

# **Persistent Infections**

Lecture 17

Biology 3310/4310

Virology

Spring 2017

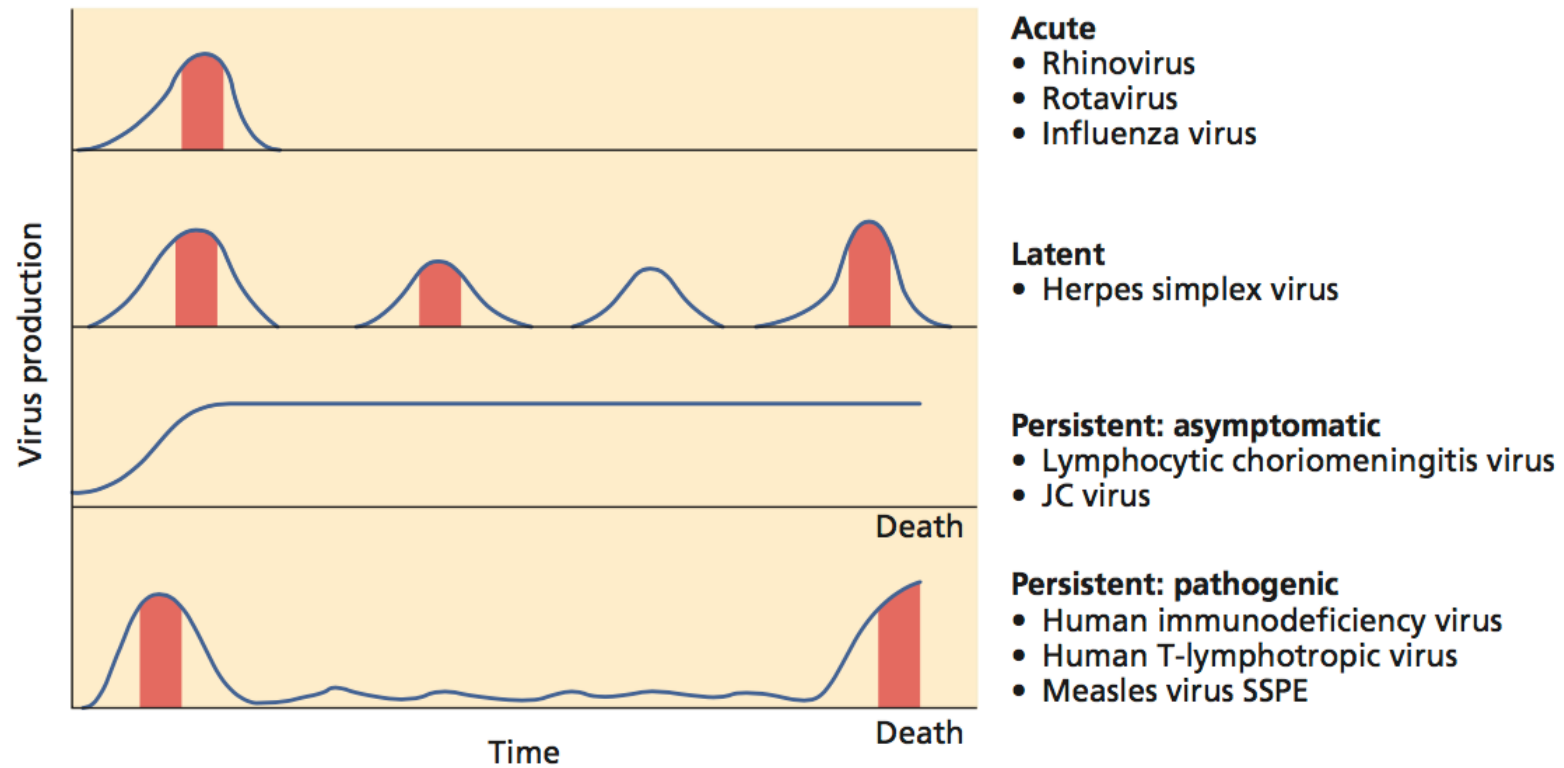
*Paralyze resistance with persistence*

–WOODY HAYES

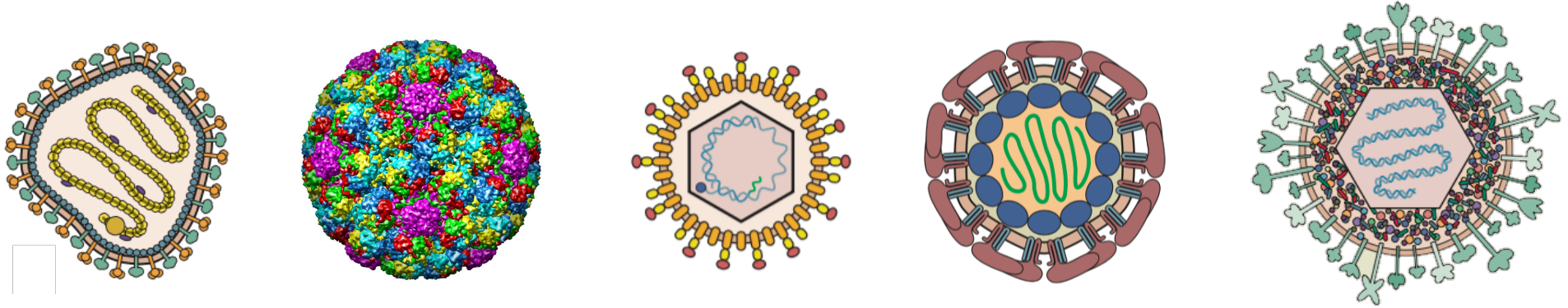
# Acute vs persistent infections

- Acute infection - rapid and self-limiting
- Persistent infection - long term, life of host
- Stable, characteristic for each virus
- Most persistent infections probably begin as an acute infection

# General patterns of infection

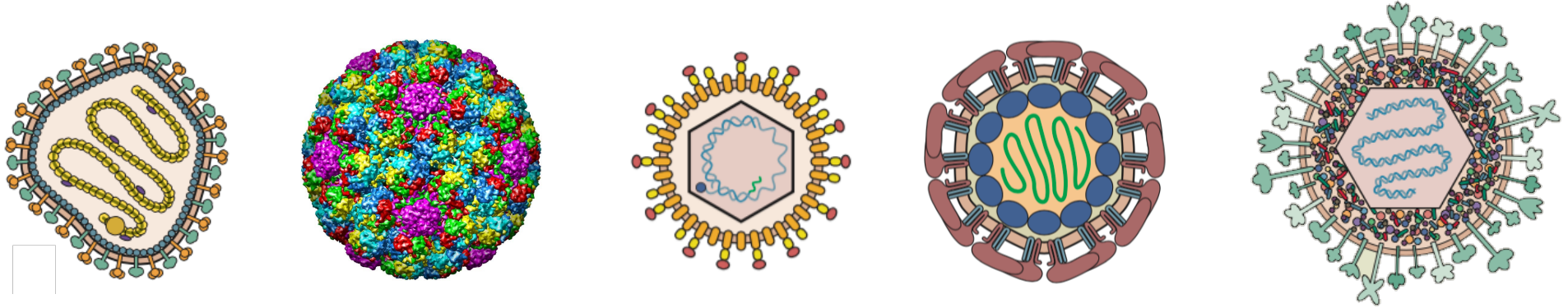


## Persistent infections



- Occur when primary infection is not cleared by immune response
- Virions, protein, genomes continue to be produced
- Viral genomes may remain after proteins are not detected

## Persistent infections



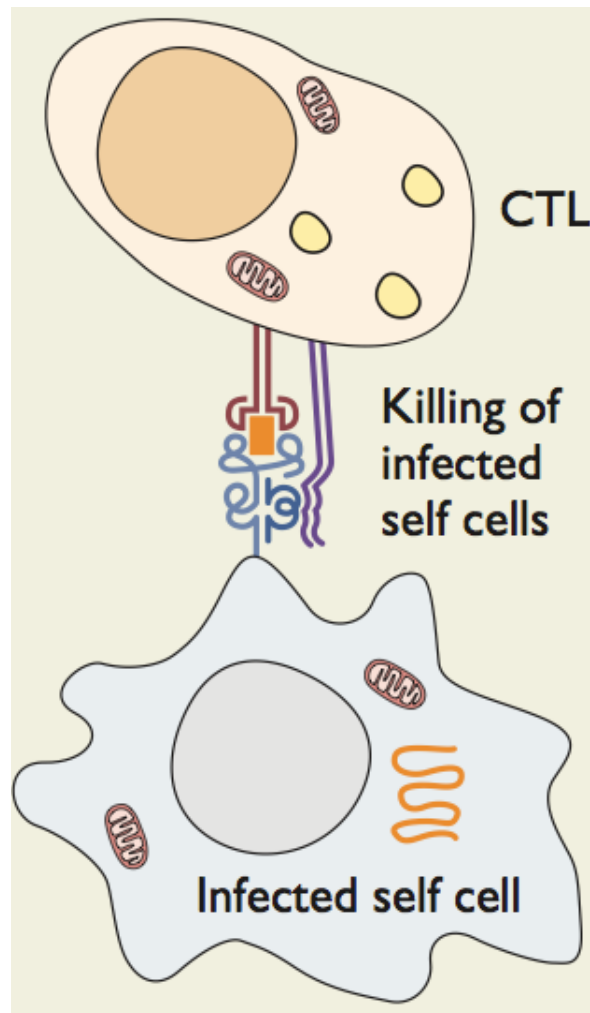
- No single mechanism
- When cytopathic effects are absent and host defenses are reduced, persistent infection is likely
- Viral immune modulation

# Persistent human infections

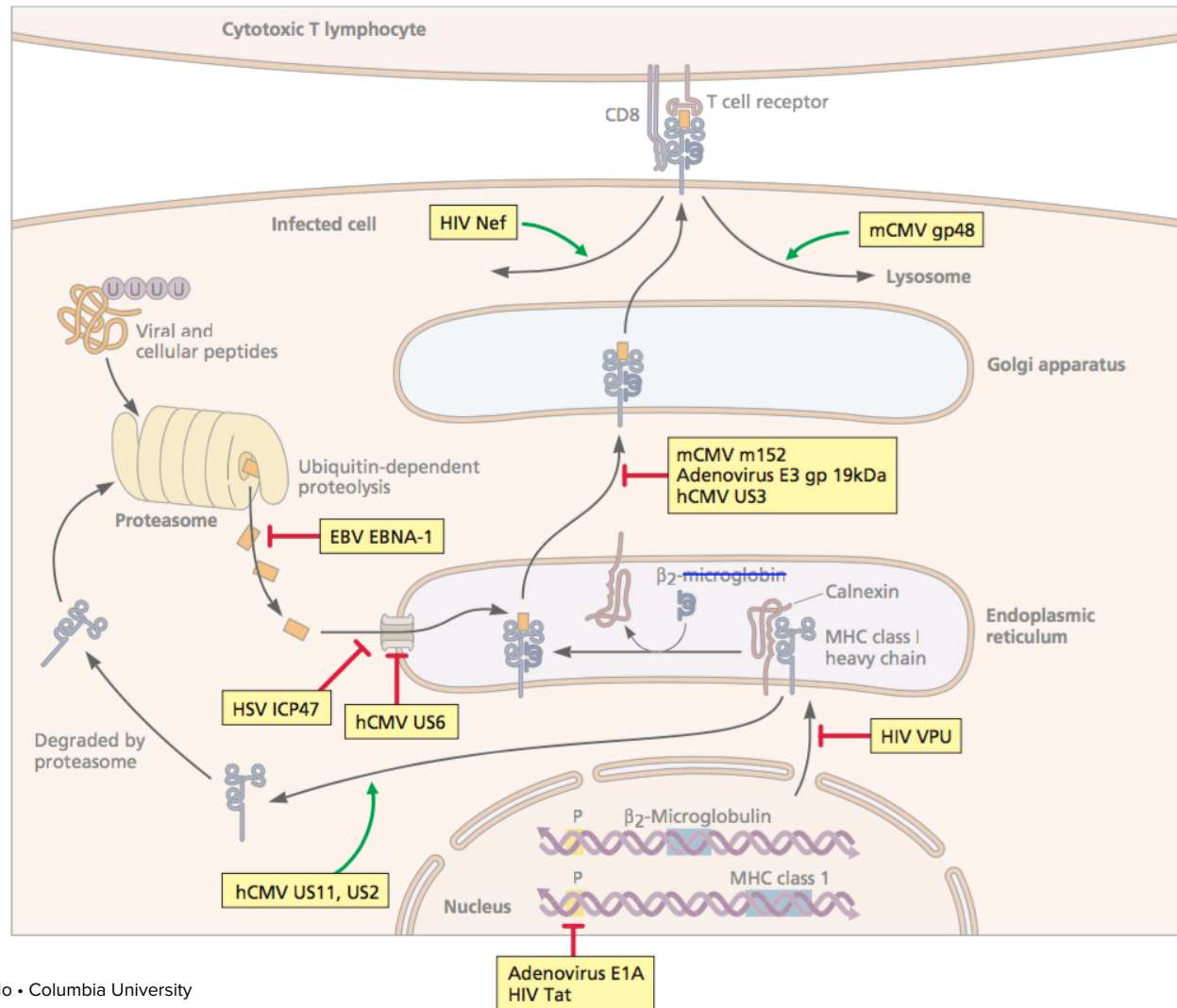
Virus	Site(s) of persistence	Consequence(s)
Adenovirus	Adenoids, tonsils, lymphocytes	None known
* Epstein-Barr virus	B cells, nasopharyngeal epithelia	Burkitt's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease
* Human cytomegalovirus	Kidneys, salivary gland, lymphocytes, <sup>a</sup> macrophages, <sup>a</sup> stem cells, <sup>a</sup> stromal cells <sup>a</sup>	Pneumonia, retinitis
* Hepatitis B virus	Liver, lymphocytes	Cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma
* Hepatitis C virus	Liver	Cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma
Human immunodeficiency virus	CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells, macrophages, microglia	AIDS
* Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2	Sensory and autonomic ganglia	Cold sore, genital herpes
Human T lymphotropic virus types 1 and 2	T cells	Leukemia, brain infections
Papillomavirus	Skin, epithelial cells	Papillomas, carcinomas
* Polyomavirus BK	Kidneys	Hemorrhagic cystitis
* Polyomavirus JC	Kidneys, central nervous system	Progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy
* Measles virus	Central nervous system	Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, measles inclusion body encephalitis
Rubella virus	Central nervous system	Progressive rubella panencephalitis
* Varicella-zoster virus	Sensory ganglia	Zoster (shingles), postherpetic neuralgia

<sup>a</sup>Proposed but not certain.

# The cytotoxic T lymphocyte response



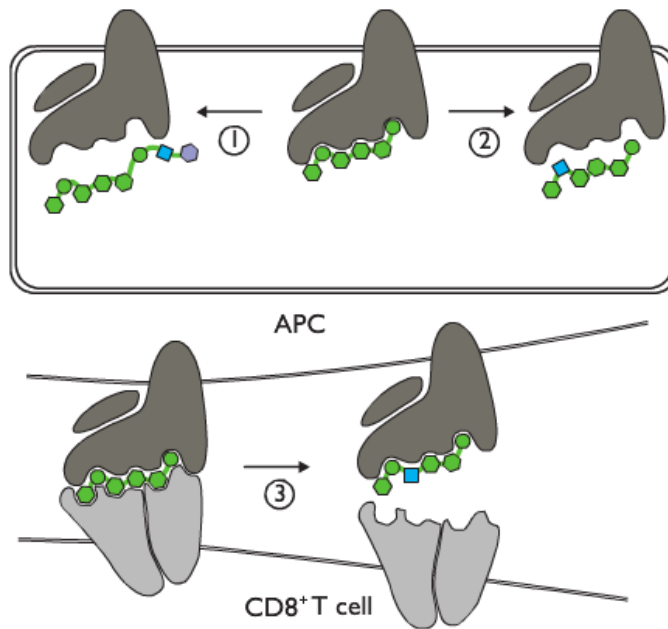
# Modulation of MHC I system



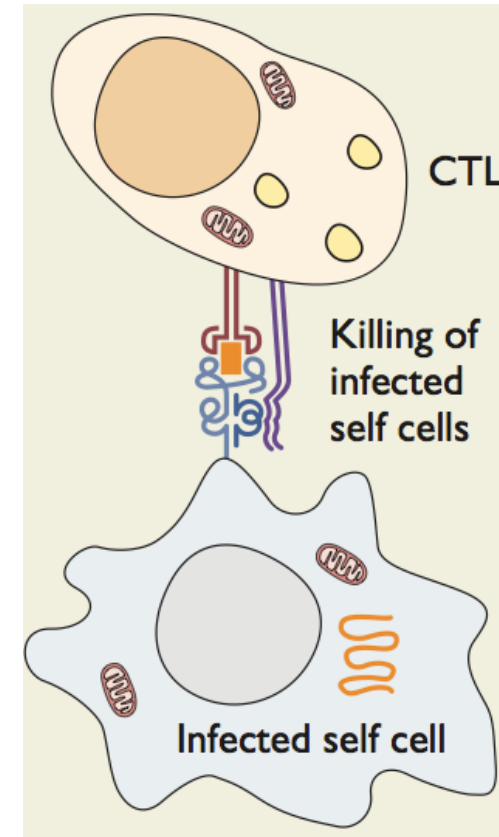


# CTL escape mutants

- Herpes simplex virus
- Hepatitis C virus

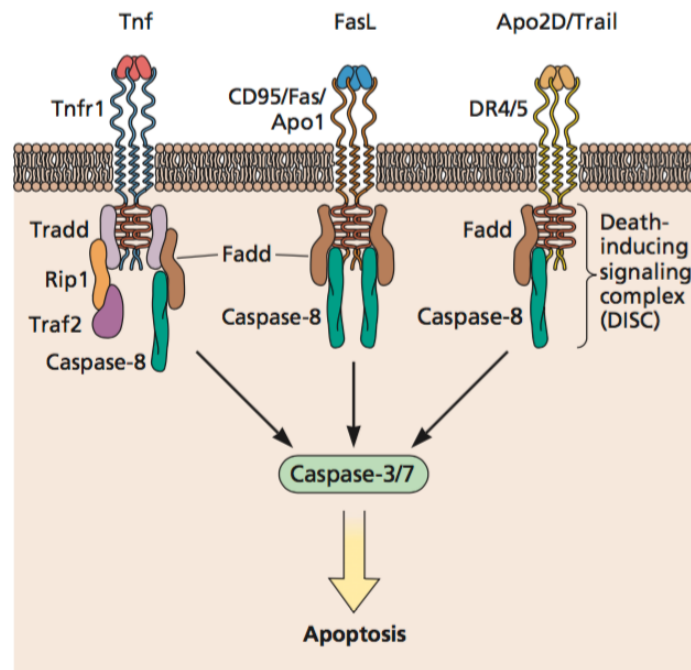


Changes may also affect proteasomal processing

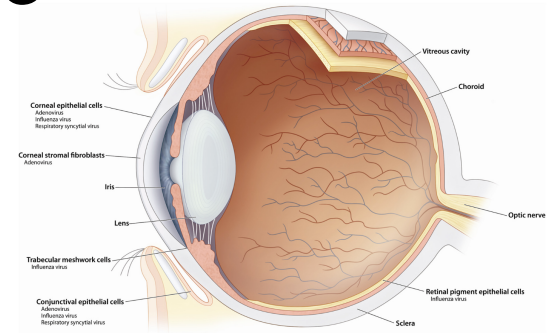
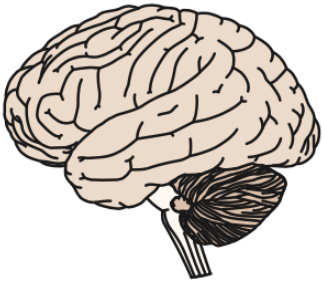


## Killing activated T cells

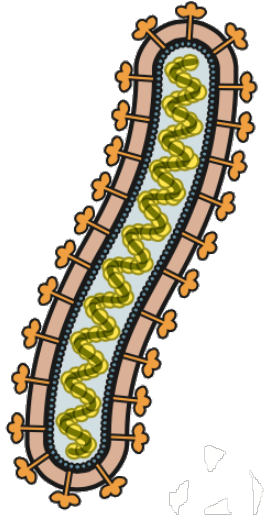
- When CTL engages an infected cell, the CTL may die instead of the target
- An example of viral defense



# Reduced immune surveillance



- Cells and organs differ in degrees of immune defense
- CNS, vitreous humor of eye, areas of lymphoid drainage devoid of initiators and effectors of immune response (eye, high FasL)
- Could be damaged by fluid accumulation, swelling, and ionic imbalances of inflammation
- Persistent infections of these tissues are common



BRIEF REPORT

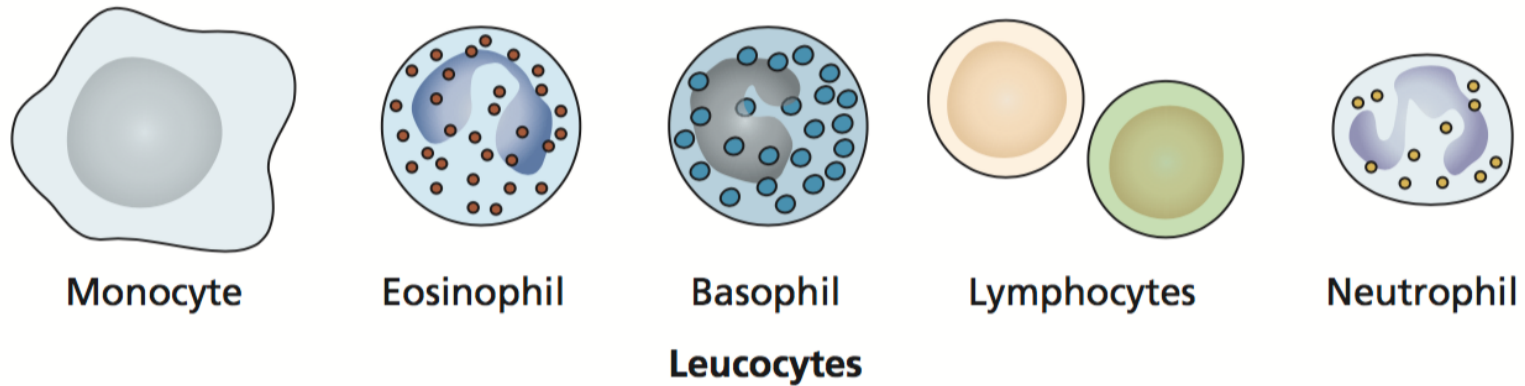
## Persistence of Ebola Virus in Ocular Fluid during Convalescence

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Timothy M. Uyeki, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., Bruce S. Ribner, M.D., M.P.H.,  
and Steven Yeh, M.D.

### SUMMARY

Among the survivors of Ebola virus disease (EVD), complications that include uveitis can develop during convalescence, although the incidence and pathogenesis of EVD-associated uveitis are unknown. We describe a patient who recovered from EVD and was subsequently found to have severe unilateral uveitis during convalescence. Viable *Zaire ebolavirus* (EBOV) was detected in aqueous humor 14 weeks after the onset of EVD and 9 weeks after the clearance of viremia.

## Infection of immune cells



- Many viruses infect cells of the immune system
- Measles virus infection of APCs
- HIV infection of CD4 T cells, monocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells

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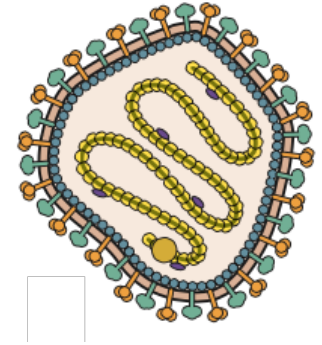
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**Which of the following are features of persistent infections?**

- A. They last the lifetime of the host
- B. Viral immune modulation is involved
- C. Immune cells may be infected
- D. They may occur in areas of reduced immune surveillance
- E. All of the above

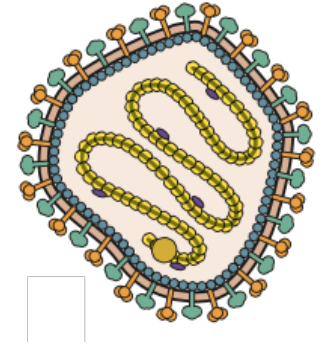


# Measles virus



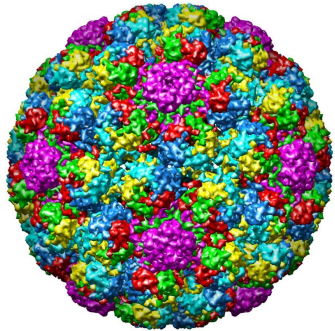
- *Paramyxoviridae*
- One of most contagious human viruses
- 114,900 deaths globally in 2014 - preventable
- Lifelong immunity after infection
- A classic acute virus infection

# SSPE

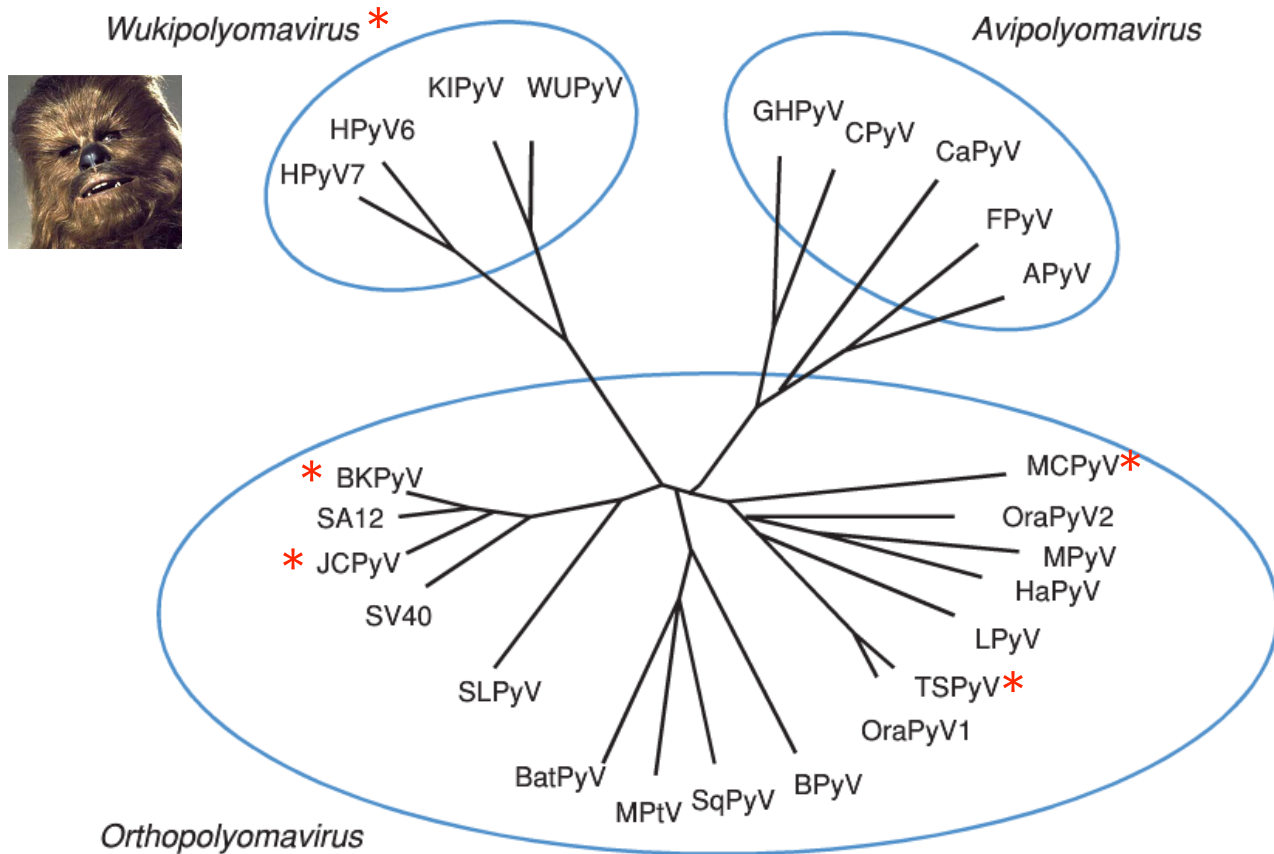


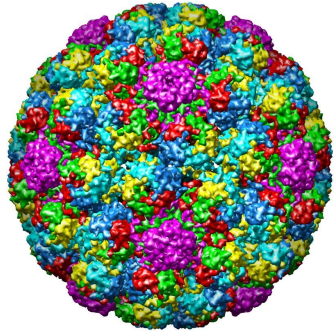
- Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, a progressive, degenerative encephalitis
- After measles, 1/million contract SSPE
- 6-8 yr incubation
- Viral nucleoprotein particles detected in brain, but no infectious virus produced
- Genomes spread between synaptically connected neurons





# Polyomavirus

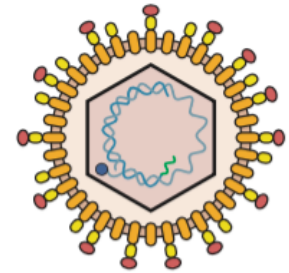




## Polyomavirus persistence

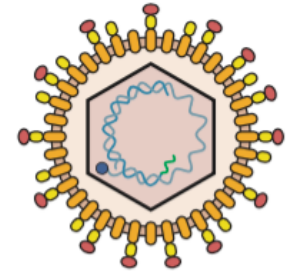
- Infected for life
- Variety of organs - kidney, intestine, respiratory tract
- 100,000 particles/ml in urine
- Unknown mechanisms of persistence
- Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML)
- TWiV #250 - Wookie viruses [microbe.tv/twiv/twiv-250-wookie-viruses/](http://microbe.tv/twiv/twiv-250-wookie-viruses/)

# Hepatitis B virus

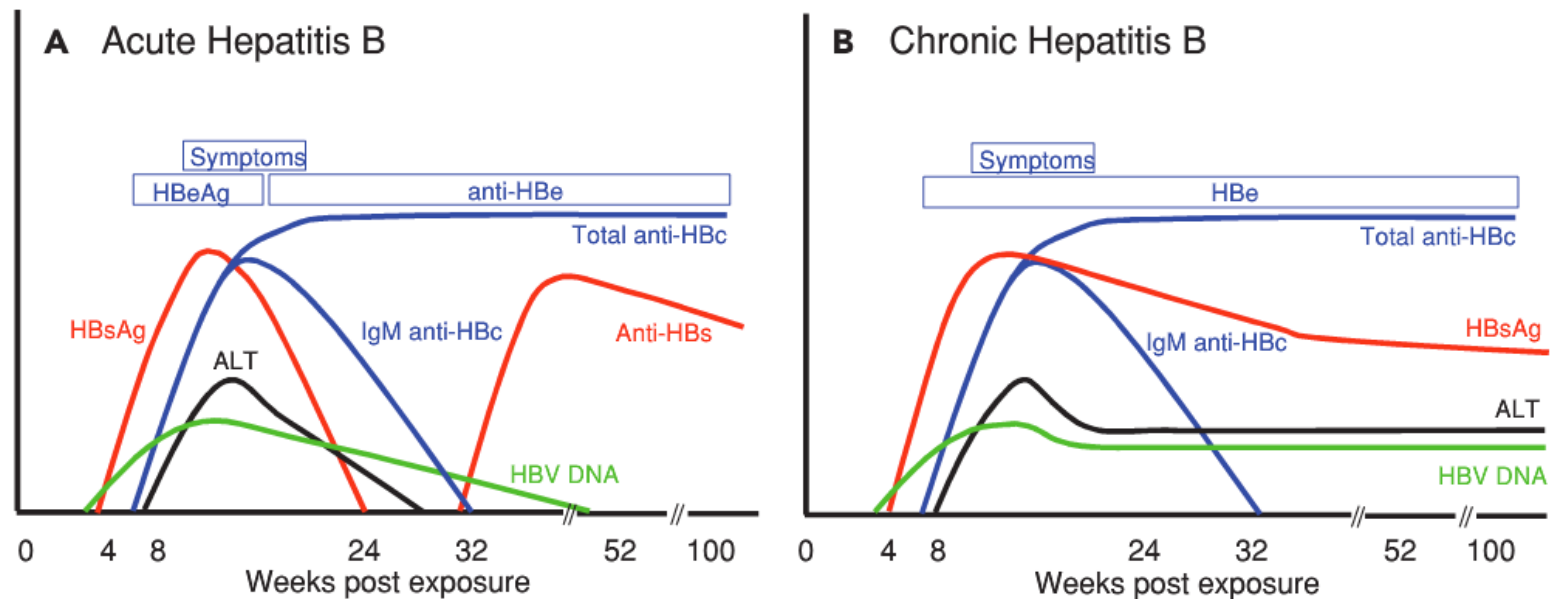


- Transmitted by exposure to blood (childbirth, transfusion, sex, drug use, tattooing, nosocomial)
- Main target is hepatocyte
- 95% of adults, 5-10% newborns resolve acute infection

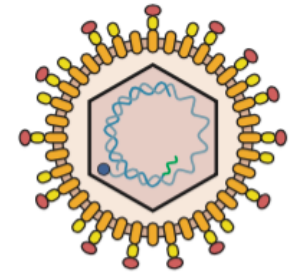
# Hepatitis B virus



- ~350 million worldwide have chronic HBV
- Hepatocellular carcinoma

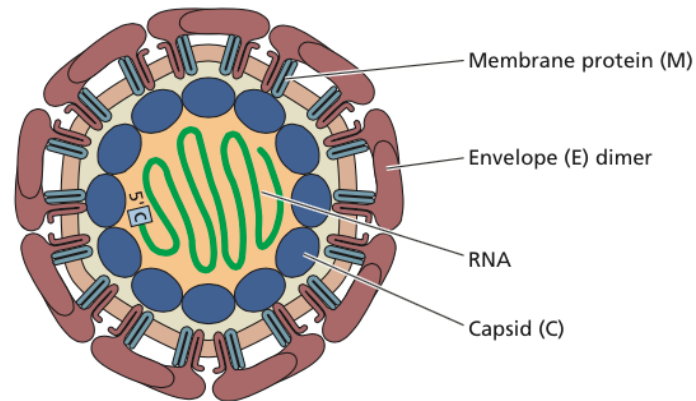


# Chronic HBV



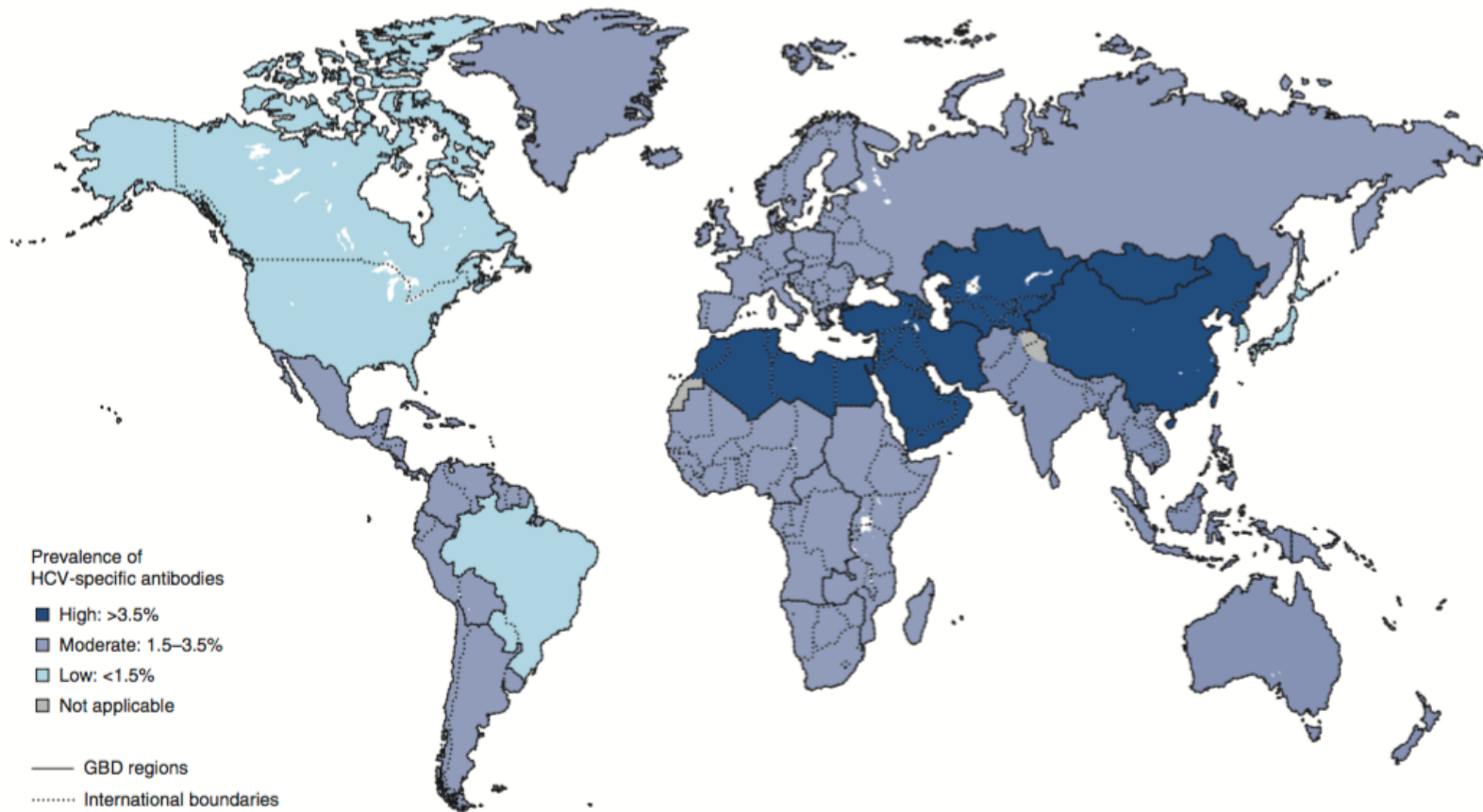
- Virus is not cytopathic (!) for hepatocytes
- CTL kill infected hepatocytes
- During chronic infection, fibrosis leads to cirrhosis, liver failure
- HCC develops after 20-30 yr of chronic (often asymptomatic) infection

# Hepatitis C virus

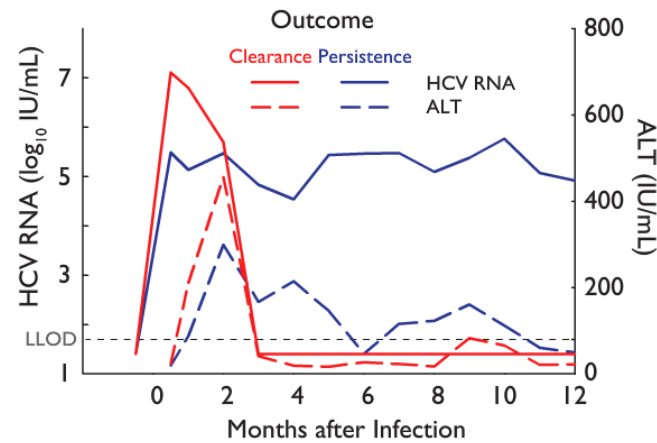
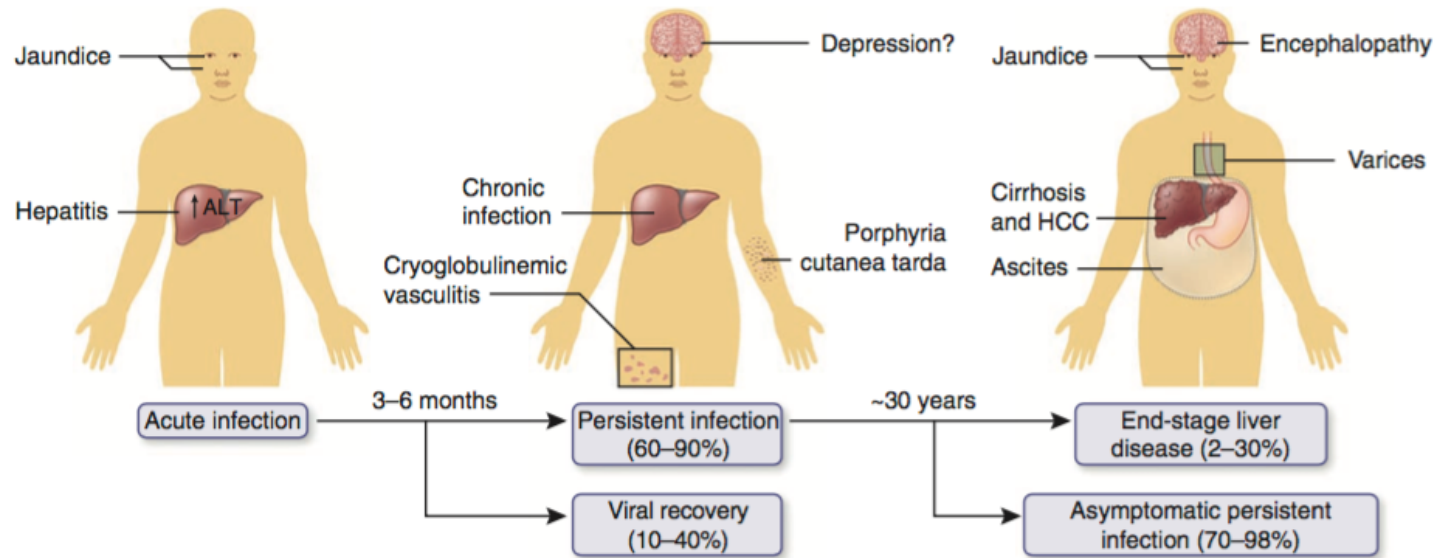


- + strand RNA virus, *Flaviviridae*
- Transmitted by exposure to contaminated blood (sex, drug use, tattooing, during birth)
- 2.2% of human population (185 million) infected

# HCV specific antibodies



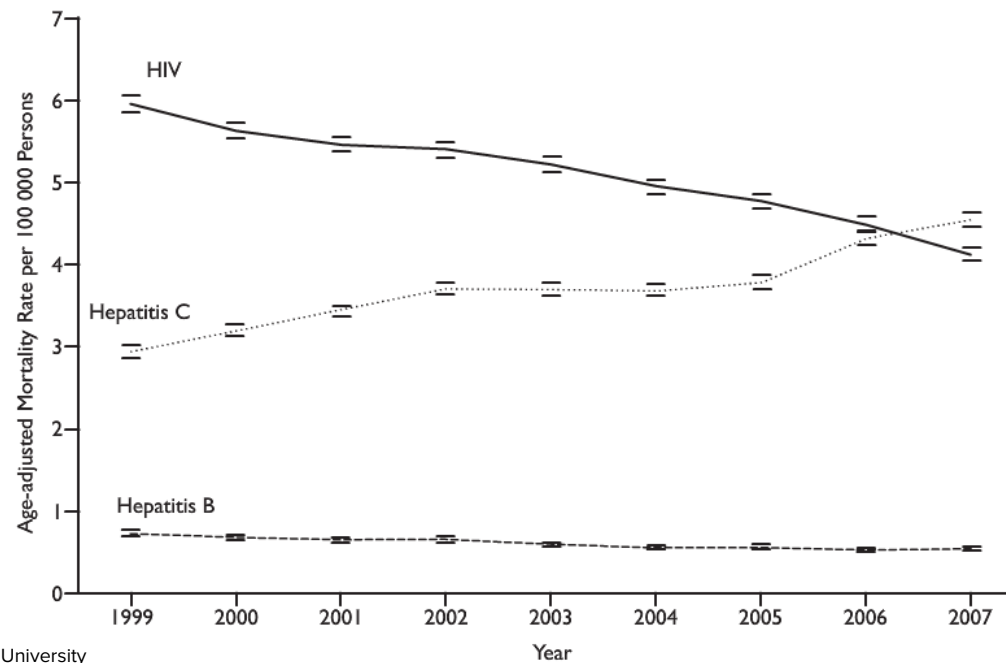
# HCV





# HCV

- HCV clearance associated with IFN- $\lambda$ 3 alleles (GWAS)
- Multiple immune modulation mechanisms



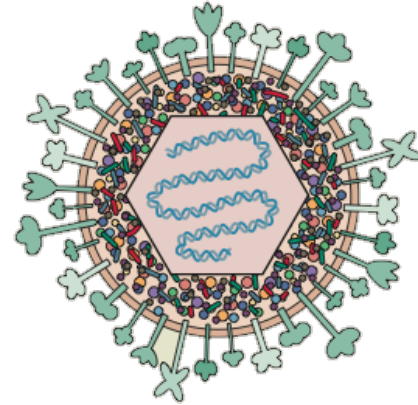
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**Which are shared features of persistent infections with polyomavirus, HBV, and HCV?**

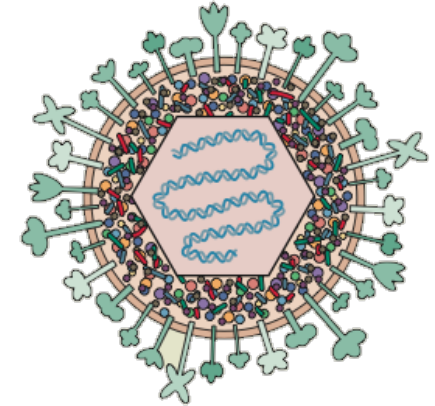
- A. Genomes are present but not expressed
- B. Liver damage
- C. Kidney damage
- D. Virus particles are produced
- E. All of the above

# Latent infections - general properties



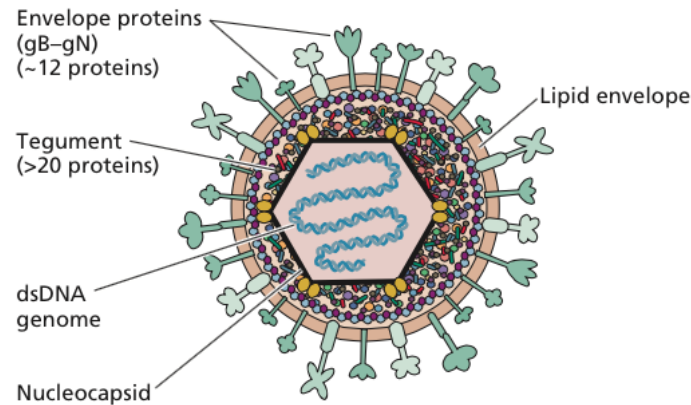
- Viral gene products that promote productive replication are not made or found in low concentrations
- Cells harboring the latent viral genome are poorly recognized by the immune system
- Viral genome persists intact so that productive infection can be initiated to *spread infection* to new hosts

# State of the genome



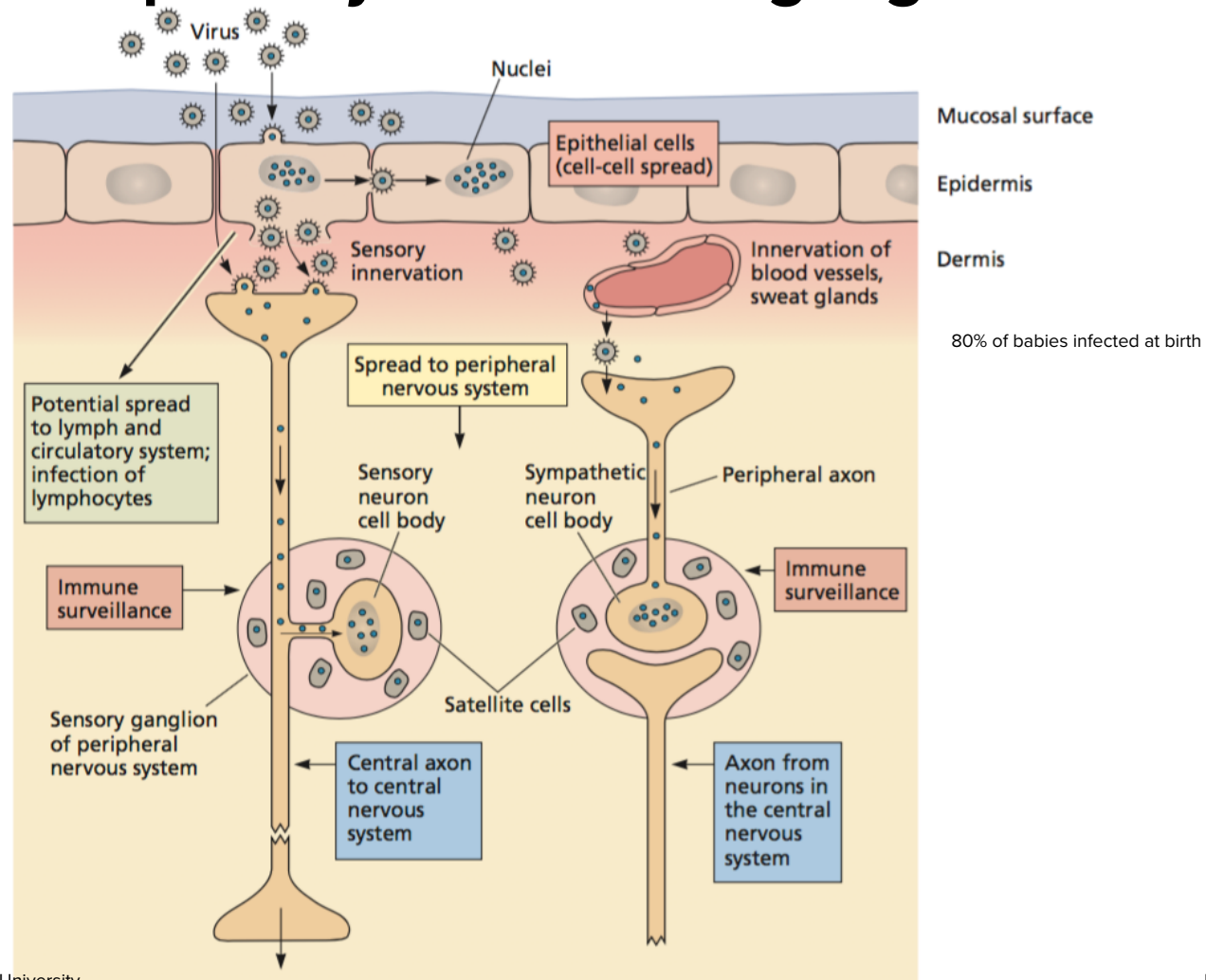
- Non-replicating DNA in a non-dividing cell
  - HSV, VZV in neurons
- Autonomous self-replicating DNA in dividing cell
  - EBV, CMV, HPV, HBV, KSHV
- Integrated into host chromosome, replicates with host
  - HHV6

# Herpes simplex virus infections

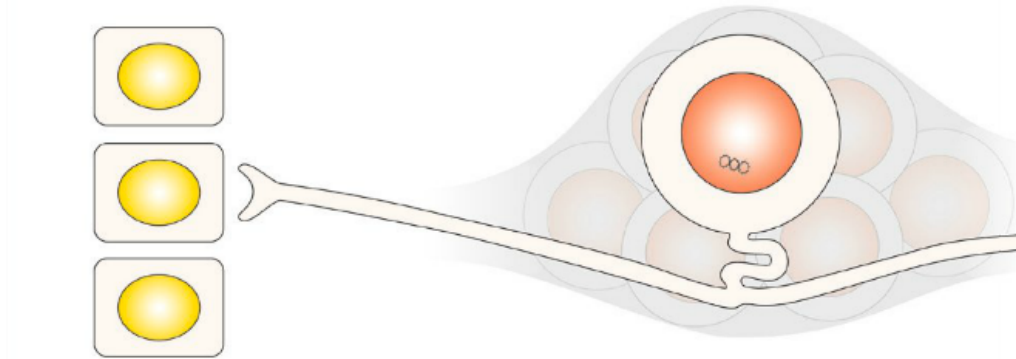


- US >80% seropositive with genomes in PNS
- Millions carry latent viral genomes in nervous system without symptoms
- 40 million experience recurrent herpes disease
- HSV-1, HSV-2
- A well-adapted pathogen

# HSV primary infection of ganglia

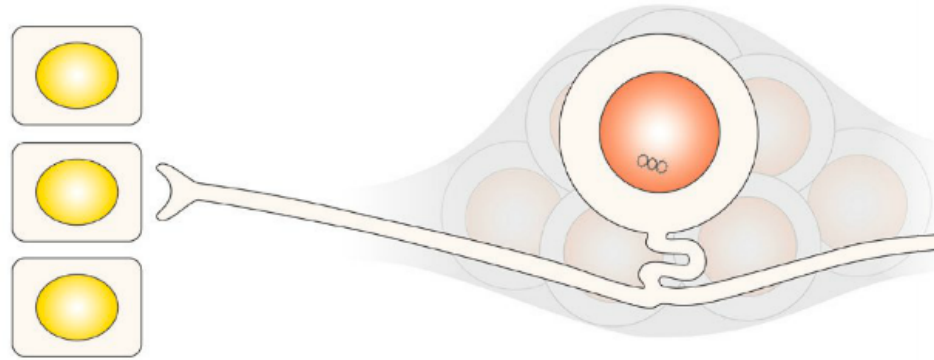


## Post-infection events in neurons



- Viral genome silenced, coated with nucleosomes
- Multiple copies of episomal viral DNA remain in nucleus
- No further replication needed to persist - neurons do not divide
- Herpes is forever - drugs and vaccines cannot cure a latent infection

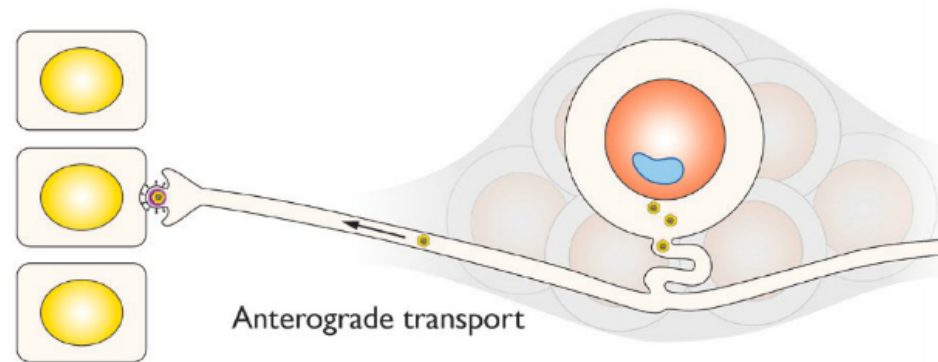
# Latency associated transcript



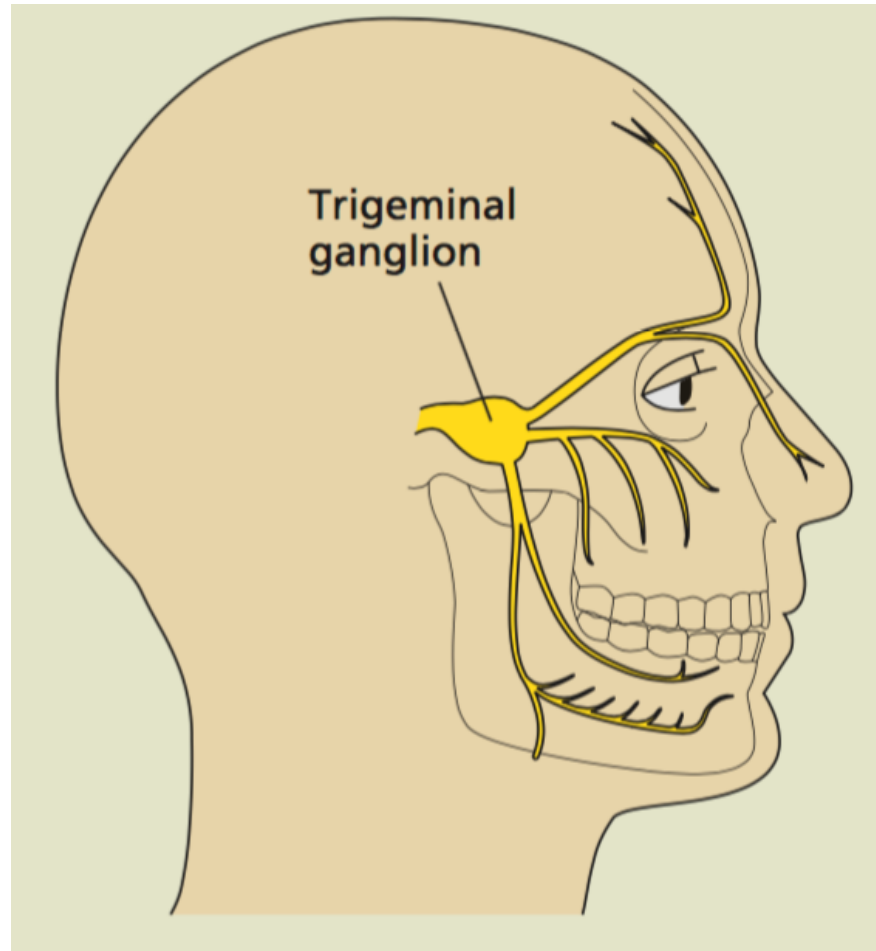
- Only LATs, miRNAs made in latently infected neurons
- No proteins translated from LATs
- RNA silencing to maintain viral genome in latent state
- Host contribution



# Reactivation

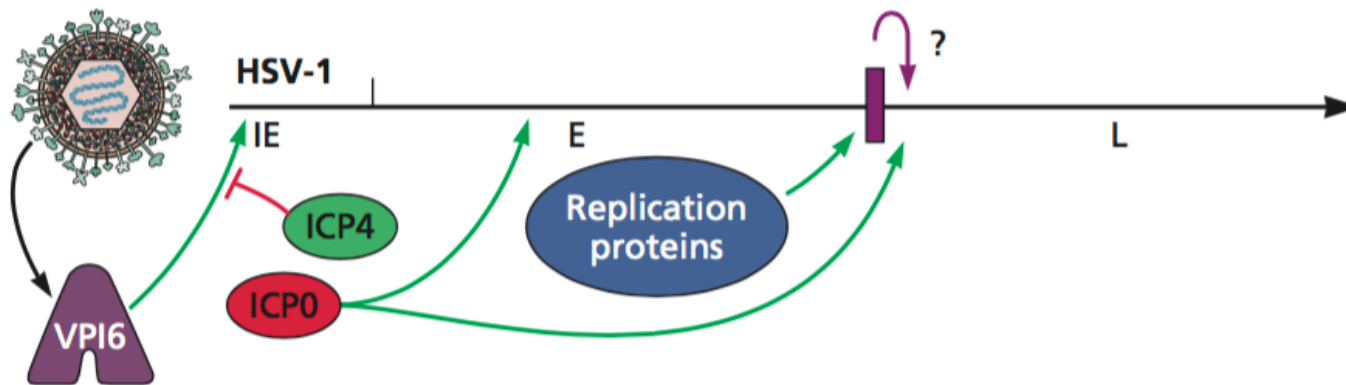


- Small number of neurons in ganglion reactivate
- Virions appear in mucosal tissue innervated by latently infected ganglia, blisters ensue (not always)
- This is how infection is transmitted (intimate contact)
- Immune response is too slow (viral antagonism) to prevent shedding
- Some reactivate every 2-3 weeks; others never

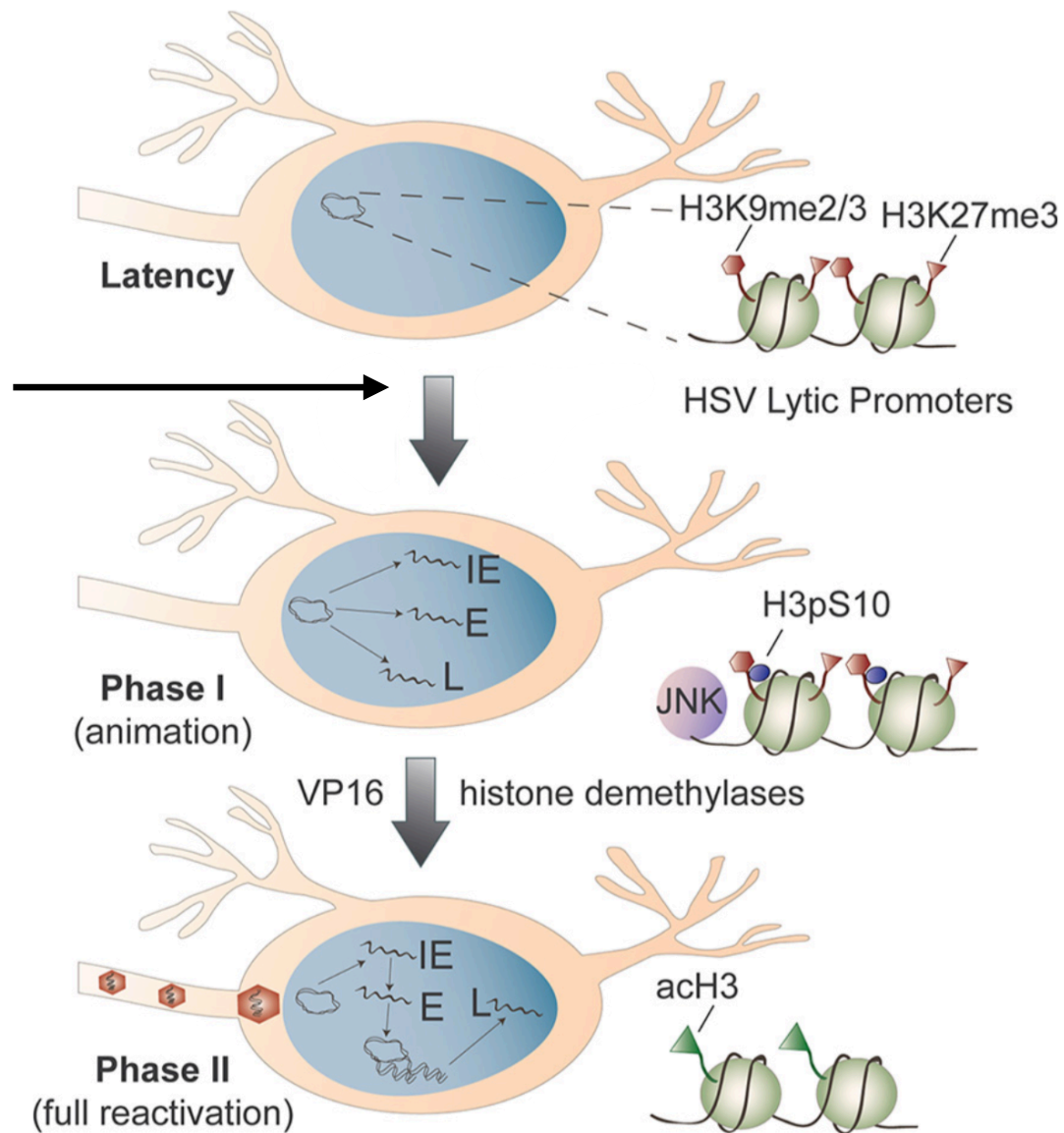


# Reactivation

- Sunburn (UV), physical or emotional stress, nerve damage, hormonal imbalance, steroids
- Stimulate production of viral proteins needed to activate viral transcription program



## Neuronal stress Kinase activation



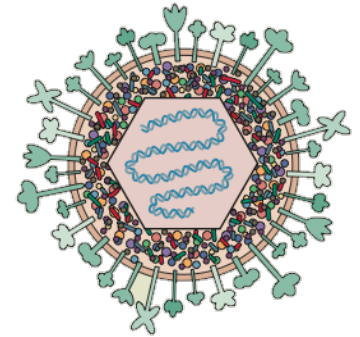
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**Persistence of herpes simplex virus in nerve ganglia requires which of the following?**

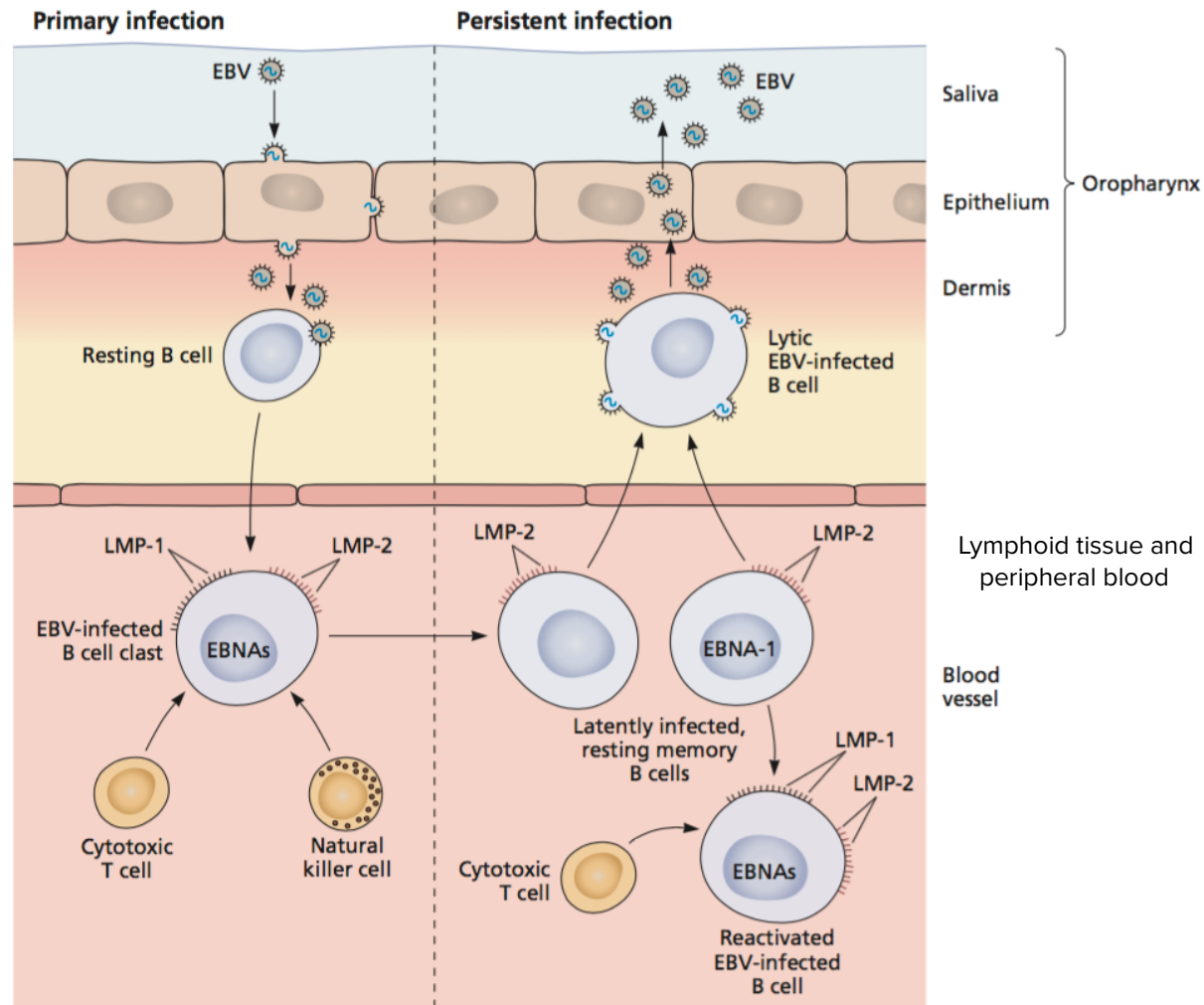
- A. Continuous episomal DNA replication
- B. Low level production of virions
- C. Silencing of all gene expression except LAT and miRNA
- D. UV light, stress, or steroids
- E. All of the above

# Epstein-Barr virus



- 95% of US adults are seropositive and carry genome
- Genome resides in B lymphocytes
- Most are infected at an early age, are asymptomatic
- Causal agent of:
  - Infectious mononucleosis
  - Human cancers (Hodgkins lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, Burkitt's lymphoma)

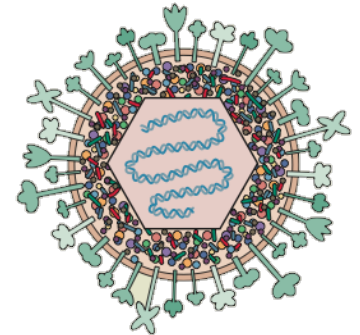
# EBV primary and latent infection



Infectious mononucleosis

B cells are essential for EBV latency

# EBV latency



- Viral DNA is self-replicating episome, associates with nucleosomes in B cells
- Produces limited repertoire of viral genes
- B cells home to bone marrow and lymphoid organs
- Not killed by CTLs or antibody unless reactivation occurs (modulation of MHC)



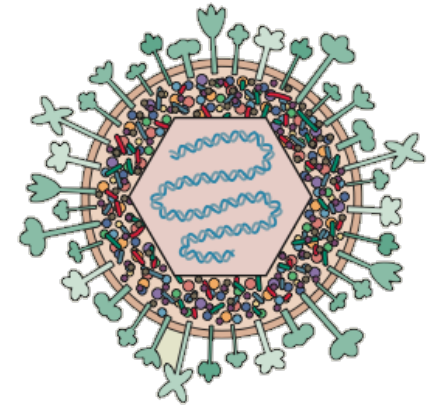
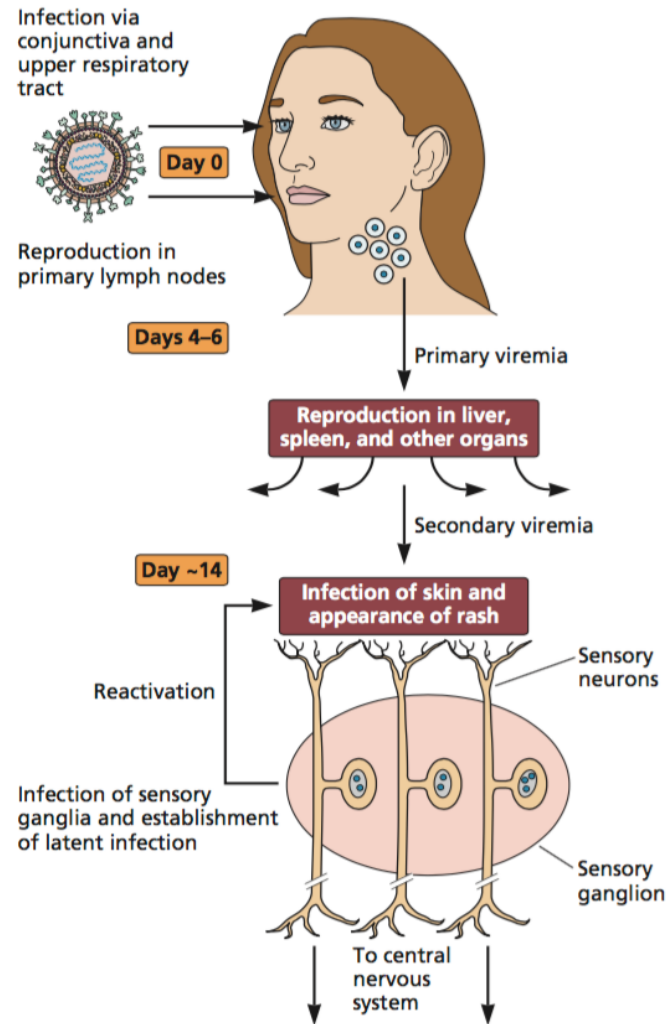
# Varicella-zoster virus (VZV)



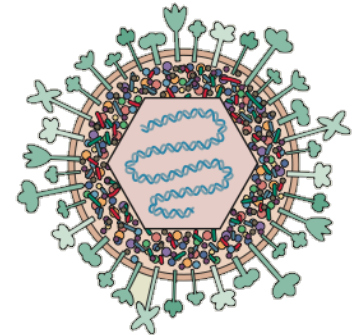
Varicella  
(chickenpox)



Herpes zoster  
(shingles)

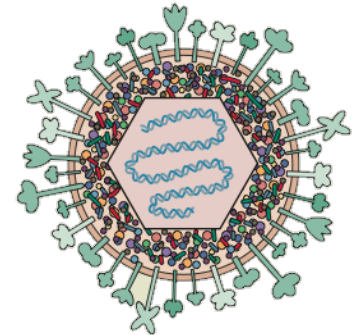


# VZV

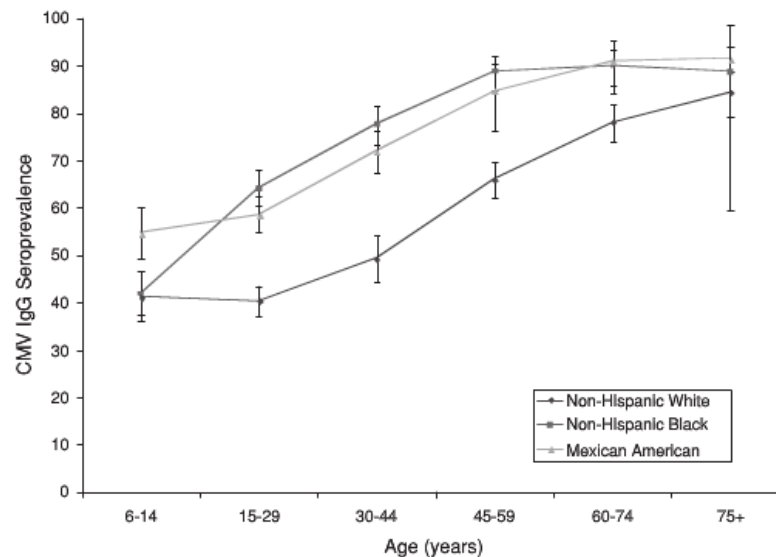


- 99% adults infected pre-vaccine, 30% develop zoster, 2/3 >50 years of age
- Latency: Episomal viral DNA, 2-9 genomes in 1-7% of neurons (non-replicating)
- Viral gene expression is restricted, IE, E, L genes
- Factors that trigger reactivation from neurons are unknown

# Cytomegalovirus (HCMV)

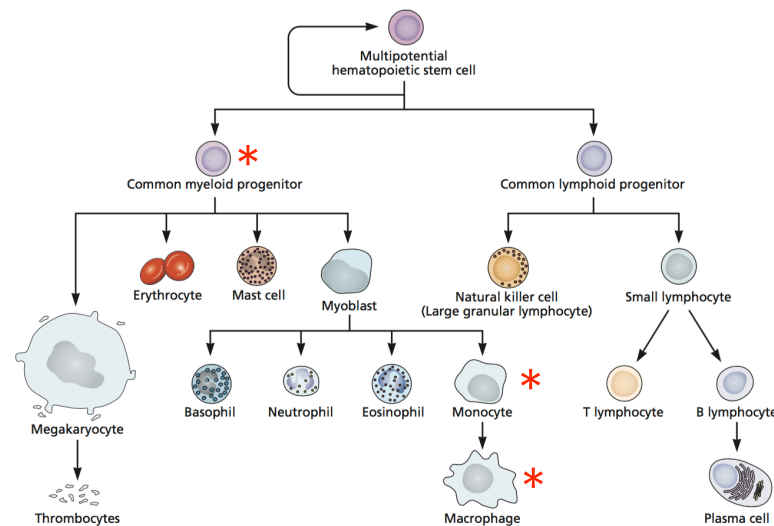


- High seroprevalence (50-99%) globally
- Transmitted by respiratory routes (virus in saliva), urine, sex
- Replicates in peripheral blood leukocytes, endothelial cells



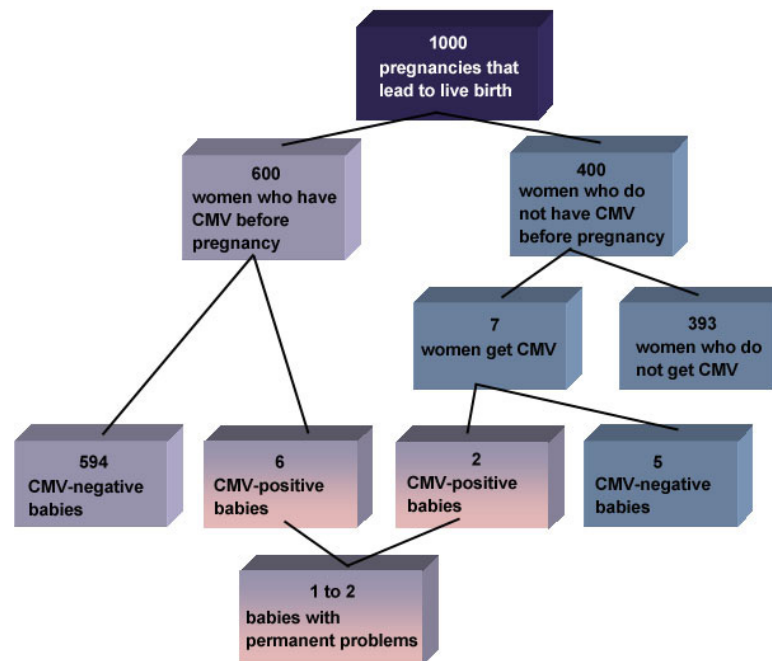
# HCMV

- Primary infection in immunocompetent host usually asymptomatic or febrile, mono-like illness
- Persistent shedding of virus in saliva and urine for months to years
- Resolved by cellular immune response, but latently infected myeloid cells remain in bone marrow (precursors of monocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells)



# HCMV

- Major problem in organ transplantation
- Virus crosses placenta, can cause severe multi-organ congenital defects, death



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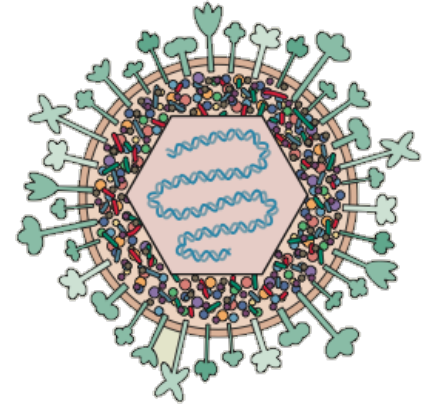
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**What do persistent infections with EBV, VZV, and CMV have in common?**

- A. B cells are essential for latent infection
- B. May cause congenital birth defects
- C. Viral DNA persists as an episome
- D. The factors governing reactivation are well known
- E. All of the above

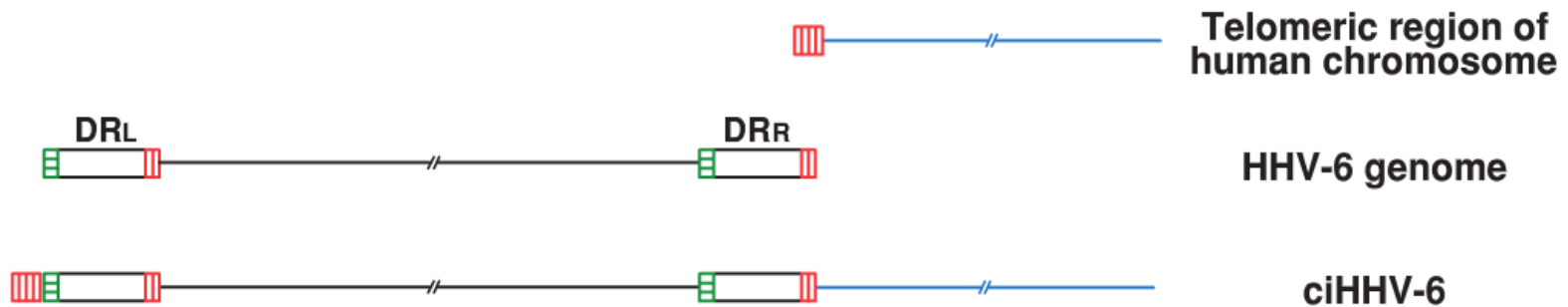


## HHV-6, HHV-7



- Agents of exanthem subitum, mild childhood rash (sixth disease)
- >85% of adults have antibody to both viruses
- Horizontal infection through respiratory secretions, parent to child
- Infect lymphoid, endothelial, liver, CNS, salivary cells
- Latency: HHV-6 monocytes, macrophages, CD34+ progenitors; HHV-7 CD4+ lymphocytes

# HHV-6 integration



- In some cell types viral DNA integrates into telomeres
- About 1% of transmission acquires HHV-6 via germline
- Plausible strategy for latency and transmission



Everyone



### Estimated burden of chronic viral infection in humans

