

Figure. Serologic Screening for Genital Herpes Infection: Clinical Summary

Population	Asymptomatic adolescents and adults, including those who are pregnant
Recommendation	Do not routinely screen for genital herpes simplex virus (HSV) infection. Grade: D

Screening Tests	The most widely used, currently available serologic screening test for HSV-2 is not suitable for population-based screening, based on its low specificity, the lack of widely available confirmatory testing, and its high false-positive rate. While serologic screening tests can detect HSV-1 infection, the tests cannot determine if the site of infection is oral or genital.
Treatment and Interventions	There is no cure for genital HSV infection. Antiviral medications are used for the management of symptomatic outbreaks and for prevention in patients with a history of frequent symptomatic outbreaks.
Balance of Benefits and Harms	The USPSTF concludes with moderate certainty that the harms outweigh the benefits for population-based screening for genital HSV infection in asymptomatic adolescents and adults, including those who are pregnant.
Other Relevant USPSTF Recommendations	The USPSTF recommends intensive behavioral counseling interventions to reduce the likelihood of acquiring a sexually transmitted infection for all sexually active adolescents and for adults at increased risk. The USPSTF has also issued recommendations on screening for other sexually transmitted infections, including chlamydia and gonorrhea, hepatitis B virus, HIV, and syphilis. These recommendations are available on the USPSTF website (https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org).

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making this recommendation, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents, please go to <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org>.