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Cases of inherited chromosomally integrated human herpesvirus 6 in Russia

Introduction: Unique among human herpesviruses (HHV), HHV-6A;-6B have been shown recently to integrate into the germline of human chromosomes in approximately 0.2 to 1% of the human population. These patients do not need treatment. Diagnostics of inherited chromosomally integrated HHV-6 (iciHHV-6) is important for the pediatric practice. In Russia similar researches were not conducted.

Aim: The aim of the study was to detect iciHHV-6 in the febrile children with high levels of HHV-6 DNA in blood.

Method: We studied seven children (F4/M3; 1.5 months to 8 years) who had febrile conditions, lymphadenopathy and the concentration of HHV-6 DNA in blood 5.06 ± 0.12 lg copies/10⁵ cells. On the background of the therapy, the conditions of children were improved, but high levels of HHV-6 DNA have remained in blood. In six cases, HHV-6 DNA was detected by RT-PCR in hair follicles and nail plates. On the basis of that, iciHHV-6 was confirmed. Then antiviral therapy was discontinued. When patients recovered, we examined them repeatedly and found no changes in the levels of HHV-6 DNA in blood. For confirming of the hereditary transmission, we examined 10 relatives (F6/M4) of children with iciHHV-6. IciHHV-6 was confirmed in four cases (F1/M3).

Conclusions: We detected iciHHV-6 in 10 of 17 cases by using RT-PCR. Patients with high levels of HHV-6 DNA in blood and unusual clinical manifestations of infection, as well as the ineffectiveness of antiviral therapy need additional examination for the exclusion of iciHHV-6. This study will help to reduce medicinal loading in treatment of children's infections.

Biography

Melekhina E V has completed her PhD from Russian State Medical University in Moscow. She is a Pediatrician, Associate Professor in the Clinical Department of Infectious Pathology from Central Research Institute of Epidemiology, Moscow. She has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals.

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