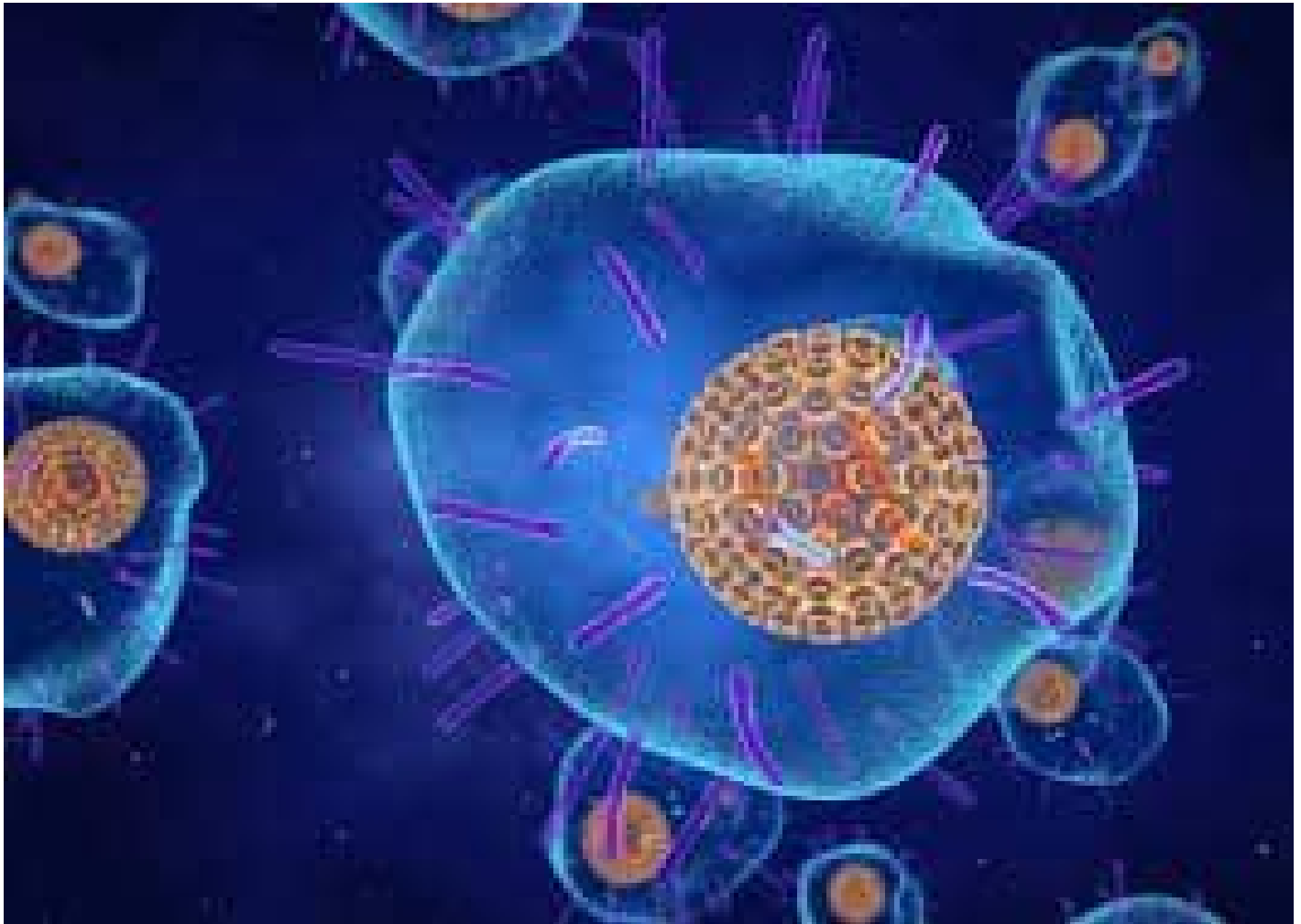


Varicella Zoster Virus

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About Varicella Zoster Virus:

- Varicella-zoster is a herpes virus that causes **chickenpox, a common childhood illness.**
- It is an exclusively human virus that belongs to the **α -herpesvirus family.**
- It is present worldwide and is highly infectious.
- Primary infection of this virus leads to acute **varicella or “chickenpox”.**
- The infections can progress to the central nervous system involvement and severe complications.

Key Facts about Chickenpox

- It is a **highly contagious disease.**
- **Symptoms**

- It can cause an itchy, blister-like rash among other symptoms.
 - The rash first appears on the chest, back, and face, and then spreads over the entire body.
 - **The virus is spread by:**
 - **Coming in contact** with someone who has chickenpox.
 - **Breathing air from** an infected person who sneezes or coughs.
 - Coming in contact with fluids from an infected child's eyes, nose or mouth.
 - The incubation period of chickenpox is from 10 to 21 days
 - It can be serious, especially during pregnancy, in babies, adolescents, adults, and people with weakened immune systems (lowered ability to fight germs and sickness).
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Q1) What is an Astronomical Unit?

An Astronomical Unit (AU) is a unit of measurement used in astronomy to describe distances within our solar system. It is defined as the average distance from the Earth to the Sun.

Source: [In a first, scientists identify variant of chickenpox-causing virus: ICMR-NIV study](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/varicella-zoster-virus/>

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