

A NEED FOR HELP

The reason for my letter is to ask you for help and this is not for something that is very common. I am asking for help towards Herpes research and to fast track a particular vaccine study.

For many individuals (80% of people who are infected), Herpes is not a big deal. However, to the 20% of the approximate 5 billion people world wide {1} who are Herpes positive, they succumb to this infection and suffer in often debilitating ways. Many suffer from severe neuralgic pain, outbreaks—blisters, ulcers, unforeseen side effects, and for many of these people antiviral medication simply does not work. Many people are unaware of the suicide rate within the Herpes communities because it is never talked about in public. These are the millions who suffer in silence. Your sister, your brother, your partner, or even your parents who never said a word.

This concern has also increased due to research on two very important diseases, HIV and Alzheimer's. The risk factor for HIV {2} in individuals with herpes simplex who are positive with HSV2, increases 2- to 3-fold. This is not only substantial, it is very troubling. There is also the growing concern over the new research on the subject of Alzheimer's {3} and its possible causation directly from herpes HSV-1 (commonly known as cold sores), HHV-6 (Roseola), {4} and HHV-7. {5}

“Many scientists believe that HSV1 is a major contributory factor for Alzheimer's disease and that it enters the brains of elderly people as their immune system declines with age. It then establishes a latent (dormant) infection, from which it is reactivated by events such as stress, a reduced immune system and brain inflammation induced by infection by other microbes. Reactivation leads to direct viral damage in infected cells and to viral-induced inflammation. We suggest that repeated activation causes cumulative damage, leading eventually to Alzheimer's disease in people with the APOE4 gene. Presumably, in APOE4 carriers, Alzheimer's disease develops in the brain because of greater HSV1-induced formation of toxic products, or less repair of damage.” {6}

Unknown to most, there is also the unfortunate Herpes infection that happens to infants. They are born and exposed to the Herpes simplex virus either through the birth canal or infected from a simple kiss from a relative or loved one. This is known as Neonatal Herpes. {7} Globally there are over 14,000 new cases each year. All of this information is a game changer and all the more reasons we ask for help. Many diseases are vaccine preventable including Chicken pox, and Herpes simplex should be one of them.

The past 30 years of vaccine trials {8} have failed or have at least failed to elicit results that are better than taking antivirals, this is a very sad state of affairs. We are simply asking for more help from the NIH and the FDA towards therapeutic and preventable vaccines.

One vaccine in particular called Theravax, was in the news in 2016 {9} and got some bad press. However, this doesn't change the fact that it helped some people {10} get much better and it showed great promise—much better than previous vaccine trials.

Hopefully soon the company working on the vaccine, (Rational Vaccines), will be running new trials under the jurisdiction of the FDA. There is also a petition that has begun and is asking the FDA Director, Janet Woodcock, M.D. (Center for Drug Evaluation & Research), for help as well. {11}

I am asking for help—from you, to fast track the study of the vaccine and to allow it to move faster into FDA trials. This would also benefit many people who are suffering and give them hope so that they do not have to wait the regular 15 year time period and suffer any further. Can you please help?

Sincerely yours,

References:

{1} <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-10-2015-globally-an-estimated-two-thirds-of-the-population-under-50-are-infected-with-herpes-simplex-virus-type-1>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4301914/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4624804/>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-10-2015-globally-an-estimated-two-thirds-of-the-population-under-50-are-infected-with-herpes-simplex-virus-type-1?fbclid=IwAR0K-B0bdhmmc-rTtNBECH5Q6tBVX1POUuqJ4UHxR5ywSHoKSwp1N8glpw0>

{2} <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/why-genital-herpes-boosts-risk-hiv-infection>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16327322>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28007920>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2622854/pdf/15356938.pdf>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19532067>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2828700>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15115628>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18337596>

{3} <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnagi.2018.00324/full>

{4} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK448190/>

{5} <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12069636>

{6} https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/alzheimers-disease-cause-study-brain-evidence-herpes-cold-sore-virus-a8601041.html?fbclid=IwAR2s-bcHkAcTcJfPPd_IXy7IV7_NmZ8rAq8o3aMcpRMkt_evkd64w91e9M

{7} <https://www.livescience.com/59870-newborn-herpes-infection-deadly.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC321459/>

{8} The glycoprotein subunit vaccine approach of the mid-1980s finally made its way to efficacy (effectiveness) trials in the 1990s, and now it was time to find out if immunization with gB- and/or gD-based vaccines either (1) reduced the symptoms of genital herpes in those already infected with HSV-2 or (2) protected naive individuals from acquiring HSV-2 genital herpes for a period of 2 to 5 years after vaccination. On both counts, gB- and/or gD-based subunit vaccines were a disappointment.

Vaccination with gB- and/or gD-vaccines elicited a strong antibody (immune) response against the HSV-2 proteins contained in the vaccine itself, but this immune response did not render vaccine recipients any better off in their ability to fight off infection with the actual HSV-2 virus. In particular, the gB- and/or gD-based vaccine failures of the 1990s may be found in the following four research publications:

1990. Double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of a herpes simplex virus type 2 glycoprotein vaccine in persons at high risk for genital herpes infection. Mertz GJ, Ashley R, Burke RL, Benedetti J, Critchlow C, Jones CC, Corey L. J Infect Dis. 1990 Apr;161(4):653-60. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2181031>

1994. Placebo-controlled trial of vaccination with recombinant glycoprotein D of herpes simplex virus type 2 for immunotherapy of genital herpes. Straus SE, Corey L, Burke RL, Savarese B, Barnum G, Krause PR, Kost RG, Meier JL, Sekulovich R, Adair SF, et al. Lancet. 1994 Jun 11;343(8911):1460-3.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7911177>

1997. Immunotherapy of recurrent genital herpes with recombinant herpes simplex virus type 2 glycoproteins D and B: results of a placebo-controlled vaccine trial. Straus SE, Wald A, Kost RG, McKenzie R, Langenberg AG, Hohman P, Lekstrom J, Cox E, Nakamura M, Sekulovich R, Izu A, Dekker C, Corey L. J Infect Dis. 1997 Nov;176(5):1129-34.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9359709>

1999. Recombinant glycoprotein vaccine for the prevention of genital HSV-2 infection: two randomized controlled trials. Chiron HSV Vaccine Study Group. Corey L, Langenberg AG, Ashley R, Sekulovich RE, Izu AE, Douglas JM Jr, Handsfield HH, Warren T, Marr L, Tyring S, DiCarlo R, Adimora AA, Leone P, Dekker CL, Burke RL, Leong WP, Straus SE. JAMA. 1999 Jul 28;282(4):331-40.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10432030>

{9} https://fee.org/articles/herpes-cure-needs-free-to-choose-medicine/?fbclid=IwAR37whF1cbwCw0BqiQZ_CihJMafXCX53hfPdYUldUHEBrzi9BYLI0r1xO-k

{10} <https://www.facebook.com/MakeHerpesGoAway/>

<https://www.womenshealthmag.com/health/a19983062/herpes-trial/>

{11} <https://www.change.org/p/janet-woodcock-m-d-a-penny-for-your-thoughts-the-push-forward-for-the-vaccine-for-herpes>

All hyper link references are available @ <https://pennyforyourthoughtscampaign.com/>