



## Effective Health Care Management of Genital Herpes Nomination Summary Document

### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Management of genital herpes was found to be addressed by 2010 guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on the management of sexually transmitted diseases, a 2011 BMJ clinical evidence review, and a 2009 Cochrane review titled *Antiviral agents for the treatment of herpes simplex virus infection in neonates*. Given that the existing reports and guidelines cover this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
  - Workowski KA, Berman S. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines, 2010. MMWR Recomm Rep 2010 Dec 17;59(RR-12):1-110. PMID: 21160459.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5912a1.htm>
  - Hollier LM, Straub H. Genital herpes. Clinical Evidence. 2011. PMID: 21496359.
  - Jones CA, Walker KS, Badawi N. Antiviral agents for treatment of herpes simplex virus infection in neonates. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2009(3):CD004206. PMID: 19588350.  
<http://summaries.cochrane.org/CD004206/antiviral-agents-for-treatment-of-herpes-simplex-virus-infection-in-neonates>

### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Anonymous individual

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator states that they would like to improve the symptoms related to herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2).

**Staff-Generated PICO: Herpes management in adults**

**Population(s):** Patients with genital herpes (including immunocompetent, immunocompromised, and pregnant adults)

**Intervention(s):** Suppressive oral antiviral treatments (acyclovir, valacyclovir, famciclovir), topical antivirals

**Comparator(s):** Comparison between different oral and topical antiviral treatments

**Outcome(s):** Rate of recurrent episodes of genital herpes, rates of viral shedding, adverse effects of treatment

**Staff-Generated PICO: Prevention of transmission of genital herpes**

**Population(s):** Patients with genital herpes (including immunocompetent, immunocompromised, and pregnant adults)

**Intervention(s):** Suppressive oral antiviral treatments (acyclovir, valacyclovir,

famciclovir), topical antivirals, condoms, cesarean section

**Comparator(s):** Comparison between different oral and topical antiviral treatments, no or inconsistent condom use, vaginal birth

**Outcome(s):** Rate of disease transmission to sexual partners or neonates

**Staff-Generated PICO: Treatment of herpes infection in neonates**

**Population(s):** Hospitalized newborn infants with confirmed HSV-2 infection

**Intervention(s):** Parenteral antiviral treatments

**Comparator(s):** Comparison between antiviral agents, including different treatment durations

**Outcome(s):** Infant mortality, neurodevelopmental sequelae, progression of disease, central nervous system disease, adverse effects of treatment

### Key Questions

from Nominator: None

## Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- This topic has three main areas:
  1. Management of herpes symptoms in adults (including immunocompetent, immunocompromised, and pregnant adults)
  2. Prevention of transmission from infected patients to sexual partners and neonates
  3. Treatment of herpes infections in neonates
- The topics of management of herpes symptoms in adults and prevention of transmission are addressed by the 2010 guidelines from the CDC and an existing review by BMJ Clinical Evidence. The CDC guidelines make recommendations regarding counseling of patients and their sex partners, treatment (including options for long-term treatment), and management of HIV patients and pregnant women. The BMJ Clinical Evidence review addresses prevention of transmission and management of symptoms in adult patients.
- The topic of management of herpes infections in neonates is addressed by the 2010 CDC guidelines and a Cochrane review titled *Antiviral agents for treatment of herpes simplex virus infection in neonates*. This Cochrane review assesses the effect of antivirals on mortality, progression of disease, and prevention of neurodevelopmental sequelae in neonates with confirmed herpes simplex virus infections.