

References

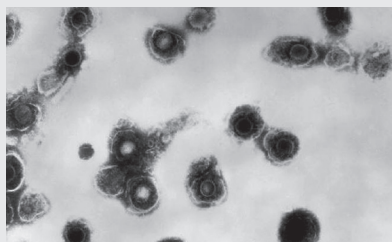
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Varicella Zoster Virus [var'î-sel'ə zos' tər vîrəs]

A member of the family *Herpesviridae*, varicella zoster virus (VZV) is named for the 2 main diseases (chickenpox and herpes zoster [shingles]) it causes. Varicella may be a diminutive of “variola” because it was considered a mild form of smallpox. “Variola” was coined by Rudolph Augustin Vogel in 1764 and is possibly derived from the Latin *varus* (“pimple”) or *varius* (“speckled”). Herpes zoster derives from the Greek terms *herpein* (“to creep”) and *zoster* (“belt”). Not until the twentieth century was VZV recognized as the cause of both these diseases.



Electron micrograph showing varicella zoster virus.

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