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Herpes Simplex

Also called: HSV

Herpes is an infection that is caused by a herpes simplex virus (HSV). Oral herpes causes cold sores [<https://medlineplus.gov/coldsores.html>] around the mouth or face. Genital herpes [<https://medlineplus.gov/genitalherpes.html>] affects the genitals, buttocks or anal area. Genital herpes is a sexually transmitted infection [<https://medlineplus.gov/sexuallytransmittedinfections.html>] (STI). It affects the genitals, buttocks or anal area. Other herpes infections can affect the eyes, skin, or other parts of the body. The virus can be dangerous in newborn babies or in people with weak immune systems.


There are two types of HSV:

- HSV type 1 most commonly causes cold sores. It can also cause genital herpes.
- HSV type 2 is the usual cause of genital herpes, but it also can infect the mouth.


HSV spreads through direct contact. Some people have no symptoms. Others get sores near the area where the virus has entered the body. They turn into blisters, become itchy and painful, and then heal.

Most people have outbreaks several times a year. Over time, you get them less often. Medicines to help your body fight the virus can help lessen symptoms and decrease outbreaks.

Start Here

- Herpes Can Happen to Anyone: Share Facts, Not Fears [<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2018/06/herpes-can-happen-anyone>]  (National Institutes of Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://salud.nih.gov/recursos-de-salud/nih-noticias-de-salud/el-herpes-puede-sucederle-a-cualquiera>]
- Herpes Simplex: Overview [<https://www.aad.org/public/diseases/a-z/herpes-simplex-overview?NoAds>] (American Academy of Dermatology)

Diagnosis and Tests

- Herpes (HSV) Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/herpes-hsv-test/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-del-virus-del-herpes-simple-vhs/>]

Related Issues

- Herpes Eye Disease [<https://www.aapos.org/glossary/herpes-eye-disease>] (American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus)


Specifics

- Herpes Eye Infections: What is Herpes Keratitis? [<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/herpes-keratitis>] (American Academy of Ophthalmology)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.aao.org/salud-ocular/enfermedades/queratitis-herpetica>]

Images

- Herpetic Whitlow [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/herpetic-whitlow/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)
- Sacral Herpes [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/sacral-herpes-simplex-virus-hsv/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Herpes Simplex [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Herpes+Simplex%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Polyclonal LC3B Antibodies Generate Non-Specific Staining in the Nucleus of Herpes... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40724934>]
- Article: Serotype-specific host proteome remodeling in human foreskin fibroblasts during lytic HSV-1... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40660299>]
- Article: Mechanistic Perspectives on Herpes Simplex Virus Inhibition by Phenolic Acids and... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40649726>]
- Herpes Simplex -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Herpes+Simplex%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22I+ast+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Cold Sores in Children: About the Herpes Simplex Virus [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/skin/Pages/Herpes-Simplex-Virus-Cold-Sores.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/conditions/skin/paginas/herpes-simplex-virus-cold-sores.aspx>]
- Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/herpes-simplex-virus-hsv/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)
- Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) in Infants [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/herpes-simplex-virus-hsv/infant/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)

Patient Handouts

- Herpes viral culture of lesion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003739.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003739.htm>]
- Infectious esophagitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000646.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000646.htm>]
- Serum herpes simplex antibodies [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003352.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003352.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Erythema multiforme [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000851.htm>]

Herpes viral culture of lesion [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003739.htm>]

Infectious esophagitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000646.htm>]

Pregnancy and herpes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001368.htm>]

Serum herpes simplex antibodies [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003352.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Cold Sores [<https://medlineplus.gov/coldsores.html>]

Genital Herpes [<https://medlineplus.gov/genitalherpes.html>]

Sexually Transmitted Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/sexuallytransmittedinfections.html>]

Shingles [<https://medlineplus.gov/shingles.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Herpes Simplex* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

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