New Developments in Epstein-Barr Virus Research

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Editor
Chapter XII

Microbiological Diagnosis of Infection by the Epstein-Barr Virus: Pathogenic Basis

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Abstract

This study is a review of current knowledge concerning the pathogenesis of infection by the Epstein-Barr virus. An analysis is made of the biological events that take place in primary infection, persistent chronic infection, oncogenic transformation, and viral co-infections. Phenomena surrounding the non-specific clonal stimulation of B lymphocytes are explained. A review is also made of clinical laboratory tests available for the serodiagnosis of primary and persistent chronic infections, including the clinical significance of different classes of antibody, the value of IgG avidity assays and the use of recombinant antigens in diagnostic equipment. The characteristics of commercially available equipment are also reported. Laboratory procedures based on previous protocols are proposed. Finally, the tests that can be used to detect virus-related tumors are discussed.

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