

**AN ENZYME IMMUNO ASSAY FOR DETECTING ANTIBODY TO
HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (ANTI HBsAg) IN BLOOD**

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The detection of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) surface antigen (HBsAg) antibody to HBsAg and antibody to HBV core antigen (HBcAg) are the most reliable markers of current and/or previous infection by HBV. Considering the high cost of commercial kits to test for these markers, we set out to develop these tests ourselves. We have already described an ELISA for detecting HBsAg¹. We present here an ELISA developed for detecting anti-HBsAg.

HBV from the blood of carriers was purified by gel filtration using sepharose 6B and blue sepharose CL-6B affinity chromatography, and concentrated by ultrafiltration.

Microtitre plates were coated with this virus preparation. The serum being tested was added next. The conjugate used was peroxidase labelled rabbit-anti-human IgG (DAKOPATTS). The reaction was visualised with TMB.

We are in the process of assessing the specificity and sensitivity of our assay by testing out 100 sera, i.e. twenty five each of high, moderate low and negative for anti-HBsAg. Radioimmunoassay. These results will be presented.

References: 1. Fernando S, Mendis L, de Zoysa N, and Jayawardene K. An Enzyme immunoassay for detecting hepatitis B virus surface antigen (HBsAg) in blood; SLMA 103rd Anniversary Academic sessions; 1990; 24-25.