



MICROBIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

90%

cases of BK virus
symptoms occur within
one year after
kidney transplantation

Age > 50 yrs,

male gender & diabetes
have also been found
to have increased
risk

+90%
Infects general
Population

BK VIRUS

VERSION 1.0
05.08.2013

BK virus infection: A type of polyomavirus that infects most people but generally causes no symptoms. However, the virus may be activated when a patient receives immunosuppressive therapy following the organ transplant.

The virus then disseminates to the kidneys and urinary tract where it persists for the life of the individual. It is thought that up to 80% of the population contains a latent form of this virus, which remains latent until the body undergoes some form of immunosuppression. Typically, this is in the setting of kidney transplantation. Presentation in these immunocompromised individuals is much more severe. Clinical manifestations include renal dysfunction (seen by a progressive rise in serum creatinine), and an abnormal urinalysis revealing renal tubular cells and inflammatory cells.

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“You will never truly understand something until it actually happens to you”

