

# Herpes simplex virus linked to frailty, mortality

May 4 2016

---



(HealthDay)—For older women, herpes simplex virus antibody levels

are associated with incident frailty and mortality, according to a study published online April 30 in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

George C. Wang, M.D., Ph.D., from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and colleagues conducted a nested prospective cohort study involving 633 community-dwelling older women aged 70 to 79 years. The authors examined baseline serum [antibody levels](#) against [herpes simplex virus](#) 1 (HSV-1) and 2 (HSV-2), varicella-zoster virus, and Epstein-Barr virus; they also measured three-year incident frailty and five-year [mortality](#).

The researchers found that the risk of three-year incident frailty was increased for women seropositive for HSV-1 (hazard ratio [HR], 1.90; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.96 to 3.74) and HSV-2 (HR, 2.10; 95 percent CI, 1.05 to 4.37) versus seronegative women; five-year mortality was also increased for HSV-1 (HR, 1.73; 95 percent CI, 0.93 to 3.20) and HSV-2 (HR, 1.80; 95 percent CI, 0.94 to 3.44). There was a correlation for incremental increases in HSV-1 and HSV-2 antibody levels with increased risks of incident frailty and mortality. Only higher serum HSV-2 antibody levels were independently predictive of higher mortality risk in older women, after adjustment for potential confounders (HR, 1.47; 95 percent CI, 1.05 to 2.07).

"HSV-1 and HSV-2 antibody levels are associated with unadjusted risks of incident frailty and mortality in community-dwelling [older women](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2016 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Herpes simplex virus linked to frailty, mortality (2016, May 4) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-05-herpes-simplex-virus-linked-frailty.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.