

## *Incidences and Possible Risk Factors Associated with Subclinical Genital Herpes among Different Populations in Katsina State*

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### *Abstract*

Herpes Simplex Virus type 2 (HSV-2) is a significant public health problem being one of the most prevalent sexually transmitted infections worldwide and the leading cause of genital ulcerative disease that is common both in industrialized and developing countries. Therefore, a study on the Incidences and possible risk factors associated with subclinical genital herpes among different populations in Katsina State, north-western Nigeria was carried out. A total of 460 (86 HIV, 136 feverish patients, 125 pregnant women and 113 normal Individuals) blood samples were collected from six hospitals located across the three senatorial zones of the State. The serum were separated from the blood and used for the analysis. The participant's socio-demographic information and clinical presentations were also noted with the aid of a questionnaire. HSV-2 IgM were detected by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The HSV-2 IgM were detected in 41.5% of all the serum tested. The seroincidence of IgM among patients presenting with fever was 29.4%, and 40.0% for IgM in the pregnant women. The seroincidence of IgM among HIV positive patients was 24.4% while it was 46.0% in the apparently healthy individuals. There was a significant association between HIV positivity, feverish condition and IgM seroincidence. Higher seroincidence was recorded at General Hospital Dutsinma 89.6%. Generally, older participants were more vulnerable to HSV-2 infection than younger ones and there was statistically significant association between IgM seroincidence and age of the participants. There was no statistical significant association between sex of the participants and HSV-2 infection. None of the sociodemographic factors was significantly associated with HSV-2 infection except marital status. There was no significant association between socio-economic status, sexual activity, use of protection, number of sexual partners, clinical manifestation, level of education, and occupation of the participants with HSV-2 infection. The present study indicates that seroincidence of HSV-2 appears to be relatively high and older participants were more vulnerable to HSV-2 infection in Katsina State. There is need for educating populace on HSV-2 infection and its mode of transmission to reduce the level of its spread between individuals in the population.

**Keywords:** HSV-2; Feverish, Seroincidence, IgM, Serumskin cells.



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