

Herpes simplex encephalitis complications

[Intracerebral hemorrhage](#) and ischemic stroke are increasingly recognized complications of central nervous system (CNS) infection by [herpes simplex virus](#) (HSV).

Hauer et al. found distinct pathogenesis, cause, and outcome for HSV-related cerebral hemorrhage and infarction. Vessel disruption within a temporal lobe lesion caused by HSV-1 is the presumed mechanism for hemorrhage, which may potentially have a fatal outcome. Brain ischemia is mostly related to multifocal cerebral large vessel vasculitis associated with HSV-2, where the outcome is more favorable ¹⁾.

A man who developed a [cerebral abscess](#) fifteen months after initial [herpetic encephalitis](#). Retrospectively, antiviral should not have been associated with antibiotics during abscess episode, as transcriptomic analysis reported no viral reactivation ²⁾.

¹⁾

Hauer L, Pikija S, Schulte EC, Sztrihá LK, Nardone R, Sellner J. Cerebrovascular manifestations of herpes simplex virus infection of the central nervous system: a systematic review. J Neuroinflammation. 2019 Jan 29;16(1):19. doi: 10.1186/s12974-019-1409-4. PubMed PMID: 30696448; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6352343.

²⁾

Catroux M, Garcia M, Lévêque N, Page P, Moal GL, Boutolleau D, Roblot F, Burrel S. Post-herpetic encephalitis cerebral abscess: Viral reactivation or latency site within central nervous system? Curr Res Transl Med. 2021 Jun 14;69(3):103297. doi: 10.1016/j.retram.2021.103297. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34139602.

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