



**LIVE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM  
JULY 8-12, 2020**

**D4 – Q&A Herpes: Current Research, Diagnosis and Management - Alison Marshall**

Q – I have heard of several medical trials where HSV is used as a vector to cure a condition. For example, a study where HSV is used for sensorineural hearing loss, and also have a friend in a trial using HSV to help with her mucosal melanoma and mets. Do you have any information on how HSV is being used this way?

A – *No, I do not have any information that I can intelligently share about this. The level of virology is beyond my scope. However, I think it sounds like a very exciting line of research.*

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Q – HSV Recombinant vectors for gene therapy

A – *See above*

Q – Seeing lots of syphilis lately in homeless population. A confusing treatment for me so would be appreciated.

A – *So, my guess would be that the most difficult part of managing these patients is having them return for follow-up labs? Because the treatment is straightforward once the diagnosis is made. I can see that it may also be difficult to contact a homeless person to give the diagnostic results. However, once you are able to get them into the office, most cases of syphilis will be cured with a single dose of penicillin. The patient should be following serologically using either the RPR or VDRL to ensure a 4-fold reduction in their ratio and then they can return to normal care.*

Q – Does insurance pay for suppressive tx?

A – *Many do, yes.*

Q – Are there any topical tx that can help with pain?

A – *This is tricky because many of the topical pain relievers would irritate open lesions in the genitals. I tend to use warm soaks, cold packs, ibuprofen for reduction of pain and inflammation and open air as my usual pain regimen. I do not typically use topicals.*