

TAKAHASHI'S PHOSPHATIDE KAOLIN AGGLUTINATION TEST IN EXTRAPULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

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The antitubercle phosphatide kaolin agglutination test, a carrier particle agglutination test, developed by Takahashi has been studied by several investigators, including in Sri Lanka and found to be of value in the diagnosis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. It has been suggested that this test may therefore be of use in the diagnosis of extrapulmonary tuberculosis as well, but has not been evaluated in the latter disease.

Sera from 212 patients with extrapulmonary tuberculosis were tested using this test for the presence of antitubercle phosphatide antibodies. However in contrast to patients with pulmonary tuberculosis the titres of antibodies in these patients was found to be low (below 1/64) or completely negative, resembling the pattern seen in apparently healthy blood donors and patients with non-mycobacterial disease, than in those with pulmonary tuberculosis. Thus, this test is of no value in the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis. One of the reasons, why the antibody titre is low in extrapulmonary tuberculosis, may be that the bacillary load is low when compared with those with pulmonary disease.