

I Meet the Marker: HHV-8

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HHV-8, also known as Human Herpesvirus 8, is a virus associated with the development of Kaposi's sarcoma, a type of vascular cancer.^{5,7} For this reason, it is also referred to as Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV).⁶ HHV-8 has also been associated with the development of HHV-8-associated multicentric Castlemann disease.⁴ These conditions mainly affect immunocompromised individuals, such as those infected with HIV/AIDS or patients undergoing immunosuppressive therapies.

Kaposi's sarcoma is a type of cancer that causes lesions in the skin, lymph nodes, mouth, GI tract, or respiratory tract.³ These lesions often appear purple due to the presence of new blood vessels and blood cells.³

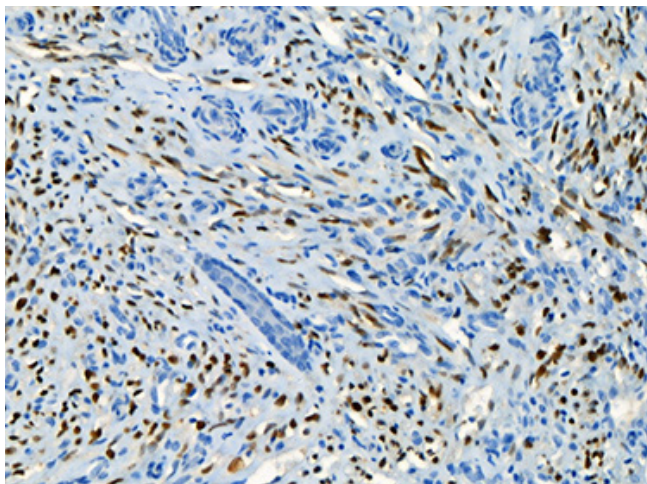
Since HHV-8 infection is a known precursor for the development of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), IHC staining for HHV-8 can aid in confirming a diagnosis.⁷ IHC staining for HHV-8 can also help differentiate KS from benign vascular lesions and other similar vascular cancers such as angiosarcoma or spindle cell tumors.^{3,5}

Castlemann disease is a rare disorder of the lymph nodes wherein non-cancerous growths form in the patient's lymph node tissues.⁴ If the disease affects only one group of lymph nodes, it is referred to as unicentric Castlemann disease (UCD).⁴ If the disease affects many groups of lymph nodes throughout the body, it is referred to as multicentric Castlemann disease (MCD).⁴

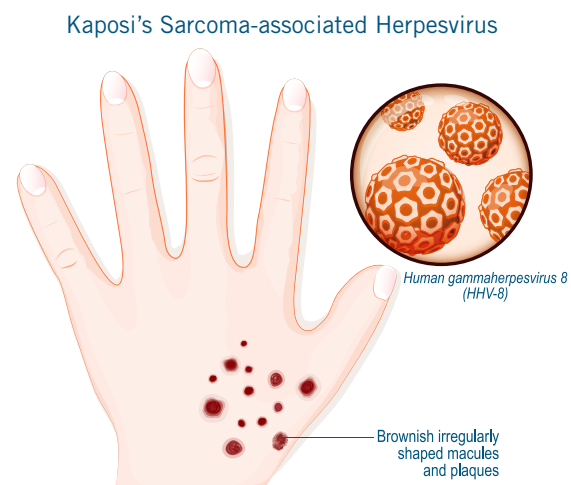
Patients who are immunocompromised either through HIV infection or other immunosuppressive treatments are more susceptible to HHV-8-associated MCD, a subtype of MCD associated with uncontrolled HHV-8 infection.^{1,4} In this case, the causative mechanism is believed to be HHV8 infection of immune cells within the lymph nodes, causing inflammatory activation that leads to dysfunction.^{1,2}

More recently, studies have suggested that HHV-8 infection may be linked to the development of primary effusion lymphoma (PEL), a rapidly progress non-Hodgkin's B-cell lymphoma.²

HHV-8 Stains and Illustrations



Kaposi sarcoma stained with HHV-8 [13B10] antibody



To learn more about Biocare's offerings for HHV-8 markers, please visit our website at biocare.net or call 1-800-799-9499 Option 3.

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