

Cold Sore Background Statement

Cold sores are caused from a herpes simplex virus, called HSV 1. While this virus is essentially benign, it causes much discomfort. Typically, the virus is embedded around nerve endings associated with our face and in particular our lips. Sporadically, this virus will start to replicate (become active) and this process (replication) induces intense inflammation, erythema, swelling, itching, and blistering followed by a slow healing process usually 8-12 days.

Typical treatment involves the use of an anti-viral drug such as acyclovir or valtrex. These anti-virals are very potent, specific, and inhibit viral replication quickly. However, when applied topically, these drugs have only a small effect on improving recovery or decreasing the symptoms (swelling, blistering, etc). At first this may seem counter intuitive but if one considers the relevant pharmacology, the lack of efficacy of anti-viral drugs makes perfect sense. Explanation follows:

A virus replicates inside a cell, exceeds cell capacity and kills the cell. The cellular debris stimulates a cascade of inflammatory mediators. The first mediator is histamine which is liberated from mast cells that are in high concentration around our lips. Histamine induces redness and swelling and signals the circulating immune system to activation. Activation sends an army of circulating inflammatory mediators to our lips and this process enhances tissue destruction, pain, itching, blistering, etc.

Based on the above described information, we believe that a more effective treatment for cold sores would be comprised of a combination of natural anti-inflammatory materials; wound healing elements; and anti-bacterial ingredients. A natural product with these components of action will decrease the symptoms (cosmetic appearance) of Cold Sores.

Based on preliminary human data, this natural cold sore product should dry up cold sores much faster than all prescribed anti-virals (based on historical published data of anti-viral drug products), and induce wound healing, thus shortening the entire cold sore outbreak period and even perhaps prevent future outbreaks.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate and quantify these original observations and to determine if this product, used daily as a lip balm, will prevent the re-occurrence of cold sores. If you suffer from frequent cold sores, you may enroll in this study

If you would like to participate in this study please review our specific enrollment forms. If you are accepted into this study, we will notify you via email.

If you have any questions, please email studydirector@nprine.org