

HUMAN HERPES VIRUS 8 (HHV-8) SEROPREVALENCE IN BLOOD DONORS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL (P-186)

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BACKGROUND

Human herpes virus (HHV-8) is associated with Kaposi's sarcoma and lymphoproliferative disorders. HHV-8 has a worldwide occurrence and infections rate vary according to geographic and behavioral risks. The main transmission route seems to be sexual, nevertheless, transmission by blood and organ graft has been proposed. HHV-8 has been postulated as a new infectious agent for screening in blood donors.

AIMS

The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of antibodies against HHV-8 antigens in blood donors from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

METHODS

In a collaboration with the Laboratory of Molecular Virology of FDA, HHV-8 was performed on blood samples from 60 blood donors from the Blood Center of Rio de Janeiro (HEMORIO), including 26 who tested HIV positive and 34 HIV negative samples using an ELISA for antibodies IgG HHV-8 detection (ABI Advanced Biotechnologies).

RESULTS The estimated HHV-8 seroprevalence in the total group was 20 percent (95% CI 12%-30%), among the 26 blood donors who tested HIV positive the HHV-8 seroprevalence was 38.4% (95% CI 34.7%-42.1%) and among the HIV negative it was 5.8% (95% CI 1%-12%), $p = 0.001$.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite a relatively high HHV-8 seroprevalence in the group, further studies of much larger numbers of individuals will be required to more completely assess the HHV-8 prevalence rate among blood donors, as well as to evaluate the possibility of transmission by blood transfusion.