

Epidemiology of genital herpes simplex virus infection in Bilbao, Spain, between 2004 and 2014

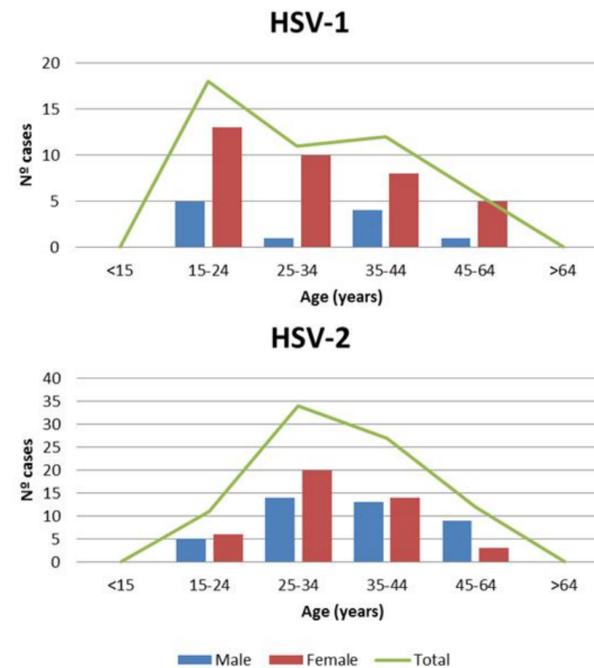
M Macho, JA Álava, L Hernández, MJ Sada, B Caceda, R Cisterna.
Department of Clinical Microbiology and Infection Control.
Basurto's University Hospital

Background:

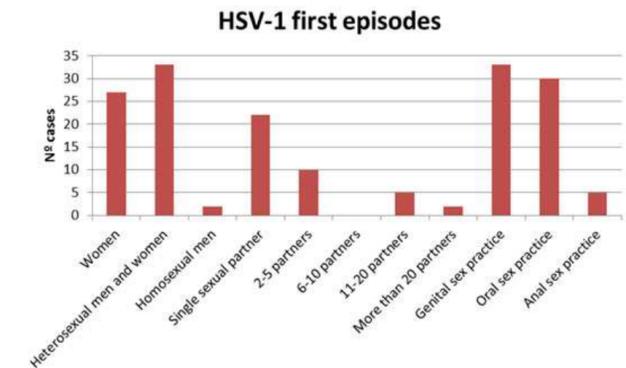
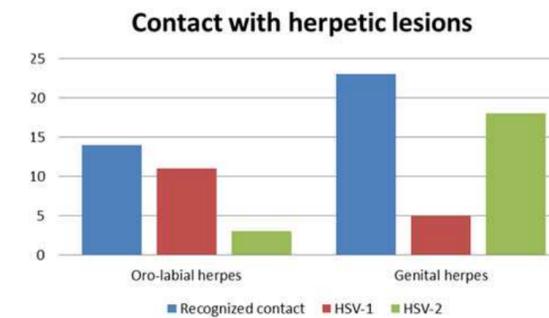
Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (HSV-1 and HSV-2) are the most commonly causes of genital ulceration. The aim of this study was to analyze and compare characteristics of patients infected with genital HSV-1 and HSV-2 from 2004 to 2014 in a sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic population, in Bilbao, Spain.

Materials/methods:

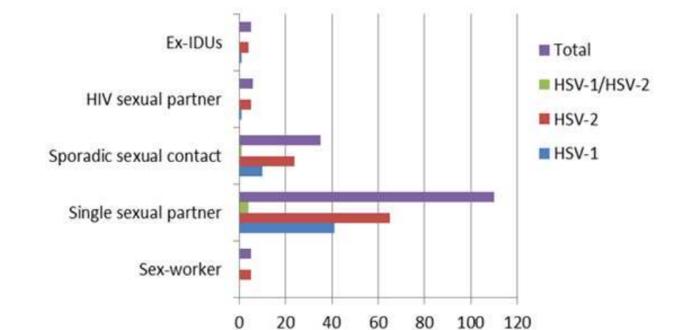
Data were collected from our STD clinic patients with genital herpes. The proportions of HSV-1 and HSV-2 detected in these individuals were analyzed by different characteristics.



Genital HSV-1 may often be acquired through contact with a partner's oral-labial herpes 78.5% (11/14) and genital HSV-2 through contact with a partner's genital herpes 78.2% (18/23).

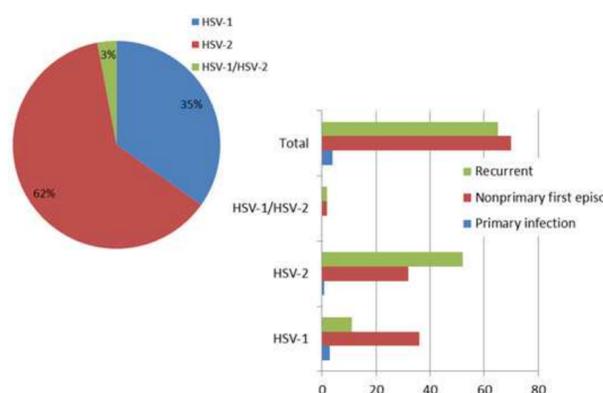
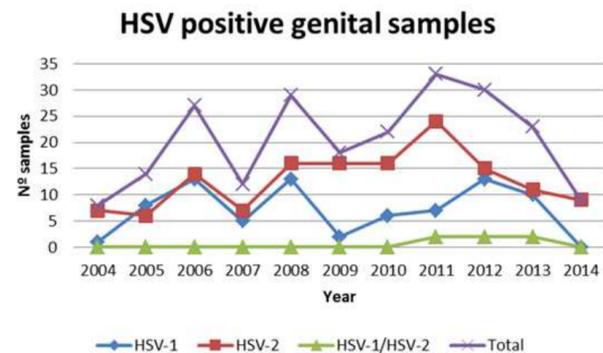


Sexual behaviors



Conclusions:

HSV-2 was still the most common causative agent of genital herpes in this study, but the proportion of HSV-1 was high. Risk factors for genital HSV-1 first episode include younger age, female gender, heterosexual men and women, single sexual partner the last 12 months and genital and oral sex, include a prior contact with a partner's oral-labial herpes. Sexual behaviors associated with HSV-2 infection were older age, female gender, low level of education, single sexual partner and prior and concomitant STD.



Results:

A total of 225 of HSV positive genital samples of 135 patients were studied. HSV-2 was typed in 62.2% (84/135), HSV-1 in 34.8% (47/135) and both types in 2.9% (4/135) of the patients. HSV-1 was detected in 61.7% (29/47) of patients aged less than 34 years and HSV-2 in 72.6% (61/84) between 25 and 44 years. The mean time of the appearance of symptoms was 10 days and the most frequent symptom was painful ulcerations or blisters 66.6% (90/135). Famciclovir was the more common treatment in these patients 48.5% (51/105). More female than male patients had HSV-1 infection (76.5% vs. 23.4%).

The proportion of first episode was higher among HSV-1 infections 51.4% (36/70) and 4.2% (3/70) of them was primary infection confirmed serologically. Most of the patients with HSV-2 infection had history of a STD 84.9% (62/73) and a concomitant STD diagnosis 62.5% (30/48). HIV was the majority prior STD 28.7% (21/73) and syphilis, *C. trachomatis* infection and condylomas were the most prevalent concomitant diagnosis 10.4% (5/48). 48.8% (64/131) of patients did not use any contraceptive method.

History of a prior STD

