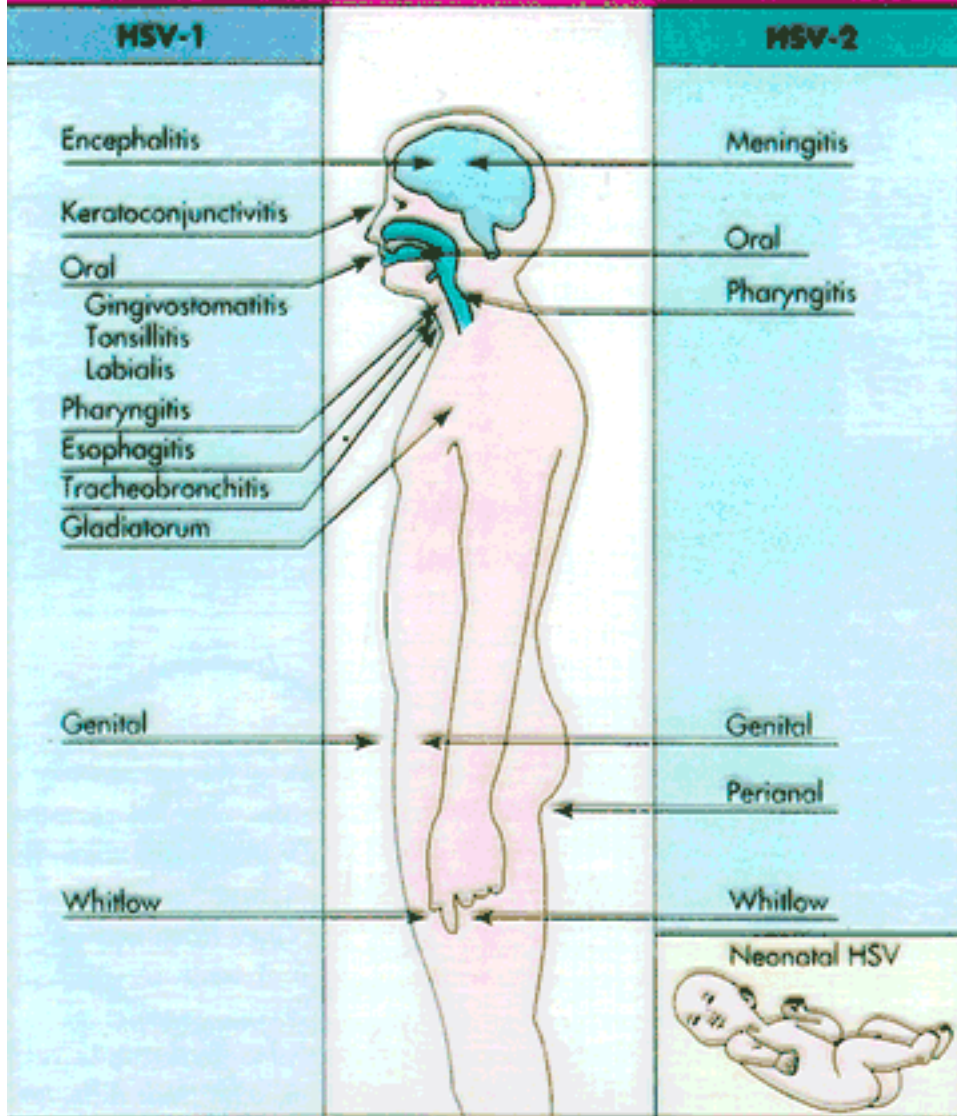
Virus establishes latency in neurons (hides from immune response).

Virus reactivates from latency by stress or immune suppression.

Cell-mediated immunity is *required* for resolution with limited role for antibody.

Cell-mediated immunopathology contributes to symptoms.

# Herpes simplex virus



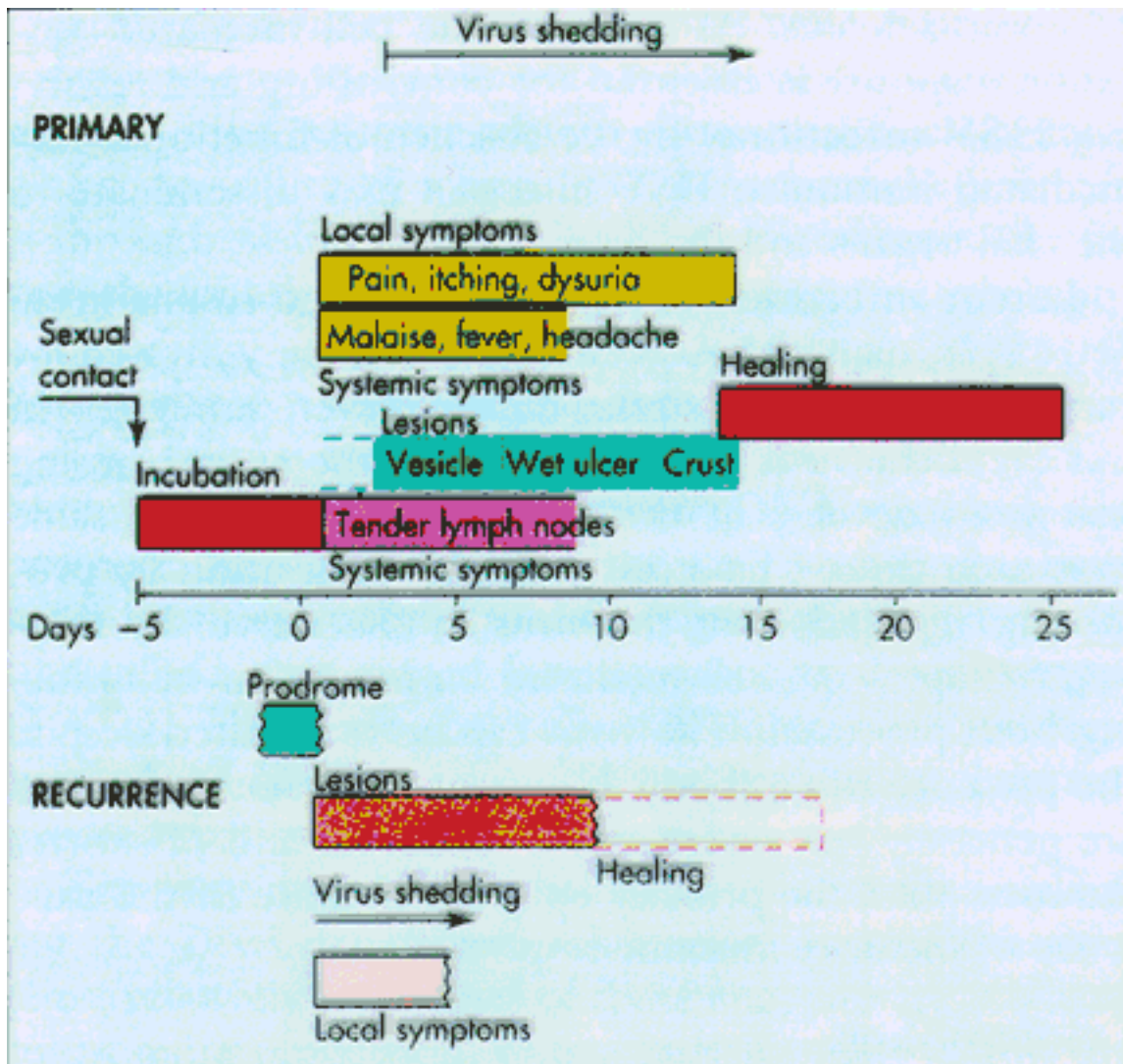


TABLE 51-2

**Laboratory Diagnosis of HSV Infections**

<b>APPROACH</b>	<b>TEST/COMMENT</b>
Direct microscopic examination of cells from base of lesion	<b>Tzanck smear</b> shows <b>multi-nucleated giant cells</b> and <b>Cowdry type A inclusion bodies</b> .
Cell culture	HSV replicates and causes identifiable CPE in most cell cultures.
Assay of tissue biopsy, smear, or vesicular fluid for HSV antigen	Enzyme immunoassay, immunofluorescent stain, and in situ DNA probe analysis are used.
HSV type distinction (HSV-1 vs. HSV-2)	Type-specific antibody, DNA maps of restriction enzyme, SDS-gel protein patterns, and DNA probe analysis are used.
Serology	Serology is not useful except for epidemiology.

Initial replication is in the respiratory tract.

VZV infects epithelial cells and fibroblasts.

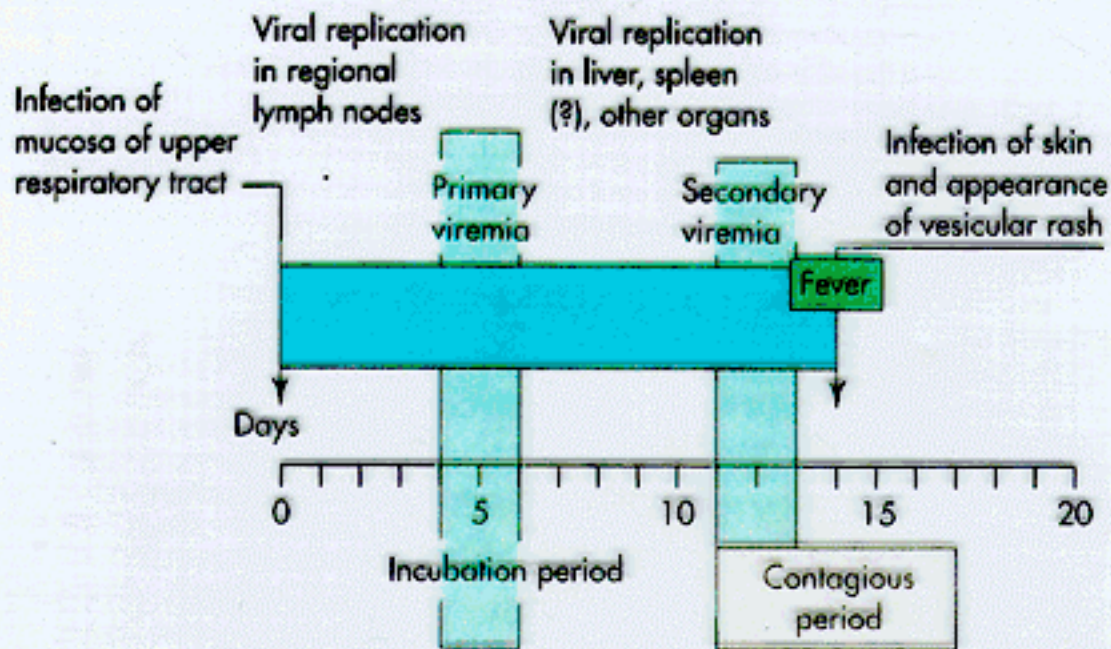
VZV can form syncytia and spread directly from cell to cell.

Virus is spread by viremia to skin and causes lesions in successive crops.

VZV can escape antibody clearance, and cell-mediated immune response is essential to control infection. Disseminated, life-threatening disease can occur in immunocompromised people.

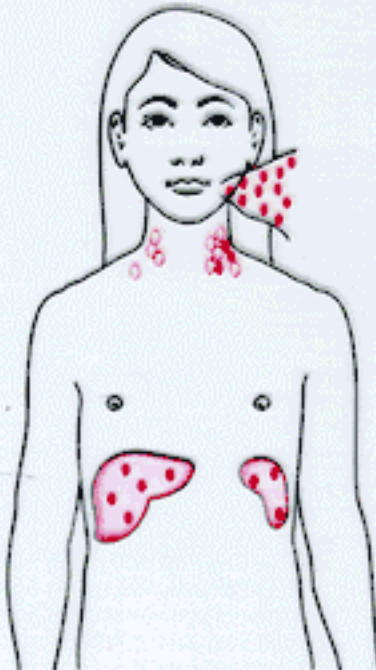
Virus establishes latent infection of neurons, usually dorsal root and cranial nerve ganglia.

Herpes zoster may result from depression of cell-mediated immunity and other mechanisms of viral activation.



**FIGURE 51-9** Time course of varicella (chickenpox). The course in young children, as presented in this figure, is generally shorter and less severe than that of adults.

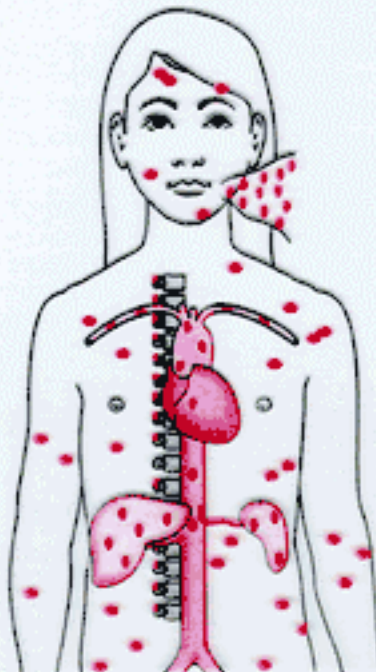
### Incubation period



- { Inoculation of respiratory mucosa
- { Viral replication in regional nodes  
→ virus-infected cells into capillaries

- { Primary viremia  
→ replication in liver/spleen

### Acute illness



- { Secondary viremia: mononuclear cell transport to skin and mucous membranes

- { Virus release into respiratory secretions

- { Replication in epidermal cells  
Virus in dorsal root ganglia

- { VZV specific immunity  
→ resolution of replication

CMV is acquired from blood, tissue, and most body secretions.

CMV causes productive infection of epithelial and other cells.

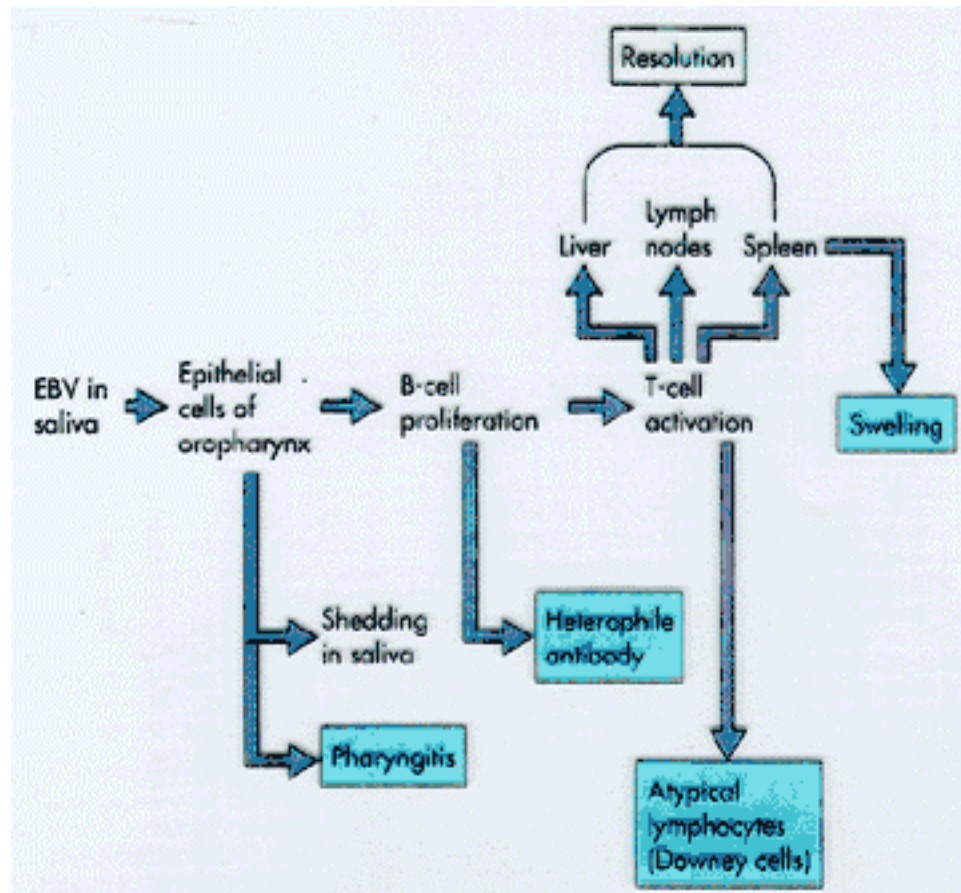
CMV establishes latency in T cells, macrophages, and other cells.

Cell-mediated immunity is required for resolution and contributes to symptoms. Antibody role is limited.

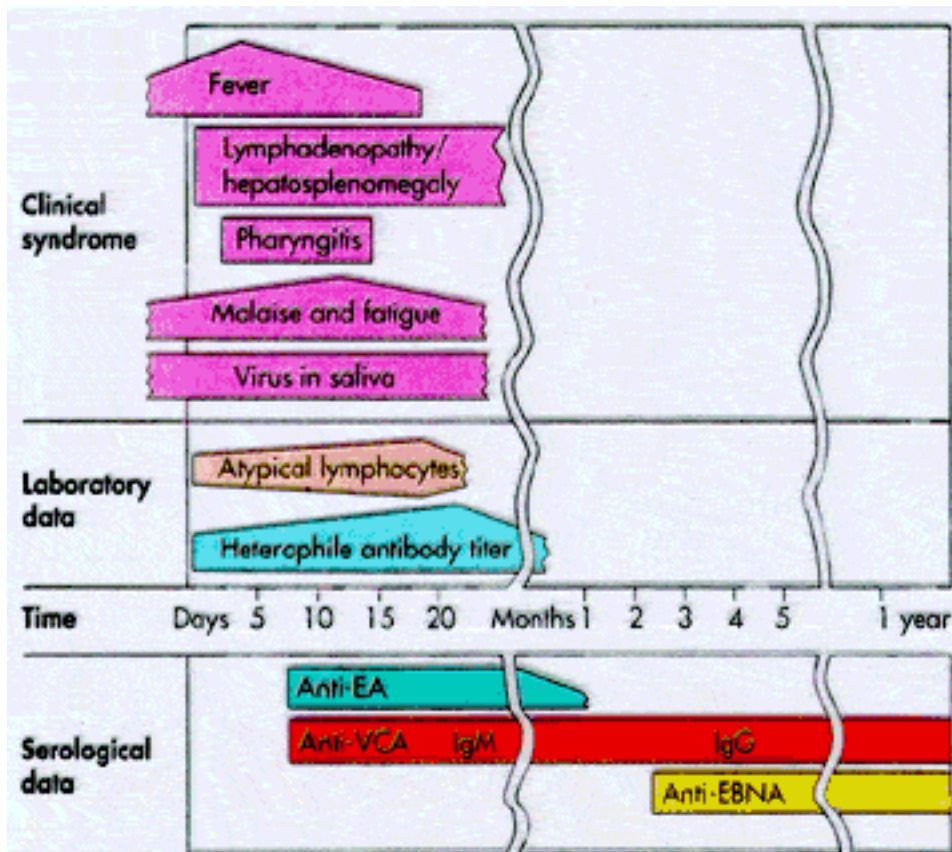
Suppression of cell-mediated immunity allows recurrence and severe presentation.

CMV generally causes subclinical infection.





**FIGURE 51-14** Pathogenesis of EBV. EBV is acquired by close contact between persons through saliva and infects the B cells. The resolution of the EBV infection and many of the symptoms of infectious mononucleosis result from the activation of T cells in response to the infection.



**FIGURE 51-15** Clinical course of infectious mononucleosis and laboratory findings of those with the infection. EBV infection may be asymptomatic or produce the symptoms of mononucleosis. The incubation period can last as long as 2 months. EA, Early antigen; VCA, viral capsid antigen.

Virus in saliva initiates infection of oral epithelia and spreads to B cells in lymphatic tissue.

There is productive infection in epithelial cells.

Virus promotes growth of B cells (immortalizes).

T cells kill and limit B-cell outgrowth and promote latency in B cells. They are *required for controlling infection*.

Antibody role is limited.

T-cell response (lymphocytosis) contributes to symptoms of **infectious mononucleosis**.

There is causative association with lymphoma and leukemia in T-cell-deficient people and African children living in malarial regions (African Burkitt's lymphoma) and with nasopharyngeal carcinoma in China.