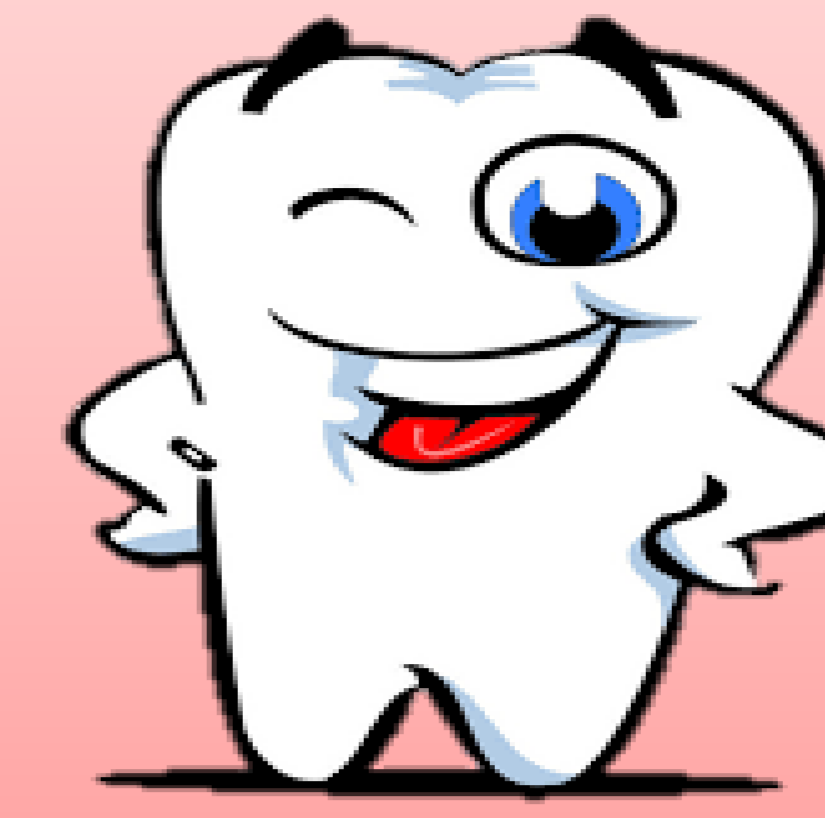


Do Not Forget To Do This With Primary Herpetic Gingivostomatitis Patient



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Introduction

Primary herpetic gingivostomatitis (PHGS) : this acute infection of the oral cavity is caused by HSV 1 (herpes simplex virus type 1) and the disease usually occurs during childhood between 3 to 5 years of age the disease is not seen in children below 12 months of age (due to passive immunity coming through the maternal antibodies).¹

Oral symptoms include

- The vesicles usually contain clear fluid and they rupture to leave multiple small punctate shallow painful ulcers .
- These are followed by diffuse large whitish ulcers which are surrounded by a red ring of inflammation .
- In case of HIV infection these herpetic ulcers will be larger deeper more painful and more persistent in nature .

Healing starts in about 3 days and the lesion is completely healed up within 7 to 14 days without any scar formation.¹



FIGURE (1)^{3 4 5}
Oral symptoms of primary herpetic gingivostomatitis

Latency and reactivation of HSV

- The unique biological properties of these virus are their neurotropism and their ability to remain latency in nerve and ganglial cells.²

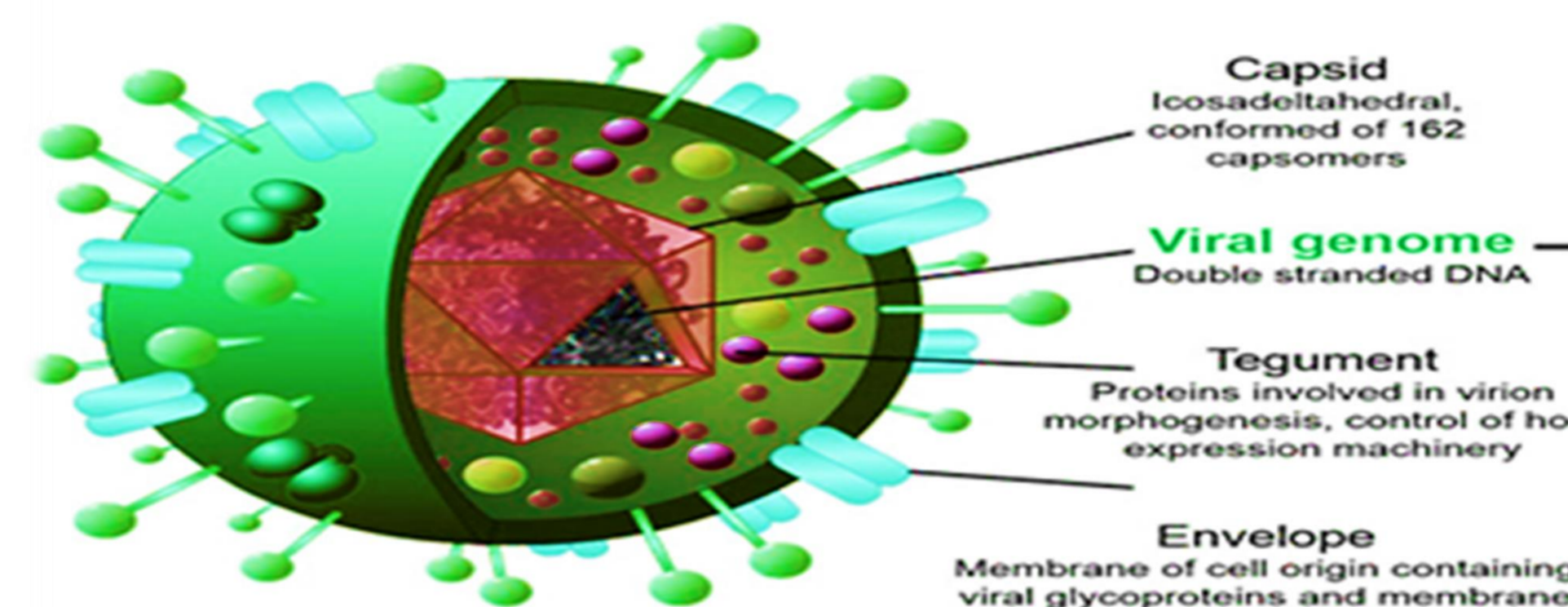
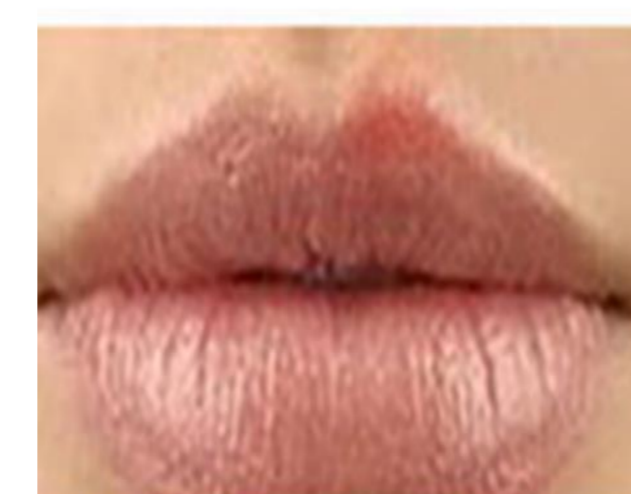


Figure (2)⁵ structure of herpes simplex virus

Complication and recurrent infections

- The complications of PGHS range from indolent cold sores to life threatening encephalitis .
- The most common cause of morbidity following PGHS dehydration .
- There is a single report postulating that recurrent HSV infection affecting the oral cavity may even manifest as a dry socket .
- This can be caused by autoinoculation from PGHS or herpes labialis or via the nerve route.²

Stage 1



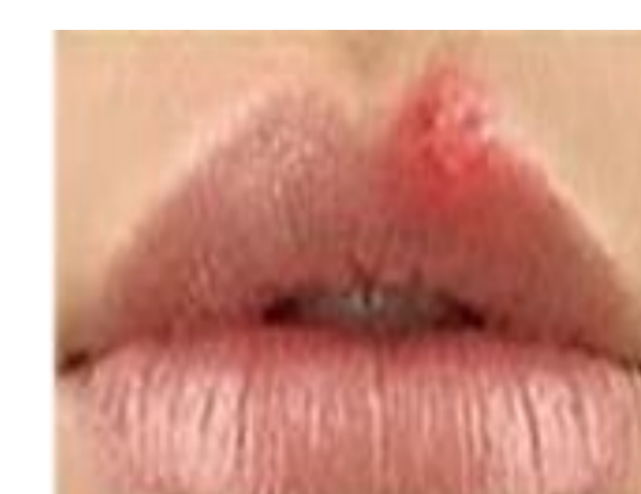
Tingling or itching may begin

Stage 2



Smallish red bumps start to blister

Stage 3



Blisters fill with fluid to form a full scale cold sores

Figure (3)⁶ stages of cold sores

CASE

Herpes Whitlow on the Arm and Hand of a Dentist



Figure (4)⁷
dentist gloves



Figure (5)³
infected hand

Dental consideration

- Limiting the treatment of patient with active lesions to urgent care only and treating active HSV 1 lesions to reduce time of healing .
- Use methods for protecting the dental team and patient from cross contamination.
- Wear gloves and a long sleeved lab coat.
- Acyclovir is drug of choice.³

Conclusion

- Primary herpetic gingivostomatitis (PGHS) represents the clinically apparent pattern of primary herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection
- The PGHS is caused predominantly by HSV 1 and affects mainly children .

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