

12. SENSORY ORGANS

12.1 Introduction

Information about HHV-6 infections of sensory organs is extremely scarce. Katarrheic or seromucoid otitis and serous rhinitis accompany about one forth of the cases with HHV-6 induced exanthem subitum. Occasionally also acute conjunctivitis has been described.

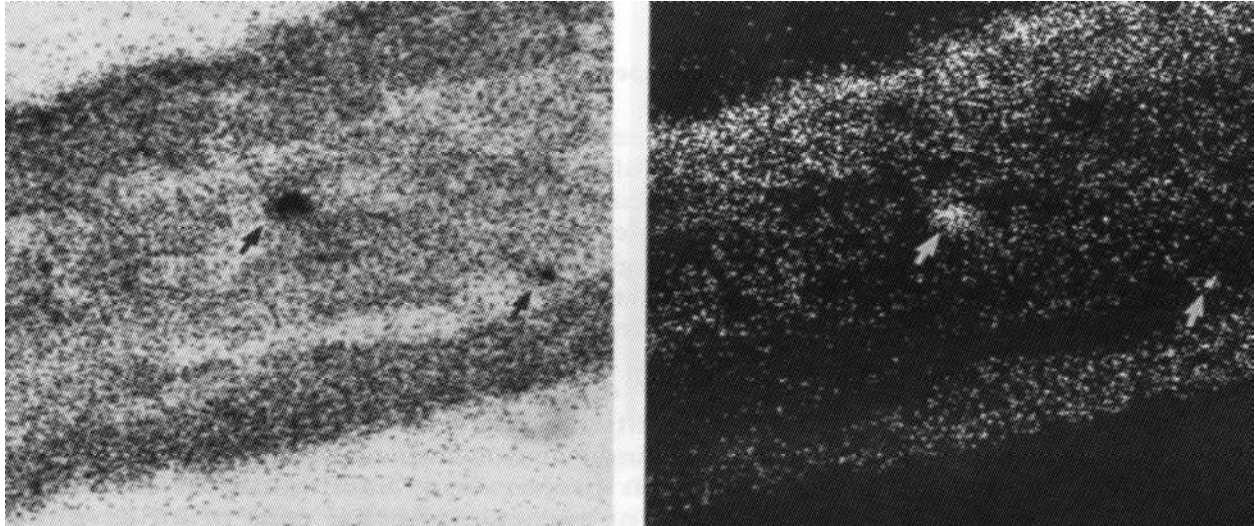
We have seen cases of keratoconjunctivitis sicca in patients with autoimmune collagen vascular disease and HHV-6 reactivation. Viral reactivation in these cases may well be a consequence of immune disturbances and does not necessarily indicate any causal relationship between the disease (e.g. lupus erythematosus, scleroderma) and HHV-6.

Most detailed studies were published by Hamida Qavi who reported of HHV-6 corneal infections and retinitis in HIV1-positive patients and AIDS. There were frequent co-infections of HHV-6 with HIV-1 or with HCMV.

Pathologic Entity	Patient	Immune Status	HHV-6 Testing
Katarrheic or mucoid otitis	children with ES	nl	serology
serous rhinitis	children with ES	nl	serology
Keratoconjunctivitis and uveitis	adults with CVD	autoimmune	serology
cornea infection & retinitis	children, adults	AIDS	ISH, PCR, EM
ocular lymphoma	adults	7	PCR

Table 8: HHV-6 associated disease of sensory organs. Abbreviations: nl = normal; ES = exanthem subitum; CVD = collagen vascular disease; ISH = in situ hybridization; PCR = polymerase chain reaction; EM = electron microscopy for viral particles.

12.2 Figures



In situ hybridization showing HHV-6 transcriptional activity in retinal sections from AIDS patients (right side: confocal image; see Qavi et al., 1992).

12.3 Further Reading

Schmidt SM, Wiersbitzky H, Wiersbitzky SKW. HHV-6 and the Respiratory System. Chapter 13 in Krueger GRF, Ablashi DV (eds.). Human Herpesvirus-6, 2nd edition. Elsevier Science Publ, Amsterdam-London 2006

Qavi HB, Green MT, Segall GK. HIV-1 and HHV-6 infections of human retina and cornea. Chapter 20 in: Ablashi DV, Krueger GRF, Salahuddin SZ (eds.) Human Herpesvirus-6, 1st. edition. Elsevier Science Publ, Amsterdam 1992

Krueger GR, Sander C, Hoffmann A, Barth A, Koch B, Braun M. Isolation of human herpesvirus-6 (HHV-6) from patients with collagen vascular diseases. In Vivo 5: 217-225, 1991