



Pathogenesis and Immunology of Cytomegalovirus

Guest Editor:

Dr. Luca Roncati

1. Institute of Pathology,
Department of Laboratory
Medicine and Anatomical
Pathology, University Hospital of
Modena—Polyclinic, 41124
Modena, Italy
2. Department of Surgery,
Medicine, Dentistry and
Morphological Sciences with
Interest in Transplantation,
Oncology and Regenerative
Medicine, University of Modena
and Reggio Emilia, 41121
Modena, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Cytomegalovirus (CMV), alias human herpes virus 5 (HHV5), is a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) virus contagious to humans via saliva, urine, blood, and breast milk. In 1990, the first draft of the human CMV genome was published, the biggest contiguous genome sequenced at that time. Today, CMV is still the virus most frequently transmitted to a developing fetus, and congenital CMV, the leading infectious cause of deafness, learning disabilities, and intellectual disability in children, can even be deadly. In fact, CMV infection is typically silent in healthy subjects, but it can become life-threatening for the immunocompromised. After infection, CMV remains latent throughout life and can be reactivated at any circumstance of immunosuppression, causing pneumonia, hepatitis, colitis, esophagitis, encephalitis, retinitis, infectious mononucleosis-like syndrome, or CMV polyradiculomyelopathy (PRAM). Some authors have also advanced molecular roles in inflammaging, immunosenescence, atherosclerosis, and oncogenesis. The aim of this Special Issue is, therefore, a full immersion in the pathogenesis and immunology of CMV.





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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of
Odontostomatologic and
Specialized Clinical Sciences,
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of
Medicine, Università Politecnica
delle Marche, Via Ranieri 65,
60100 Ancona, Italy

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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