SUMMARY

Primary infections with HSV lead to the establishment of a perminant latent infection where the virus hides in the nerve ganglia. Virus can be reactivated from the dormant stage and a recurrent infection with clinical or subclinical manifestations result. Both a primary and a recurrent infection stimulates the humoral and cellular immune systems. Antibodies specific HSV are produced early in the infection and the immunoglobulins of IgA, IgM and IgG classes are demonstrable. In the present work, an ELISA technique was used to detect HSV-I and II specific immunoglobulin classes in both serum and saliva.

The study was performed on two age groups:-
1-64 adults aged between 16-24 years.
2-61 children aged between 6-24 months.

All these subjects were apparently healthy.

1] First group : Tested for HSV-I specific IgA, IgM and IgG in serum and saliva and the results were as follows :

* 68.9% were +ve for HSV-I specific IgA in serum and saliva.

* 8.2% were +ve for HSV-I specific IgG in serum and saliva.

* 1.6% were +ve for HSV-I specific IgM in serum and saliva.

2] Second group : Tested for HSV-II specific IgA, IgG and IgM in serum and saliva and the results were as follows :

* 87.5% were +ve for HSV-II specific IgA in serum and saliva.

* 31.3% were +ve for HSV-II specific IgG in serum and saliva.

* 31.3% were +ve for HSV-II specific IgM in serum and saliva.

From the results, it was found that HSV-specific IgA is the most common immunoglobulin detected in both serum and saliva followed by IgG then IgM.

Also, the results obtained from both serum and saliva are nearly similar which reflects the feasability of using saliva for diagnosis of HSV-infection or for serological surveys.