Special Issue

Recent Advances in Understanding Epstein-Barr Virus

Message from the Guest Editors

The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is a human gamma-herpesvirus and more than 90% of population is infected with the virus. EBV infects with oropharyngeal naïve B lymphocytes through saliva then spread to the adjacent B lymphocytes and epithelial cells. Immunological maturation of infected host divides initial infections to asymptomatic infection in infancy and infectious mononucleosis in adolescence. The initial productive lytic infection will shift to persistent latent infection, where limited viral transcripts are expressed to support persistent infection. In most of the cases, EBV associates with the infected person without any symptoms during the person's life. Primarily resting memory B lymphocytes in peripheral blood provide a permanent reservoir for the virus. However, EBV sometimes shifts from latent to lytic infection in association with local or systemic immunological suppressions. The life long persistence and regional activation may induce oncogenic activation of infected cells in some persons.

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