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## CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS OF HHV-6 INFECTION IN INFANTS AND CHILDREN IN KUWAIT: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

**Nada Madi\***

\*Kuwait University, Kuwait

Clinical manifestations of human herpes virus 6 (HHV-6) have not been clearly defined, and the role of HHV-6 in human disease among infants and children in Kuwait remains to be fully elucidated. A retrospective study covering the period between 2008 to 2014 was conducted on infants and children aged one month and five years. Blood and Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples from infants and children who presented with symptoms suggestive HHV-6 infection were subjected to PCR test for HHV-6. Results showed that 9.3% (n=42) of infants and children were positive for HHV-6. Fever was the most noticeable symptoms, presented in 50% (n=21) of the patients. Also, neutropenia was highly associated with HHV-6 infection, where it presented in 35.8% (n=15) of infants and children. Our results provided valuable information about the clinical outcome of HHV-6 infection among infants and children in Kuwait.

### Biography

Nada M. Madi is Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University where she has been a faculty member since January 2015. She completed her Ph.D. and MSc. at Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University and her undergraduate study at Faculty of Science, Kuwait University. Her research interest lies in the area of developing advanced techniques in viral diagnostics such as metagenomics approach for the detection of viruses causing different diseases such as respiratory tract infections and gastroenteritis. Currently, she works as Quality Control Manager and a member of the Health and Safety Committee at the Faculty of Medicine.

madi@hsc.edu.kw

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