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Type-Specific Identification of Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)

Herpes is a widespread STI caused by herpes simplex virus type 1 and type 2 (HSV-1, HSV-2). This infection is often associated with a number of complications including painful sores, miscarriages or premature birth, and an increased risk of HIV

transmission¹. Currently, the CDC estimates that over 16% of Americans are presently infected with herpes, with 776,000 new infections developing annually². As herpes cannot be “cured” by current medical therapies, it is critical that the viral infection is properly managed to decrease incidences of outbreaks or spread.

Unfortunately, herpes infections are frequently underdiagnosed due to the varied presentation of clinical symptoms or the lack of sensitivity when analyzing cultures³. This issue is further compounded by the recurrent failure to employ sensitive molecular-based detection methods and type-specific testing of herpesviruses, which provide a more accurate diagnosis³. The latter of these analyses is of particular importance in the proper management of herpes as the prognosis of HSV-1 and HSV-2 infections significantly differ⁵. To improve the quality of current diagnostics, Van Der Pol *et al.* performed a multicenter study to evaluate the performance of an FDA-approved molecular assay that not only identifies HSV, but types the strain as well³.

In the study, paired samples from 508 participants presenting lesions were analyzed using the BD ProbTec HSV Qx (HSVQx) system. These results were then compared to available culture- and PCR-based diagnostic assays to determine assay specificity. Overall, the sensitivity of HSV-1 and HSV-2 detection using the HSVQx system ranged from 96.7-100% and 98.4-100%, respectively. Further, when compared to available diagnostic assays, the

HSVQx system was comparable to PCR-based assays and detected far more incidences of herpes infection than frequently used culture-based assays³. These results indicate that the use of the HSVQx system as a diagnostic tool may improve the ability to accurately identify lesions caused by HSV, thus allowing for better treatment of the infection.

[Read the published article](#)

ATCC HSV Strains

ATCC holdings include a number of HSV-1 and HSV-2 strains. To help you find the strain you need, we have put together a quick reference list of some of our HSV strains, recommended host cell lines and media, and associated

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nucleic acid preparations. To order these products, or view other HSV strains and related products in our collection, visit the ATCC website at www.atcc.org.

Agent	Strain	ATCC® No.	Host	ATCC® No.	Media	ATCC® No.	DNA
HSV-1	HF	VR-260 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	VR-260D TM
HSV-1	MacIntyre	VR-539 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	VR-539D TM
HSV-1	KOS	VR-1493 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	N/A
HSV-1	GHSV-UL46	VR-1544 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	N/A
HSV-1	ATCC-2011-9	VR-1789 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	N/A
HSV-2	MS	VR-540 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	VR-540D TM
HSV-2	G	VR-734 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	VR-734D TM
HSV-2	ATCC-2011-2	VR-1779 TM	Vero	CCL-81 TM	EMEM + 2% FBS	30-2003 TM , 30-2020 TM	N/A

References

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Genital Herpes – CDC Fact sheet. <http://www.cdc.gov/std/herpes/STDFact-Herpes.htm>. Page last updated: February, 2013.
- B. Van Der Pol, et al. Type-Specific Identification of Anogenital Herpes Simplex Virus Infections by Use of a Commercially Available Nucleic Acid Amplification Test. J Clin Microbiol 50(11): 3466-3471, 2012.
- Engelberg p, et al. Natural history of genital herpes simplex virus type 1 infection. Sex Transm Disease 30: 174-177, 2003.



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