

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS (HSV) MODULE TEST QUESTIONS

1. Genital herpes is:
 - a. A chronic, life-long bacterial infection
 - b. A chronic, life-long viral infection
 - c. A transient infection caused by a protozoal organism
 - d. A transient viral infection

2. The majority of genital and perirectal recurrent herpetic outbreaks in the U.S. are caused by HSV-1.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. Which of the following statements is true about the prevalence and incidence of HSV-2?
 - a. At least 50 million persons in the U.S. have genital HSV infection.
 - b. Most people with HSV-2 infection have not been diagnosed.
 - c. In the general U.S. population, 17% of adults aged 14-49 years have HSV-2 antibodies.
 - d. All of the above

4. Which of the following statements is true about the transmission of HSV?
 - a. The average incubation period is 10 days.
 - b. Likelihood of transmission does not change with increased duration of infection.
 - c. HSV is readily inactivated by drying and soap and water.
 - d. Most sexual transmission occurs while the source contact case is symptomatic.

5. In most cases of sexual transmission of genital HSV, the source case is asymptomatic at the time of transmission.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. Sexual transmission of genital herpes is less efficient from
 - a. Women to men
 - b. Men to women
 - c. Transmission efficiency is the same from men to women and from women to men.

7. Up to ___% of persons seropositive for HSV-2 antibody have no clinical history of anogenital herpes outbreaks.
 - a. 50
 - b. 75
 - c. 90

d. 95

8. Which of the following statements is true about the pathogenesis of HSV?
- Up to 90% of persons seropositive for HSV-2 antibody have a clinical history of anogenital herpes outbreaks.
 - Most persons who are seropositive for HSV-2 but report no symptoms still shed virus from the genital area intermittently.
 - HSV-2 is not associated with HIV acquisition or transmission.
 - All herpes viruses establish active infection in specific target cells.
9. Which clinical presentation is typical of a primary first episode HSV-2 infection?
- No lesions or symptoms, HSV-1 antibodies may or may not be present, HSV-2 antibodies are present
 - Lesions present, symptoms usually mild, HSV-1 antibodies may or may not be present, HSV-2 antibodies are present
 - Lesions present, symptoms usually severe, HSV-1 and HSV-2 antibodies are not present
 - Lesions present, symptoms usually moderate, HSV-1 antibodies are present, HSV-2 antibodies are not present
10. In primary HSV infection without treatment, the median duration of viral shedding detected by culture is:
- Approximately 4 days
 - Approximately 12 days
 - 5-10 days
 - 2-4 weeks
11. All of the following are true of asymptomatic viral shedding, EXCEPT:
- Asymptomatic shedding occurs in most, if not all, HSV-2 seropositive persons.
 - Rates of asymptomatic shedding are greater with HSV-1 than HSV-2.
 - Rates of asymptomatic shedding with HSV-2 are highest in early infection and decrease over time.
 - The most common sites of asymptomatic shedding are the vulva and the perianal area in women and penile skin and the perianal area in men.
12. Which of the following is true about aseptic meningitis, a complication of genital herpes infection?
- It is more common in women than men.
 - It is more common with HSV-1 than HSV-2 infection.
 - It is more common in recurrent than primary infection.
 - It generally has severe neurologic sequelae.

13. Which of the following factors can affect the severity and frequency of clinical manifestations and recurrence rates of genital herpes infection?
- Viral type
 - Immune status of the host
 - Gender
 - All of the above
14. Which of the following statements describes non-primary first episode HSV infection?
- First infection ever with either HSV-1 or HSV-2
 - Disease is milder than recurrent disease'
 - No serum antibody present when symptoms appear
 - Newly acquired infection with HSV-1 or HSV-2 in an individual previously seropositive to the other virus
15. Primary infection without treatment lasts:
- 3-4 days
 - 5-7 days
 - 10-12 days
 - 2-4 weeks
16. Which of the following statements is true about recurrent infection without treatment?
- Duration is shorter than primary infection.
 - HSV-1 infection is much more likely to recur than HSV-2.
 - There are usually systemic symptoms associated with the recurrent infection.
 - HSV-2 will recur slightly more frequently and after a shorter period of time in women than in men.
17. Which of the following statements is true about asymptomatic viral shedding?
- Most HSV-2 is not transmitted during asymptomatic shedding.
 - Rates of asymptomatic shedding in HSV-2 seropositive persons do not change over time.
 - Presence of serum antibody to HSV-1 seems to decrease rates of asymptomatic shedding with HSV-2.
 - Antiviral suppressive therapy completely eradicates shedding.
18. Which of the following tests should not be relied upon for HSV diagnosis?
- Type-specific serology
 - Antigen detection
 - Tzanck smear
 - PCR assay

19. Type-specific serologic tests are recommended for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:
- To confirm clinical diagnosis
 - To diagnose unrecognized infection
 - To screen for HSV-1 or HSV-2 infection in the general population
 - To manage sex partners of persons with genital herpes
20. Which of the following best describes antigen detection (DFA or EIA) testing?
- Preferred test for detecting HSV in spinal fluid; highly sensitive and specific; role in diagnosis of genital ulcer disease not well-defined
 - Rapid and highly specific; fairly sensitive for symptomatic shedders; may be better than culture for healing lesions
 - Considered the gold standard; preferred test for patients with genital ulcers or other mucocutaneous lesions
 - Insensitive and nonspecific; should not be relied on for HSV diagnosis
21. Which of the following is true regarding systemic antiviral therapy?
- It partially controls symptoms and signs of herpes episodes when used to treat first clinical and recurrent episodes or when used as daily suppressive therapy.
 - It reduces the frequency of genital herpes recurrences by 40%-50% when used as suppressive therapy for patients who have frequent recurrences.
 - It should never be provided to patients to self-initiate treatment when symptoms begin.
 - It is less effective than topical antiviral treatment for management of severe disease.
22. HSV systemic antiviral chemotherapy includes which of the following oral medications?
- Acyclovir
 - Valacyclovir
 - Famciclovir
 - All of the above
23. Which of the following is true about episodic treatment of recurrent episodes of HSV disease?
- It can ameliorate or shorten the duration of lesions
 - Patient should self-initiate the medication
 - Successful treatment requires initiation of therapy within 1 day of lesion onset
 - All of the above

24. All of the following are true of herpes in pregnancy, EXCEPT:
- The risk for transmission from infected mother to neonate is 30%-50% in women who acquire genital herpes near the time of delivery.
 - The risk for transmission from infected mother to neonate is <1% in women with histories of recurrent genital herpes or who acquire genital HSV during the first half of pregnancy.
 - Most specialists recommend that women with recurrent genital herpetic lesions at the onset of labor be delivered by cesarean section.
 - Most specialists recommend that women with histories of recurrent genital herpes who have no symptoms or signs of genital herpes or its prodrome at the onset of labor be delivered by cesarean section.
25. Asymptomatic sex partners of persons diagnosed with genital herpes should be:
- Questioned concerning histories of genital lesions
 - Informed that they might be infected with HSV even if they have not previously recognized any symptoms
 - Offered type-specific serologic testing for HSV infection
 - All of the above
26. Patients with genital herpes should be informed that:
- Sexual transmission of HSV can occur during asymptomatic periods.
 - Stressful events may trigger recurrences.
 - The frequency of outbreaks generally decreases with increasing duration of the infection.
 - All of the above
27. Which of the following is true of the relationship between HSV and HIV infection?
- Genital ulcers have no effect on the risk of HIV transmission and acquisition.
 - Lesions caused by HSV are uncommon in HIV-infected persons.
 - In co-infected persons, suppressive antiherpetic therapy has been shown to decrease plasma HIV viral load and genital and rectal HIV shedding.
 - All of the above
28. Patient education should include all of the following, EXCEPT:
- HSV can be transmitted sexually during asymptomatic periods.
 - The frequency of outbreaks generally decreases with increasing duration of infection.
 - Sex partners of infected persons are unlikely to be infected if they do not have symptoms.

- d. Risks of neonatal infection should be explained to women and men.
29. Patients with genital herpes should be advised to:
- a. Abstain from sexual activity with uninfected partners when prodromal symptoms are present.
 - b. Inform their obstetric providers of their HSV status, if they are women who are pregnant or child-bearing age.
 - c. Inform future sex partners that they have genital herpes before initiating a sexual relationship.
 - d. All of the above