#### Causes cytomegalic inclusion disease in infants



#### ENLARGED CELLS INTRANUCLEAR VIRAL INCLUSION BODIES

#### CYTOMEGALOVIRUS (CMV)

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Most common cause of congenital infections



-Cytomegalovirus

Guidelines: SS: single stranded DS: Double stranded Ic: Ichosahedral capsid He: Helical capsid Co: Complex capsid

### 0-Introduction

	Biologic Properties			Examples	
Subfamily ("-herpesvirinae")	Growth Cycle and Cytopathology	Latent Infections	Genus ("-virus")	Official Name ("Human Herpesvirus")	Common Name
Alpha	Short, cytolytic	Neurons	Simplex Varicello	1 2 3	Herpes simplex virus type 1 Herpes simplex virus type 2 Varicella-zoster virus
Beta	Long, cytomegalic Long, lymphoproliferative	Glands, kidneys Lymphoid tissue	Cytomegalo Roseolo	5 6 7	Cytomegalovirus Human herpesvirus 6 Human herpesvirus 7
Gamma	Variable, lymphoproliferative	Lymphoid tissue	Lymphocrypto Rhadino	4 8	Epstein-Barr virus Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus

#### Cytomegalovirus 1- General information □ Antibodies protect from serious infections but don't prevent Have the largest genome between Herpesviridae infections at all □ Have Fc receptors □ Most common cause of congenital infection CMV produces a characteristic cytopathic effect. 4- Laboratory diagnosis Intranuclear inclusions form in addition to damaging the cytoskeleton □ Cell culture: in fibroblast / need long time (2-3 weeks) 2-Pathogenesis & clinical manifestations Serology: Detection of IgM = current infection Atypical lymphocytes Clinical Incubation period 4-8 weeks Hepatic dysfunction Vormal Lymphocytosis Feve 5- Epidemiology Blood Virologic □ Most infections are asymptomatic σ Throat eople Urine □ CMV is endemic in all parts of the world, with no Immunologic seasonal variation seen in infection rates. Antibody titers lgG Ab □ Humans are the only known host for CMV It Ab IaM Ab CF Ab CNS damage (brain, perceptual organs) 6- Treatment and Control **Clinical findings** Clinical Hepatosplenomegaly echili anciclovir is used to treat life-threatening CMV Jaundice infections in immunosuppressed patients ants Blood Virologic □ ganciclovir reduces the severity of disease Throat Urine $\square$ Foscarnet: for retinitis IgG Ab Immunologic Antibody No ready vaccines until now, but both live and

IgM Ab

recombinant CMV vaccines are under development.

#### 3- Immunity

## 1- General information

• Structure of the virus (large virus):

□ Genome: CMV has the largest genetic content of the human herpesviruses. Its DNA genome (240 kbp).

The major immediate-early promoter-enhancer of CMV is one of the strongest known enhancers because of the concentration of binding sites for cellular transcription factors.

□ Proteins: Many proteins are encoded by the virus (~200). One, a cell surface glycoprotein, acts as an Fc receptor that can non-specifically bind the Fc portion of immunoglobulins. This may help infected cells evade immune elimination by providing a protective coating of irrelevant host immunoglobulins.





## 1- General information

- Cytomegalic inclusion disease is a generalized infection of infants caused by intrauterine or early postnatal infection with the CMVs.
- CMV poses an important public health problem because of its high frequency of congenital infections, which may lead to severe congenital anomalies.
- Severe CMV infections are frequently found in adults who are immunosuppressed
- Inapparent infection is common during childhood and adolescence.

### 1- General information

- Why the virus & the disease it cause is such called like that?
  from the propensity for massive enlargement of CMV-infected cells.
- Human CMV replicates in vitro only in human fibroblasts, although the virus is often isolated from epithelial cells of the host.
- CMV replicates very slowly in cultured cells.
- Very little virus becomes cell free; infection is spread primarily from cell to cell.
- CMV produces a characteristic cytopathic effect. Perinuclear cytoplasmic inclusion bodies are formed
- Multinucleated cells are seen. Many affected cells become greatly enlarged.
- Inclusion-bearing cytomegalic cells can be found in samples from infected individuals.



Specific Cytopathic effects are two:

1. It will destroy the cytoskeleton of the cell causing it's enlargement, and will produce intranuclear inclusions, the infected cell is called (owl cell)

2. Slow down mitosis of cells

 $\hfill\square$  Remember: they are from the Herpesviridae family, so they will form multinucleated giant cells



- CMV first enters the body & is transmitted by close contact.
- Oral and respiratory spread are probably the dominant routes of CMV transmission.
- Virus may be shed in urine, saliva, semen, breast milk, and cervical secretions and is carried in circulating white blood cells.
- CMV can be transmitted by blood transfusion.
- Estimated risk varies widely but is about 1–5% per unit of whole blood. Sero-negative solid organ transplantation recipients are at risk because a sero-positive organ transmits the virus in 60–80% of cases.

- Normal adults and old children:
- There is a 4- to 8-week incubation period in normal older children and adults after viral exposure.
- The virus causes a systemic infection; it has been isolated from lung, liver, esophagus, colon, kidneys, monocytes, and T and B lymphocytes.
- Cell-mediated immunity is depressed with primary infections, and this may contribute to the persistence of viral infection. It may take several months for cellular responses to recover
- The disease can take many pathways clinically:
  - 1) Primary CMV infection of older children and adults is usually asymptomatic
  - 2) causes a spontaneous infectious mononucleosis like syndrome
  - 3) Rarely cause some complications, such as:
  - a-Pneumonia is the most common complication
  - b- Prolonged CMV infection of the kidney and salivary glands is common and probably chronic c- Subclinical hepatitis (common)
- d- In children younger than 7 years old, hepatosplenomegaly is frequently observed.
- CMV establishes lifelong latent infections. Virus can be shed intermittently from the pharynx and in the urine for months to years after primary infection
- Although usually less severe, reactivated infections may be as virulent as primary infections.

Mononucleosis syndrome (additional slide but extremely important for understanding):
 symptoms of headache, fever, malaise, fatigue, and sore throat occur. Enlarged
 lymph nodes and spleen are characteristic.

□ The typical illness is self-limited and lasts for 2–4 weeks. During the disease, there is an increase in the number of circulating white blood cells, with a predominance of lymphocytes. Many of these are large, atypical T lymphocytes. Low-grade fever and malaise may persist for weeks to months after acute illness.

Ab: antibody Ag: antigen CF: complement fixing CMV: cytomegalovirus; CNS: central nervous system Ig: immunoglobulin LTR: lymphocyte transformation response Nt: neutralizing

CMV is estimated to cause 20–50% of heterophil-negative (non-EBV) mononucleosis cases.





CMV - Pathogenesis and Pathology – Congenital CMV Infection

- Fetal and newborn infections with CMV may be severe.
- About 1% of live births annually in the US have congenital CMV infections, and about 5–10% of those will develop cytomegalic inclusion disease.





Congenital infection:

- CMV can also be acquired by the infant from exposure to virus in the mother's genital tract during delivery and from maternal breast milk. In these cases, the infants usually have received some maternal antibody, and the perinatally acquired CMV infections tend to be subclinical.
- Transfusion-acquired CMV infections in newborns vary, depending on the amount of virus received and the serologic status of the blood donor.
- Whether CMV is acquired in utero or perinatally, a more chronic infection results (with respect to viral excretion) than when the virus is acquired later in life.

- Congenital infection:
- Disease involve intrauterine growth retardation, jaundice, hepatosplenomegaly, thrombocytopenia, microcephaly, and retinitis.
- Mortality rates are about 20%.
- Most survivors develop significant CNS defects within 2 years; severe hearing loss, ocular abnormalities, and mental retardation are common.
- About 10% of infants with subclinical congenital CMV infection develop deafness.
- It has been estimated that one in every 1000 infants born in the US is seriously retarded as a result of congenital CMV infection.

• Immunocompromised :

- Primary CMV infections in immunosuppressed hosts are much more severe than in normal hosts. Viral excretion is increased and prolonged, and the infection is more likely to become disseminated.
- CMV often causes disseminated disease in untreated AIDS patients; gastroenteritis and chorioretinitis are common problems, the latter often leading to progressive blindness.
- Both morbidity and mortality rates are increased with primary and recurrent CMV infections in immunocompromised individuals.
- Interstitial pneumonitis caused by CMV occurs in 10–20% of bone marrow transplant recipients.

### 3- Immunity

- Abs to CMV in human sera in the US increase with age, from about 40% in teenagers to more than 80% in those more than 60 years old.
- Reactivation of latent infection occurs in the presence of humoral immunity.
- The presence of Ab in breast milk does not prevent transmission of infection to breastfeeding infants
- Maternal antibody protects more against development of serious disease in the infant than viral transmission.

# 4- Laboratory diagnosis

- PCR assays have replaced virus isolation for routine detection of CMV infections.
- The PCR assays are designed to detect replicating virus, not latent viral genomes.
  Blood and urine are most tested.
- PCR assays can provide viral load data, which appears to be important in predicting CMV disease.
- Human fibroblasts are used for virus isolation attempts. The virus can be recovered most readily from throat washings and urine
- In cultures, 2–3 weeks are usually needed for the appearance of cytologic changes, consisting of small foci of swollen, translucent cells with large intranuclear inclusions.
- Detection of viral IgM antibodies suggests a current infection.

### 5- Epidemiology

 CMV is endemic in all parts of the world, with no seasonal variation seen in infection rates.

- Ab prevalence may be moderate (40–70%) in adults in high socioeconomic groups in developed countries—in contrast to a prevalence of 90% in children and adults in developing nations and in low socioeconomic groups in developed countries.
- New infections are almost always asymptomatic. After infection, virus is shed from multiple sites. Viral shedding may continue for years, often intermittently, as latent virus becomes reactivated. Thus, exposures to CMV are widespread and common.

• Note: Humans are the only known host for CMV.

#### 6- Treatment and Control

- anciclovir is used to treat life-threatening CMV infections in immunosuppressed patients. The severity of CMV retinitis, esophagitis, and colitis is reduced by ganciclovir.
- Early treatment with ganciclovir reduces the incidence of CMV pneumonia in BM allograft recipients. Ganciclovir also controls progressive hearing loss in neonates with congenital infections
- Foscarnet, an analog of inorganic pyrophosphate, is recommended for treatment of CMV retinitis.
- Acyclovir and valacyclovir have shown some benefits in bone marrow and renal transplant patients

#### 6- Treatment and Control

 Screening of transplant donors and recipients for CMV antibody may prevent some transmissions of primary CMV.

- The CMV-seronegative transplant recipient population represents a high-risk group for CMV infections.
- The use of blood from seronegative donors has been recommended when infants will require multiple transfusions. This approach would eliminate transfusion-acquired CMV infections, but it is difficult to implement.
- Both live and recombinant CMV vaccines are under development.