

MODERN CONCEPTS OF EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS

Shevchenko Yu. V. , Dubinina N.V.

The National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine

microbiology@ukrfa.kharkov.ua

In recent years, an increasing number of patients suffering from chronic recurrent herpes virus infections are observed. In many cases it is accompanied by a marked disturbance of general health and a range of therapeutic complaints. Pathogen of the most common latent infection is Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). Nevertheless, general practitioners are not well informed on chronic infection caused by Epstein-Barr virus and its forms.

Epstein-Barr virus is a ubiquitous herpes lymphotropic virus, affecting about 95% of the adult population. It is an etiological agent of infectious mononucleosis, as well as causative pathogen of Burkitt's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, lymphoproliferative syndrome associated with the X-chromosome, and chronic fatigue syndrome. Transmission of the virus mainly occurs at the contact with infected secretions from the oropharynx. Usually, infection with this virus takes place in the early childhood or adolescence, and persists in the form of a latent infection almost throughout the whole life of infected individual. The source of the infection is a sick person, including those with blurred forms of the disease. B-lymphocytes are the main reservoir of the pathogen in the human body. Replication of the virus in the human body can cause exacerbation (occurrence) of the secondary immunodeficiency. Numerous studies confirm that EBV is associated with malignant transformation of the infected cells. It is proven, that such types of cancer as cancer of the nasopharynx, larynx, circulatory system, kidneys, sexual organs and nervous system, often is associated with Epstein-Barr virus. Infection with Epstein-Barr virus in adolescence in 75% of cases leads to infectious mononucleosis development. Chronic course of the disease can be in the form of subtle disease or masked with other chronic diseases. In this case diagnosis of the disease is difficult due to lack of specific clinical markers.

Except for the general physical examination, the study of immune status (antiviral immunity), DNA diagnosis of infection in different materials in dynamics, serological testing (EIA) are required to establish the diagnosis.