Disease Handout

**Disease name:** Herpes Simplex (Cold Sores, Fever Blisters)

**Etiology:** Herpes Simplex virus (HSV): Two different types HSV 1 and HSV 2

Before the 1960's, HSV 1 was the virus that predominantly caused cold sores while HSV-2 was seen to cause sexually transmitted disease. Since the 1960's however, both viruses are seen equally in both cold sores as well as the sexually transmitted disease.

**Virulence factors:**

- **Portal of entry:** Skin penetration
- **Attachment** Virus binds to skin and nerve cells
- **Evade the immune system** Intracellular parasite
- **Tissue destruction** destroys epidermis and mucus membrane

**Mode of Transmission:** Direct contact usually in the first 6 months of life

**Reservoir:** Human: Trigeminal nerve ganglion.
Signs and Symptoms:

Lesions in the oral mucus membrane. 90% of infections are subclinical.

Prophylaxis: Antiviral agent: Acyclovir

Secondary infections: Herpes encephalitis

History: