

What are usual signs and symptoms of acquired CMV infection?

When a person is infected with CMV anytime after birth, it is known as an acquired infection. In normally healthy children and adults, CMV infection is usually not a concern. Ninety percent of the time it will not produce any signs or symptoms of infection. However, occasionally a flu-like or mononucleosis type of illness may occur and produce symptoms such as fever, sore throat, fatigue and swollen glands. In persons with a weakened immune system, such as patients who are infected with HIV, organ/bone marrow transplant recipients, chemotherapy/radiation patients, and people on steroid therapy, the signs and symptoms of CMV infection can be serious. Signs and symptoms can occur when an old CMV infection reactivates or when the person catches the virus for the first time. CMV infection in people with a weakened immune system puts them at risk for pneumonia, retinitis (an infection of the eye that can cause blindness), hepatitis (inflammation of the liver), esophagitis and colitis (gastrointestinal diseases), meningoencephalitis (an infection of the brain and the fluid that surrounds it), and even death.