Laboratory Diagnosis of Viral Infections

G. Jamjoom 2005

Five Main Techniques:

- Virus Culture and Isolation
- Serology
- Rapid Detection of Viral Antigens
- Detection of Viral Nucleic Acid
- Electron Microscopy

Virus Culture and Isolation

- Which cell lines
- How many cell lines

Virus Culture and Isolation

• Cytopathic Effects (CPE)

Cell Lines

- Primary
- Continuous

Examples of Commonly Used Cell Lines :

Primary Cell Lines :
 monkey kidney cells
 human foreskin fibroblasts

Examples of Commonly Used Cell Lines :

Continuous Cell Lines :
 VERO
 HEP-2
 MDCK



tissue culture cells





epithelioid



slides from CDC

epithelial cells - adenovirus





early infection

late infection

slides from CDC

fibroblastic cells - poliovirus





early infection

late infection

slides from CDC



Diluted 10 fold

Diluted 100 fold

Diluted 1000 fold



PLAQUE FORMING UNIT

P.F.U. pfu

Cytopathic Effects :

- Rounding
- Detachment (plaques)
- Clumping
- Ballooning (Giant Cell)
- Fusion (Syncytium Formation)
- Inclusion Formation

Cytopathic Effect of HSV in cell culture:

(Note the ballooning of cells).



Cytopathic Effect of CMV



(Courtesy of Linda Stannard, University of Cape Town, S.A.)

Cytopathic Effect of VZV



ADENOVIRAL INCLUSION BODIES







FIGURE 48-3. Negri bodies caused by rabies. A, A section of brain from a patient with rabies shows Negri bodies (arrow). B, Higher magnification from another biopsy specimen. (A from Hart C, Broadhead RL: A color atlas of pediatric infectious diseases, London, 1992, Wolfe.)



FIGURE 48–1. Syncytium formation by measles virus. Multinucleated giant cell (*arrow*) visible in a histologic section of lung biopsy tissue from a measles virus-induced giant cell pneumonia in an immunocompromised child. (From Hart C, Broadhead RL: A color atlas of pediatric infectious diseases, London, 1992, Wolfe.)

Virus Culture and Isolation

Shell Vial

DEAFF test for CMV



Fig. 2, CMV centrifugation culture fixed and stained 16 hrs after inoculation showing viral proteins in nuclei of infected human fibroblast cells

(Virology Laboratory, New-Yale Haven Hospital)

Rapid Detection of Viral Antigens

CMV pp65 antigenaemia test



Figure 4 CMV pp65 antigens detected in nuclei of peripheral blood neutrophils

(Virology Laboratory, New-Yale Haven Hospital)

Positive immunofluorescence

test for HSV antigen in epithelial cell.

Fig. 3, HSV-infected epithelial cell from skin lesion (DFA)



Hemagglutination Inhibition

hemagglutination





















Hemadsorption



Hemadsorption - influenza virus infected cells

MURRAY, 2nd Ed., Fig 53.5



Immunofluorescence





Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) (EIA)

HIV/AIDS:Diagnosis and monitoring



Serological tests for HIV infection-2

ELISA

The viral proteins can be derived from: Gp160 Gp120 Gp24 Gp17/18 Synthetic peptides corresponding to viral proteins are also commonly used in ELISA











Progression to Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection Typical Serologic Course



Serologic Pattern of Acute HCV Infection with Progression to Chronic Infection







• Western Blot

The Western Blot Confirmatory Test (HIV)







Western blot for HIV antibody



Figure:

Examples of reactions by an HIV-1 Western blot:

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1. Positive control (strong)
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2. Positive control (weak)
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3. Negative control
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4. Indeterminate profile
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5. Indeterminate profile (highly suggestive)
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- There are different criteria for the interpretation of HIV Western blot results e.g. CDC, WHO, American Red Cross.
- The most important antibodies are those against the envelope glycoproteins gp120, gp160, and gp41
- p24 antibody is usually present
 but may be absent in the later
 stages of HIV infection

Detection of Viral Nucleic Acid

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)



DNA Sequencing



Thermal Cyclers for PCR



DNA sequencing



Electron Microscopy :

- Used to be very important before virus isolation and identification was developed
- Still important with viruses that cannot be cultured and with new viruses:

Electron Microscopy :

- Examples :
 - Adenovirus
 - Papillomaviruses
 - Enterovirus
 - Rotavirus

Hepatitis B Virus





Hepatitis A Virus



HIV budding and maturation



Hsiung, GD et al., Diagnostic Virology 1994 p204 (D. Medina)

ROTAVIRUS



smallpox virus cytoplasmic assembly and maturation



F. A. Murphy, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis. http://www.vetnet.ucdavis.edu/fam_graphics/download.html

Adenovirus



Influenza Virus



Rotavirus



Rift Valley Fever Virus



Papilloma virus



Enterovirus



Paramyxovirus



Parvovirus





Time after Exposure

