8. UROGENITAL SYSTEM

8.1 Introduction

During primary HHV-6 infection, virus can be isolated from peripheral blood cells, saliva and the urogenital tract. Although the HHV-6 receptor CD46 is expressed in renal epithelia and HHV-6 antigen has been shown in tubular epithelial cells, primary HHV-6 caused renal diseases are not reported so far.

Similar to other organ systems, HHV-6 is frequently reactivated in patients with renal allografts, yet graft dysfunction leading to chronic allograft nephropathy was commonly caused by cytomegalovirus infection and not by HHV-6. There may exist though certain mechanisms of mutual transactivation between HCMV and HHV-6.

HHV-6 has been identified in the maternal genital tract during pregnancy (in up to 12.2%), and isolated cases of congenital infections are known (ca. 1-1.6% of pregnancies).
8.2 Figures

Renal biopsy w/o microscopic pathology showing the expression of HHV-6 gp110/65/55 antigen in tubular epithelial cells by immunohistochemistry
8.3 Further Reading


