Isolation and identification of human herpesvirus 7 from an infant with exanthem subitum.

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Abstract

Exanthem subitum (ES) is a common childhood exanthematic disease. In a recent study of ES due to human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6), we isolated human herpesvirus 7 (HHV-7) from the peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) of a seven-month-old infant with typical symptoms of ES. The identity of the virus was confirmed by indirect immunofluorescence using a HHV-7 specific monoclonal antibody and by amplification of the HHV-7 specific genomic sequences using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Plasma virus copies from the infant showed serological conversion to the isolated virus. The clinical manifestations of ES in this infant appeared to be milder than the classical ES due to HHV-6.