

Herpes Zoster Chart: A Comprehensive Visual Guide to Symptoms and Treatment

Herpes zoster, also known as shingles, is a painful skin rash caused by the varicella-zoster virus. This virus is the same one that causes chickenpox. After you have had chickenpox, the virus lies dormant in your nerve cells. Years or even decades later, the virus can reactivate and cause shingles.



Herpes Zoster e chart: Full illustrated by Jade Stone

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Shingles is most common in people over the age of 50. It is also more common in people who have weakened immune systems. Symptoms of shingles include:

- A painful rash that appears on one side of the body
- Blisters that form on the rash
- Itching
- Fever

- Fatigue

Herpes Zoster Rash

The shingles rash is the most common symptom of the disease. The rash typically appears on one side of the body and can be very painful. The rash may start as small red dots that gradually turn into blisters. The blisters may break open and crust over. The rash can take 2-4 weeks to heal.

Characteristic	Herpes Zoster	Recurrent Herpes Simplex
Sites of latent infections	Sensory neurons in all sensory ganglia	Sensory neurons in trigeminal and sacral sensory ganglia
Viral gene expression during latency	Several "immediate early" and "early" VZV proteins are synthesized	No HSV proteins are synthesized; only "latency-associated transcripts"
Symptomatic reactivation of latent virus	Infrequent (rarely involves the same dermatome)	Frequent (usually involves the same dermatome)
Asymptomatic reactivation with asymptomatic virus shedding	None	Frequent
Proportion of the affected dermatome involved by rash	Large (sensory fields of many neurons)	Small (often the sensory field of a single neuron)
Consequences of reactivation of latent virus	Extensive ganglionic pathology and neuronal death	No obvious ganglionic pathology or neuronal death
Postherpetic neuralgia	Common	Extremely rare
Frequency of symptomatic reactivation	Increases with increasing age (and time after primary infection)	Decreases over time after primary infection

Herpes Zoster Symptoms

In addition to the rash, other symptoms of shingles can include:

- Blisters that form on the rash
- Itching
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Chills

Herpes Zoster Treatment

There is no cure for shingles, but treatment can help to relieve symptoms and prevent complications. Treatment options include:

- Antiviral medications
- Pain relievers
- Anti-itch creams
- Cool compresses
- Rest

Herpes Zoster Complications

In some cases, shingles can lead to serious complications, including:

- Bacterial infections of the skin
- Pneumonia
- Encephalitis
- Meningitis
- Death

Herpes Zoster Prevention

The best way to prevent shingles is to get vaccinated. The shingles vaccine is recommended for all adults over the age of 50. The vaccine is safe and effective and can help to reduce your risk of developing shingles by up to 50%.

Herpes zoster is a painful and debilitating disease, but it can be managed with treatment. If you think you may have shingles, it is important to see a doctor right away. Early treatment can help to reduce your risk of complications.



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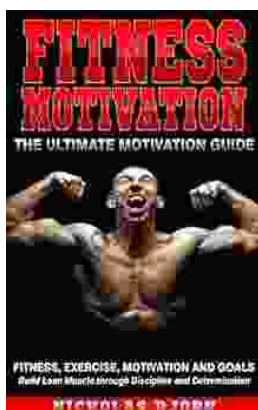
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