# **Viral Replication**

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# **Viral Replication: Basic Concepts**

- Viruses are obligate intracellular parasites
- Viruses carry their genome (RNA or DNA) and sometimes functional proteins required for early steps in replication cycle
- Viruses depend on host cell machinery to complete replication cycle and must commandeer that machinery to successfully replicate

## **Viral Replication: Basic Concepts**

#### Replication cycle produces

- Functional RNA's and proteins
- Genomic RNA or DNA and structural proteins
- 100's-1,000's new particles produced by each cycle
  - Referred to as burst size
  - Many are defective
  - End of 'eclipse' phase
- Replication may be cytolytic or non-cytolytic

## Steps in Viral Replication: Attachment (First Step)

- Surface protein on virus attaches to specific receptor(s) on cell surface
  - May be specialized proteins with limited tissue distribution or more widely distributed
  - Virus specific receptor is necessary but not sufficient for viruses to infect cells and complete replicative cycle

## **Selected Virus Receptors**

AdenovirusCARCoxsackievirusCAR, CD55EchovirusIntegrin VLA-2, CD55Epstein-Barr VirusCD21HIV-1CD4, CCR5, CXCR4Measles virusCD46ParvovirusErythrocyte P AgPoliovirusPVRRhinovirusICAM-1

## Steps in Viral Replication: Penetration (Second Step)

- Enveloped viruses penetrate cells through fusion of viral envelope with host cell membrane
  - May or may not involve receptor mediated endocytosis
- Non enveloped viruses penetrate by
  - Receptor mediated endocytosis
  - Translocation of the virion across the host cell membrane



## Steps in Viral Replication: Uncoating (Third Step)

- Makes viral nucleic acid available for transcription to permit multiplication to proceed
- Mechanism variably understood depending upon the virus



Steps in Viral Replication: Basic Strategies of Transcription and Translation (Fourth and Fifth Steps)

- (+) RNA → Proteins
- (-) RNA → (+) RNA → Proteins
- RNA → DNA → RNA → Proteins
- DNA → RNA → Proteins

## Steps in Viral Replication: Assembly and Release (Sixth and Seventh Steps)

- Process involves bringing together newly formed genomic nucleic acid and structural proteins to form the nucleocapsid of the virus
- Nonenveloped viruses exhibit full maturation in the cytoplasm or nucleus with disintegration of cell

## Steps in Viral Replication: Assembly and Release (Sixth and Seventh Steps)

- Many enveloped viruses exhibit full maturation as the virion exits the cell
  - Viral proteins are inserted into the host cell membrane
  - Nucleocapsids bind to these regions and bud into the extracellular space
  - Further cleavage and maturation of proteins may occur after viral extrusion
  - Cytolytic activity of these viruses varies





## Steps in Viral Replication: Assembly and Release (Sixth and Seventh Steps)

- Herpesviruses (enveloped) assemble nucleocapsids in the nuclei of infected cells and mature at the inner lamella of the nuclear membrane
  - Virions accumulate in this space, in the ER and in vesicles
  - Virion release is associated with cytolysis



#### Schematic of Replication Cycle of (+) RNA Single Strand Viruses Coding for One Sized RNA



FIG. 2. Flow of events during the replication of positive strand RNA viruses that code for a single genome-sized (+) RNA. This RNA serves as their only mRNA species; it encodes a single polyprotein and is packaged into virions (e.g., picornaviruses, flaviviruses, hepatitis C viruses).

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Genomic RNA binds to ribosomes and is translated into polyprotein

Polyprotein is cleaved

Genomic RNA's serve as templates for synthesis of complementary full length (-) RNA's by viral polymerase

(-) strand RNA serves as template for (+) strand RNA's; these serve to produce more polyprotein, more (-) strand RNA's or become part of new virions

#### Schematic of Replication Cycle of (+) RNA Single Strand Viruses Coding for Genomic and Subgenomic RNA's



Genomic RNA binds to ribosomes but only a portion of 5' end is translated into non-structural proteins

(-) strand RNA is synthesized. Different classes of (+) RNA's are produced. One is translated into a polyprotein which is cleaved to form structural proteins. Another is full length and serves as genomic RNA for new virions

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### Schematic of Nonsegmented (-) RNA Strand Virus Replication Cycle



Transcription of (-) strand occurs after entry and mediated by virion packaged transcriptase

(+) strand RNA's produced; proteins synthesized

Full length (-) strand RNA's produced and packaged into new virions

Transcription and translation take place entirely in cytoplasm

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## Schematic of Segmented (-) RNA Strand Virus Replication Cycle



mRNA's are synthesized from each segment

Viral proteins are synthesized

(+) strand RNA's are synthesized and serve as templates for(-) strand genomic RNA's

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## Schematic of Herpesvirus Replication Cycle (DS DNA Virus Which Replicates in Nucleus)



Sequential, ordered rounds of mRNA and protein production regulate replication

Structural proteins produced during last cycle of replication

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# Primary HIV Infection: Pathogenetic Steps

- Virus dendritic cell interaction
  - Infection is typically with R5 (M-tropic) strains
  - Importance of DC-SIGN
- Delivery of virus to lymph nodes
- Active replication in lymphoid tissue
- High levels of viremia and dissemination
- Downregulation of virus replication by immune response
- Viral set point reached after approximately 6 months



Schacker T et al: J Infect Dis 2000;181:354-357

# Primary HIV Infection: Clinical Characteristics

- 50-90% of infections are symptomatic
- Symptoms generally occur 5-30 days after exposure
- Symptoms and signs
  - Fever, fatigue, myalgias, arthralgias, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
  - Adenopathy, pharyngitis, rash, weight loss, mucocutaneous ulcerations, aseptic meningitis, occas. oral/vaginal candidiasis
  - Leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, elevated liver enzymes
- Median duration of symptoms: 14 days



### Primary HIV Infection: Determinants of Outcome

- Severity of symptoms
- Viral strain
  - SI (X4) vs. NSI (R5) viruses
- Immune response
  - CTL response
  - Non-CTL CD8 responses
  - Humoral responses?
- Viral set point at 6-24 months post-infection
- Other host factors
  - Chemokine receptor and HLA genotype
- Gender and differences in viral diversity?
- Antiviral therapy
  - Near vs. long-term benefit?





