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Persistent viral infections are often the result of an acute infection that persists for months to years to the lifetime of the host24,25. Highly studied persistent viral infections like herpes-simplex virus-1 (HSV-1) and hepatitis C virus are considered pathogenic. In the case of HSV, the virus cycles between periods of inactivity and pathology[REF]. In the case of LCMV, infection rarely results in pathology except when the hosts immune system is suppressed or ----[REF]. These viruses have evolutionary rates of --- and ---. An expected evolutionary rate for RNA viruses

How viruses that seemingly do not cause pathology in their host and do not result from an acute infection evolve is largely unknown because until recently, they had not been identified.

, RNA 3 was the only segment experiencing selective pressure