# Systemic Lupus Erythromatosus and Human Herpes Virus 8 among Egyptians

**Background and Objectives:**

Various factors appear to be involved in systemic lupus erythromatosus (SLE), in which viral infections were included. The aim of this study was to establish the prevalence of human herpes visrus-8 (HHV-8 ) in SLE patients. Also to evaluate if there is a possible association between HHV-8 DNA prevalence with the production of specific lupus auto-antibodies.

**Methods:**

A total of 110 subjects were enrolled in this study. Cases comprised 50 patients diagnosed as having SLE compared to 60 age and sex matched healthy control subjects (HC). EDTA blood was collected for the detection of HHV-8 DNA. The prevalence of HHV-8 was searched by specific nested polymerase chain reaction.

**Results:**

There was a statistically significant difference in the prevalence of HHV-8 DNA in SLE patients compared to HC (10/50, 20% versus 3 / 60, 5%, respectively, $P < 0.05$). Autoantibodies were compared in the HHV-8 DNA (+) group (n = 10) versus the HHV-8 DNA (-) group (n = 40) ($P > 0.05$). HHV-8 DNA prevalence among SLE patients was not associated with any of the clinical manifestations ($P > 0.05$). Within the SLE group the prevalence of HHV8 did not differ between SLE patients under therapy compared to those not receiving therapy ($P > 0.05$).

**Conclusion**:

The screening of human herpes virus 8 in blood samples from SLE patients and HC, showed a statistically significant difference in the prevalence of HHV-8 among both studied groups. There was no association between HHV8 among the SLE studied patients and the clinical manifestations of SLE.

**Key words:** Human herpes virus-8- systemic lupus erythromatosus