# Epstein–Barr virus infection as a cause of cervical lymphadenopathy in children.


## Abstract:

Objective: Cervical lymphadenopathy is a common pediatric problem; reactive hyperplasia, specific infective agents, and malignancy aremainly the differential diagnosis. The aim of our study was to detect the prevalence of Epstein–Barr virus infection among children who complained of cervical lymphadenopathy and also to evaluate the clinical manifestations of the disease in pediatric patients. Methods: One hundred and sixty children presented with cervical lymphadenopathy were subjected to Epestien–Barr Virus (EBV) serology testing. Cases that showed positivity to heterophile antibody test, and/or EBV-specific antibodies; IgM against viral capsid antigen (VCA-IgM) and IgG against viral capsid antigen (VCA-IgG) were evaluated clinically for manifestations of the disease. Results: Twenty-four cases (15%) showed positivity to EBV serology, all of them had posterior cervical lymph nodes enlargement, 70.8% had fever, 66.6% had tonsillo-pharyngitis, 58.3% had splenomegaly, 25% had hepatomegaly, 41.6% had generalized lymphadenopathy, while skin rash was detected in 12.5%, and both palatal petechiae and palpebral edema were detected in 8.3%. Conclusions: EBV infection is not a rare cause of cervical lymphadenopathy in children. Posterior cervical lymphadenopathy in pediatric age group may represent a password for suspicion of EBV infection, while other clinical manifestations of the disease may include hepato-splenomegaly, skin rash, palpebral edema and palatal petechiae.