



Merlin disease code: 07103 Herpes B Virus
Possible Exposure

[Paper case report form](#)
Merlin extended data required

Background

Possible exposures to herpes B virus include any bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure to bodily fluids from a non-human primate (NHP) capable of transmitting herpes B virus (HBV), primarily macaque monkeys.

Clinical criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

Any person exposed to bodily fluids or tissue from an NHP capable of transmitting HBV via a bite, scratch, mucous membrane, or environmental exposure.

Not a case:

Any person exposed to bodily fluids or tissue from an NHP capable of determined to be **not** capable of transmitting HBV via a bite, scratch, mucous membrane, or environmental exposure.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

All monkey exposures as described above, including those where rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is not recommended, should be reported as herpes B virus, possible exposure (Merlin disease code: 07103). Exposures where rabies PEP is recommended should be reported as herpes B virus, possible exposure (Merlin disease code: 07103) **and** rabies, possible exposure (Merlin disease code: 07101). Macaque monkeys are the primary reservoir for HBV, however other species of NHPs that are in direct contact with macaque monkeys can be infected and should be reported as confirmed cases. All other NHP exposures do **not** require HBV prophylaxis and serologic follow-up, and should be documented as not a case in Merlin.

HBV can migrate to the central nervous system within hours, therefore prompt wound cleansing followed by rapid initiation of anti-viral prophylaxis is recommended immediately following an exposure. The value of initiating prophylaxis more than five days after an exposure is unknown. Like herpes simplex virus in humans, infected animals are infected for life, but virus shedding only occurs intermittently and is most likely to occur when the animal is stressed. There is no conclusive test that can definitively identify HBV negative animals or when infected animals are actively shedding virus.

Additional resources:

- CDC information for providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/herpesvirus/healthcare-providers.html>
- National B Virus Laboratory: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwvir/index.html> (titer testing is fee-based and can be ordered directly by health care providers)